



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Center for Contemporary Arab Studies
School of Foreign Service



28 January 2014

Prime Minister Hazem Al-Beblawy

Magles El Shaab
Kasr El Aini St.
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

via facsimile 20 2 795 8048 or 20 2 795 8016
via email primemin@idsc.gov.eg

Your Excellency,

We, members of the faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., write to express our grave concern about the news that our colleague, Professor Emad Shahin, has been named by the Egyptian State Security Prosecutor in a case with a litany of charges including “espionage,” “calling for the suspension of the constitution,” and “preventing state institutions and authorities from performing their functions.”

Professor Shahin, a renowned scholar of Middle East politics, has been a visiting professor at Georgetown University in the past. Currently he is a Professor at the American University in Cairo, and has also taught at Harvard University and the University of Notre Dame. We know Professor Shahin to be a man of the utmost integrity, who has been a clear and tireless advocate for democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in every instance. His activities are those of a scholar and of an individual of conscience who advocates for peaceful means and voices his support for a democratic and inclusive Egypt. It is indeed absurd that Professor Shahin has been accused of serious crimes by the Egyptian State Security Prosecutor.

It reflects poorly on the government of Egypt that his constructive and nonpartisan criticism of political events has seemingly led to this attempt to silence him. The government is responsible for protecting and upholding the rights of all of

مركز الدراسات العربية المعاصرة - جامعة جورجتاون

241 ICC Building Box 571020 Washington DC 20057-10020

Phone: 202-687-5793 Fax: 202-687-7001

its citizens, including those who disagree with particular decisions made by the authorities.

We appeal to you to do everything in your power to reverse the decision to indict Professor Shahin in this case. Justice cannot possibly be served by pursuing such a patently unfounded and biased prosecution. We await the honor of your reply.

Sincerely,

Osama Abi-Mershed, Associate Professor, Department of History and Director,
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Fida Adely, Associate Professor, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Mustafa Aksakal, Associate Professor, School of Foreign Service

Elliott Colla, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Arabic and Islamic
Studies

Rochelle Davis, Associate Professor, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

John Esposito, Professor and Director, Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding

Yvonne Haddad, Professor, Center for Christian Muslim Understanding.

Michael Hudson, Professor Emeritas, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Daniel Neep, Assistant Professor, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies

Felicitas Opwis, Associate Professor, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Suzanne Stetkyvetch, Professor, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Judith Tucker, Professor, Department of History and Center for Contemporary Arab
Studies

John Voll, Professor, Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding