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July 31, 2002

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

I am writing to urge you to communicate to President Hosni Mubarak your concern about the imprisonment of Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim in Egypt on July 29, 2002.

Dr. Ibrahim is a prominent campaigner for democracy and freedom, and a distinguished university professor. He is 63 years old and in poor health. He holds Egyptian and U.S. citizenship. Yesterday he was convicted and sentenced to seven years of hard labor in an Egyptian prison on charges that he defamed the Egyptian state.

Dr. Ibrahim is being punished for speaking out for human rights and democracy in Egypt.

In recent months you and members of your administration have spoken out eloquently on the need for building democracy and respect for human dignity in the countries of the Muslim world. Dr. Ibrahim has spent his career working for these goals, and is now paying a heavy price for his commitment to these principles.

Please urge President Mubarak to order the immediate release of Dr Ibrahim and his four co-defendants from prison, pending the appeal against their conviction. Please make clear to President Mubarak that the United States government regards the charges against Dr. Ibrahim to be groundless, and urge that the convictions should be annulled as soon as possible so that Dr. Ibrahim can resume his important work.

Sincerely,

Michael Posner  
Executive Director

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