



**Máster Oficial Erasmus Mundus en Estudios de las Mujeres y de Género  
Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies**

The **Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women and Gender Studies (GEMMA)**, coordinated by the University of Granada (Spain) with the participation of the University of Bologna, Central European University, University of Lodz, University of Oviedo, University of Utrecht and University of York and the support of the European Union, expresses its **utmost concern** about the safety of one of its students, **Mr Patrick George Zaki**, who was detained on February 7, 2020 upon his arrival to Egypt for a short visit to his family.

Patrick George Zaki, a 27-year old Egyptian human rights researcher and currently a **student of the GEMMA programme at the University of Bologna**, is being held in custody, after being taken by the National Security Agency at Cairo Airport and disappeared for 24 hours. He was interrogated on issues related to his work on human rights and later transferred to NSA offices in his hometown, Mansoura. He has since remained in detention, pending further investigation. There is no more news from him. NGOs and lawyers dealing with previous detention cases fear that he is at risk of torture.

We **urge the Egyptian government** to immediately and unconditionally release Patrick George Zaki, and that, while in custody, it is ensured that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and that he has access to his lawyers and family.

We also **demand** that all necessary measures to **prevent further threats and attacks against students, researchers, academics, journalists and human rights defenders** are taken.

The University of Granada, Spain (GEMMA consortium coordinator)

The University of Bologna, Italy

Central European University, Hungary

The University of Lodz, Poland

The University of Oviedo, Spain

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

The University of York, United Kingdom