

Ms Federica Mogherini  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels

*February 21<sup>st</sup> 2019*

Dear Ms Federica Mogherini,

**Re: ROUTINE EXECUTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN EGYPT**

On February 20<sup>th</sup> 2019, The regime of General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi in Egypt executed 9 political prisoners. On this occasion, these men were falsely-convicted of being involved in the killing of Hisham Barakat. However, these men are not alone.

The murder of 9 innocent men on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 marks the third consecutive week of executions of political prisoners in Egypt by General Sisi. Our sources indicate this act of murder is set to become a weekly event.

This cowardly act comes a mere week before European leaders including EU Council President Donald Tusk are set to attend the [EU-League of Arab States summit in Sharm El-Sheikh](#) on the 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Tusk, is set to co-chair the meeting alongside Sisi. European leaders from across the EU will go to Sharm El-Sheik in order to “strengthen Arab-European ties”. The international community are seemingly happy to openly back a despotic regime while remaining deathly silent to acts of murder. They are emboldening and indeed legitimising the horrific acts of a dictator.

This meeting also comes in the middle of a farcical process of amending the Egyptian constitution, with the aim of allowing Sisi to stay in power potentially until 2034, giving him more controlling power of the Judiciary, and allowing the military to control political life and interfere to “protect” the constitution and the civilian state.

Numerous reports from international organizations have acknowledged that the judiciary system in Egypt is not independent and the court procedures lack the minimum guarantees for fair and just trials.

There are currently more than 1,300 political prisoners detained unlawfully, and facing a death sentence in Egypt. 52 have already been executed, including the 9 that were killed on the 20<sup>th</sup>, approximately 50 more are now also awaiting execution.

We write this together, as unified opposition figures and human rights defenders, to call for European leaders to reconsider supporting a murdering dictator and cancelling their attendance at the summit immediately. It is either this, or they face being complicit in an appalling crime.

We thank you for your time in considering our request and we hope that the EU will uphold the values that you promote by not attending this summit, and to exercise needed pressure on Sisi to stop further executions.

SIGNED:

*Amr Darrag – Former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.*

*Ayman Nour – Leader, Ghad Al-Thawra Party*

*Hamza Zawbaa – TV Anchor and Media Strategist*

*Magda Refaa – Political Activist*

*Mohamed Mahsoob – Former Minister of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs*

*Mohamed Soltan - Human Rights advocate*

*Nevine Melek – Lawyer and Human Rights Defender*

*Tarek El-Zomor – Former Chairman of Al-Benaa Wa Al-Tanmya Party*

*Yehia Hamed – Former Minister of Investment*