



Alexandria, 19th of September 2005

Concerning what has been written in *Al-Masri Al-Youm (The Egyptian Today)* that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina bans access to sites related to human rights through its computers, referring to the lecture given by Professor/ Gamal Eid and entitled "Developing Communication Skills with the Human Rights-Related Media" as he could not gain access to the "Supervising Human Rights" site during the lecture.

We would like to clarify the situation through the following:

- We have all been able to access the above-mentioned site without encountering any problems.
- Shrouk Fahmy, Ehab Hamdy, and Noha Derag, the "Friends of Bibliotheca Alexandrina" trainees who attended the lecture testified that anyone can easily gain access to any site related to human rights.

It is noteworthy that the sites that cannot be accessed via the Bibliotheca's computers are the obscene websites and the e-mail-related sites for fear of viruses that can cause great damage to the Bibliotheca's network. However, the e-mail websites can be accessed through a number of computers at the Bibliotheca provided specifically for the use of the public, for example provided in the Conference Center for the use of the conference participants and the public at large.

Moreover, Dr. Ismail Serageldin, the Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, assured that all the sites related to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are considered information sources that are made available to everybody, at anytime, through the Bibliotheca's computers.



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