

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the case of Ms. Aya Hijazi, a dual U.S. and Egyptian citizen who has been imprisoned by Egyptian authorities.

As you are aware, Ms. Hijazi and her husband were arrested on May 1, 2014, on numerous charges ranging from operating an illegal operation to child abuse. Their organization, "Belady," provided shelter and services to children living in the streets.

According to her lawyers, Ms. Hijazi remains in pretrial detention, and her trial has been postponed multiple times. No evidence has been presented to support the charges, providing no opportunity for a legal defense. Egyptian law allows an individual held for more than two years in pre-trial detention to be released on bail. Ms. Hijazi has been imprisoned for two years and four months in violation of Egypt's own standard.

We appreciate the attention given to Ms. Hijazi's case by consular officials from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. However, it is time for her case to be elevated above a consular matter. We respectfully request to be updated on your Department's engagement with Egyptian authorities regarding Ms. Hijazi's case.

We strongly urge you to use all measures at your disposal to ensure that Ms. Hijazi's case is concluded expeditiously and to secure her release as quickly as possible.

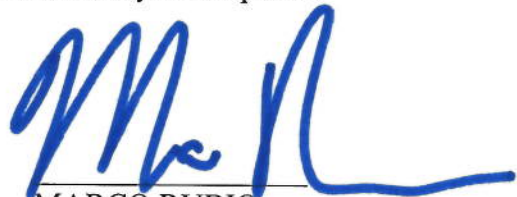
We expect the Administration to take into account Ms. Hijazi's case as it decides whether to certify that Egypt "is taking effective steps to release political prisoners and provide detainees with due process of law," as required by section 7041(a) of the FY16 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

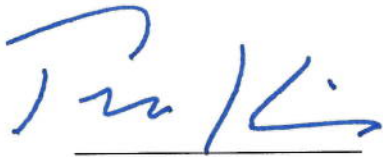
Sincerely,



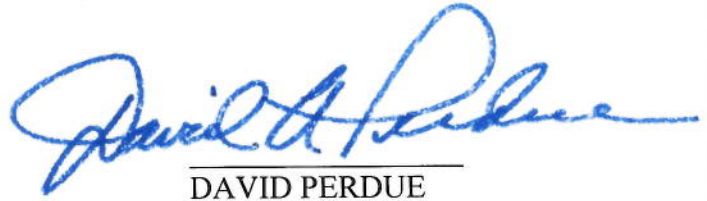
MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senate



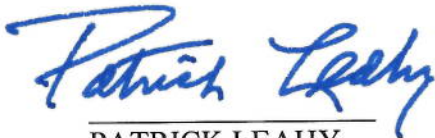
MARCO RUBIO  
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