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**Article 55 Coalition Bulletin: Violations
Documented in Egypt's Prisons and
Detention Centers
(August 1 to August 31, 2025)**



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Egyptian Network For Human Rights ENHR



The Article 55 Coalition has released a bulletin highlighting various violations occurring in Egyptian prisons and detention centers. These violations directly contradict Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution, which stipulates:

“Anyone who is apprehended, detained, or has their freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. Their detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated facilities that are suitable, both in terms of humane and health standards...”

Developments in Egypt in August 2025

August 2025 in Egypt saw deep political, economic, and social developments that reflect the complexities of the domestic scene and its overlap with regional and international shifts. Most notably among these was the continued blockade of Gaza and the prevention of aid—stockpiled in Egypt’s Sinai—from entering, the announcement of accepting a negotiation deal then backing away from it with threats to invade Gaza, and the Senate elections, which witnessed a notable public boycott. The elections authority announced turnout of about 17%, a very low figure, while observations suggest it was much lower. Articles by one journalist stated that poverty has reached around 80% of Egyptians to varying degrees, that the government turns a blind eye to the suffering, and that it is not implementing real economic reforms or solutions. Statements by the Minister of Water Resources also caused public concern when Hani Sweilam said on television that Egypt will enter a phase of severe water scarcity in the coming years due to population growth, and that the state understands this well. The new rental law also entered into force after ratification and continues to create anxiety among the public—especially the elderly and pensioners—about losing their homes and being unable to move or obtain alternatives.

Security attacks and judicial targeting continued at their usual pace. The State Security Prosecution summoned Lina Attalah, editor-in-chief of Mada Masr, for questioning after the site published a report on violations in Badr 3 Prison; the Interior Ministry denied the report, and she was released on bail of 30,000 EGP.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry continued a wide arrest campaign against TikTok influencers, prompting mixed reactions—some supporting it in the name of protecting values, family, and society, and others rejecting it on the grounds that penalties should not become a tool for social intimidation or the suppression of free expression, and that the solution is not always only security-based.

The head of Parliament’s Communications Committee, Ahmed Badawy, said Egypt will not tolerate content creators who harm national security, noting penalties could reach life imprisonment as part of efforts to regulate social media platforms.

The State Security Prosecution also released human rights defender Mahienour El-Masry on bail of 50,000 EGP after questioning her in Case No. 63222025/ (High State Security) on charges of broadcasting false news, statements, and rumors that harm the public interest and undermine the prestige of the state. Mahienour denied the charges, affirming her commitment to lawful human rights work. Rights advocates and former prisoners of conscience—Karim Ennarah, Nael Hassan, and Ahmed Khalifa—were arrested from different locations and referred to the Supreme State Security Prosecution, before later being released on personal guarantee after hours of questioning over posts expressing their opinions on their personal accounts.

Professional protests also escalated, reflecting widespread discontent with economic and social policies. Dozens of female employees at the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education from several governorates held a protest outside the authority's Cairo headquarters over their non-permanent status.

Staff at the Institute of Engineering and Aviation Technology appealed after about 100 faculty, administrators, and workers were dismissed via a WhatsApp message sent by the acting dean. Workers at the Faragalla food group in Borg El-Arab, Alexandria, staged a sit-in to protest delayed wages and failure to apply the minimum wage.

Trials involving thousands continued before criminal courts—especially Badr Criminal Court circuits—covering lawyers, human rights defenders, journalists, economists, politicians, activists, and others, with their detention ongoing and releases refused despite many having exceeded the legal pretrial limit. Detention of those expressing solidarity with Gaza and the Palestinian people also continued, with none released in recent periods.

Concerning detainees and prisoners, deaths inside prisons and detention facilities rose markedly, ranging from suspected killings under torture to medical neglect and poor detention conditions. Hunger strikes continued in “Badr 3,” and suicide attempts increased amid a total blackout on violations inside the prison. Numerous complaints about abuses inside prisons and detention centers continued to arrive.

At the UN level, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (Volker Türk) called on the Egyptian authorities to end a practice that allows critics of the government to be arbitrarily detained for long periods—even after serving their sentences or reaching the maximum period of pretrial detention. He said this strategy—known as “rotation” or case recycling, has targeted human rights defenders, activists, lawyers, journalists, peaceful protesters, and political opponents, by bringing new charges as detainees near sentence completion or the pretrial maximum, often under counter-terrorism laws, similar to previous charges and often lacking substantive basis.

Summary of violations documented by the Article 55 coalition in Egyptian detention centers – August 2025

The coalition's organizations documented the following violations in prisons and other detention sites in Egypt during August 2025:

Sixteen deaths in detention. The first victim was Abdel-Rahman Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, inside Omraniya Police Station (Giza). According to his family, he died from beating and torture during detention; they said he called them from custody asking for money in exchange for stopping his torture.

Prof. Nagi Ali El-Berns (69), Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, Alexandria University, died in Badr 3 Prison after three years of pretrial detention in Case No. 12222021/ (High State Security). Despite his age and academic standing, he remained detained without a fair trial in harsh conditions lacking basic healthcare and human dignity.

Dr. Atef Mahmoud Zaghloul (52) died in a hospital to which he was transferred from Abu Kabir Police Station (Sharqia) after an acute deterioration related to heart disease (he had prior stent procedures). The response was not fast enough; despite his decline, transfer was delayed, worsening his condition and leading to his death. He was a well-known pediatrician from Abu Kabir and had been detained in a misdemeanor file for “joining a terrorist group.”

Ragab Thabet (Beni Suef), father of two (Janna and Mohamed), died in custody under unclear circumstances after being held in inhumane conditions. The security administration was accused of gross neglect and delayed informing his family for four full days. His cousin, a lawyer, discovered he was not on the court's detainee list and learned at the police station that he had died—without any clear official explanation or medical report.

Mujahid Adel Mohamed Ahmed (Sudanese, from Dongola; employee at Khartoum Airport) died in Al-Ahram Police Station (Giza) from diabetes complications after 21 days in custody. Authorities intended to deport him to Sudan; family attempts to secure his release for treatment failed.

Tamer Hosni Abdel-Hamid Desouki (56) died in Liman Minya Prison. A dry-clean shop owner from Agouza (Giza), he had been imprisoned since mid-2014 on a life sentence in Case No. 51922015/ (Dokki Felony), linked to No. 5812015/ (North Giza) and No. 2502014/ (High State Security), known as the “Giza Cell.” He suffered serious heart problems (ejection fraction down to 20%) and severe diabetes complications. Despite long-standing deterioration and a prison doctor's recommendation for outside hospitalization, he did not receive necessary care and died.

Wael Youssef Khairy (21), known as “Kyrillos,” died in custody at Al-Haram Police Station. According to the family lawyer, the incident began a week earlier in Hadayek Al-Ahram when two men accused his uncle of swindling 300,000 EGP each for irregular migration to Italy. They detained Kyrillos and called the police; all three were taken to Al-Haram Station. Kyrillos and four relatives were charged with fraud; based on a police investigation report, the prosecution ordered four days' detention in Case No. 349362025/ (Al-Haram Misdemeanor) and ordered the rest arrested. On the day of his detention-renewal hearing via video, his family was told he could not attend; later, the prosecution notified them he had died in custody at the hands of five fellow detainees.

Hazem Fathi died in Nag Hammadi Police Station (Qena). He was at the center of a widely publicized March incident involving a supermarket scuffle with Officer Mohamed al-Mulakkab. He and a worker were arrested after a verbal altercation escalated to blows and kicks; both were remanded for 15 days. Available information indicates he died in custody due to poor conditions and medical neglect.

Ali Hassan Amer Abou Taleb (77), imam of Osman Mosque in Kerdasa and a retired teacher, died in Wadi El-Natrun Prison due to poor detention conditions and gross medical neglect. He had been detained since 2013 in connection with the Kerdasa Police Station events.

Two detainees held on criminal charges died in Al-Mansheya Police Station (Alexandria) due to torture, overcrowding, and extreme heat. The first, Ramadan El-Sayed Hassan, died from torture after officers took turns beating him to force him to reveal his brother's whereabouts (who was the actual target). The second, Mohamed Ahmed Saad, serving a six-month sentence for drug use, developed a high fever and exhaustion, was taken to a hospital and returned to the station, relapsed, and died.

Walid Ahmed Taha Raslan—a Bank Misr employee and father of two—died in Shubra El-Kheima (Second) Police Station under mysterious circumstances amid strong suspicions of violations leading to his death. The family said he had called police after he and his family were fired upon by a neighbor and his nephew. Because the perpetrator was related to a police NCO, the station detained the complainant instead, pressured him to drop the report, and renewed his detention even though he was the reporter. Days later, the family was told he died in custody despite having no illnesses; the station refused to file a report noting the family's suspicion of criminality.

Moharram Fouad Ali Azzab (50), a marble-factory owner in Shaq El-Thoban, died less than 24 hours after being arrested from his home in Al-Basatin (Cairo). He was arrested at dawn; the family was told early Thursday, August 20, that he had died, and they received the body at 2:30 a.m. under tight security that prevented funeral prayers or mosque announcements; burial was limited to family.

Seif Emam (23) died in Ain Shams Police Station (Cairo) after torture. Arrested on suspicion of stealing a mobile phone, he was forcibly disappeared for three days before being presented to the prosecution, which discovered the "seized item" was his own phone. The family then received a call from an officer informing them of his death. On receiving the body, they found horrific marks of torture: skull fractures, a torn nose, and bruises and wounds all over his body. According to his uncle, six officers and NCOs beat and tortured him for hours while handcuffed until he died.

Mohannad Ahmed Abdel-Azim El-Fiqi (30), from Tetta (Menoufia), died days after being detained in Menouf Police Station. He was taken in critical condition to Menouf General Hospital, then to the Toxicology Institute in Shebin El-Kom, where examinations showed severe beating leading to cerebral edema, internal bleeding, and acute consciousness disorders. Despite being placed on a ventilator, he died from injuries caused by torture.

Eng. El-Sayed Abdallah Attwa died in 10th of Ramadan Prison (Sharqia). From Kfour Najm (Ibrahimiya, Sharqia), he had been detained since 2013 on political cases and remained imprisoned for more than ten years. A civil engineer and businessman before detention, he was transferred to Al-Ahrar Hospital in Zagazig after his health deteriorated in custody and died due to lack of necessary medical care and delayed transfer.

Additional incidents and conditions

Continuing abuses at Badr 3: despite some leaked reports about repeated suicide attempts and hunger strikes, authorities quickly imposed a complete blackout. Families no longer receive any information about detainees. Isolation deepened as detainees were prevented from attending their court sessions—held in the court inside the security complex adjacent to the prison—under the pretext of being “unable to bring them,” heightening fears for their lives and indicating that blackout has become part of a systematic repression policy in Badr 3.

Health crisis: rights defender and translator Marwa Arafa suffered a pulmonary artery thrombosis due to medical neglect in 10th of Ramadan 4 Prison, causing severe deterioration, shortness of breath, and inability to move. Despite legal requests for transfer to a specialized hospital, State Security Prosecution refused.

Hunger strikes: confirmed information indicates a number of political detainees in Abou Zaabal 2 Prison began an open hunger strike in protest at grave violations in their place of detention.

Collective punishment in Correction and Rehabilitation Center no 6, in 10th of Ramadan City the administration carried out repression and abuses against dozens of political detainees—mostly youth—after they protested the ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza, expressed solidarity with Palestinian victims, and demanded an end to abuse, case-recycling, and years-long pretrial detention, and called for their release.

Individual hunger strike: detainee Mohamed Allam (“Rivaldo”, 25) began an open hunger strike in solitary in Minya Maximum-Security Prison to protest violations including physical and psychological torture and forced transfer. He had been forcibly transferred from Correction and Rehabilitation Center no 6, in 10th of Ramadan City to Minya after ongoing abuses since his arrest on January 11, 2025, during which security forces raided his grandmother’s home so violently that she suffered a broken pelvis.

Medication ban at Minya Maximum-Security: urgent pleas from families—especially of sick inmates—reported direct orders from the warden and the head of investigations to ban entry of medications for both political and criminal prisoners, including for chronic diseases, without providing alternatives. This has caused serious deterioration in dozens of prisoners’ physical and mental health and may lead to life-threatening relapses. Visitors (women and girls) also reported unjustified searches involving verbal and physical harassment, along with insults directed at them and the prisoners, leaving severe psychological effects and rising anger among families.

Conclusion

The organizations of the “Article 55” Coalition believe that what is happening inside prisons and detention centers in Egypt is not surprising, but consistent with the general approach adopted by the authorities in handling detainees, especially political ones. These are not isolated violations but systematic and entrenched practices.

The coalition stresses that the policy of impunity granted to officials responsible for human rights violations in detention has encouraged the continuation and expansion of such practices, to the point that they have become a fixed approach of the prison authorities. No official has ever been referred for accountability or even questioned, despite well-documented, serious violations.

These ongoing practices raise grave concerns about the fate of detainees, especially with the sharp rise in deaths in detention recently, alongside the severe deterioration of living conditions.

Accordingly, the coalition organizations call for an urgent investigation into these violations, and for those responsible to be held accountable in accordance with Egyptian law and international standards. They also demand adherence to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and to the Egyptian Prison Regulations, an end to their violations, and the guarantee of living conditions that respect the dignity and humanity of detainees.

Article 55 Coalition

- Committee for Justice
- El-Shehab Center for Human Rights
- Egyptian Network for Human Rights
- Najda for Human Rights

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