

His Excellency Mohammad Hosni Mubarak  
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Abedine Palace  
Cairo  
Egypt

Your Excellency,

I write to Your Excellency to express my concern regarding the case of Mr. Maher al-Gohary, which is just now being processed in the Egyptian legal system. Mr. Gohary was born into a Muslim family, but converted to Christianity in 1973. In spite of this he is still officially registered as a Muslim in his public papers.

This case is not only important for Mr. Gohary, but his daughter as well. As Your Excellency knows, when she turns 16 she will have her own identification-papers. And as long as her father is registered as a Muslim she will be registered as Muslim as well. But she has been raised as a Christian and belongs to a Christian family; therefore it is not fair that she should have an ID that says she is a Muslim. This will have huge consequences for her future schooling, and later marriage.

At the same time I would like to remind Your Excellency about similar case concerning Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Hegazy. One year ago he his case was brought before the court of justice where he also wanted to change his religious registration to Christianity. But the judge did not allow this. I hope that his case could be overturned and that Egyptian civil law, which does not prevent people from changing their religious registration, would be upheld.

I, therefore, appeal to Your Excellency to ensure that justice is served, so that both Mr. Hegazy and Mr. Gohary can change their religious registration so that it reflects their true faith. I also ask that the court of justice will follow Egypt's civil law and let everyone who wishes to convert also change their religious registration. At the same time I ask Your Excellency to protect both Mr. Hegazy and Mr. Gohary, since they both have received threats against their families.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,