

President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Al Ittihadia Palace, CAIRO
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, September 2016

Your Excellency,

I wish to express my deep concern about the systematic use of enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment by state agents, notably the National Security Agency. In the past 18 months, hundreds of political activists and protesters have been arrested and subjected to enforced disappearance without access to their lawyers or families. Enforced disappearances create conditions that facilitate torture and other ill-treatment, as well as unfair trials in which courts rely on torture-tainted "confessions" and which often result in long prison terms or death sentences.

I urgently call on you to promptly establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate these serious human rights violations and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

As an immediate step, please allow those subjected to enforced disappearance access to their families and lawyers, and release them unless they are promptly charged with a recognized criminal offences. All those held solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,