

**(A press release about jailing the Free Current leader Hisham Kassem)**

The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) condemns the Egyptian government for jailing the high-profile writer and publisher Hisham Kassem (63), the chair of the Board of Trustees of al-Tayar al-Hurr (Free Current) and former head of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights.

The Brotherhood stresses that the government's continued targeting of opponents and opinion makers harms Egypt and deepens its crises.

The MB believes that the solution to Egypt's crises is mainly political, not economic; and will never be via a security approach.

Egypt needs the effort, thought and opinion of every sincere and zealous patriotic citizen to get out of its crisis; and it needs to prioritize the country's higher national interests over any narrow political rivalry.

Therefore, the Muslim Brotherhood demands the speedy release of Mr. Hisham Kassem, and all political prisoners that have been detained since 2013. The MB also calls on the Egyptian authorities to stop all security prosecution acts, work to contain all national forces, remove causes of popular strain, unleash all freedoms, and open up the public space.



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