

Dear Paul,

...The Egyptian Association of the Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina was appalled at the news item, and they asked their members who had attended the lecture in question, and who were alleged to have concurred in the statement that we banned these sites. They totally denied that that they had said any such thing. They pointed out that the instructor upon trying to enter the Arabic edition of the Human Rights Watch site seemed to have had some difficulty, but he used another human rights site to continue his lecture. Moreover they themselves had never encountered any difficulty in accessing human rights sites. They also emphasized that they had heard me many times refer to these sites as essential reference material that should be available to everyone at all times.

The Association has sent me a formal letter in Arabic with an English translation that spells this out. I attach the scans of these letters.

I hope that this lays this matter to rest.

All the best

Ismail