



6 February 2015

Dear President Sisi,

I write as counsel to Mr Mohamed Fahmy, the journalist who has been detained in Cairo since December 2013. I repeat my request for the immediate release of my client. Since this has not yet occurred, however, I now write to request a meeting with you, or your designated officials, as soon as possible to discuss the status of the case.

In my letter to you dated 28 December 2014 I explained that Mr Fahmy's detention was illegal and requested that you take immediate action to bring about his release. The letter attached an official request for Mr Fahmy's transfer to Canada under applicable laws as well as a request for a pardon and release on health grounds.

I am delighted to note that five days ago, on 1 February, Mr Fahmy's co-defendant in the trial that led to his imprisonment was released from detention in Egypt. The Ministry of Interior reportedly stated that the government had "decided to extradite Australian journalist Peter Grete... to his country today... after the cabinet's approval, in enforcement of the Presidential Decree no. 140 for the year 2014 regarding the rulings on extraditing defendants and deporting the convicts". Since Mr Grete's release, Mr Fahmy's Egyptian counsel has been informed by an Egyptian government official that Mr Fahmy's release was to follow, and that it was imminent.

This was to be expected, given that Mr Fahmy has been the victim of the same injustice as Mr Grete. Both were charged in connection with their work as journalists at the Al Jazeera English news network; both sentenced to 7 years in prison following an unfair trial. And both are foreign nationals eligible for transfer under Law 140/2014: as confirmed in the Egyptian Official Gazette no. 4497 of 2014, Mr Fahmy "is permitted to become a naturalised citizen of Canada without retaining his Egyptian citizenship".

Despite clear assurances that he would be released, Mr Fahmy remains in detention in Egypt. I therefore plan to visit Cairo in the near future to meet with Mr Fahmy and to discuss the prospects for his release. I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter and inform me as soon as possible of the next available opportunity to discuss the matters raised in this letter with you or a member of your staff. I can be reached through Mr Fahmy's brother, Adel, at +20 1001795952 or adel.fahmy@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this matter.

Amal Clooney

Counsel for Mohamed Fahmy

Copy:

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada (by email)

Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Foreign and Consular Affairs of Canada (by email)

Troy Lulashnyk, Canadian Ambassador, Cairo (by email)

Isabelle Savard, Canadian Embassy, Cairo (by email)