

Brussels, 29 April 2016

To: Ms Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission

Dear HR/VP Mogherini,

On Monday 25 April 2016, at 03:00 am, special heavily armed police forces broke into the house of Dr Phd. Ahmed Abdallah, co-founder of the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms. The police arrested Dr Abdallah, confiscated his laptop and mobile phone, and transferred him to New Cairo police station. Thereafter, at 9:00 AM, Dr Abdallah was brought before the East Cairo public prosecutor's office for further investigation. According to the complaint No. 10 698/2016 filed to the court for minor offences, Dr Abdallah is charged of:

- incitement to the use of force with the purpose of overthrowing the government, and changing the state Constitution and the Republican System;
- incitement to attack police stations for the purpose of terrorism;
- use of violence and threats to force the President to refrain from exercising his statutory powers and duties entrusted to him by the Egyptian constitution;
- be part of a terrorist group;
- promotion of terrorist offences by indirect ways, through the world wide web, and of ideas, through one web site, that call for committing terrorist acts and convey messages which deceive the public;
- incitement to public gatherings that jeopardise the security and public peace, with the purpose of influencing the authorities, harming the public asset with terrorist intents, and with the aim of putting in danger the security and public order, influencing the functioning of public services, blocking roads, and attacking human lives for terrorist purposes;
- diffusion of news, information and false rumours that disrupt public security and damage the relationship between people and the public interest;
- possession of leaflets calling to overthrow the regime and change the constitution

The Commission for Rights and Freedoms gained notoriety for its detailed work on reporting cases of forced disappearances in Egypt and for its support to Italian and Egyptian lawyers of the family of Giulio Regeni, the Italian researcher found dead after torture in Cairo on the 3rd of February 2016.

Earlier in January 2016, just before the fifth anniversary of the "revolution", there was an attempt to abduct Dr Abdallah from a coffee shop in Cairo, with the accusation of mobilizing the citizens and calling for protests.

Together with Mr Abdallah, 46 other activists have being summoned after the protests that took place in Cairo following the decision of the Government to hand over Tiran and Sanafir Islands to Saudi Arabia. At least more than 100 people were arrested in eight different governorates including Cairo and Alexandria. According to the Front of Defence for Egyptian Protesters (FDEP) at least 238 people, including foreign nationals, activists and journalists, were arrested on 25 April across Egypt. As more protests are planned next days, the number is expected to increase. The police operations follow the announcement of the (Minister of the Interior), who stated on 24 April that: "The Ministry of the Interior will respond with the utmost firmness and decisiveness to any action that could disturb public security or attack any public facilities". The statement was preceded by similar declarations made by President Abdul Fattah Al Sisi, asking both the police and armed forces to stop any attempt to imperil public security.

On 10 March 2016, the European Parliament approved a resolution on Egypt denouncing, at paragraph 5, the "continuous harassment of the Commission for Rights and Freedoms for its apparent role in the 'Stop Enforced Disappearance' campaign in Egypt". The European Parliament called, in several resolutions, the Egyptian government to prioritise the protection and promotion of human rights and to ensure accountability for violations of such rights. Once again, we request the immediate release of all individuals detained and sentenced solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

In addition, we ask the HR/VP Federica Mogherini to allow legal staff of the European delegation in Cairo to follow and closely monitor the trials of those who have been indicted with such charges, including Dr Ahmed Abdallah.

Furthermore, we urge EU Member States to respect the [Common Position 2008/944/CFSP](#) which lays down criteria for the export of conventional arms that they shall apply to licensing decisions.

Best regards,

Barbara Spinelli – GUE/NGL Group

Stefan Eck – GUE/NGL Group

Pavel Teli ka – ALDE Group

Marie-Christine Vergiat – GUE/NGL Group

Lynn Boylan – GUE/NGL Group

Ernest Maragall – Greens/EFA Group

Martina Anderson – GUE/NGL Group

Matt Carthy – GUE/NGL Group

Liadh Ní Riada – GUE/NGL Group

Nessa Childers – S&D Group

Elly Schlein – S&D Group

António Marinho e Pinto – ALDE Group
Pascal Durand – Greens/EFA Group
Curzio Maltese – GUE/NGL Group
Fabio De Masi – GUE/NGL Group
Afzal Khan – S&D Group
Bart Staes – Greens/EFA Group
Kostas Chrysogonos – GUE/NGL Group
Josep-Maria Terricabras – Greens/EFA Group
Patrick Le Hyaric – GUE/NGL Group
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica – ALDE Group
Michèle Rivasi – Greens/EFA Group
Jude Kirton-Darling – S&D Group
Soraya Post – S&D Group
Takis Hadjigeorgiou – GUE/NGL Group
Helmut Scholz – GUE/NGL Group
Marina Albiol Guzman – GUE/NGL Group
Maria Heubuch – Greens/EFA Group
Eleonora Forenza – GUE/NGL Group
Javier Nart – ALDE Group
Molly Scott Cato – Greens/EFA Group
Carolina Punset – ALDE Group
Tania González Peñas – GUE/NGL Group
Liliana Rodrigues – S&D Group
Josu Juaristi Abaunz – GUE/NGL Group
Josef Weidenholzer – S&D Group
Andrea Cozzolino – S&D Group
Sofia Sakorafa – GUE/NGL Group
Barbara Lochbihler – Greens/EFA Group
Rina Ronja Kari – GUE/NGL Group
Dimitrios Papadimoulis – GUE/NGL Group
Judith Sargentini – Greens/EFA Group
Marietje Schaake – ALDE Group

Klaus Buchner – Greens/EFA Group
Sophie in 't Veld – ALDE Group
Bodil Valero – Greens/EFA Group
Brando Benifei – S&D Group
Ana Maria Gomes – S&D Group
Beatriz Becerra – ALDE Group
Boris Zala – S&D Group
Hilde Vautmans – ALDE Group
Julie Ward – S&D Group
Isabella Adinolfi – EFDD Group
Miguel Urbán Crespo – GUE/NGL Group
Jonás Fernández Álvarez – S&D Group
Alfred Sant – S&D Group
Fabio Massimo Castaldo – EFDD Group
Maite Pagazaurtundúa – ALDE Group
Seán Kelly – EPP Group