

President Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
'Abedine Palace
Cairo
EGYPT

Stockholm, September 28, 2009

Your excellency,

We, the undersigned members of the Swedish Parliament, wish to express our grave concern for **Karim Amer** who is currently serving a four year term in Alexandria's Borg Al-Arab Prison. Karim Amer has reportedly been ill-treated in prison.

Karim Amer was arrested in November 2006 and condemned in February 2007 for expressing his views about Islam and the President on his internet blogg. We wish to point out that bloggers in Egypt have been instrumental in reporting on human rights abuses and expanding freedom of expression in Egypt and elsewhere. It is of fundamental importance that they all enjoy their right to peacefully express their views.

In 2008 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared Karim Amer's detention as arbitrary, violating the rights stipulated in the Universal declaration of Human Rights as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Therefore, we hereby urge You to release Karim Amer immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. Although some of Karim Amer's opinions might be considered as offensive by some Muslims, he should not be tried and sentenced to jail for peacefully expressing his views. We are furthermore, urging You to ensure that there is a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of ill-treatment of Karim Amer in prison. Finally, we are calling for the repeal of all provisions in the Penal Code that allow for prison sentences for publishing offences.

Yours sincerely,