

The Honorable Minister of Justice
Mamdoh Mohie E-din Marie
Magles El Saeb St.
Wezaret Al Adl-Cairo
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

March 4, 2007

Dear Minister,

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, was convicted of these charges on account of posting on his Internet blog his personal opinions; these opinions 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. (May the All-Merciful bestow on them patience and serenity in their tasks.)

We ask sincerely; is it wise, in the interests of Egyptian society, in the interests of the Egyptian justice system, and in the interests of the Islamic community, to punish mere expression of ideas or sentiments with prison? Other considerations, on which Your Honour is particularly expert, involve international conventions entered into by the Republic of Egypt at various times (notably in 1992).

We hope that Your Honour will review this case favourably, and find grounds to release the prisoner. The case involves the repute of Egyptian justice. Please understand our appeal as coming from those who wish no more than to trust and respect the great institutions of the Arab Republic of Egypt. We respectfully urge Your Honour to safeguard all these values by acting favourably in this case.

Yours truly,

S.J. Schneider
Administrator
The Andarrios Fund
France