Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2026

His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Office of the President
Al Ittihadia Palace
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Dear President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi:

We write out of deep concern regarding the ongoing trial and detention of Said Abdelrazek, a Christian man in Egypt who is currently facing 25 years imprisonment and even a potential death sentence merely because of his conversion from Islam to Christianity. Mr. Abdelrazek's ongoing detention constitutes a grave violation of the fundamental human right to religious freedom, is a flagrant violation of international law, and is part of a very troubling crackdown on Christians and other religious minorities within Egypt. We strongly urge the Egyptian government to immediately release Mr. Abdelrazek, drop all charges against him, and cease using its blasphemy, counter-terror, and related laws to persecute the peaceful practice and speech of Christians and religious minorities within Egypt.

Said Abdelrazek was arrested in July 2025 and has been detained ever since on blasphemy and counter-terrorism charges. The current charges are based entirely on peaceful conduct: occasional online expression relating to his Christian faith and his efforts to change his government-issued religious status. Neither activity is a crime under international human rights law, yet he now faces severe punishment. Prosecutors stated this month that they will pursue the "maximum penalty" for Mr. Abdelrazek's alleged crimes, which includes either 25 years imprisonment or execution. His next hearing date is scheduled for December 8, 2026.

Mr. Abdelrazek's legal counsel has credibly alleged that Mr. Abdelrazek has experienced torture and has not been able to access adequate medical assistance while detained. Any subjection to torture and denial of basic rights and necessities is outrageous.

Mr. Abdelrazek's case has rightly gained international notoriety because of the depth of his unjust treatment. The British Parliament has noted his case, and the U.S. State Department and U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom have raised concerns.

Mr. Abdelrazek's case appears to be part of an increasing pattern of Egyptian authorities using blasphemy and counter-terror laws to target Christians and other religious minorities for their peaceful religious practice and speech. Augustinos Samaan is a Christian scholar and YouTuber with over 100,000 subscribers who was convicted and sentenced without lawyers present to five years imprisonment on January 3, 2026, merely for producing peaceful social media videos that discussed his faith. Abdulbaqi Saeed Abdo is another Christian who was detained without charges, tortured, and refused adequate medical care for over three years until his release in January 2025, following significant international pressure.

Our understanding is that nearly 200 Christians are currently being detained in Egyptian prisons under similar baseless charges, with arrests having increased significantly since August 2025.

Other religious minority groups are also experiencing this crackdown. At least 16 members of the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light continue to be detained simply for promoting the community's religious television channel. Beginning in 2025, dozens of individuals have been arrested and detained simply for expressing atheistic, agnostic, or other nonconforming religious views online.

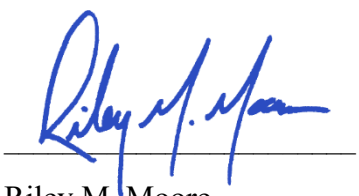
Egypt and the U.S. maintain economic, military, counter-terror, and national security interests, At the same time, Congress has made clear that assistance to Egypt must be conditioned on improvements to the protection of fundamental freedoms, which includes the right to religious freedom. The abuse of counter-terror laws to persecute Christians and other religious minorities in Egypt who are peacefully practicing and expressing their faith runs directly against U.S. foreign policy priorities repeatedly affirmed by Congress and the Executive Branch.

We, therefore, call for you to provide an immediate update on Said Abdelrazek's current condition and the status of his case. We call for Mr. Abdelrazek to be immediately released and all charges against him dropped, and insist that Mr. Abdelrazek must be kept safe during any remaining detention. We further call for all prosecutions and detentions against Christians and other religious minorities in Egypt based on blasphemy and false terrorism charges to be halted. Peaceful religious expression is never a crime and must be protected.

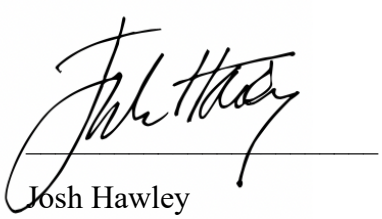
Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world, and the U.S. will not stand idly by while any country seeks to imprison or even execute them. Mr. Abdelrazek must be released now.

We have forwarded a copy of this letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and urge him to make the cases of Said Abdelrazek, Augustinos Samaan, and others unjustly imprisoned for their peaceful religious practice and expression in Egypt a priority.

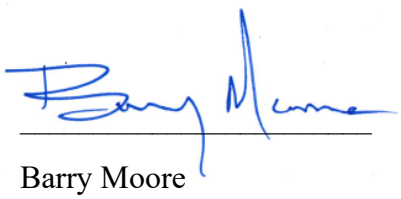
Sincerely,



Riley M. Moore
Member of Congress



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Marlin A. Stutzman
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State