



**CAIRO INSTITUTE**  
**FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**Human Rights Council: 32<sup>nd</sup> Session**

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association**

**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**

**June 17, 2016**

**Thank you Mr. President.**

The Cairo Institute and 10 Egyptian human rights organizations<sup>1</sup> welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association.

In Egypt, the reopening of case no 173 of 2011, known as the foreign funding case, will most likely end with sentencing human rights defenders on charges including life sentences in prison, and the shutting down of rights organizations.

To date, 15 staff members were summoned for investigations, at least 7 staff members were banned from travel, and an asset freeze has been imposed on Andalus Institute and its director. In addition, the assets of employees of 5 Egyptian rights NGOs including some of their family members have been subjected to an asset freeze order.

According to an Egyptian HRD “the goal of the government is beyond doubt: to exterminate the national human rights movement”.

The repressive actions to close public space and crackdown on dissent in Egypt are extremely alarming. Against the backdrop of recent protests, between April 15 and 27, at least 1,200 people have been arrested or detained.

Several human rights defenders have been arrested in the past two months on trumped up charges. These include Mina Thabit, Ahmed Abdullah, lawyers Haitham Mohamedin and Malek Adly. Mr. Adly has been in solitary confinement since his arrest on May 5.

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1. Alhaqania Foundation of Rights and Freedoms
2. Arab Network for Human Rights Information
3. Arab Penal Reform Organization
4. Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance
5. Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement
6. Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights
7. Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms
8. Misryon against Religious Discrimination
9. National Community for Human Rights and Law
10. Nazra for Feminist Studies

We second repeated calls made by UN experts in the last two months, including the High Commissioner, for the Egyptian authorities to cease curtailing public freedoms. We repeat our call for Egypt to close case no. 173 and drop all charges against rights defenders and organizations.

**Thank you Mr. President.**