

REP. SUZAN K. DELBENE
1ST DISTRICT, WASHINGTON
2330 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6311
450 CENTRAL WAY, SUITE 3100
KIRKLAND, WA 98033
(425) 485-0085

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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September 17, 2024

The Honorable Motaz Zahran
Ambassador of Egypt to the United States
3521 International Court NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Zahran:

Thank you for meeting with me on July 23, 2024, to discuss my serious concerns regarding the ongoing detention of Dr. Seif Fateen, who has been held in Egypt without a trial since November 2018. Dr. Fateen has family who reside in my district, and I am concerned by the reported conditions of Dr. Fateen's detention. I respectfully urge that your government release Dr. Fateen so he can be safely reunited with his family. Until that time, I also request that your government respond in writing explaining why Dr. Fateen continues to be detained without trial, as well as a guarantee that his due process rights will be respected.

Dr. Fateen is the father of seven children, including three American citizens. He earned several degrees including a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and lived and worked in the United States until 2005. Prior to his arrest, Dr. Fateen was a chemical and environmental engineering professor at Cairo University. Since 2014, he held positions at the American University in Cairo and Zewail City for Science and Technology.

Dr. Fateen has been held in pretrial detention for more than five years, which far exceeds your government's two-year legal maximum for pretrial detention. It is also my understanding that Dr. Fateen was arrested without a warrant, has been previously subjected to various forms of torture, mistreatment, and near-total isolation, and continues to be denied due process rights.

During our meeting, I appreciated your candor and willingness to work with me on this issue, and I am hopeful for a positive resolution to this matter as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important case.

Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress