

To: Alaa Youssef, Egyptian Consular General and

Nasser Kamel, Egyptian Ambassador to the UK at

[emb\\_london@mfa.gov.eg](mailto:emb_london@mfa.gov.eg)

7 January 2018

Dear Consular General and Ambassador

**Mahienour el Massry and Matoesem Medhat**

We call for the immediate release of Mahienour el-Massry and Matoesem Medhat jailed for 2 years in November 2017 for breaching a 1914 British law on public gatherings and the 2013 Protest Law on false charges of “*thuggery*” and “*insulting the President*”.

We understand that their appeals against sentence are due to be heard by an Egyptian Court on 13 January 2018 and request their release prior to that date. We further understand there is only one unreliable police witness in the case who admits that he did not observe the defendants presence at the protest.

The charges relate to a demonstration against the transfer of the Tiran and Sanafir Islands from Egypt to Saudi Arabia.

Mahienour, an award winning human rights lawyer was already been in jail in 2015 over the acquittal of policemen charged with the murder of Khaled Said in 2010 She received the *Ludovic Trarieux International Human Rights Prize* for her work whilst in prison defending many Egyptian women imprisoned on debt charges.

Moatasem Medhat , a member of the Bread and Freedom Party and a trade union at the Lord Company provided evidence to the Court at his initial hearing that he was not even present at the demonstration.

Their continuing imprisonment breaches their fundamental human rights to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment, their right to a fair trial and their right to family life. We consider their imprisonment to be without evidential foundation and to be a means of silencing them as campaigners for freedom and democracy within Egypt.

Our organisations will be demonstrating outside Egyptian Embassies across Europe on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in respect of lawyers like Mahienour whose freedom to work in the profession of their choice is endangered in Egypt. Their continuing detention adds weight to the validity and force of our proposed demonstrations.

Yours sincerely

Haldane Society for Socialist Lawyers (UK)

European Association of Lawyers for Democracy