

Mr. Mohamed Hossam Abdel-Rahim
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice, Arab Republic of Egypt
Lazoughly Square, لاظوغلى، Abdeen, Cairo Governorate, Egypt

Dear Minister Mohamed Hossam Abdel-Rahim,

The undersigned international group of legislators are calling collectively upon the Egyptian Government and the Egyptian State Security Prosecutor General to immediately free Mr. Ramy Kamel from arbitrary detention and to lift all charges laid against him.

It has come to our attention that Mr. Kamel has endured inhumane treatment in solitary confinement for over a year (since his arrest on November 23, 2019) and is still waiting to be referred to court for trial. We have heard credible reports that Mr. Kamel has spent days in interrogation, been refused needed medication, been refused visitors, has often been denied access to his lawyer and to guaranteed resources such as books, paper, and writing utensils.

We, the undersigned, consider that it is without credible evidence that Mr. Kamel has been detained on charges of “*disturbing the public peace through the misuse of social media and spreading false news, and with joining and financing a terrorist group*”.

Mr. Kamel has been interrogated in absence of his attorneys who, furthermore, have been denied documentation from these sessions which is contrary to the Criminal Procedures Code, the right to legal defense and to a fair trial. We are concerned that the prosecutor has not released any official documentation of the case, including any evidence held against Mr. Kamel, preventing his attorneys from preparing a proper defense, in violation to article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Egypt is a party.

Mr. Kamel is reportedly suffering severe, repeated asthma attacks which pose an even greater risk for him due to the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. His sister reported that he has lost about one-third of his weight and is in very poor mental health due to his prolonged time in solitary confinement. Mr. Kamel’s life is in danger due to the treatment he has experienced and the refusal of the judiciary to perform their duties.

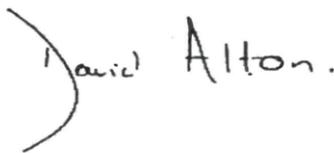
Before being detained, Mr. Kamel’s activities consisted of documenting discrimination and violence suffered by Egypt’s Coptic Christian minority. An Egyptian attorney noted that “[Mr.] Kamel has been the voice of the weakest, most marginalized group in our society.”

As a known human rights advocate, Mr. Kamel was due to participate in the *Forum on Minority Issues* organized by the United Nations in Geneva but was prevented from participating

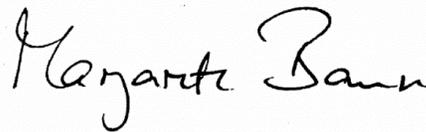
following his arrest. Rights groups and United Nations Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups, which compose the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, recognized that Mr. Kamel's arrest was a direct effort by the Egyptian government to silence him and to punish him for documenting and publicizing human rights abuses against Coptic Christians. It is also a reprisal for meeting and collaborating with the former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Leilani Farha, when she visited Egypt in September 2018.

The undersigned international group of legislators urge the Egyptian authorities to comply with their obligations under international law, and to uphold the inalienable human rights of all their citizens. We further call upon the Egyptian authorities to conduct prompt and effective investigation into the allegations of torture and mistreatment suffered by Mr. Kamel and to ensure that anyone involved in such violations are prosecuted for their crimes.

Sincerely,



Lord Alton, David
Member of the House of Lords, UK



Bause, Margarete
Member of the Bundestag, Germany



Biteau, Benoît
Member of the European Parliament



Block, Kelly
Member of Parliament, Canada



Carême, Damien
Member of the European Parliament



Chiu, Kenny
Member of Parliament, Canada

Cooper, Michael
Member of Parliament, Canada

Crespo, Miguel Urbán
Member of the European Parliament

Gwendoline Delbos - Corfield

G-D-C

Delbos-Corfield, Gwendoline
Member of the European Parliament

Cormand, David
Member of the European Parliament

Gehring, Kai
Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Genuis, Garnett
Member of Parliament, Canada

Gruffat, Claude
Member of the European Parliament

Jelpke, Ulla
Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Kurek, Damien
Member of Parliament, Canada

Kekeritz, Uwe
Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Lloyd, Dane
Member of Parliament, Canada

Manly, Paul
Member of Parliament, Canada

Marquardt, Erik
Member of the European Parliament

McKay, John
Member of Parliament, Canada

McLean, Greg
Member of Parliament, Canada

Patzelt, Martin
Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Patzer, Jeremy
Member of Parliament, Canada

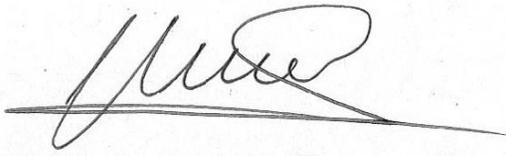
Rego, Sira
Member of the European Parliament

Reintke, Terry
Member of the European Parliament

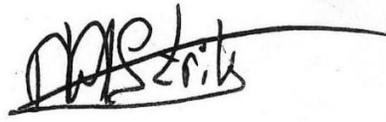
Satouri, Mounir
Member of the European Parliament

Schmidt, Stefan
Member of the Bundestag, Germany

Shin, Nelly
Member of Parliament, Canada



Solé, Jordi
Member of the European Parliament



Strik, Tineke
Member of the European Parliament



Tochor, Corey
Member of Parliament, Canada



Toussaint, Marie
Member of the European Parliament



Viersen, Arnold
Member of Parliament, Canada



Wagantall, Cathay
Member of Parliament, Canada



Waitz, Thomas
Member of the European Parliament



Yenbou, Salima
Member of the European Parliament