

25 February, 2014

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SALAH MOHI ELDIN ABDELMAGED ELWASSIMY

AMBASSADOR

THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

No 12 Lrg Rhu, Off Jln Amp Hilir

55000 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 42566684 Fax: 42573515

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) Peninsular Malaysia has joined the International Federation of Journalists, to demand an end to the intimidation of journalists and media suppression in Egypt and to call for the immediate release of all detained journalists.

Al Jazeera will hold an international solidarity day for their jailed journalists on Thursday, Feb 27, 2014 as a worldwide pressure on the Egyptian government to release them. The journalists face charges that could see foreign-born journalists face up to seven years in jail, and Egyptian journalists up to 15 years.

The Al Jazeera English journalists currently under detention are Peter Greste, Mohammed Fadel Fahmy and Baher Mohammed who have been detained by the Egyptian authorities since 29 December 2013. Their colleague Abdullah Al Shami, of Al Jazeera Arabic, has been detained since 14 August 2013 and is in the third week of a hunger-strike.

This repression of all journalists in the country, who are operating under outrageous pressure and intimidation, undermines press freedom in Egypt and calls into question the government's attitude to basic human rights,"

The trial starts at a time when journalists are coming under increasing attack in Egypt. The Egypt Journalists' Syndicate (EJS) recently issued a condemnation against the interior ministry after reporters covering protests in Cairo were assaulted, their equipment seized, and even shot at with live ammunition; 19 journalists were arrested in a single day. Photographer Mohamed Fawzy remains critically injured after being shot whilst working.

According to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) report, which NUJ is affiliated to, on the number of journalists and media staff killed across the globe in 2013, Egypt remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists, with six journalists murdered in the country last year.

The situation facing journalists working in Egypt is dire. The arrests and brutal attacks are a deliberate attempt to silence journalists and prevent them from doing their job - giving citizens access to vital information and news."

The Egyptian authorities published a list on February 5th of 20 journalists, accusing them of aiding terrorists while working in the country. Of the 20, nine are Al Jazeera staff.

On behalf of the International Federation of Journalists, we hereby strongly urge the Egyptian government to release the detained journalists. We also respectfully ask to transmit this letter to the Egyptian Government and advise it of our deep concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. De Rozario', with a horizontal line extending to the right and a small flourish below the 'o'.

SCHAVE JEROME DE ROZARIO

General Secretary NUJ Malaysia

Advisor (Reserved) International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Asia Pacific

C.C - Al-jazeera- parky.krish@aljazeera.net

- Beth Costa, General Secretary IFJ, Brussels ifj@ifj.org

- Jacqui Park Director IFJ Asia Pacific - ifj@ifj-asia.org