

ECCD denounces Egypt's faulty parliamentary elections, calls for boycott

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

(Ottawa, October 16, 2015) The Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy (ECCD) calls on all Egyptians to boycott the faulty parliamentary elections called by the military ruler Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

For Egyptian Canadians there cannot be a more sharp contrast than this tale of two elections. For the last several weeks, Egyptian Canadians have been witnessing and participating in an open and democratic electoral process in Canada. The positions of Canada's political parties run the gamut of the full political spectrum. Canadian citizens are free to organize, campaign, express their opinions, and vote their conscience without threat to life or liberty.

In contrast, thousands have been murdered by the military regime in Egypt, and tens of thousands have been imprisoned under conditions of torture and without recourse to a credible legal process. The main opposition leaders have been imprisoned, some have been sentenced to death in trials widely condemned as sham and farcical and all political opposition has been curtailed.

These so-called elections are fatally flawed in every way possible:

- The "elections" are being called by a military regime that came to power by overthrowing the first freely elected government in Egypt's history
- In carrying out their violent coup the military regime abrogated the will of the people expressed in five free and fair democratic polls
- The "elections" are being held with the main opposition outlawed, its leaders sentenced to death, its followers arrested and tortured, and numerous citizens executed by death squads on suspicion of belonging to the opposition
- The "elections" are being held while the country is under martial law
- The "elections" are being held after the military dictator expressed disdain for the laws that exist; Sisi has stated that "in good faith" the constitution gave too much power to Parliament, indicating that the powers of any "elected" parliament will be curtailed

"Governments and NGOs that participate in this fraudulent process, in any manner including monitoring the elections, discredit their commitment to democracy and human rights," said ECCD chairperson, Ehab Lotayef. "They would be providing political cover for the criminal regime in power today in Egypt." he continued.

ECCD calls upon all governments and NGOs to distance themselves from this "election" in respect for the sanctity of the blood that has been shed over the last four years, and still is, and to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women standing up to Sisi's oppression.

ECCD stands with the courageous free Egyptians who continue to struggle to regain their revolution and achieve its goals. For them and for our beloved Egypt we call on all to boycott Sisi's charade of an election.

About ECCD: *Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy (ECCD) is a politically independent, non-affiliated pan Canadian organization with chapters in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, and Kingston, which advocates for democracy and human rights in Egypt.*

For more information:

 www.eccd.ca

 info@eccd.ca

 Mohmaed S. Kamel: (514) 863-9202

<u>Ottawa:</u>	 ottawa@eccd.ca	 Sherif Elkholy: (613) 295-3994
<u>Toronto:</u>	 toronto@eccd.ca	 Deena Abul Fottouh: (289) 259-7902
<u>Montreal:</u>	 montreal@eccd.ca	 Mohmaed S. Kamel: (514) 863-9202
<u>Vancouver:</u>	 vancouver@eccd.ca	 Tarek Ramadan: (604) 721-4555
<u>Calgary:</u>	 calgary@eccd.ca	 Mostafa Elhoushi: (403) 702-4156
<u>Regina:</u>	 regina@eccd.ca	 Mahmoud Alhalafawy: (306) 591-0862
<u>Kingston:</u>	 kingston@eccd.ca	 Mohamed Salah: (343) 333-0752