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The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

Stockholm 12 June 2014

*Erling Norrby /ch*

His Excellency Abdul Fatah al-Sisi  
President  
Office of the President  
Al Ittihadia Palace  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Human Rights Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Swedish Academy I have to express our deepest concern that Professor Emad El-Din Shahin, a distinguished Egyptian political scientist, is facing serious charges for what appears to be the peaceful expression of his opinion.

As you may be aware, Emad Shahin is a professor of public policy and administration at the American University in Cairo's School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. He is well-known and respected in international academic circles for his scholarly work, having held professorships at a number of prestigious universities, including Harvard and Georgetown.

It is our understanding that Professor Shahin has written numerous published articles on the course of political events in Egypt with an emphasis on issues of social justice. We also understand that his articles have been critical of President Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, and, following Morsi's ouster, of the interim military government. Given that Professor Shahin is a political scientist, such topics fall clearly within his professional expertise as well as his internationally protected rights to freedom of opinion and expression.

We respectfully urge you to clarify the basis for the charges that have brought against Professor Shahin and to use your good offices to ensure that any charges related to conduct that is protected under international human rights instruments, be dropped immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Erling Norrby

*Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee*

Copy: His Excellency Nabil Fahmy, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Embassy of Sweden in Cairo  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Sweden