

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for Sara Hegazy and at least 56 people, who are detained solely because of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Nine men have already received between one and six years' imprisonment, and others are pending prosecutor investigation. Their charges include "habitual debauchery," "inciting debauchery", and "promoting sexual deviance" and those charges can carry prison sentences of up to 15 years under the penal code and the law on prostitution. Sara Hegazy told the prosecutor that she was beaten and sexually harassed by her cell mates because of her charges.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, quash all sentences and drop all charges against them, and stop any further arrests.

I also call on you to immediately halt forced anal examinations which amount to torture or other ill-treatment, and order a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the examinations that have already taken place.

Finally, I call on you to protect Sara Hegazy from torture and ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,