



H.E. Motaz Zahran
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Embassy of Egypt
3521 International Court NW
Washington, DC 20008

September 16, 2025

Re: Letter in Support of the Release of RPOC Christian Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, are a group of individuals and organizations who collectively strive to promote freedom of religion or belief and human rights around the world. We are writing to call for the immediate release of Christian convert Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek, arbitrarily arrested and detained by Egyptian authorities in Cairo for his beliefs since July 15th, 2025.

His case exemplifies the profound contradiction between Egypt's constitutional guarantees of absolute freedom of belief and the harsh treatment of those who attempt to exercise it.

Article 64 of Egypt's Constitution declares unequivocally that "freedom of belief is absolute." Yet, in practice, this freedom is denied to citizens who leave Islam for another faith. Mr. Abdelrazek's experience tragically illustrates this gap between promise and reality.

After converting to Christianity in 2016, Mr. Abdelrazek faced relentless harassment from family, community members, and Egypt's National Security services in Alexandria. He was arrested, tortured, forced to divorce his wife, and separated from his young son.

In 2018, Mr. Abdelrazek attempted to leave Egypt and seek asylum in Russia. Egyptian authorities blocked his first attempt, summoning him to National Security, where he was mistreated. Eventually he succeeded in reaching Russia, applied for asylum, and formally converted into the Russian Orthodox church. For a brief period, he lived free of the crushing social and psychological pressures of Egypt.

But in Russia, his outspoken criticisms of his former faith (including some public acts triggered, he later explained, by some Muslims' provocations during social media interactions) induced backlash. He was imprisoned for 11 months and later deported to Egypt in 2024.

Upon refolement to Egypt, he was detained, then released with chilling warnings from the National Security officer. Additionally, Mr. Abdelrazek was forced to undergo painful procedures to remove a Christian tattoo he had done in Russia. He later confided to close friends that during his detention he had been suspended with his hands tied to a wall in a “crucified position” for several hours each day over the course of a week while being detained.

On 15 July 2025, Mr. Abdelrazek was arrested in Cairo’s Matariya district, as he was considering taking legal steps to request that his official documents reflect his Christian faith. He was brought before the State Security Prosecution on 22 July and told he faced grave charges—including “Joining a terrorist organization,” “Disturbing public order,” “Spreading false information,” and “Receiving illegal funding.”

During the detention renewal session a few days ago, he was formally informed of the grave accusations, including “joining a terrorist organization.” (This would imply that Egypt, shamelessly, equates converting from Islam to terrorism.) Furthermore, he was not allowed to have a private meeting with his lawyer, and his demands for obtaining personal clothes and medication were denied.

We also understand that his lawyers have been denied access to the case files, as the State Security Prosecution system, apparently, does not allow lawyers to view case documents until a referral decision to the court is issued, and however the prolonged investigation period may take.

Your Excellency, there is no evidence whatsoever that Mr. Abdelrazek poses any threat to national security. His only “offense” is seeking to live consistently with his conscience and faith—rights guaranteed to him under Egypt’s Constitution and international human rights commitments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Egypt is a party.

Egypt has ratified the ICCPR and the Convention Against Torture, and is seeking election into the Human Rights Council this fall. Considering its international law commitments, we therefore urge the Government of Egypt to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Said Mansour Rezk Abdelrazek; In the interim, Egypt must grant Abdelrazek visits from his lawyer in prison and access to food, medicine, clothes, and other necessities.
- Uphold Egypt’s constitutional guarantee of absolute freedom of belief by allowing citizens to freely change their faith and update official documents accordingly.
- Ensure equal treatment before the law for all Egyptians, regardless of their religious affiliation or personal convictions.

Mr. Abdelrazek’s dream was profoundly modest: to walk freely in the street and sit peacefully with a friend. That such a basic aspiration should lead to imprisonment and suffering is deeply troubling.

His case is not isolated, but emblematic of the plight of many Egyptians who are denied their fundamental right to freedom of religion or belief.

We respectfully request to bring to the attention of the Egyptian authorities at the highest level our call to ensuring that Mr. Abdelrazek's rights are protected and that Egypt honors both the letter and spirit of its Constitution.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this case further and to work with you toward a resolution consistent with Egypt's constitutional commitments and international obligations.

Respectfully,

ORGANIZATIONS (16)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS
CANADIAN YAZIDI ASSOCIATION
CHRISTIAN FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY NATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
COPTIC SOLIDARITY
ELMAHABA CENTER
FRIENDS OF THIEN AM MONASTERY
IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS
INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF GREATER SACRAMENTO
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN
JEWS INDIGENOUS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
JUBILEE CAMPAIGN
KATARTISMOS GLOBAL
LAW & LIBERTY
MIDDLE EAST FREEDOM FORUM
SET MY PEOPLE FREE

INDIVIDUALS (17)

Brian Tronic
Director, Fred Hiatt Program to Free Political Prisoners
Freedom House

Faith J. H. McDonnell
Director of Advocacy
Katartismos Global

Frank Wolf
Former US Representative
United States Congress

Jamil Ammar
Professor of Law, Global Business Management Program
Coordinator at Mohawk

Jamileh Naso
Co-founder & President
Canadian Yazidi Association

Kamal Fakmi
Founder
Set My People Free

Rev. Kay Alice Daly
Vice President
Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento

Kaylee Fisher
Global Operations Director
IRF Secretariat

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President
Law & Liberty Trust

Nadine Maenza
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Nina Shea
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Sonja Dahlmans
Author of Coptic Solidarity's report, Hidden Crimes Public Deception: The Epidemic of
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Church of Scientology National Affairs Office

Tanya Nguyen-Do
Founder
Friends of Thien Am Monastery