



Federica Mogherini  
Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
200, Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 30 January 2015

Dear High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini,

Recent developments in Egypt are cause for great concern about the government's respect for human rights. Particularly the restrictions on the media and civil society as well as the harsh police violence towards peaceful demonstrators stand out.

This week the Court of Cassation upheld three year sentences for Ahmed Maher, Mohamed Adel – both members of the April 6 Youth Movement – and activist Ahmed Douma for charges under the contentious Protest law. In another lawsuit, the April 6 Youth Movement is accused of being a "terrorist organisation". The first hearing is set for February 12.

The detention of these activists, and many others, runs counter to the Egyptian government's own commitments to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Egypt, as a crucial country for a more stable future for the Middle East and North Africa should be high on the agenda for EU foreign policy, not only when it comes to counter-terrorism and trade, but especially the wellbeing of the population.

We call on you to raise the sentencing of Ahmed Maher, Mohamed Adel and Ahmed Douma, and to convey our concerns about the high number of political prisoners more broadly.

We look forward to your answers on what the European approach to the challenges in Egypt will be.

Sincerely,

*Marietje Schaake (ALDE)*  
*Petras Austrevicius (ALDE)*  
*Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)*  
*Dita Charanzová (ALDE)*  
*Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)*  
*Tanja Fajon (S&D)*

*Julie Ward (S&D)*  
*Urmat Paet (ALDE)*  
*Klaus Buchner (GREENS)*  
*Angelika Mlinar (ALDE)*  
*Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD)*  
*Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD)*  
*Petr Jezek (ALDE)*  
*Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL)*  
*Robert Rochefort (ALDE)*  
*Helga Trüpel (GREENS)*  
*Igor Šoltes (GREENS)*  
*Ivo Vajgl (ALDE)*  
*Kati Piri (S&D)*  
*Sophie in 't Veld (ALDE)*  
*Matthijs van Miltenburg (ALDE)*  
*Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)*  
*Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)*  
*Jozo Rados (ALDE)*  
*Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)*  
*Elena Valenciano (S&D)*  
*Javier Nart (ALDE)*  
*Ana Gomes (S&D)*  
*Marian Harkin (ALDE)*  
*Brando Benifei (S&D)*  
*Judith Sargentini (Greens)*  
*Viktor Uspaskich (ALDE)*  
*Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE)*  
*Andrejs Mamikins (S&D)*  
*Pavel Telicka (ALDE)*  
*Gesine Meissner (ALDE)*  
*Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)*  
*Nessa Childers (S&D)*  
*Katerina Konecna (GUE/NGL)*  
*Anneliese Dodds (S&D)*