



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

## Human Rights Council 26<sup>th</sup> Session

### Item 3 – General Debate

NGO: IAJLJ - The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

Representative delivering the statement: Adv. Tom Gal

Thank you Mr. President,

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists wishes to address, for the fourth time in the past year, the unlawful detention of Mr. Ouda Seliman Tarabin by Egyptian authorities. During this year we have filed an urgent appeal to the Working Group on arbitrary detention, but received no reply on the matter. Egypt has again elected a new President. Yet, albeit all, Mr. Tarabin remains in Egypt's custody unlawfully.

Let us recall that more than two years ago the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined that Mr. Trabin has been arbitrarily detained by the Egyptian authorities and should be released immediately. Egypt failed to comply with this decision. According to the Working Group's decision Mr. Tarabin's imprisonment, as well as the process that led to it, constituted a violation of Egypt's obligations under international law. Mr. Tarabin, an Israeli citizen of Bedouin origin, has been accused, indicted, prosecuted and sentenced **in his absence**. After his arrest by Egyptian authorities, he was denied any access to legal counsel and deprived of his right to properly appeal his detention. Mr. Tarabin has been, and still is, deprived of his fundamental rights, including those enshrined in Articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR, to which Egypt is a party.

Egypt's failure to comply with the Working Group's decision, the Working Group's idleness and that of the international community in face of Egypt's failure weaken the efforts to combat arbitrary detention. It sends a message that these decisions, as well as other ones taken by Human Rights bodies, regarding fundamental rights of individuals, can be ignored.

Therefore, we call Egypt's new President El-Sisi to comply with the Working Group's decision and release Mr. Tarabin. We urge all states, and especially those members of this Council, to take all measures necessary *vis-à-vis* President El-Sisi and Egypt authorities, and ensure such compliance. We also expect that any international assistance provided to Egypt will be conditioned with its compliance with its duty to release Mr. Tarabin. We find it unacceptable that such a gross violation of fundamental rights of an individual and the failure to comply with a decision of an international body will be tolerated for so long.