

## **PROTECT THE WOMEN**

Your Excellency,

Since the "25 January Revolution", women protesters have been singled out and subjected to gender-specific abuses, including sexual violence. Egypt's new civilian administration has a chance to stop the violence for good. I urge you to send a clear signal that sexual and gender based violence is no longer tolerated, and perpetrators will be punished.

Therefore, I urge you to:

- Give police and other state agencies that exercise law enforcement functions clear instructions that force may only be used when strictly necessary and only to the extent required for performance of their duty, and in particular by issuing a total prohibition on the use of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Publicly condemn torture and ill-treatment, including sexual and genderbased violence; ensure that these practices cease; and make clear to all officers involved in arrest, detention and interrogation that torture and other ill-treatment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- Ensure that all allegations of sexual and gender-based violence are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that officials responsible for such abuses are brought to justice, and that victims receive full reparations.

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