Persecution 26 November 2026 | English article

US Lawmakers Demand Egypt Free Said Abdelrazek

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Mr. Abdelrazek's ongoing detention constitutes a grave violation of the fundamental human right to religious freedom, is a flagrant violation of international law, and is part of a very troubling crackdown on Christians and other religious minorities within Egypt."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Six US lawmakers have written to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi demanding the immediate release of Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek, an Egyptian Christian convert who faces the death penalty or 25 years in prison for his faith. The letter, drafted by Rep. Riley Moore of West Virginia and dated 19 November 2026, was also sent to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Abdelrazek's next hearing is on 8 December 2026, when his defence is due to present closing arguments and sentencing is expected.

He has already spent more than a year behind bars. His legal team says he has been tortured in custody and denied proper medical care. His crime, in the eyes of the Egyptian prosecutors, is that he left Islam, became a Christian, and then talked about his faith in public.

The letter was signed by Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, Reps. Riley Moore, Barry Moore of Alabama, Elijah Crane of Arizona, Buddy Carter of Georgia and Marlin Stutzman of Indiana. Their words leave no room for doubt about how they see the case.

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Abdelrazek converted from Islam to Christianity - in 2016, according to Gatestone and WorldView, or in 2018, according to Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and FreePress. The sources disagree on the year, and the honest record keeps both dates on the table. What is not disputed is what came next.

In 2019 he moved to Russia seeking asylum. In 2024 he was forcibly repatriated to Egypt.

He was detained again in July 2025 after publicly discussing his Christian faith online. He has been held ever since, for over a year, while his case moved slowly through the Egyptian courts.

The charges against him include contempt for Islam, inciting unrest, spreading false information and joining a banned organisation. These are the charges as alleged by prosecutors - they are not proven findings, and they should be read that way.

At a hearing on 3 November 2026, prosecutors sought the maximum penalty: death, or 25 years in prison. For a man whose offence, on the prosecution's own account, is speaking about his faith, that is a sentence that shocks the conscience.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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