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6 July 2022

Dear Professor Gordon,

Thank you for your letter of 18 May to the Foreign Secretary and the Rt Hon. James Cleverly MP, Minister for Europe and North America, on behalf of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies, about Mr El-Fattah. The Correspondence and Parliamentary Questions Unit in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has been asked to reply.

We appreciate that this continues to be a difficult time for Mr El-Fattah and his family and would like to reassure you that the FCDO is aware of his case and are urgently seeking consular access. We will continue to provide assistance to his family.

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for North Africa, has raised Mr El-Fattah's case with the Egyptian Authorities on a number of occasions, including during a recent phone call with Foreign Minister Shoukry on 21 May 2022. Lord Ahmad also raised Mr El-Fattah's case during his recent visit to Cairo, with the Egyptian Ambassador to London, and our Embassy in Cairo is in contact with the Egyptian authorities.

Due to data protection regulations, we are not able to share information with third parties without Mr El-Fattah's consent. As you can appreciate, we have a responsibility to protect personal information and, as we do not have the required consent from Mr El-Fattah, we are unable to provide further details.

However, information about the type of assistance we can and cannot provide can be found in our Support for British Nationals Abroad guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-british-nationals-abroad-a-guide>.

Please be assured that neither Lord Ahmad nor his Ministerial colleagues shy away from raising our human rights concerns with the Government of Egypt; our strong relationship with Egypt enables us to do so. Lord Ahmad discussed human rights with Foreign Minister Shoukry during his meeting with him in Cairo on 21 April. In her first meeting with Foreign Minister Shoukry on 20 September 2021 in New York, the Foreign Secretary raised human rights, specifically her concerns around civil society and the treatment of human rights defenders. When they met on 1 November 2021 and spoke on 28 March 2022, the Prime Minister discussed human rights with President Sisi.

Yours sincerely,

**Correspondence and Parliamentary Questions Unit  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**