



**NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS**

Your Voice. Your Future.

January 15, 2014

The Honourable John Baird P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**BY FAX:** 613-996-9880 & 613-993-6501

**BY EMAIL:** [john.baird@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.baird@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Baird:

**Re: Illegal Detention of Mohamed Fahmy**

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I write to you today on behalf of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) to request your intervention in the case of a Canadian citizen currently detained in Egypt: Mr. Mohamed Fahmy.

On December 29, 2013, the Canadian-Egyptian journalist and the Cairo bureau chief for Al-Jazeera English was detained, along with his colleagues, by Egyptian authorities. He was arrested on accusations of spreading lies harmful to the state and joining a terrorist organization. Mr. Fahmy, a veteran journalist, who graduated from University of Calgary and previously worked for CNN, was arrested as part of what has been described as a broader attack on journalists. As confirmed by the [Middle East and North Africa coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists](#), the accusations are “politically motivated” and equate “legitimate journalistic work with acts of terrorism in order to expand [...] censorship efforts.”<sup>1</sup>

It is reported that Mr. Fahmy has been held under substandard conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> See Committee to Protect Journalists Report <<http://www.cpj.org/2013/12/egypt-arrests-al-jazeera-journalists-seizes-equipm.php#more>>.

In light of the grave breaches to Mr. Fahmy's human rights and the troubling implications of his arrest for the safety of journalists and the freedom of the press, we strongly urge you to:

1. Extend full consular support to Mr. Fahmy including ensuring the presence of Canadian officials at all interrogations and ensuring that Mr. Fahmy receives appropriate medical treatment and humane living conditions;
2. Contact Egyptian government representatives to express your concern and to call upon them to abide by their international legal obligations and in particular, demand the immediate release of Mr. Fahmy;
3. Encourage international partners to raise the case of Mr. Fahmy with Egyptian officials; and
4. Publicly express your deep concerns about the detention and handling of Mr. Fahmy by Egyptian authorities.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit grassroots organization whose mandate is to promote and protect the civil liberties and human rights of Canadian Muslims (and by extension all Canadians), advocate for their public interests and challenge Islamophobia and other forms of xenophobia.

We are available to further discuss the situation of Mr. Fahmy. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your timely response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ihsaan Gardee', written over a horizontal line.

Ihsaan Gardee  
Executive Director  
National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)