



8 February 2015

**Dear Prime Minister Harper,**

I write as counsel to Mr Mohamed Fahmy to request that you intervene to seek his release by the Egyptian authorities as soon as possible.

As explained in my previous written communications, Mr Fahmy is imprisoned as a result of an unfair trial. Your Government monitored the proceedings and criticised them as being “inconsistent with Egypt’s democratic aspirations”. Mr Fahmy is very grateful for the efforts made by Canadian officials to date, including the attention given to it by your Ambassador in Egypt and former Minister Baird. We are also grateful for the statement issued today calling for Mr Fahmy’s release. But your direct intervention as Prime Minister is now urgently needed.

The Canadian government has received clear assurances from Egyptian government representatives that Mr Fahmy would be released. A week ago, on 1 February, Mr Fahmy’s co-defendant – the Australian Peter Greste – was released from detention in Egypt. And since then your officials have been told that Mr Fahmy’s release would follow “very soon” and Mr Baird said that his release was “imminent”. Yet Mr Fahmy remains in detention. And, in a new twist announced today, a date for his re-trial has been set for 12 February.

Mr Fahmy has been the victim of the same injustice as Mr Greste. 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 Egyptian Presidential Decree 140/2014, which allows foreign prisoners to be returned to their country of nationality. As confirmed in the Egyptian Official Gazette no. 4497 of 2014, Mr Fahmy has been “permitted to become a naturalised citizen of Canada without retaining his Egyptian citizenship”. But after being coerced into renouncing his citizenship to secure his release, he has so far been deprived of the reward he was promised.

This injustice must not be allowed to persist. In Peter Greste’s case, Australia’s Prime Minister Tony Abbott pleaded directly on multiple occasions with President Sisi for Peter’s release. Mr Fahmy deserves no less from you. Indeed, there are indications that the lack of such intervention may be preventing a successful outcome. Currently discussions are taking place at lower-than-ministerial level on this file, which is not appropriate given the urgency of the matter today.

We cannot let bureaucratic hurdles or diplomatic inertia prevent an innocent man from being set free. I urge you to contact the Egyptian President and speak up for your citizen today.

**Amal Clooney**  
Counsel for Mohamed Fahmy