

Egyptian photojournalist Shawkan finally free

Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abou Zeid, also known as Shawkan, was released from prison on Monday after spending over five years in detention on anti-state charges, according to a post from his Twitter account.



Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abou Zeid, also known as Shawkan, center, is hugged by his parents at his home in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, March 4, 2019. Shawkan was released after five years in prison. Credit: CPJ/AP Photo/Amr Nabil.

According to [news reports](#), Shawkan said he was officially approved for release on Sunday night but held by police until Monday morning. Authorities released Shawkan under "[police observation](#)" for five years, meaning he will have to appear at a police station every day at sunset.

The journalist will also be prohibited from managing his financial assets and properties for the duration of those five years, according to [news reports](#). Shawkan and his lawyer will appeal the verdict in Egypt's court of cassation, his brother Mohamed [told](#) the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in late 2018.



Egypt sentences photojournalist Shawkan to five years

10 Sep 2018



CPJ honored Shawkan with its [International Press Freedom Award](#) in 2016.

"We are relieved to hear that Shawkan is finally free after spending over five years in jail and call on authorities to end their shameful treatment of this photojournalist by removing any conditions to his release," said CPJ Middle East and North Africa program coordinator Sherif Mansour.

"The Egyptian government should take steps immediately to improve its image, which has been badly tarnished by this unjust imprisonment - and it can start by releasing all journalists jailed in relation to their work."

Shawkan had been [imprisoned since August 14, 2013](#), when he was [arrested](#) while covering clashes between Egyptian security forces and supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi for the UK-based photo agency Demotix.

At the time of [CPJ's last prison census](#), Shawkan was one of 25 journalists jailed for their work in Egypt.

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