



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Hamish Falconer MP

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Manuela Perteghella MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: N10#2025/05898
Your ref: MP00775

5 June 2025

Dear Manuela,

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 February regarding Alaa Abd El-Fattah and, specifically, his mother Laila's health given her decision to undertake a hunger strike. Please accept my sincerest apologies for the delayed response.

I appreciate that this continues to be a difficult time for Mr El-Fattah and his family. Mr El-Fattah's case remains a top priority for the UK Government, which we raise at the highest levels of the Egyptian Government. We have also lobbied extensively for consular access, but this continues to be denied because the Egyptian Government does not recognise Mr El-Fattah's British nationality.

The Prime Minister discussed the case with President Sisi during a phone call on 22 May and has written to him several times to seek a resolution. The Foreign Secretary has raised Mr El-Fattah's case with Foreign Minister Abdelatty on multiple occasions, most recently on 1 June. The National Security Adviser also raised the case with Foreign Minister Abdelatty during a phone call on 3 June. I raised Mr El-Fattah's case with the Egyptian Ambassador on 4 June.

We remain committed to supporting Mr El-Fattah's family. The Prime Minister met Mr El-Fattah's mother, Laila Soueif, on 14 February to reaffirm his commitment that the Government will do all we can to secure her son's release and has written to the family since. I was concerned by her hospitalisation on 29 May and I know that officials in Cairo and London are in regular contact with the family at this difficult time.

Please be assured that the UK Government will continue to do all it can to resolve Mr El-Fattah's case, but ultimately, the decision to release him lies in the hands of the Egyptian authorities. The UK is committed to prioritising Mr El-Fattah's release, and we will continue to raise Mr El-Fattah's case with the Egyptian authorities at every possible opportunity.

OFFICIAL

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hamish Falconer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HAMISH FALCONER MP
Minister for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

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