

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/egypt-call-for-al-jazeera-journalists-to-01-01-2015,47442.html>

Middle East/North Africa - Egypt

Call for Al-Jazeera journalists to be acquitted at retrial

1 January 2015

Peter Greste, Mohamed Fadel Fahmy and Baher Mohamed now face a new judicial ordeal after a year marked by a climate of extreme hostility towards freedom of information in Egypt.

Last [June](#), they were given sentences ranging from seven to ten years in prison on charges of disseminating false news and belonging to a "terrorist organization."

"We urge the judicial authorities to dismiss all the charges and acquit the Al-Jazeera journalists at the new trial," Reporters Without Borders programme director Lucie Morillon said.

"They are not guilty on any of the charges and, in reality, are paying the price of the regime's persecution of media with real or imagined links to the Muslim Brotherhood. We also call on the authorities to ensure that the new trial is conducted fairly, not a sham trial as the last one was. And the journalists must be released without delay."

International support for the Qatari TV station's journalists has grown steadily in recent months. On 29 December, the first anniversary of their arrests, demonstrations to demand their immediate release were held outside the Egyptian embassies in London and The Hague.

Reporters Without Borders, which accused the Egyptian authorities of violating the new constitution in an online [petition](#) for their release that it launched in July, will continue to follow their case closely.

RWB also calls for the release of the 13 other journalists detained in [Egypt](#), which is now the world's fourth biggest prison for media personnel, after China, Eritrea and Iran.

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