The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to underline that while understanding the deep shock and sadness at the murder of the Italian PhD student Giulio Regeni, it is quite premature and short-sighted to prejudge the results of the official criminal investigation.

In this respect, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscores the fact that Egypt is committed to a comprehensive and impartial investigation, in full cooperation with the Italian authorities, and prejudging the investigation is in nobody's interest, least of all the victim and his family. Attempts to accuse the Egyptian authorities, in the absence of any proof or evidence, are counter-productive.

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejects the statements regarding arbitrary arrests, torture and disappearances in Egypt, which completely distorted the situation on the ground and constitute generalizations based on hearsay and intentional distortions by those striving to regain a foothold in Egypt after being rejected by the people. The National Council for Human Rights has stated in a series of media reports that the vast majority of purported cases of disappearances have been unfounded after investigation and that authorities are fully cooperating with the Council to review any alleged cases.

Egypt's leadership, at its highest level, has publicly committed to holding any individual perpetrators of torture to account, and the current period is witnessing a number of important prosecutions of such cases. Egypt does not accept leniency for cases of torture, which remain isolated incidents that are being firmly confronted. In fact, Egypt's constitution prohibits torture in all its forms and establishes it as a crime with no statute of limitations.

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveys its condolences to Mr. Giulio Regeni's family and his loved ones, also assures them that what happened to Mr. Regeni is as unacceptable to the people of Egypt as it is to all those who knew and loved him. It is therefore essential to let the investigation run its course so that the perpetrators of this heinous crime can be brought to justice.