

## The life sentence against Zawba, Nasser, Matar, and El Sharif is a crime of a regime that is afraid of truth dissemination



At a time when the Egyptian regime is resisting the scandals of cooperation with the Israeli enemy after allowing Israeli ships loaded with weapons to pass through the Suez Canal and harnessing Egyptian ports in the service of the Zionist entity, disregarding the feelings of Egyptians, it has recently issued a life sentence against some of the most prominent Egyptian media professionals overseas, including Mr. Hamza Zawba, Mr. Mohamed Nasser, Mr. Moataz Matar, Mr. Abdullallah El Sharif and others – confirming its continued support for the Zionist entity in its war on Gaza, with persecution of anyone who seeks to reveal the truth about this war. In so doing, of concealing the facts, the regime stands in line with the occupying entity which assassinated over a hundred journalists on Palestinian soil in one year. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) had condemned the prevention of entry of Egyptian and international journalists and media professionals to cover the war on Gaza and convey the truth to the world in a report it issued last May.

This ruling also confirms the inherent approach adopted by the Egyptian regime against the Egyptian press and freedom of expression, as the killing and arrest of journalists; the closure and confiscation of media institutions, both private and public; the blocking of websites; and the issuance of regulations and laws restricting freedom of expression –and all that has been monitored by international institutions in this regard – all this places us in the face of a totalitarian regime that does not recognize the public's right to knowledge, the people's right to transparency and accountability of authorities. In fact, the regime's policies have put Egypt in the 170th position out of 180 countries, among those countries with the worst press freedom and worst treatment of journalists, according to the World Press Freedom Index 2024.

We stand in solidarity with the journalists who have unjustly been convicted for no crime they committed; and we

consider them knights of the truth, as they broke through the wall of falsehood and lies imposed by the Egyptian media on Egyptians. We support those men and other free media professionals and urge them to continue the battle of awareness for the benefit of the people who seek and explore the truth; as knowing about one's rights and duties honestly and transparently is the first door to freedom; and it is necessary for the people to assume their responsibility in defending their rights and working to wrest them from the hands of tyrants.

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(Monday, 2 Jumada I 1446 AH / 4 November 2024 AD)