

Press Release - 12 December 2016 - <http://nazra.org/en/node/533>

## **Feminist Activist and Woman Human Rights Defender Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies Included in Asset Freeze Case Associated with Case 173 for the Year 2011 Known as the "NGO Foreign Funding Case"**

In today's court session at Abbasia Court, which looks into the request for the freeze Lawyer Azza Soliman's assets and that of her law firm, a request was made for the asset freeze of feminist and woman human rights defender Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies, within the context of case no.173 for the year 2011 known as the "NGO Foreign Funding Case", as her name is listed in the case, and that of Mohamed Zaree from the Arab Penal Reform Organization (APRO), based on a request from the investigative judge, where the session was postponed to 14 December 2016 to review case papers and document submission, in addition to issuing the verdict for Azza Soliman and her law firm in the same session.

Subsequently, Hassan joins several human rights defenders (HRDs) whose assets have been frozen within the context of the same case, such as investigative journalist Hossam Bahgat, Gamal Eid, the Director of the Arab Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), Bahey El-Din Hassan, the Founder and Executive Director the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), Ahmed Samih, the Executive Director of Andalus institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies, Abdel Hafiz Tayel, who is the Executive Director of the Institute for the Right to Education and Mostafa Al-Hassan, the Director of Hesham Mubarak Law Center.

Case no. 173 for the year 2011, known as the NGO Foreign Funding Case, was reopened a few months ago to pursue its investigations, where 3 members from Nazra for Feminist Studies were summoned on 22 March 2016 to appear before the investigative judge, after which Mozn Hassan was summoned to appear before him on 29 March 2016 at New Cairo Court, where the judge notified the attending lawyers that he will specify an appointment for them to review the case papers, and subsequently will summon Mozn Hassan at another time. And this decision comes as a new step within the frame of interrogating her and referring her to the judiciary.

Mozn Hassan is a feminist activist and WHRD, and is one of the founders of Nazra for Feminist Studies and its Executive Director. Mozn Hassan works on various feminist issues since 2001 including violence against women in the public space, provision of psychological, medical and legal support for survivors from crimes of sexual violence, and political parliamentary participation of women and inclusion in decision-making positions in Egypt and the Middle East. She is also a board member of Global Fund for Women (GFW), member of the International Planning Committee of the 13th International Forum of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and recipient of the Charlotte Bunch Women Human Rights Defenders Award in 2013, as well as the "Right Livelihood" Award also known "Alternative Nobel" for the year 2016.

It is worth mentioning that Mozn Hassan was recently banned from travel, where the Passport Administration at Cairo International Airport banned her from travel on the morning of 27 June 2016 during completion of her departure procedures from Cairo to Beirut to attend and participate in the Executive Committee meeting for the Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) Regional Coalition for the Middle East and North Africa, as a Regional Expert for the coalition, taking place during the period 27 June to 1 July 2016, where she was informed that she is banned from traveling since May 2016 by an order from the General Prosecutor.

Nazra for Feminist Studies condemns this procedure against its Executive Director, and the inclusion of the Association in the Case No. 173 for the year 2011, which comes within the context of steps taken by the Egyptian government for a long time and which escalated in the recent few months to close the public space for civil society organizations. It is worth mentioning that Nazra for Feminist Studies was registered as an association on 28 December 2007 with the number 7184, and Nazra obtained the Economic and Social Special Consultative Status with the UN in January 2014.