Distinguished Ministers,

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) is an independent organization that uses medicine and science to stop mass atrocities and severe human rights violations against individuals. We are supported by the expertise and passion of health professionals and concerned citizens alike.

PHR researchers have documented violations of medical neutrality across the world – violations that include the interference with access to medical care, militarization of hospitals, and attacks on health professionals. We at PHR share the concerns of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) regarding the Government of Egypt’s violations of medical neutrality since the beginning of the revolution in January 2011. Since that time, both the EIPR and PHR have documented numerous violations, including attacks on health professionals, the improper use of tear gas, the targeting of medical transport, and the arrests of those seeking medical care.

PHR researchers conducted an investigation into these violations in February 2012 and have collaborated with the EIPR to document and analyze attacks on health professionals, health facilities, medical transport, and patients. We stand with our colleagues in condemning such violations of medical neutrality.

We join the EIPR and other partner organizations in urging you to take immediate steps to end such violations, hold violators accountable for their actions, allow full access to medical care for all those in need, and train security forces about the necessity of protecting the principle of medical neutrality.

Please find attached a statement by the EIPR.

Sincerely,

Donna McKay
Executive Director
Physicians for Human Rights

cc: H.E. Ambassador Sameh Shoukry, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States