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Secretary of State

9 October 2018

Mr Tom Tugendhat MP  
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
Committee Office House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Tom,

Thank you for letter of 12 September enclosing correspondence from Oliver McTernan and Julian Weinberg of Forward Thinking about the case of Dr Abdelmoneim Aboufotouh and human rights in Egypt.

The UK wants to see more political progress and better protection of human rights in Egypt. That includes implementation of the rights guaranteed by Egypt's constitution. These rights and freedoms are essential for Egypt's long-term stability. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have asked the Egyptian authorities to take action to release political detainees who remain imprisoned and to review mass judicial decisions. We have raised these concerns in public, through the UN Human Rights Council and through our Human Rights Priority Country reports. On 18 September, we made a statement at the UN Human Rights Council highlighting our concerns about continuing restrictions on freedom of expression, including new laws that further suppress media freedoms, and the arrests of activists, bloggers and journalists.

We also raise these concerns directly with representatives of the Egyptian government both in London and in Cairo. British officials in Cairo raised these issues most recently on 26 September in a meeting at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They highlighted our concern about the case of Dr Aboufotouh. They also discussed the wider issue of prison conditions in Egypt and our concern about the extended use of solitary confinement and restricted access to medical care. We will continue to call on the Egyptian authorities to adhere to the highest standards of criminal justice.

Yours ever  
Jeremy

**THE RT HON JEREMY HUNT MP**