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## THE RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP: ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF THE MODERN STATE

Undoubtedly, Egypt's history is full of facts and realities that are ingrained in memory and permanent in the nation's conscience. Amongst the most important of these, actually the most important at all, is the unity of this nation with all its factions, without the least discrimination between this or that. Also, any tampering with this unity would be considered as high treason, a matter that would make all citizens rise and confront it.

Moreover, there are many given names that may be called "devised", which have not passed through all the phases of maturity but which have been widely used without purpose such as "rapprochement" between two factions of the nation. In other words, national unity", as if the matter were a case of coming together of two sides, previously separated, which has not happened in Egypt.

Another example is the term minorities. This is being used out of context and has caused many infringements of usages that surpassed its meaning and essence to arrive at the first level of violation. That is where facts are wronged, which is considered an assault on facts and may reach the level of severe blunders.

The term "minorities" in its basic meaning, signifies the migration of a group, previously non-existent, to settle and reside in a certain state, such as the Armenians, even though they later received its nationality then started to ask for certain rights and also received many of those under what has been agreed to

term "minority rights". Therefore, this term minority or minority rights does not in any way relate to an original faction of this national, which was part of its structure since time immemorial, such as the Copts of Egypt. The same also applies to the Nubians, the Oasis dwellers, the Sinai Bedouins and the Upper Egyptians. All of them are Egyptians through and through and it is not right and not actually forbidden for any pen to call them minorities. This would be contradictory to fact and history, past and present as well as future.

Nothing proves this more than the position of Egypt's Copts versus the repeated Crusades, which hid behind religion in order to get at Egypt. They brought a cross with them, but the Copts of Egypt raised their own national cross and joined their Moslem brethren in a joint defense of their sacred lands.

As for citizens' rights, it is a term that equates between all citizens without mention of any differences or non-essential discrepancies, so long as the citizen has received the Egyptian nationality. This also extends to new categories of receivers of the Egyptian nationality. They are all equal under the law. Moreover, this also extends to those living whether permanently or temporarily on Egyptian soil even they do not enjoy its citizenship. They have the same rights with a few exceptions such as the right of nomination in elections and holding public office, which is in unanimous agreement with laws of all other nations with no exception.

Citizenship, does not allow discrimination between persons and others, or even between residents of different nationalities, based on origin, color, creed, gender, religion or appearance.

Perhaps, this requires us to complete the practical and applicable side, by issuing constitutional legislation to explain this basic fact in spite of its being so basic, so that those who may not know, cease to deal with it otherwise, or

consider some as condescending towards others by granting what they do not lawfully own.

This explains the state's interest in including citizenship in the constitutional amendments, which in my opinion is considered among the tools needed by the modern state to cross into the future and make up for lost time.

We all as unequivocal Egyptians, take pride in our nationality and do not accept alternatives, and look forward to our nation's modern, model state. Many visionaries confirm that Egypt is qualified, with all its positives such as its people, owners of civilization, knowledge and ambition as well as the desire to excel so that Egypt can catch up where it has not been, due to lost opportunities here and there.

The example we have is the best as epitomized by the German state, which lost the war and was occupied by armies of four countries for almost fifty years. Those countries were the USA, Great Britain, The Fifth French Republic and the USSR.

With the progress of the German economy upwards, gaining new dimensions and increased weight daily, the area of military occupation of these countries started to gradually recede until it settled in Berlin, the capital of all Europe, as seen by he Germans.

The growth of the German economy continued until it exceeded that of the British , French and Soviet economies. This made it contradictory that these countries, of less economic weight can continue to occupy Germany even if by minimal troops and in limited areas, because the German giant surpassed them in economy and technology and started exporting to them the most modern machinery and medical equipment and others.

Actually, NATO's best war machinery was German which caused it to acquire its power and excellence by German bombers such as the Tornado and the Leopard tanks which are incomparable with any owned by the west.

So welcome to the constitutional amendments and all authorities that any minister asks so as to achieve their work plan and improve their work. This way, all business practices will be improved and social, educational and legislative repairs which all come together to boost economic capabilities needed by Egypt, the homeland, so that it may take its deserved place under the sun and earn it, by virtue of the loyalty of its people and launch its true capacities in every age as best it can.

Egypt has been and still is a record of world history, a record of humanity. Egypt is the mother of all worlds. Its history unfolded between its hands, and it did not allow any of its children to tamper with the realities and established facts in the minds of the nation or whoever strays to different sectarian divisions.

Long live Egypt, precious because of the value of its children in all national walks of life, in a homeland which lives within them before they live within it.

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<sup>\*</sup> Translated from Arabic Original