

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIANS AND LAWYERS ASK THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO VISIT PRESIDENT MORSI IN PRISON

- **UK parliamentarians and international lawyers submit request to the Egyptian authorities to visit President Morsi in prison to review detention and health conditions**
- **Visit request comes following concerns of reports of Morsi's deteriorating health and lack of medical treatment**
- **British Parliamentarians and lawyers form Detention Review Panel to review Morsi's state of health and detention conditions**

LONDON, 6<sup>TH</sup> March 2018 – A cross-party group of British parliamentarians and international lawyers are today requesting the right to visit former Egyptian President Dr Mohamed Morsi in jail in Tora prison, Egypt. The lawmakers and advocates – who together have formed a group called the “Detention Review Panel” – intend to produce a detailed testimonial on their findings, following reports that Dr Morsi is experiencing deteriorating health and a lack of access to adequate medical treatment.

The Detention Review Panel's members are:

#### *Parliamentarians*

- **Crispin Blunt MP (Con)**, former Chair of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, and former Under-Secretary of State for Prisons – Chair of the Detention Review Panel
- **Lord Edward Faulks QC (Con)**, former Minister of State for Civil Justice and Legal Policy
- **Dr Paul Williams MP (Lab)**, Member of the House of Commons Health [and Social Care](#) Select Committee and a General Practitioner

#### *Advocates*

- **Tim Moloney QC, of Doughty Street Chambers**, who will act as the Panel's legal adviser
- **Tayab Ali, Partner at ITN Solicitors**, who will act as the Panel's secretary and rapporteur.

Speaking before the Panel formerly handed their request for visiting rights to the Egyptian authorities via a letter (see appendix) to H.E. Mr Nasser Kamel, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United Kingdom **Crispin Blunt MP, Chair of the Panel, commented:**

*“There are credible concerns that the conditions under which Dr Morsi is being held might fall significantly short of both international and Egypt's own standards. We make this request to the Egyptian authorities seeking to see and assess for ourselves the conditions in which Dr Morsi is being detained.*

*“No person should be confined in inhumane conditions, and the implications of former national leaders who once commanded a popular mandate not being treated fairly could have an impact well beyond the proper concerns for any individual.*

*[“Our panel has submitted a request to the Egyptian Embassy in London for their assistance in organising a visit to see Dr Morsi in Egypt in order to investigate these allegations. We have requested a prison visit to review the conditions under which he is being held along with permission to carry out an independent medical evaluation of his current health.”](#)*

The Detention Review Panel is constituted by ITN Solicitors, following a request from the family of Dr Morsi. Speaking today, on behalf of his family **Abdullah Morsi, Dr Morsi's 24-year old son, commented:**

*“This month as Egyptians will be asked to vote for their next President. My father - Egypt's first democratically elected President - remains imprisoned in appalling conditions, in breach of international laws. In more than*

four years, my family have seen him only twice. He has been held in full isolation. My family and I are deeply concerned about the conditions in which he is held, and fearful for his health.

*“We believe he has not received any adequate treatment for his diabetes or blood pressure. Because he has not received any proper treatment for his diabetes, he has now lost most of his left eye’s sight and would need urgent surgery. But his request for urgent medical treatment during a trial session was refused. Regardless of any person’s opinion of my father or his beliefs, this is unacceptable for anyone. That is why we have asked this independent panel - with legal, medical and foreign policy experience - to assess the situation”.*

*Crispin Blunt MP added:*

*“Our panel has submitted a request to the Egyptian Embassy in London for their assistance in organising a visit to see Dr Morsi in Egypt in order to investigate these allegations. We have requested a prison visit to review the conditions under which he is being held along with permission to carry out an independent medical evaluation of his current health.”*

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## **APPENDIX**