

His Excellency  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Ashraf El Kholly  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
26 South Street  
London W1K 1DW

9<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Dear Sir,

**Re: Peter Greste, Mohammed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed**

We the undersigned are practising members of the Bar of England and Wales. Many of us act on a regular basis for the Government of the United Kingdom; many of us act for claimants in claims against the Government; and many of us act for both the Government and claimants. We are all experienced in dealing with cases involving claims of violations of human rights protected by domestic and international instruments. As barristers, we are personally and professionally committed to the values of justice and the Rule of Law. We are writing to you to express our dismay at the recent sentencing to seven years in prison of the Al Jazeera journalists Peter Greste, Mohammed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed (who also received an additional three-year sentence) on charges of "spreading false news" and "supporting the Muslim Brotherhood".

We note that the Arab Republic of Egypt is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 14 of this document enshrines the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal. It is clear from all of the information available to us that this right has not been respected, but rather has been flagrantly violated, in the case of Messrs Greste, Fahmy and Mohamed (and also, we would add, in that of their fellow journalists who have been tried and sentenced *in absentia*). The media and independent observers (including a representative of Amnesty International) who attended the trial of the above gentlemen have unanimously reported that the proceedings leading up to their conviction and sentence were flawed by numerous procedural irregularities, and also that there was no evidence whatsoever to support the allegations made against them. On the contrary, it appears clear that they were simply undertaking their professional duties as journalists when they were arrested, as they were entitled to do, and that they were entirely innocent of any crime.

We have also noted that the sentencing decision made with respect to the above three men has received swift and widespread condemnation on an international scale, by a very wide number of persons and bodies, including human rights bodies, media organisations and the Governments of Australia, the USA and the UK. We hereby add our collective voice to that expression of condemnation. The conviction and sentencing of Mr Greste, Mr Fahmy and Mr Mohamed represents, we repeat, a flagrant denial of justice and of their right to a fair trial. We call upon the Government that you represent urgently to review their cases, with a view to securing their immediate release.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Bailin QC  
Kirsty Brimelow QC  
Charles Bourne QC  
Andrew Caldecott QC  
John Cavanagh QC  
Richard Clayton QC  
Jason Coppel QC  
Robert Engelhart QC  
Francis Fitzgibbon QC  
Michael Fordham QC  
David Forsdick QC  
Alison Foster QC  
Sir Edward Garnier QC MP  
Javan Herberg QC  
John Hobson QC  
Sean Jones QC  
Andrew Langdon QC  
Anthony Lester, Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC  
Nathalie Lieven QC  
David Lock QC  
William McCormick QC  
Gavin Millar QC  
Stephen Nathan QC  
Gordon Nardell QC  
Jenni Richards QC  
Tony Peto QC  
Hugh Southey QC  
Karen Steyn QC  
Jemima Stratford QC  
Tom Weisselberg QC  
Sean Wilken QC  
David Wolfe QC

Tim Akkouch  
Zahra Al-Rikabi  
Jack Anderson  
Katherine Apps  
Timothy Atkinson  
Kerry Barker  
Alan Bates  
John Bate-Williams  
Gabriel Beeby  
Sasha Blackmoor  
Sally Anne Blackmore  
Doron Blum  
David Blundell  
Kerry Bretherton  
Samantha Broadfoot  
Tim Buley  
Lisa Busch  
Chris Buttler  
Catherine Callaghan  
David Carter

Benjamin Casey  
Greg O Ceallaigh  
Daniel Chadwick  
Susan Chan  
Sadiya Choudhury  
Tim Cooke-Hurle  
James Cornwell  
Rebecca Clutton  
Ben Collins  
Philip Conrath  
Mary Cowe  
Caroline Cross  
Estelle Dehon  
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Laura Dubinsky  
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Clare Kissin  
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Raggi Kotak  
Ronit Kreisberger  
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Daniel Sils  
Matthew Smith  
Paula Sparks  
Nick Stanage  
Harvey Starte  
Tom Tabori  
Isabella Tafur  
John-Paul Waite  
Richard Wald  
Galina Ward  
Ned Westaway  
Mary Westcott  
Jo Wilding  
Kate Wilson  
Henry Witcomb  
Quincy Whitaker  
Georgina Wolfe

Cc The Right Hon William Hague MP  
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