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**Thompson Rivers University Students' Union**  
Local 15 Canadian Federation of Students

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Minister Magdy Abdel Ghaffar  
Ministry of Interior  
Fifth Settlement, New Cairo, Egypt

October 13, 2017

**Citizens detained on the basis of sexual orientation should be released unconditionally**

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to immediately release citizens who have been detained for "habitual debauchery" and "inciting sexual deviance" because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and to halt mistreatment and torture of these prisoners, including prisoner **Sara Hegazy**.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of a coordinated campaign in Egypt to persecute the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans (LGBT) community, including the unjustified imprisonment and torture of citizens, including forced anal examinations and sexual harassment.

We strongly believe that you and the Egyptian government have a responsibility under international law to investigate these reports, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Articles 7 & 9* – that no one shall be subjected to torture or degrading and inhuman punishment, and the freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to take action to hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Gilbert  
President  
TRU Students' Union

Caitlin Orteza  
Vice-President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc: President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Ambassador Moataz Mounir Zahran, Deputy Assistant Minister Laila Bahaa Eldin