

His Excellency, President Muhammad Hosni Said Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Abdeen Palace,  
Cairo  
Arab Republic of Egypt

March 4, 2007

Dear Mr President,

We wish to express our concern in the case of Mr Abdul Kareem Nabeel Suleiman (Kareem Amer). This individual has been sentenced to long prison terms. The charges were 'insulting Islam' and 'insulting the President.'

The defendant, according to our information, committed no actions other than post on his Internet blog his personal opinions, which were critical of his former university (Al-Azhar) and of what (in his opinion) were political abuses.

Of course we understand the irritation felt by persons who carry heavy responsibilities when their efforts are met with criticism. They may well feel their efforts misunderstood, or even distorted.

However, Your Excellency, we ask sincerely; is it wise and is it in the interests of Egypt, and in the interests of the Islamic community, to punish mere expression of ideas or sentiments with prison?

What will our children and grandchildren say of this case ten or thirty years from now?

We hope that Your Excellency will see fit to recommend the Ministry of Justice to review this case favourably, and to free the prisoner. It is not only a matter of respect for international conventions respecting human rights of expression –important as these are. The case involves the repute of Egyptian justice, and of the great people that you govern. We respectfully urge Your Excellency to safeguard all these values by acting favourably in this case.

Yours truly,

S.J. Schneider  
Administrator  
The Andarrios Fund  
France