



## World Youth Movement for Democracy

### Solidarity with Egyptian Blogger Maikel Nabil

18 January 2012

The World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD), a global community of young people working non-violently for democracy, expresses its solidarity with Egyptian blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad, who has been imprisoned for criticizing Egypt's army and its role in repressing protesters.

Maikel Nabil is a young blogger from Egypt who began blogging in 2006. In April 2009, he founded "No for Compulsory Military Service Movement," which opposes the obligatory military service in Egypt. He led a campaign demanding his right to a conscientious objection to military service. His campaign lasted until he received final exemption from the military service on November 2010. He has been arrested several times because of his political activities.

Maikel is also the first prisoner of conscience in post-Mubarak Egypt. On 20 December 2011, a military court sentenced him to two years in prison for publishing a blog post criticizing the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF). He was arrested in March 2011 and tried in a military court even though he is civilian. At the trial, he had no defence for himself. He was sent into a prison with no bed and in confinement. He has been in detention since then. As part of his efforts for demanding a fair trial, he went on hunger strike in last August. On 18 December, he was brutally hit by prison personnel, leaving him between life and death.

Although he ended his hunger strike on 31 December 2011, just a couple of weeks ago, he remains in prison with very limited communication with family member and limited access to information from outside.

As the anniversary of Egypt's January 25 revolution comes close, we speak on behalf of Maikel Nabil Sanad and more than 12,000 Egyptian citizens who have been tried by the Military Council since 28 January 2011. We uphold the call for freedom and justice for Egyptian citizens who have been detained for exercising their fundamental freedom of expression and assembly, and we urge Egyptian authority to re-commit itself to a genuine transition to democracy in Egypt.

Signed by World Youth Movement for Democracy