



Il Presidente

To: His Excellency Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

President, Arab Republic of Egypt

Office of the President

Al Ittihadia Palace, Cairo - Arab Republic of Egypt

Email: p.spokesman@op.gov.eg

Date: 21st December 2020

Subject: Petition in support of Mr. Patrick George Zaki

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), to express grave concern for Patrick George Zaki, a postgraduate student at the University of Bologna who was arrested on February 7, 2020, and afterwards allegedly subjected to torture, in apparent retaliation for his activity as a researcher.

Mr. Zaki is a twenty-eight year old Egyptian student who came to Italy in August 2019, to pursue a master's degree on Gender Studies at the University of Bologna. Moreover, he is a researcher for the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), an organization based in Cairo committed to defending Human Rights.

CRUI is gravely concerned about the decision taken by the Egyptian Court on the 7th December 2020 to extend the pre-trial detention for another 45 days, and deeply feels its responsibility towards students who pursue their research projects with enthusiasm and commitment.

We understand from Scholars at Risk and Amnesty International that the health situation of Mr. Zaki is seriously compromised by the harsh conditions in which he is currently detained while awaiting for trial. Mr. Zaki suffers from asthma, and he is at particular risk if exposed to COVID-19 in the Tora Prison. *In a December 12, 2020, letter to his family, Mr. Zaki expressed that he has serious backpain and his mental health is deteriorating.* We would therefore like to appeal to your clemency on this serious matter, and more broadly to the humanitarian concern that we all share in this health-emergency situation.

CRUI respectfully urge you to grant Mr. Zaki the permission to wait for his trial at home with his family, where he could also recover from the physical suffering after many months of detention.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and we trust your understanding and sympathy for the dispassionate motives that guide us all.

Sincerely,



Prof. Ferruccio Resta

CC:

His Excellency *Sameh Hassan Shoukry Selim*
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kornish el Nile, Maspiro - Cairo (Egypt)
E-mail: contact.us@mfa.gov.eg

His Excellency Tarek Galal Shawki
Minister of Education
Al Mutabadeen Building 12
Al Falaki Street
Bab Al Louq Area - Cairo (Egypt)
Email: <http://mail.moe.gov.eg>

The Honourable Ambassador S.E. Sig. Hisham Mohamed BADR
Egyptian Embassy in Rome
Villa Savoia - Via Salaria 267 - 00199 Roma - Italy
E-mail: amb.egi@pronet.it

Chancellor Hamada El-Sawy
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Fax: +20-2-25774716

Attorney General Khaled Diauddin
Supreme State Security Prosecution, Arab Republic of Egypt
Fax: +20-2-26381956

His Excellency Mr. Alaa Youssef
Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office
Permanent Représentative
261, Route de Lausanne - 1292 Chambesy
E-mail: mission.egypt@bluewin.ch

The Honorable Michelle Bachelet
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations - CH-1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: InfoDesk@ohchr.org

The Honorable Davide Maria Sassoli
President of the European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60 - 1047 Bruxelles – Belgium
E-mail: president@ep.europa.eu

The Honorable Irene Khan
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: freedex@ohchr.org

The Honorable Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson
United Nations Office at Geneva - CH 1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: defenders@ohchr.org

The Honorable **Leigh Toomey**
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
8-14, avenue de la Paix - CH 1211 Geneva 10
E-mail: wgad@ohchr.org

The Honorable Luigi Di Maio
Minister of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation
Piazzale della Farnesina 1 - 00135 Roma - Italy
E-mail: ministero.affariesteri@cert.esteri.it; segreteria.ministro@esteri.it

The Honorable Gaetano Manfredi
Minister of University and Research
Viale Trastevere 76/a - 00153 Roma - Italy
E-mail: segreteria.ministro@miur.it; comunicazione@miur.it; mur.gabinetto@postacert.istruzione.it

The Honorable Stefania Pucciarelli
President of the Senate of the Italian Republic Commission for Human Rights
Senate of the Republic
Piazza dei Caprettari 79
00186 Roma – Italy
E-mail: Stefania.pucciarelli@senato.it