Minor Interpellation submitted by Member Andrej Hunko *et al.* and the parliamentary group of The Left Party

New measures on the part of the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police to assist Egyptian police authorities

Bundestag printed paper 18/4784

Questioners' preliminary remarks

Regardless of numerous violations of human and civil rights by the Egyptian Government (Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 November 2014), the Federal Government has resumed negotiations with Egypt (Bundestag printed paper 18/3054). All details, however, are to be kept confidential. Neither are the German proposals being communicated, nor is the Federal Government shedding any light on the response of the Government in Cairo or on any counterproposals the latter may have made. The Federal Ministry of the Interior last reaffirmed this position in April in its reply to a written question from Andrej Hunko, set out in Bundestag printed paper 18/4642. In spite of the criticism it provoked, the Federal Ministry of the Interior has now decided to initiate further measures. The Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) has invited "Egyptian explosives experts" to its international explosives symposium in Magdeburg in November. The head of the Egyptian Police Academy has been invited to an information exchange with representatives of the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, the German Police University, the police force of a German federal state and the BKA on "training matters". The BKA is planning to hold a colloquium with expert practitioners on the subject of combating terrorism and extremism. The heads of the state-security directorates of the NSS and BKA likewise intend to exchange views on counterterrorism. In addition, scholarships are to be made available to NSS staff for an extension training module.

In February the Federal Ministry of the Interior also reached agreement with the Egyptian Ministry of Interior Affairs on several measures for the current year "for closer cooperation in the area of responsibility of the Federal Police". Although these measures are not defined in detail, the Ministry has indicated that they will encompass combating illegal migration, providing assistance to guarantee aviation security, detecting and defusing explosives, policing major events and training. It has also announced the intention of detaching a liaison officer on border policing.

1. Is it now possible to envisage a date for the conclusion of the agreement on police cooperation that the German and Egyptian Governments have been negotiating?

Answer to question 1

The date of signature cannot be predicted at this stage.

- 2. On whose initiative has the Federal Government now decided on further measures of police cooperation with Egypt?
- 3. Which of the measures was proposed by the German or Egyptian Ministry and when, and to what extent did the proposals diverge from the measures that have now been adopted?

Answer to questions 2 and 3

Following talks held by the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police with their Egyptian counterparts in November 2014, the Federal Ministry of the Interior proposed to the Egyptian Ministry of Interior Affairs that the measures planned by the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police for 2015 be implemented.

4. What costs will arise for the various measures, and how will they be met?

Answer to question 4

The cost of implementing the measures planned by the Federal Criminal Police Office and the Federal Police will be about €105,000. They will be funded from the available budgetary appropriations of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

5. What does the Federal Government know about the Egyptian security authorities' definition of the concept of terrorism?

Answer to question 5

Under Article 1 of the Egyptian Terrorism Act of 26 November 2014, a terrorist organisation is defined as "any entity which disturbs public safety or order in any way or threatens the interests of the population".

This definition extends to groups that harm individuals or threaten their lives, freedom or safety, damage national unity, the environment, natural resources or public or private property, prevent public authorities, courts of law, places of worship, hospitals, academic institutions, diplomatic missions or international organisations from performing their functions or impede the application of the Constitution or of statutory instruments. To be classed as terrorist organisations, such groups must use or threaten to use force to achieve their objectives.

6. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, to what extent do the Egyptian authorities include strikes or unauthorised demonstrations in their definition of terrorism?

Answer to question 6

The legal definition of terrorism is disproportionately broad in the view of the Federal

Government and is repeatedly applied to demonstrations by both the security authorities and the judiciary. This point is regularly raised by representatives of the Federal Government in their discussions with Egyptian authorities. The Federal Government is unaware of any cases of the definition having been applied to industrial disputes or strikes. The Federal Government possesses no information to support such an assertion.

7. Which specific types of crime or incidents does the Federal Government intend to address in a colloquium with expert practitioners on the subject of combating terrorism and extremism?

Answer to question 7

Issues relating to counter-terrorism and the suppression of extremism are to be discussed in these exchanges. A list of specific agenda items is not yet available.

8. Where and when is the colloquium with expert practitioners on the subject of combating terrorism and extremism to be held?

Answer to question 8

The colloquium is to be held in Germany. The following dates have been proposed:

- 19 20 May 2015
- 1 2 September 2015
- 8 9 September 2015
- 9. What does the Federal Government know about the topics that the Egyptian side wishes to discuss at the practitioners' colloquium on combating terrorism and extremism?

Answer to question 9

No specific topics have been communicated yet.

10. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, which staff members from which departments of which authorities does the Egyptian Government intend to send to the practitioners' colloquium on combating terrorism and extremism?

Answer to question 10

The Federal Criminal Police Office has invited the National Security Sector (NSS) and the General Intelligence Service (GIS) to send two representatives each to the colloquium.

11. Which staff members from which departments of which authorities will be representing the Federal Government at the practioners' colloquium on combating terrorism and extremism?

Answer to question 11

The Federal Criminal Police Office will be represented at the colloquium by members of its State Security Division. Representatives of the Federal Office for the Protection of the

Constitution and representatives of the Federal Intelligence Service have also been invited.

12. As things stand, where and when are the heads of the state-security divisions of the NSS and BKA expected to hold their discussions on the subject of counter-terrorism?

Answer to question 12

The BKA has made a proposal to the NSS that the meeting take place in Germany on 29 and 30 September.

13. Which topics and which specific types of crime are likely to be addressed there?

Answer to question 13

It is intended that discussions should focus on topical matters in the sphere of politically motivated crime, such as the current threat from foreign terrorist fighters, and on the identification of additional cooperation requirements.

14. How many "Egyptian explosives experts" are being invited to the BKA explosives symposium in Magdeburg in November?

Answer to question 14

The plan is to invite three Egyptian experts.

15. When will the information exchanges take place with the head of the Egyptian Police Academy at the Federal University of Applied Administrative Sciences, the German Police University, the police force of a German federal state and the BKA?

Answer to question 15

The date is not yet known.

- 16. What 'training matters' should be discussed there, in the view of the Federal Government?
- 17. What proposals will the Federal Government be making in this respect?

Answer to questions 16 and 17

The purpose of the visit is to provide the Egyptian representative with a general impression of the German police training system. Specific scope for cooperation, for example in drafting and revising curricula, will also be discussed.

18. On what courses are the NSS scholarship recipients to receive their training, and what is the course content?

Answer to question 18

The scholarship programme of the Federal Criminal Police Office comprises a preparatory module (six months of language training), a foundation module of theoretical and practical in-service training in Germany and an extension module – several weeks of theoretical and practical in-service training in Germany, approximately three years after the foundation

module. In the foundation module, all participants in the scholarship programme receive an insight into the crimefighting strategy and working methods of the German police and into the legal provisions governing police activity. The foundation module comprises various specialised courses and seminars, a practical element, based in the Federal Criminal Police Office and/or in the police headquarters of a *Land*, and educational trips of two or more days' duration.

The extension module offers Egyprian scholarship recipients the opportunity to refresh the German they have learned and to inform themselves of the latest developments in crimefighting.

19. What are the aims of the "closer cooperation in the area of responsibility of the Federal Police" that is now to be pursued?

Answer to question 19

The main aim of the cooperation is to combat human trafficking.

- 20. Which German and Egyptian authorities are involved in the new measures to combat illegal migration?
- a) Which projects or other initiatives to combat illegal migration are planned?
- b) Where will the projects or other initiatives be implemented?
- c) When are they scheduled to begin and end?
- d) Which human and material resources are to be used by the participating parties for these measures?

Answer to question 20.

The Federal Police measures will be implemented in consultation with the Egyptian Ministry of Interior Affairs. Three training courses are planned on the security of public documents and records, and one course will be devoted to border control and repatriations. The courses on document security are to take place in Egypt, and the course on border control and repatriations will be held in Germany. Dates have not yet been fixed. Each of the courses will be delivered by German Police personnel.

It is planned to procure 300 docu-viewers at a total cost of some €18,500. This can be done within the present budget of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

- 21. Which German and Egyptian authorities are involved in the new support measures designed to guarantee aviation security?
- a) Which projects or other initiatives are planned as part of the support measures to guarantee aviation security?
- b) Where will the projects or other initiatives be implemented?
- c) When are they scheduled to begin and end?

d) Which human and material resources are to be used by the participating parties for these measures?

Answer to question 21

In consultation with the Egyptian Ministry of Interior Affairs, it is planned to run a training course in aviation security control in Egypt. A date for the course has not yet been set. The staff input has not been determined either. There are no plans at the present time to provide equipment aid for this course.

- 22. Which German and Egyptian authorities are involved in the new measures for the detection and defusing of explosives?
- a) Which projects or other initiatives are planned in the framework of measures for the detection and defusing of explosives?
- b) Where will the projects or initiatives be implemented?
- c) When are they scheduled to begin and end?
- d) Which human and material resources are to be used by the participating parties for these measures?

Answer to question 22

Apart from the planned participation of Egyptian experts in the BKA's international explosives symposium in November 2015, no other measures relating to the detection and defusing of explosives are planned.

- 23. Which German and Egyptian authorities are involved in the new measures relating to the policing of major events?
- a) Which projects or other initiatives are planned in the framework of measures relating to the policing of major events?
- b) Where will the projects or initiatives be implemented?
- c) When are they scheduled to begin and end?
- d) Which human and material resources are to be used by the participating parties for these measures?

Answer to question 23

In cooperation with the Berlin Police, it is planned to have representatives of the Egyptian National Security Sector shadowing officers on crowd-control duties at a football match on 30 May 2015.

- 24. Which German and Egyptian authorities are involved in the new Federal Police training measures?
- a) Which projects or other initiatives are planned in the framework of the Federal Police

training measures?

- b) Where will the projects or initiatives be implemented?
- c) When are they scheduled to begin and end?
- d) Which human and material resources are to be used by the participating parties for these measures?

Answer to question 24

In consultation with the Egyptian Ministry of Interior Affairs, the plan is to begin with a measure in Germany devoted to teaching and methodological skills. A date has not yet been set. The number of staff to be assigned to the training has not yet been determined either. There are no plans at the present time to provide assistance for the procurement of equipment for these measures.

25. When does the Federal Police plan to detach a liaison officer on border policing?

Answer to question 25

There is an agreement in principle to detach an officer. The detachment date has not yet been set.

- 26. What conclusions does the Federal Government draw for its planned expansion of police cooperation with Egypt from the assessment made by Middle East expert Ruth Jüttner from Amnesty International in the summer of 2014 that, in the one year since Mohamed Morsi had been deposed as President of Egypt, 1,400 people had been killed during dispersals of demonstrations and that the military and police personnel involved would not face prosecution (http://www.evangelisch.de/inhalte/95682/03-07-)?
- 27. What information does the Federal Government itself possess about these occurrences?

Answer to questions 26 and 27

The Federal Government is aware that hundreds of people were killed and numerous arrests were made during the dispersal of demonstrations after President Morsi was deposed. The Federal Government does not possess precise figures. It is familiar with reports from bodies such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The Egyptian Government commissioned the June 30 Fact-Finding Committee to draw up a confidential investigative report, on the basis of which recommendations to the Government were published on 26 November 2014.

28. In developing its cooperation with Egypt since November 2014 (Bundestag printed paper 18/3054), has the Federal Government reiterated its concerns about the prosecution of bloggers and activists who criticise the Egyptian Government?

Answer to question 28

The Federal Government has regularly addressed the human-rights situation in Egypt in talks with the Egyptian Government, most recently during the visit to Cairo by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, from 3 to 4 May 2015; it was also discussed when Christoph Strässer, the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, visited Egypt from 14 to 16 January 2015.

29. How have the Egyptian authorities responded in each case, and what pledges have been made?

Answer to question 29

The Egyptian Government responds by referring to the independence of the judiciary that investigates such cases. Most of the proceedings, it says, are still pending. It also cites the terrorist threat in the country and the surrounding region.

30. What information has come to the attention of the Federal Government as to whether the Egyptian authorities are using the online activity-detection skills they learned from their German counterparts to prosecute homosexuals or dissidents?

Answer to question 30

There have been no training activities in this domain.

31. When in 2014 and 2015 were Federal Government measures in Egypt assessed to establish whether imparted knowledge or technology made available in the framework of equipment aid was being used in the recipient country for its intended purpose and in accordance with the rule of law, and what were those measures?

Answer to question 31

In 2014 and the first quarter of 2015, no measures of reconstruction aid were provided for the police or border authorities.

- 32. Who conducted the assessment in each case?
- 33. What were the findings as regards the proper use of knowledge and technology by Egyptian authorities?

Answer to questions 32 and 33

Please see the answer to question 31 above.

34. Over the past five years, which measures have been suspended on the basis of such an assessment?

Answer to question 34

No measures of reconstruction aid for the police or border authorities have been suspended on that basis.

35. In what specific measures of security cooperation with Tunisia is the Federal Ministry of the Interior currently engaged?

Answer to question 35

Building on previous cooperation, the Federal Criminal Police Office will be providing training and advisory assistance in 2015 in various aspects of criminal policing, namely crimefighting, counterterrorism, forensics, explosive-ordnance disposal and personal protection. In addition, provision has been made for cooperation in training matters with Tunisian police colleges. The measures focus chiefly on instruction in modern training techniques, the formulation of training programmes, the delivery of specialised courses and the development of an assessment framework. The training and advisory assistance is to be accompanied by equipment aid comprising, for example, information technology, a deregistered motor vehicle and an out-of-service remote-operated manipulator with hook and line kit. Provision has also been made for Tunisian participation in the scholarship module.

The Federal Police intend to implement a bilateral border-policing project to develop the capabilities of the Tunisian border authorities. The plan is to establish a joint regional command and control centre for the National Guard and the Border Police, to upgrade the training of the Tunisian police and National Guard, to improve the performance of duties at border crossings and to maximise security in seaports. The specific project activities are currently being agreed with the Tunisian side.

In the framework of the transformation partnership, the existing project activities in Tunisia in the fields of civil protection and disaster control are being continued in 2015. In this context, training and equipment aid are to be provided for the benefit of the Tunisian National Office for Civil Protection (ONPC).

36. What current efforts on the part of the EU, besides those already referred to in printed paper 18/3054, to assist the Egyptian and Tunisian Governments in reforming the security sector or similar measures for police forces, intelligence services or customs authorities are known to the Federal Government?

Answer to question 36

In its political response to the challenges in the southern countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the European Union relies on resources such as the Neighbourhood Policy, the relevant bilateral action plans, the bilateral association agreements and the political guidelines set forth in the joint communications from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy entitled *A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean* (March 2011) and *A new response to a changing Neighbourhood* (May 2011) as well as in the associated Council conclusions.

Accordingly, multi-country action programmes for the southern ENI area focus on the

specific challenges facing that region and cover the ten ENI partner countries, which include both Egypt and Tunisia.

The general objectives are to reinforce human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean and to create a Euro-Mediterranean area of genuine coordination and cooperation in the realms of justice and security, the overarching aim of the present Euromed Justice and Police action, a component of the annual action programme, being to contribute to effective and democratic judicial and security systems in the Euro-Mediterranean area by strengthening the rule of law and continuously progressing towards alignment with international standards.

This measure is implemented locally on the basis of direct management by the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

To the knowledge of the Federal Government, the European Commission is planning, in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Instrument, to implement a €25m. project for the reform of the security sector in Tunisia. The focal points of the project will be secure borders, modernisation of the Interior Ministry and the security forces and assistance for the security services. Its specific details have not yet been determined. Implementation is scheduled to begin in 2016.

Another project in the ENI framework, entitled *Countering radicalisation and foreign terrorist fighters*, with a budget of €10m., is already in its initial phase and is to be implemented shortly. The project covers the Middle East and North Africa and the Sahel as well as the Western Balkans, and its main instruments are training, network-building and information exchange.

37. What does the Federal Government now know about the aim, purpose, participants and specific measures of the EU counter-terrorism project in the Maghreb/North Africa area under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)?

Answer to question 37

The project is based on project RfS 346194 - *Identification and Formulation Study for a Project on Counter-Terrorism in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region*. In a letter dated 3 July 2014, the European Commission called for proposals for a needs-assessment study with a view to identifying elements that could underpin a potential future regional counter-terrorism project in the MENA area. The Danish Foreign Ministry is conducting this needs assessment and is currently drafting a concluding report. The aim of the expected project will be pooling of resources and cooperation between the police, the intelligence services and the criminal courts in the fight against terrorism.

Initial proposals on the framing of a potential project for the benefit of the Maghreb and MENA countries have been formulated by the European Commission under the headings of deradicalisation, prevention of the online dissemination of radical content and problems relating to foreign terrorist fighters in Syria, including the potential risk they pose on

returning to EU Member States. On the basis of these proposals, the forthcoming project is likely to be divided into two parts.

Initially, a project under Article 3 of the IcSP, entitled *EU/MENA Counter-Terrorism Training Partnership*, is to be implemented in 2015 in the countries adjacent to Syria, particularly Lebanon. It will entail the training of prison authorities in the country, exchanges of best practices and staff exchange programmes for training purposes.

The implementation of the project by the European Police College (CEPOL) is expected to begin in the summer of 2015; a budget of some €2.4m. will be available for this project.

The project will not have a Tunisian or Egyptian dimension in the first instance, although its extension has not been completely ruled out.

For 2016 and subsequent years, a second measure will be added under Article 5 of the IcSP, entitled *Regional Programme on Counter-Terrorism in the MENA Region*. The precise focus of the programme has not yet been defined, but it will be incorporated into the annual programme for 2015 that is scheduled for adoption at the IcSP meeting on 1 July 2015.

The programme will foreseeably cover training as well as technical, strategic and legal assistance in the fight against terrorism. Particular emphasis is to be placed on upgrading the capabilities of the Arab League. Also under discussion are programme elements designed to strengthen resistance in individual countries – Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon – to the recruitment drives and propaganda of terrorist groups such as Da'esh (Islamic State).

The programme is to be implemented from 2016 by agencies from EU Member States that have yet to be appointed. It will have access to a budget of some €13m. An EU counterterrorism scoping mission spent week 44 of 2014 in Cairo. The programme is unlikely to have a Tunisian or Egyptian dimension in the first instance, although its extension cannot be completely ruled out. It should be mentioned, however, that the Arab League has its headquarters in Cairo.

The following authorities and institutions have been invited to submit expressions of interest in serving as implementing agencies:

- BTC CBT (Belgium)
- DANIDA (Denmark)
- GIZ (Germany)
- DFID (Ukraine)
- FEI (France)
- FIIAP (Estonia)
- IT MFA (Italy)
- NL MFA (Netherlands)

SIDA (Sweden)

In their turn, these bodies have established contact with other authorities and institutions, such as the Federal Criminal Police Office in Germany, in connection with the implementation of the programme. Accordingly, it is not yet foreseeable which authorities or institutions from which countries will ultimately be involved.

38. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, when did or will the EU projects begin, which authorities from which countries will be taking part in them, and what will their responsibilities be?

Answer to question 38

Please see the answer to question 37 above.

39. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, what other projects are to be launched in Egypt and/or Tunisia in 2015 or 2016 which authorities from which countries will be taking part in them, and what will their responsibilities be?

In the IcSP annual action programme for 2015, the aim of Action 3 under Article 4 is to reinforce the crisis-response capacity of the League of Arab States and its member countries by fostering the technical and institutional capability of the League Secretariat to respond to crises, conflicts and post-conflict situations and supporting the establishment of a crisis-management mechanism for member countries in partnership with the national agencies entrusted with the task of responding to crises on behalf of the Arab States. This action builds on the results of the first cooperation phase under the IfS annual action programme for 2009 and is being implemented by means of a direct grant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Secretariat of the League of Arab States is based in Cairo.

In addition, projects may be launched in 2015 or 2016 under the following EU programmes which also impact on Egypt:

- European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
- Civil Society Facility (CSF)
- Cultural Diversity and Creativity Programme
- Erasmus+ Programme
- Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX)
- Twinning
- Support for the Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)

- Cross-Border Cooperation Instrument (CBC)
- Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)
- Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue (Ciudad)
- Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA/LA)
- Bilateral programmes implemented jointly by the EU and Egypt under the Association Agreement and the Action Plan (Single Support Framework)

Projects affecting Tunisia may also be launched in 2015 or 2016 under the following EU programmes:

- European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)
- Support for Partnership, Reforms and Inclusive Growth (Spring)
- European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (Enpard)
- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)
- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
- Civil Society Facility (CSF)
- Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX)
- Twinning
- Support for the Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)
- Erasmus+ Programme
- Bilateral programmes implemented jointly by the EU and Tunisia under the Association Agreement and the Action Plan (Single Support Framework)

The European Council, moreover, stated on 20 March 2015 that the European Union and its Member States "will intensify cooperation with Tunisia to counter [the] common terrorist threat, to strengthen Tunisia's promising democracy and to assist its economic and social development".

This statement was followed up by visits to Tunisia by senior EU figures such as the High Representative and the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. The EU is working with the Tunisian authorities to step up their cooperation in combating the various forms of terrorism; this is being done in the framework of EU support for reform of the security sector and in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution regarding the rule of law and human rights.

40. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, has Italy, Germany, France or Spain already begun to prevail upon the Egyptian or Tunisian Government to improve its cooperation in the field of migration control and to take refugees "to their own ports" on the North African coast in future instead of their coming to the European Union (mdr online, 22

March 2015)?

- a) In the view of he Federal Government, in what way could the EU help Egypt and Tunisia with the repatriation of irregular migrants to their countries of origin?
- b) What efforts or preparations have already been made to this end?

Answer to question 40

The Federal Government has held talks with Egypt and Tunisia on cooperation in migration matters. The Federal Government possesses no knowledge of corresponding activities on the part of Italy, France or Spain. Particular importance attaches to maritime rescue in the eyes of the Federal Government, which is assisting Mediterranean coastal states in North Africa so that they can meet their responsibilities with regard to maritime rescue. This must be done within the scope of the provisions of international law governing maritime search and rescue operations.

Answer to parts (a) and (b)

The repatriation of irregular migrants from Egypt and Tunisia to their countries of origin can, in principle, be supported by means of voluntary return and reintegration programmes. The Federal Government possesses no knowledge as to whether the EU is supporting projects for Egypt and Tunisia within the scope of such programmes.

One of the objectives of the Mobility Partnership that the EU has entered into with Tunisia as part of its Global Approach to Migration and Mobility is to promote development through migration by such means as cooperation with countries of exile, programmes for returnees, support for circular migration and reduction of remittance costs. Negotiations have not yet been concluded on the annex to the EU Mobility Partnership agreement with Tunisia, containing specific project proposals from the EU. The EU has also been targeting a Mobility Partnership with Egypt.

41. Has the Federal Government already made proposals to North African governments for the establishment of EU refugee camps in North African countries or for cooperation in planning the creation of such camps (mdr online of 22 March 2015)? If so, what governments were involved, and what has been the result or the interim result of these overtures?

Answer to question 41

The Federal Government has not made such proposals to any North African government, nor has it proposed cooperation on the plans to which the question refers.

42. To the knowledge of the Federal Government, with which authorities has the Italian or German side already held talks to this end (please indicate the place, date and participants)?

Answer to question 42

No talks have been held on this matter with any Egyptian or Tunisian authorities.