

ملخص باللغة الإنجليزية
عن كتاب رودينسون والمشكلة التي أثارها
في الأوساط العلمية في مصر

The American University in Cairo has dropped from its curricula a book entitled Mohammed, written by Maxime Rodinson, because of charges that it makes false allegations against the prophet of Islam. Copies of an English-language summary that were distributed to students have also been withdrawn following a decision taken by Higher Education Minister Moufid Shehab. Shehab ordered the book thrown out after columnist Salah Montasser published an article in Al-Ahram on 13 May demanding that the book be banned. "We cannot remain with folded arms when a university in Egypt, even if it is a foreign university, teaches Muslim students a book that insults their creed and Holy Book. This is neither acceptable nor justifiable." Montasser wrote that "freedom of education does not mean that thousands of books are ignored in favour of a book that insults Islam." Montasser reproduced excerpts from the book to show that it does injustice to the religion. The mufti of the republic also published an article in the Arabic-language press, providing documentation refuting Rodinson's allegations. Moreover, Sheikh Mohamed Sayed Tantawi, grand imam of Al-Azhar, suggested that a law be enacted to empower Al-Azhar, the world's leading Islamic institution, to examine all books dealing with Islam before they are circulated in Egypt. "It is imperative to promulgate this law in order to uphold Islam and its tenets," said Tantawi. Shehab told Al-Ahram Weekly that as soon as he read Montasser's column, he decided that the book should not be taught or circulated at AUC and ordered that copies be withdrawn from students. "Not only did AUC respond positively," Shehab said, "but its president, Frank Vandiver, paid me a visit to convey the university's apologies for an unintentional, individual error as well as

assurances that AUC would never harbour the intention of directing insults at Islam."

A statement issued by AUC said: "With reference to Mr Salah Montasser's daily column on Wednesday, 13 May in Al-Ahram newspaper, the American Univers-