



His Excellency Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Abdeen Palace
Cairo, Egypt

24 December 2010

Dear President Mubarak,

We, Reporters Without Borders, ANHRI and AFTE, are writing to you today to ask you to intercede in the case of Ahmed Hassan Basiouny, who was sentenced to six months in prison by a military court on 29 November just for encouraging his compatriots to enlist in the Egyptian armed forces.

This young man was convicted of disseminating defence secrets online and disclosing information about the armed forces because he created a Facebook page entitled "Enlisting and recruitment in Egypt and answers to the questions of young applicants," in which he offered advice and information for young people who were thinking of enlisting. There was nothing confidential about the information as it was already available online, including on the new Egyptian armed forces website.

When Mr. Basiouny was invited on to "Youth Panorama," a programme on the state-owned radio station *Al-Shabah Wal-Reyada* (Youth and Sport), in October, to talk about the Facebook group he had created, he was described by the station as "a good model for Egyptian youth." A few days after his appearance on the programme, he was summoned for questioning by the military police bureau of investigation. He was then briefly detained until a decision was taken to try him by court martial. The six-month jail sentence was the result.

We would like to point out that Mr. Basiouny did not engage in activity that was in any way subversive or harmful to the armed forces. On the contrary, he promoted the armed forces to Egyptian Internet users. We therefore urge you to do everything in your power to get this conviction overturned, to get all the charges against him withdrawn, and to obtain his release as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Jean-François Julliard, secretary-general, Reporters Without Borders



Gamal Eid, executive director, ANHRI



Emad Mubarak Hassan, executive director, AFTE

