

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

 February 2017

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I write on behalf of the University of Cambridge to express our dismay at the lack of progress in the official Egyptian investigation into the murder of Giulio Regeni.

It has been over a year since Giulio, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, disappeared from the streets of Cairo while undertaking legitimate and lawful research on trade unions in Egypt. His body was discovered nine days later, exhibiting clear signs of torture.

The facts that have so far emerged from the investigation have not sufficiently advanced our understanding of events leading to Giulio's tragic death. On the contrary –in the absence of any credible findings, damaging allegations have continued to sully the reputation of a fine scholar and dedicated student.

We have written to HM's Ambassador to Egypt, and we are grateful for his attempts to raise the matter in representations to the Egyptian government. We are equally grateful for the helpful advice received in our interactions with the Minister for the Middle East and Africa. It is regrettable that, despite the FCO's efforts to establish the facts surrounding this heinous crime, Egyptian authorities have failed to bring Giulio's killers to justice.

As a University with no policing prerogatives of its own in this case, we depend on the willingness and the investigative abilities of Italian and Egyptian officials. The concerns expressed in our correspondence with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Egyptian Consul General in London have, unfortunately, not been addressed.

We therefore urge Her Majesty's government to renew its efforts to assist Italian prosecutors as they seek the truth behind Giulio's brutal murder, and we ask that the FCO maintain the pressure on Egyptian authorities so that they carry out a full and transparent investigation.

Vice-Chancellor's Office
The Old Schools
Trinity Lane
Cambridge CB2 1TN

Giulio's murder has not only been a tragedy for his family, friends and colleagues, but is also an affront to academic freedom everywhere. It raises concerns about the safety of foreign nationals in Egypt, and about Egypt's commitment to the rule of law.

The University of Cambridge is prepared to assist Her Majesty's government in whatever way it can to see progress in the investigation –and justice for Giulio.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L K Borysiewicz', written in a cursive style.

L K Borysiewicz

cc Tobias Ellwood MP, Minister for the Middle East and Africa