

December 16, 2015

# A Call from Scholars for the Release of the Investigative Journalist and Researcher Ismail Alexandrani

*Ismail Alexandrani was detained by Egyptian authorities on November 30th as he was coming back to his country to visit his sick mother. Alexandrani is one of Egypt's brightest young researchers, who has spent the last few years doing ground-breaking work on the marginalized areas of Egypt – a blind spot in academic studies of the country – as well as on political Islam. His articles have featured in numerous publications and have been presented in international academic conferences, and they have earned him awards and fellowships. In his work, he has constantly demonstrated a genuine intellectual independence. He is a well respected member of the academic community, and someone we personally enjoyed working with. Alexandrani's arrest is a repression of free speech and should be condemned. We hope that he will be released promptly and return to his friends and to the research community.*

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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Call for the Release of Ismail Alexandrani

December 16, 2015

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**In addition to 375 other signatures at: [freealexandrani.wesign.it](http://freealexandrani.wesign.it)**