

## **Al-Wafd Campaign Delivers its Promises**

### **Court Sentenced Chairman of Federation of Bodybuilding and Executive Director to Six months in Prison on Charges of Fraud**

### **Abu-Zeid Prepares Decision to Disband the Federation.. Invisible Hands Try to Freeze the Situation**

*By Akram Abdul-Ghani*

In a precedent, the first in kind in the history of Egyptian sports, the First Court of Nasr City, presided by Judge Ahmed Magdy, sentenced Adel Fahim Alsayed, Chairman of the Federation of Bodybuilding and Sami Anwar Bashir, Executive Director of the Federation to 6 months penal servitude on charges of fraud in the case of Ben Weider's Certificates of Ben Weider Academy for Science and Culture, which is a phantom academy unrecognized in Egypt, which the Chairman of Federation struggled to legitimize through the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness (IFBB), using his position as Executive Assistant to the President and the First vice president of the IFBB, and the support of some hidden hands in the Ministry of Sports, that are now falling in front of Taher Abu-Zeid, Minister of Sports. The laws and regulations came as a shock to those, following the refusal of the Union of Sports Professionals and the Department of Legal Affairs of the Ministry to recognize the academy, which was repeated through the confirmation of the Department of Special Education and Scientific Research of the Ministry of Education that this Academy is not registered in Egypt.

Al-Wafd has adopted over the course of the entire year the mission to reveal the internal facts of the Federation, despite the pressures that it has witnessed. But our faith in the important role played by Al-Wafd since its first day supported us to cope with all the pressure and to continue to uncover the truth without retreat or weakness in front of the telephonic threats or assigning the task to some people saying that everything is under control and that the Federation belongs to its Chairman, who, unfortunately, did not practice the sport, but was expelled from the Judo Federation, by a resolution of its general assembly, for insulting the reputation of Egypt.

The story starts with a report received by Al-Ameri Farouk, the former Minister of Sports, which came supported with a full portfolio of documents that shocked him, so he decided to disband the Federation. But the owners of the invisible hands moved quickly to prevent disbanding the Federation, and to settle the case by referring it to the Prosecution. Unfortunately, Al-Ameri fell victim to these people. After his departure from the ministry, an important part of the documents disappeared. The problem reoccurred and players of the sport made several complaints to the new Minister, Taher Abu-Zeid, who decided to open an investigation. But, soon, the invisible hands moved to hide the facts from the minister, successfully.. The victims were then left with one option to get their rights: through the police authority. So they filed a complaint at the First Police Department of Nasr City within which jurisdiction the Federation headquarters are located. Fahim and Bashir were committed for trial on charges of fraud, and Abu-Zeid issued a decision suspending them from exercising their powers in the Federation. However, they rejected the Minister's decision and went to the headquarters of the Federation, and stressed the illegality of the decision of Abu-Zeid. However, fate did not grant them a new opportunity to provide false

justifications, and the court sentenced them to imprisonment on charges of fraud towards those who filed the complaint, and for collecting amounts of money for fake certificates, and using the stamp of the Federation to give those fake certificates the appearance of legitimacy. The court also decided in its ruling to include Taher Abu-Zeid, in the suit, for his civil rights liability, at the request of Taha Al-Jazzar, the legal adviser of the victims in the case.

With this, the curtain falls on the scandals of the Federation, amid the joys of the champions of the sport, who demanded the quick intervention of the Minister of Sports to save it from the constant local freezing since a year, and to issue a decision to disband the Federation and appoint a new board of directors to save the game from destruction.. Players also warned from some officials who support Fahim strongly.