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| President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi |
| Office of the President |
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| Ahmed Ihab Gamal-Eldin  |
| Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign  |
| Affairs for Human Rights |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Corniche al-Nil, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt |
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| Public Prosecutor Hamada al-Sawy |
| Office of the Public Prosecutor |
| Madinat al-Rehab, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt |

Model text

I am writing to express my concern at how the Supreme State Security Prosecution is treating people who have simply expressed their opinions and used their right to freedom of expression. They include human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists. I understand that since President As-Sisi came to power in 2013, thousands of such people have been disappeared, detained pre-trial, tortured, subjected to unfair trials and sentenced in an arbitrary fashion. This appears to be a systemic process therefore.

As just two examples, I am concerned about the following:

Ibrahim Ezz El-Din is a 27-year-old architectural planning engineer who works as a researcher at the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF). He was arrested in June 2019 and reappeared at the SSSP nearly 6 months later. He had been tortured and has since become suicidal.

Ibrahim was investigated and charged with contributing to the objectives of a terrorist group and publication of false information undermining national security. The prosecutors based their accusations mainly on National Security Agency investigation case files which his lawyer was not allowed to examine. This is despite the ruling of Egypt’s highest court that, on their own, they do not constitute “evidence”.

Aser Mohamed was only 14 when he was arrested in January 2016 and subsequently subjected to enforced disappearance for 34 days. This is despite the detention of children being against Egypt’s own laws. Aser faced a range of charges including being member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood group and attacking a hotel in January 2016. The confessions were obtained under torture. In October 2019 Aser was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He is still a teenager.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been additionally very concerned for such prisoners because of the difficulties of maintaining a safe environment in a prison. Ibrahim Ezz El-Din and Aser Mohamed both have allergies resulting in respiratory problems so I am particularly worried about their health.

In view of this, I would respectfully ask for you to use your authority to:

* Reform the Supreme State Security Prosecution and cease all its human rights abuses
* Investigate and ensure accountability for all such human rights abuses
* Release Ibrahim Ezz El-Din and Aser Mohamed immediately
* In the meantime, provide them with access to their lawyers and families and to adequate health care

I look forward to hearing from you,