

27 November 2018

President
Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo
Arab Republic of Egypt

Your Excellency,

As a member/supporter of ACAT-Switzerland, the Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture and the Death Penalty, I am writing to you on behalf of

Mr. Sheikh Abdel Rehim Abdel Halim Gabreel

According to my information, on 24 September 2018, the Court of Cassation upheld the death sentence of Sheikh Abdel Rehim, an 80-year-old Quran tutor, and 19 other persons– in one of Egypt’s largest mass trials since 2011. The 20 convicted were accused to have killed 13 policemen at the police station of Kerdasa during the riots of 14 August 2013 in Cairo’s Rabaa al-Adawiya Square, where police forces shot and killed more than 1000 protestors. Sheikh Abdel Rehim was arrested in a Mosque on 26 September 2013 and tried on 2 February 2015 after six months of enquiry without access to a lawyer. Sheikh Abdel Rehim had no political affiliation and did not take part in the “Kerdasa massacre”, according to two witnesses. Moreover, according to a medical report, Sheikh Abdel Rehim suffers from psoriasis and is unable to walk over long distances. His physical and psychological condition in detention have deteriorated and the authorities of the *Wadi al-Natrun* prison don’t allow his relatives to bring him the necessary medication.

I am deeply concerned about the fate of Sheikh Abdel Rehim Abdel Halim Gabreel and urge you to:

- **Grant him a presidential pardon and to halt his execution;**
- **Halt any planned executions, commute all existing death sentences and establish an official moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty;**
- **Ban all mass trials, incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), that Egypt ratified;**
- **Ensure that Sheikh Abdel Halim Rehim Abdel Gabreel has adequate and regular access to qualified health professionals, health care and prescribed medication, in compliance with medical ethics.**

I thank you for the attention you will give to this concern.

Yours respectfully,

Copy: Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Elfenauweg 61, 3006 Bern - CH

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