

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 28 May 2015

Your Eminence,

There is one particular issue which I would like to raise with you, if I may, which is the death sentence handed down to President Mohamed Morsi and over 100 activists.

The Council of Europe is a pan-European organisation, bringing together 47 member states on the basis of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Council of Europe is firmly opposed to the death penalty as a cruel and inhumane punishment which denies human dignity and integrity and can never be undone. Further to the Council of Europe's activities, Europe has become a death penalty-free continent. We would like to extend this worldwide and also to our closest neighbours, including Egypt.

Your Eminence, as the supreme religious official and the highest moral authority in your country, I respectfully ask you not to approve the sentences.

I hope that my request will be given favourable consideration.

Please accept, your Eminence, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Thorbjørn Jagland

His Eminence Professor Shawki Abdel-Karim Allam
Grand Mufti of Egypt

F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 41 20 51
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 40