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Your Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

I am writing to express concern about the ongoing arbitrary detention of Dr. Sabri Shalaby, an Egyptian national and physician, who is serving a 10-year prison term on trumped up terrorism charges. In August 2022, the Specialized Criminal Court convicted Dr. Shalaby following a grossly unfair trial. The Supreme Court in Riyadh upheld the prison sentence of Dr. Shalaby on 23 May 2023, meaning that he has exhausted all his legal remedies.

According to information available to Amnesty International, Dr. Shalaby was convicted under the counter-terror law for supporting and joining the Muslim Brotherhood, which is classified as a terrorist organization in Saudi Arabia. Amnesty International found no evidence supporting these charges. Dr. Shalaby said that that he was detained in solitary confinement for ten months prior to his trial beginning. Throughout this period, he was detained incommunicado for three months. He was also denied legal representation from the moment of his arrest until his first trial session. The Saudi Arabian authorities have not launched an investigation into his alleged ill-treatment or denial of due process rights.

Furthermore, Dr. Shalaby has on numerous occasions asked the prison administration to see a neurologist to follow up on health complications arising from an old spinal cord surgery he had undergone. His request continues to be denied. He also has asthma and cataracts due to other underlying health conditions for which he has not received adequate care.

I call on Your Majesty to ensure that Dr. Sabri Shalaby is released immediately, and that his conviction and sentence are quashed. Pending his release, we urge you to grant Dr. Sabri Shalaby the adequate medical care he requires.

Yours sincerely,