

February 22, 2007

Senator Alpha Beta
123 Fourth Ave, Suite 2633
New York, NY 78955

Dear Senator Beta,

I am writing to ask for your support for a cause that I am sure you will find very worthy. You might be familiar with the case of Abdelkareem Soliman, a 22 year old Egyptian student who was arrested last November in Alexandria for criticizing the Egyptian government on his weblog. Prior to his arrest, he had been one of the most outspoken promoters of equal rights for women in the Arab blogosphere. He felt so strongly about this that he even included it in the short "About Me" section of his website: "Our main goal is to defend the rights of Muslim and Arabic women against all forms of discrimination."

Abdelkareem, better known by his online handle, Kareem Amer, was sentenced today to four years in prison. His pro-bono lawyers are preparing an appeal, but the best we can hope for is that the sentence is reduced. We are calling upon President Mubarak to issue a pardon and free him immediately. I am afraid, however, that his life is in as much danger outside as inside prison. Islamic extremists have threatened his life, and even his own father has called for him to be killed if he does not recant his writings. This brave young man is almost certain to die if he remains in Egypt. For this reason, the Free Kareem Coalition (www.FreeKareem.org) is simultaneously working to set him free and to help him find asylum in Europe or North America.

I would be extremely grateful if you could help speak out against this great injustice. Congressmen Trent Franks and Barney Frank coauthored a letter to the Egyptian Ambassador last month, but so far we have not been able to garner support in the Senate. You could help us save Kareem's life. A letter from you to the Egyptian Ambassador asking for Mr. Mubarak's compassion would be a great boost to our cause.

I have enclosed a Press Kit containing our most recent press release as well as statements from several human rights organizations and other pertinent information. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me by email at carlos_denver@freetkareem.org or on my cell phone, 555.555.5555.

Sincerely,

Carlos Denver
144 E. 10th St. Apt. 8
New York, NY 10009