



International Christian Concern
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PETITION FOR MARTHA AND RAHEAL

July 17, 2009

His Excellence Ambassador Sameh Shoukry
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
3521 International Ct., NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

It is with great concern that we petition your government on behalf of Martha Samuel Makkar and Raheal Henen Mussa.

Following her conversion from Islam to Christianity five years ago, Martha Samuel Makkar, 24, has been persecuted by police and her relatives for changing her religion. Her relatives have even threatened to kill her. Due to the religious persecution that she and her family faced, she decided to leave her country. On December 13, 2008, Martha was arrested at Cairo International Airport as she and her family were traveling to Russia. Egyptian security officials beat, tortured and sexually harassed her and starved her two children, Amanwael, 4, and Morkes, 2, to pressure her to recant her Christian faith. Her husband, Fadl Thabet, was also temporarily detained.

She was later charged with forging identification documents. During her appearance before an Egyptian court, Judge Abdelaa Hashem threatened to kill her for converting from Islam to Christianity. On January 24, 2009 the court finally decided to release her from prison on bail. The case against Martha is still pending before the court.

On April 13, 2009 Raheal Henen Mussa, 22, who converted from Islam to Christianity three years ago, was arrested for marrying Sarwat George Ryiad, a Christian man, in a customary marriage (zawag al 'urfi). The only law that she violated was Islamic law in that she converted to Christianity and married a Christian man. On April 19, the police decided to hand her over to her Muslim family. Her family abused and harassed her until she escaped from her family's home and went into hiding with her husband.

We are concerned about the safety of Martha and Raheal. As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), your government has an obligation to respect and ensure the rights enshrined in the convention, including the freedom of religion. The ICCPR in article 18 states that freedom of religion includes: "...freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice."

We, therefore, call upon the Egyptian government to respect the rights of Martha and Raheal to change their religion from Islam to Christianity by dropping all charges against them. We also call upon the Egyptian government to protect Martha and Raheal from the attacks that they face from their relatives for becoming Christians.

Very Sincerely,

International Christian Concern (and attached)



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(Please Print, Do Not Sign)



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