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United Nations – Human Rights Council 46th Session

Agenda Item 4 – General Debate

Oral Intervention

Delivered by Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and joined by Amnesty International and other organisations listed below

As NGOs from around the world¹ we welcome the joint declaration made by states under this Agenda Item condemning the widespread human rights violations being carried out by the Egyptian government - and view this declaration as the beginning of a long overdue process to ensure strong and consistent attention at this Council on the human rights crises in Egypt.

Earlier this year more than 100 NGOs from around the world wrote to UN member states to warn them that the Egyptian government is attempting to annihilate human rights organizations and eradicate the human rights movement in the country through sustained and systematic attacks.

Such attacks have occurred in the context of an “increasingly brutal crackdown on human rights defenders and civil and political rights more broadly,” often carried out under the guise of “counterterrorism.”

The message today to the Egyptian government is clear: you will no longer be given *carte blanche* to imprison, torture, violate the right to life or murder peaceful critics.

Going forward, we urge this Council and its members to demand that Egypt begins to immediately release and provide remedy to all those arbitrarily detained, including human rights defenders, journalists, academics, artists, lawyers and politicians, as well as those whose cases have been raised by the Special Procedures and OHCHR.²

¹ This statement is delivered by the CIHRS in cooperation with: Access Now, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Amnesty International, Arab Network for Knowledge about Human Rights, L'Association Arts et Cultures des deux Rives, L'association Création et Créativité pour le Développement et l'Embauche (C.C.D.E.), L'association Citoyenneté, Développement, Cultures & Migrations Des Deux Rives, L'Association Solidarité Laïque Tunisie, L'Association Tunisienne pour la Lutte contre la Torture, L'Association Tunisienne pour la Défense des Libertés Individuelle Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine), CIVICUS, Le Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie, Committee for Justice, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Centre de Tunisie pour la Liberté de Presse, DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project), Dignity, The Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF), Electronic Frontier Foundation, English PEN, EuroMed Rights (The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network), Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR), Fondation Hassan Saadaoui pour l'Egalité et la Démocratie, Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux, Freedom House, The Freedom Initiative, Global Focus, humanrights.ch, Initiative franco-égyptienne pour les droits et les libertés (IFEDL), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), The Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Lawyers for Lawyers, The Legal Resources Centre (LRC), MENA Rights Group, Minority Rights Group, Pan Africa ILGA, PEN International, People in Need (Czech Republic), Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED), Rafto Foundation for Human Rights, Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Observation et le Suivi des Élections en Guinée (ROSE), The Tunisian Human Rights League, Tunisian Forum for Youth Empowerment, Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), Vigilance pour La Démocratie et l'Etat Civil

² Abdelmageed Meshali, Ahmed Abdel Atty, Ahmed Douma, Ahmed El Hedeby, Ahmed Maatouq, Ahmed Amasha, Aisha El Shatr, Alaa Abdel Fattah, Alaa Essam, Asaad El-Sheikha, Ayman Ali, Ayman al-Serafy, Badr Mohammed Badr, Bahaa Ouda, Bassem Kamal Mohamed Ouda, Esraa Abdel Fattah, Essam El-Haddad, Ezzat Ghoneim, Galal el Behairy, Gehad El-Haddad, Hassan Barbary, Haytham Mohamadein, Hoda Abdel Moneam, Hosam Al-Din Khalaf, Hossam El Sayad, Ibrahim Ata, Ibrahim Ezz El-Din, Ibrahim Metwally, Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud Mohamed al-Yamani, Ismail Alexandrani, Kamal Elbalshy, Khaled El-Kazaz, Khalil Rizk, Mohamed Abo Horira, Mohamed Adel, Mohamed El-Baqer, Mohamed Ibrahim Radwan, Mohamed El Hedeby, Mohamed Ramadan, Mohamed Salah, Ola Yusef Al-Qaradawi, Patrick Zaki, Ramy Kamel, Ramy Shaath, Salah-Eldeen Abdel-Haleem Soltan, Sanaa Seif, Sherif al-Rouby, Solafa Magdy, Tareq El Salakawy, Zyad El-Elaimy. Note: the above is not an exhaustive list but based on the information available to our organizations.