

His Excellency
Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
c/o Ägyptische Botschaft
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for addressing you on behalf of the Egyptian Abdo Adel, who has been imprisoned since July 6th last year. Adel is 43 years old and belongs to the Coptic Orthodox minority of Egypt. On July 5, 2018, he had compared the religious founders Jesus and Mohammed on Facebook. The following day, Muslim neighbors in the village of Menbal in the Minya governorate reported him for insulting the Prophet Muhammad, and he was arrested.

A court sentenced Adel at the end of last year to a three-year prison term for alleged blasphemy. His family and he now hope for an acquittal in the next higher instance.

A few days after he was arrested, angry villagers attacked their Christian neighbors by throwing stones and shouting slogans. The intervention of security forces made sure that only material damage and some minor injuries occurred. Almost a third of the local villagers are committed to the Christian faith and have lived in fear ever since.

In the face of the threat, I humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to guarantee the protection of Abdo Adel's family and their Christian neighbors and to make sure that a fair trial is guaranteed.

Most respectfully,