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US CITIZEN BASSEM AWADALLAH ENTERS SECOND WEEK OF HUNGER STRIKE IN JORDANIAN PRISON

Washington, DC March 2, 2023 — Today US citizen Dr. Bassem Awadallah started his second week of a hunger strike. Dr. Awadallah was unjustly arrested in April 2021, tortured, tried by a secret court without due process and has been held in solitary confinement for almost two years. Since Monday, his requests to contact the Consul General and his sister and father have been continuously denied by Jordanian officials. News of his condition is known only from a note he dictated this morning to his Jordanian attorney and then relayed to his family. Dr. Awadallah fears prison officials will force feed him intravenously.

“If Jordanian officials force feed my client, he will have no ability to refuse. We are now more concerned with what they will put in the IV than his remaining on a hunger strike” said Michael J. Sullivan, Dr. Awadallah’s American attorney. “If Dr. Awadallah’s health declines, whether from the strike or the force feeding, his family will place full legal, ethical and moral responsibility on King Abdullah and the Kingdom of Jordan. The family continues to strongly urge the US government to intervene and demand Bassem’s immediate release.”

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