September 17, 2013

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
House of Commons,
Parliament Hill
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of Toronto City Council I am writing to you in regards to the detention of well-known Toronto filmmaker and York University professor, John Greyson, as well as emergency room medical doctor and assistant professor of emergency medicine at Western University, Tarek Loubani. Professor Greyson and Dr Loubani have been held without charges at Tora prison in Egypt since August 16 of this year.

The two were on a humanitarian mission to Gaza as part of a Western University sponsored program to train doctors in Advanced Trauma and Life Support when they were detained en route in Cairo. They arrived in Cairo just after disturbances broke out on August 15, and were apparently detained while asking for directions to their hotel at a police station.

We understand that Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular) Lynne Yelich have issued statements calling for their release. The City of Toronto and City Council are appreciative of your government’s efforts on their behalf.

Nonetheless, these two Canadian Citizens continue to be held under difficult prison conditions.

We respectfully offer the support of the City of Toronto and its Council to you and the Government of Canada as you make every effort to secure the immediate release and return home of these individuals.

Yours truly,

Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto