



UNLAWFULLY DETAINED AUSTRALIAN FINALLY SAFE

3 April 2019

Queenslander, Hazem Hamouda, had been held in an Egyptian prison without charge for over a year. His lawyers secured his release from one of Egypt's most notorious prisons, Tora Prison in Cairo, over three weeks ago but his departure from Egypt had been prevented by Egyptian authorities.

Overnight, Mr Hamouda has finally been allowed to leave Egypt. He was accompanied by the Australian Ambassador to Egypt through Cairo airport.

"We are so relieved that Dad is finally on his way home safely," said Lamisse Hamouda, one of Hazem's children, who is based in Australia.

"We've had extraordinary support from our pro bono legal team at Doughty Street Chambers. Barristers Jennifer Robinson and Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC leapt to dad's defence, and we're incredibly grateful to them.

"The support of the Australian Government and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been critical to Dad's return.

"All we want now is time to recover with Dad, and make sure that his re-entry is as easy as possible", concluded Ms. Hamouda.

Barristers Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC and Jennifer Robinson said, "This marks the end to what has been a horrific 433 day ordeal for the Hamouda family – a family holiday which became a living nightmare. Throughout that time, Hazem and his family have tirelessly fought for his freedom and for his safe return home to Brisbane. It is testament to their dedication that Hazem is now safely away from Egypt."

They added, "However, we must remember that there are many more men and women still imprisoned in Egypt or banned from leaving Egypt based on spurious charges and often simply for peacefully expressing their opinions of President al-Sisi's regime. Hazem's case has shone a spotlight on al-Sisi's repression and the immense damage it causes for those affected and their families".

Over 20,000 people signed a change.org petition to #BringHazemHome.

*****THE HAMOUDA FAMILY REQUESTS PRIVACY AT THIS TIME – ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MEDIA CONTACTS BELOW*****

MEDIA CONTACTS: Hayley Conway +61 484 313 466