



His Excellency Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
`Abedine Palace
Cairo
Egypt

August 5, 2008

Your Excellency,

Human Rights First, an independent non-governmental human rights organization based in New York, was deeply saddened to learn of the sentencing in absentia of the prominent human rights advocate, Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim. A Cairo court sentenced the 69-year-old university teacher and activist to two years' imprisonment for "tarnishing Egypt's reputation abroad" on August 2, 2008. He was given leave to appeal and his bail was set at 10,000 Egyptian Pounds (approximately \$1,900).

This conviction and other similar lawsuits brought against Dr. Ibrahim by supporters of Egypt's ruling political party, the National Democratic Party, represent an attempt to curtail the right to non-violent freedom of expression. The targeting of such a prominent critic as Dr. Ibrahim for criminal prosecution has a chilling effect on others in Egypt who must now expect the same type of treatment if they exercise their basic rights to freedom of expression, guaranteed in Egyptian law and in international human rights treaties to which Egypt is State Party.

The law against "tarnishing Egypt's reputation abroad" is so vaguely worded that it invites abuse through its overbroad application to prosecute legitimate, non-violent expression that should be protected in law and practice.

We respectfully urge you to put an end to the use of such laws to curtail basic rights and freedoms and to end the harassment of Dr. Ibrahim. Baseless prosecutions of this nature do more to tarnish Egypt's reputation abroad than any public criticism of your government's policies. Saad Eddin Ibrahim's public activities as a leading advocate for human rights and democracy in Egypt and

HEADQUARTERS
333 Seventh Avenue
13th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212.845.5200
Fax: 212.845.5299

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20002
Tel: 202.547.5692
Fax: 202.543.5999

www.humanrightsfirst.org

President
Michael Posner

Chair
William D. Zabel

Vice-Chairs
Tom A. Bernstein
Kenneth R. Feinberg
Robert D. Joffe

Board of Directors
Mark Angelson
Raymond M. Brown
Lynda Clarizio
Craig Cogut
Donald Francis Donovan
A. Whitney Ellsworth
Gail Furman
Leslie Gimbel
R. Scott Greathead
Myrna K. Greenberg
Louis Henkin
John D. Hutson
Lewis B. Kaden
Kerry Kennedy
Harold Hongju Koh
Jo Backer Laird
Robert Todd Lang
Michael K. Rozen
Barbara A. Schatz
Sigourney Weaver

Chair Emeritus
Marvin E. Frankel
(1920-2002)

Washington Director
Elisa Massimino

throughout the Middle East bring credit to Egypt. Rather than obstructing his legitimate activities as a researcher, teacher and activist, your government should encourage and support his valuable work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Hicks
International Policy Advisor

cc. Ambassador Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States of America