

*The Coalition for the Defense of Human
Rights (CDHR)*

11 September 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing on behalf of the member organizations of the Coalition to urge a reconsideration of the pending deportation of an elderly Coptic Christian, Onsy Zachary. Mr. Zachary is completing a sentence for a felony conviction for which he believes that he was wrongly convicted. Implementation of the deportation order should be delayed at this time pending actions by attorneys who are supporting his case and reviewing earlier actions in respect to his immigration status.

Egyptian security have recently cracked down on Christian civil rights activists and other Christians, under emergency laws, as threats to national security for their criticism of the government's discriminatory policy toward the Coptic minority. Mr. Zachary's history which includes fleeing Egyptian army service and applying for asylum in the U.S., expressing a profound fear of persecution by the Egyptian authorities, will draw scrutiny by the Special Security Investigative services.

I believe that the deportation of Mr. Zachary will endanger his security and well-being. In consideration of the recent activity by Egyptian security services to interpret Christians critical of Egyptian government policy toward the Coptic minority I ask you to reconsider the deportation order pending for him

Respectfully,

