



OPINION GUEST COLUMN

Seif Fateen: An MIT-educated professor languishing in Egypt's prisons

The Biden administration and its spokespeople can no longer delay action on human rights

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We write to draw attention to the appalling conditions of degradation and helplessness that have befallen a member of the MIT community in Egypt. Our hope is that some members of the Institute will be motivated to join a campaign to save Seif Fateen and redress the cruel injustices that he has endured for more than three years.

Seif Fateen completed his PhD at MIT in 2002. He lived and worked in the U.S., where three of his seven children were born, until 2005. On his return to Egypt, he took up a faculty position at Cairo University, and from 2009 until his arrest in 2018, he regularly posted educational videos to his YouTube channel, including a [popular series on thermodynamics for chemical engineers](#). In 2012, he became Assistant to the Minister of Higher Education, a short-lived tenure that was brought to an abrupt end in July 2013 by the military coup that toppled President Mohamed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood organization. The July 2013 coup was led by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, former field marshal and chief of military