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I got to know the work of AWR and Drs. C. Hulsman around June 2003, through my work as legal advisor for refugees in our church in The Hague, The Netherlands. I worked from July 2000 to July 2001 as a legal consultant with Amnesty International, and was specialized in the countries of Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. As an employee of this human rights organization I obtained a good insight into the problems surrounding refugees in The Netherlands, but I also obtained much knowledge about human rights in the Middle East. I am still using the information of Amnesty International and that of a human rights organization such as Jubilee Campaign, which is active in the fields of freedom of religion and of children's rights.

Through an intensive correspondence about an individual refugee I discovered that the office of AWR has an impressive amount of knowledge in the fields of political, religious and cultural relations in Egypt, while they are not a party in this field of different players. In this way they form an independent and trustworthy source of information, in and outside Egypt.

The know-how of AWR and their readiness to do independent research in Egypt can make the difference between getting a residence permit or not for refugees. This is of tremendous importance in my work as a legal advisor for refugees. AWR maintains contacts with a very wide field of social actors in Egyptian society, as is obvious from [AWR's] Board of Advisors. The judge looking into the case of my client will, therefore, take the information of AWR seriously in his judgment and not disqualify its information, as happens with interest groups, for being subjective. I am grateful for the work AWR has done and will do.

I have discovered through regular contact how AWR is not only independent but also concerned about human rights violations. My personal impression is that AWR exerts a positive influence on people who have experienced human rights violations [i.e. my client] through its objective reports, because they make a trustworthy distinction between people's fears and suspicions and a reality that does, or does not, correspond to them. I believe this will have a considerable improving effect on the attitude and therefore position of Christians in Egypt. I hope they will be able to continue to expand their important work.

AWR: The client of Mrs. Van Gent has experienced Islamist violence in the late eighties and early nineties in Egypt and has built up a tremendous fear and mistrust of people in general, but especially in Egypt. This fear and mistrust was understandable because of the traumatic personal experiences but at times nevertheless also obviously misplaced and not corresponding with the reality in Egypt today.