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The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
Prime Minister
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Our Ref: MP00775

19 February 2025

Re: Urgent Action Required to Support British Citizen Alaa Abd el-Fattah

Dear Sir Keir Starmer,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the ongoing imprisonment of British citizen Alaa Abd el-Fattah in Egypt. Alaa, a writer, software developer, and human rights activist, is serving a five-year sentence for sharing a Facebook post about rights violations in prison, following a previous five-year sentence.

After enduring a hunger strike of more than six months to demand consular access, humane prison conditions, and ultimately his release, Alaa's life remains at serious risk. His case highlights broader concerns about the Government's approach to supporting British nationals wrongfully detained abroad, particularly dual nationals who often face additional complexities.

The lack of engagement at any ministerial level sets a troubling precedent for all British citizens travelling abroad, who rightly expect assistance and protection if they are wrongfully detained.

Your Government has an opportunity to demonstrate a renewed commitment to protecting British citizens overseas. I urge you to:

- Engage directly with Egyptian authorities at ministerial level to secure Alaa's release.
- Strengthen the capacity of the FCDO to provide timely and effective support for British nationals facing wrongful detention.
- Ensure that Alaa's case is prioritised in all future diplomatic engagements with Egypt.

This case is part of a concerning pattern, following similar challenges faced by Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and others. Swift action is essential to safeguard Alaa's safety and restore confidence in the Government's ability to protect its citizens abroad.

I trust you will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves.

Yours sincerely,
Manuela

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