

PETITION TO FREE AYMAN NOUR

We the undersigned

Members of the European Parliament,

Members of the Congress of the United States and

Members of the Senate of the United States

call upon the Egyptian government to FREE AYMAN NOUR.

Dr. Nour, the leader of the Al-Ghad party, was arrested and tried for defending democracy, freedom and political pluralism: the international values that we stand for.

Ayman Nour, born in 1964 in Al-Mansoura, founded and leads the new liberal and democratic party Al-Ghad (the Party of Tomorrow), which stands for democracy, human and political rights.

For the last few years, he and his party members were harassed and intimidated by the Egyptian authorities. This persecution culminated in his arrest and trial, in which he was sentenced for five years in jail.

This is a deliberate attack on his political, human and civil rights. Furthermore it is an attack on the nascent initiative to free a political life in Egypt to move towards democracy and pluralism.

The Egyptian government has a long history of censoring political speech and imprisoning, on what are frequently claimed to be false charges, those who express opposition to President Mubarak's regime.

In many cases, members of the judiciary appear to closely endorse the government's goals. The judge who sentenced Dr. Nour to five years imprisonment, Adel Abdel Salam Gom'a, is the same judge who previously sentenced Saad Eddin Ibrahim, the prominent democracy and human rights activist, to prison on similar charges.

We urge to continue to pressure the Egyptian government to release Ayman Nour and cease the persecution of Egyptian advocates of democracy and reform.