



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-04052**

BY: **MR. ANANDASANGAREE (SCARBOROUGH—ROUGE PARK)**

DATE: **MAY 30, 2019**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSTIA FREELAND**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

**SIGNATURE**

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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**SUBJECT**

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**EGYPT**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The promotion and protection of human rights and democratic values are at the forefront of Canada's foreign policy. The Government of Canada continues to encourage other governments to uphold their commitments to human rights and democracy, including in Egypt.

Canada remains concerned by ongoing political and security challenges in Egypt. Canada regularly engages Egypt on issues related to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in bilateral interactions and in multilateral fora. Canada also works collaboratively with a variety of partners and stakeholders to support the promotion and protection of human rights in Egypt. The Embassy of Canada to Egypt works with likeminded countries in Cairo to monitor and attend select court cases related to human rights issues, including cases of human rights defenders.

Canada opposes the use of the death penalty in all cases, everywhere. Canada was very concerned by reports of serious flaws and lack of due process in the judicial processes against those who were executed in Egypt, as well as reports that they were subjected to torture.

Moreover, the cyclical review of Egypt's human rights record at the Human Rights Council's (HRC) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is planned for November 2019. This will be another opportunity for Canada to submit recommendations to Egypt, as it has done in the past. Canada's recommendations during the latest review of Egypt's human rights record at the HRC UPR in 2014 included: ensuring due process of law for detainees and reviewing laws on public assemblies to align them with Egypt's international human rights obligations. Canada's recommendations also underscored that a fair and independent judicial system is a fundamental pillar of democracy.

The Government of Canada will continue to promote respect for democracy and human rights in Egypt and to support the desire of the Egyptian people for democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and greater economic opportunities.