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Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President  
of the European Commission

Stavros Lambrinidis

European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights

*Dear Federica,*

Brussels, 23 May 2018

*Dear Stavros,*

I am writing to you concerning the case of Ms Ola al-Qaradawi, a Qatari national, and her husband Mr Hosam Khalaf, an Egyptian national, who have been in detention in in Egypt inhumane conditions since 30 June 2017. The couple was arrested without a warrant by the Egyptian authorities over an alleged link to the Muslim Brotherhood while they vacationed in Egypt's North Coast.

The Egyptian authorities' claim is that the chalet where they couple was staying during their vacation was owned by Mr Yusuf Qaradawi - who is the father of Ms Ola al-Qaradawi and an eminent scholar and member of the Muslim Brotherhood whose name is on a frozen assets list. Furthermore, the Egyptian authorities accuse the couple of financing the Muslim Brotherhood as well as for spreading information aimed at distorting Egypt's image. All these accusations have proved to be untrue.

Since the police arrested Ola al-Qaradawi and Hosam Khalaf, the Egyptian authorities have been systematically violating the married couple's due process rights. While Ola al-Qaradawi is at the al-Qanater Women's Prison, her husband, Hosam Khalaf, has been held in the Maximum Security Prison II in the Tora Prison complex. Upon their arrest, the police authorities have placed Ola al-Qaradawi and Hosam Khalaf in solitary confinement and denied them access to their lawyers and families, as well as any documents pertaining to the case, notably an official written copy of the charges. Additionally, since their arrest, the imprisonment has been over and over again extended and always lacking a warrant.

These precarious conditions are seriously putting the health condition of both Ms Ola al-Qaradawi and Mr Hosam Khalaf at serious risk. Furthermore to no guarantees of a fair trial, the couple could be charged with death penalty and tried in a military court.

Ana Gomes

European Parliament

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I ask you to demand from the Egyptian authorities the release of both Ms Ola al-Qaradawi and Mr Hosam Khalaf, who are among the estimated 60,000 political prisoners presently being detained in Egypt. The EU cannot turn a blind eye to the human rights disaster that has engulfed Egypt at the expense of enhancing cooperation on security and migration control and boost trade.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament