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*Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations Office, World Trade
Organization & Other International Organisations
in Geneva*



البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة ومنظمة التجارة العالمية
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
في جنيف

URGENT & CONFIDENTIAL

CHAN. 2015.025

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch), and with reference to the Joint Urgent Appeal dated December 8th of January 2015 concerning "Alleged arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, and public stigmatisation of 26 men who are being tried on charges related to their alleged sexual orientation" (Ref: UA EGY 1/2015), has the honor to attach herewith the information provided by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in relation to the allegations included in the aforementioned Joint Urgent Appeal, and looks forward that the enclosed information be brought to the attention of the mandate-holders who presented the aforementioned joint communication, and be duly reflected in the relevant communications report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, World Trade Organization, and Other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch), the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 20 February 2015



م.م.م.

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(Translated from Arabic)

Reply of the Egyptian Government to the allegations contained in the urgent appeal

UA EGY 1/2015

1. The vice squad of the Cairo Security Directorate filed a report indicating that [REDACTED] (age: 76; occupation: [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] (age: 65; occupation: [REDACTED]) were using the Bab al-Bahr public bathhouse to supervise actions contrary to public morals and to practise debauchery (*fujur*) in return for payment. According to the record of the investigations, they had set up a Facebook social media webpage encouraging the practice of debauchery for material gain. Invoking these grounds, the Public Prosecutor's Office issued an order for the arrest of the two individuals in question.
2. In accordance with the order from the Public Prosecutor's Office, a group from the Cairo Criminal Investigation Department was mobilized and arrested the two individuals in question as well as 24 other persons suspected of having participated in the criminal activities being investigated.
3. The Public Prosecutor's Office decided, when the suspects appeared before it, to detain them all for a period of four days pending further investigation. The detention was then extended for an additional period, following which they were sent for trial on the charge of practising debauchery, based on article 9, paragraph 3, of Act No. 10 of 1961.
4. On 14 January 2015, the Azbakeya Misdemeanours Court acquitted all the accused.
5. The Public Prosecutor's Office, believing that the charges had been proved and the correct procedures followed, appealed against the judgement, but on 26 January 2015 the Court of Appeal upheld the acquittal.
6. There is no truth in the claim that before or during the trial the accused suffered torture or ill-treatment. They were arrested and detained in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Code of Criminal Procedure, which are all compatible with relevant international human rights obligations and standards.

