



الاستعراض الدوري الشامل
لملف حقوق الإنسان في مصر

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Introducing El Shehab Center

El Shehab Center for Human Rights (SHR): a volunteer-based human rights organization for supporting freedom, democracy, and the will of people. It stands against all forms of oppression and discrimination, striving to create a world where every individual enjoys a dignified life. Founded in Egypt in 2006, the center is recognized by British authorities as a human rights organization.



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Introduction

As part of the 48th session, the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) team will review Egypt's human rights file in January 2025.

Through this report, we will shed light on human rights status in Egypt throughout the past period, disclosing the practices of the Egyptian regime- unlike the recommendations given to Egypt during the 34th session of the Universal Periodic Review UPR in November 2019- against political dissents and human rights advocates, as well as torture and other sorts of abuse, arbitrary arrest, unjust trials, execution punishment, impunity after committing violations against citizens, women's rights violation, rotation



Introduction Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a "unique process that involves reviewing and assessing the human rights records -of UN member states-. It is considered a crucial procedure by the Human Rights Council, allowing states to disclose the measures they have taken to improve human rights conditions.

The aim of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is to improve human rights conditions in states, including the considerable consequences over nations, and it is designed to support the promotion and protection of the scope of human rights. The review includes assessments of countries' human rights records and addresses instances of human rights violations.

Review of Egypt's Human Rights Record in Previous Universal Periodic Review Sessions.

The Egyptian government received 160 recommendations during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Egypt's Human Rights Record in 2010. In the Universal Periodic Review issued in 2014, the Egyptian government received 300 recommendations.

On February 13, 2019, during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Egyptian government was presented with 372 recommendations related to various human rights violations. The majority of the recommendations focused on unjust death sentences, human rights advocates, violations of women's rights, instances of systematic torture, forced disappearances, and Egypt's failure to uphold international human rights conventions.

Instead of improving human rights situation in the country - follow-



-ing the recommendations presented to the Egyptian government during the review of its record in 2019 - the situation in Egypt has further deteriorated. This was due to the continuation of unjust death sentences, the widespread practice of forced disappearances, and a significant increase in prison violations as well as rate of prisoner rotations. Additionally, there was a marked rise in the prosecution of human rights advocates. Neither children nor women were spared from these violations, whether through restrictive laws and legislation meant to curtail freedoms or through wrongful actions by state authorities.

In an attempt to "whitewash its image before the world," the Egyptian regime established the National Strategy for Human Rights in 2021. The strategy was announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during an international press conference, which included vague statements and unsubstantiated claims that did not lead to any tangible changes. This initiative was merely a facade intended to deceive the global community ahead of the Climate Summit Conference hosted by Egypt in 2022, with the goal of creating the illusion that a political reform process was underway in the country.

Furthermore, in 2022, the regime passed Law No. 14, amending certain provisions of Law No. 396, which was enacted in 1956 to regulate prisons. The amendment replaced the terms "non-central prison" and "central prisons" with "Public Reform and Rehabilita-



and Rehabilitation Centers" and "Geographic Reform Centers," respectively. However, the law's amendment was limited to changing terminology, substituting harsher terms with milder-sounding ones. These superficial changes did not result in any tangible, real change. The nature of the facilities and the treatment of prisoners remain unchanged, as they are still prisons in both practical and legal terms. This highlights the fact that the Egyptian regime continues to commit various human rights violations against its citizens, as evidenced by reports published by both local and international human rights organizations.

Here are some of the violations committed by the Egyptian regime during the past period:

- Execution

The right to a just and impartial trial is a fundamental right recognized by international human rights law, the Egyptian constitution, and national laws. However, in violation of this principle, the Egyptian regime has systematically carried out death sentences that breach just trial standards, as outlined in Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Several exceptional trials have been conducted, leading to unjust death sentences. Between 2020 and 2022, 50 dissenters of the ruling regime were executed.

- The Egyptian judicial system has referred the documents of convicts in political cases to the Mufti in 2,300 decisions, from 2013 to October 2024.



- The Egyptian judicial system has issued 1610 irrevocable death sentences against political dissenters from 2013 to October 2024.

The Egyptian judicial system has issued 107 death sentences to be executed against political dissenters from 2013 to October 2024.

- Between 2015 and 2024, 105 executions were carried out against political dissenters.

On April 24, 2017, the Cassation Court upheld the death sentence for one individual in case No. 1778 of 2014, tried by the Criminal Court in Al-Muntazah, Alexandria, in the incident known in the media as the "Al-Muntazah Violent Events." The court based its sentence on national security investigations. However, the case documents revealed contradictions in the witnesses' testimonies, with the sole prosecution witness providing five different accounts at five different locations.

- On June 7, 2017, the Cassation Court upheld the death sentence for six individuals in case No. 16850 of 2012, tried by the Plenary Criminal Court in Al-Mansoura Center, and registered under No. 781 in 2014. The case, known in the media as "Al-Mansoura's Judge Guard," followed a trial in which the convicts endured numerous violations, including a "lack of a just trial, forced disappearance, and torture".

On June 14, 2021, the Cassation Court upheld the death sentence for 12 individuals in case No. 34150 of 2015, tried by the First Criminal Court of Nasr City. The case is known in the media as the "Rabaa



Court (an Exceptional Court) sentenced 8 individuals - former ministers and parliamentary members - to death in case No. 72 of 2021, registered under No. 9 in 2021, at the Plenary Court in New Cairo. The case is known in the media as the "Platform Incidents."

- On April 27, 2024, the Cassation Court upheld the death sentence for two individuals in case No. 85 of 2017, tried by the Criminal Court of Shebeen Al-Koom. The case is known in the media as the "Quality Committees" case in Menoufia.

Human Rights Advocates

Human rights advocates have not been spared the oppression of authorities in Egypt. Egyptian authorities committed a series of violations against human rights advocates, whether they are lawyers, journalists, or human rights activists.

- Alaa Abdulfattah, 42, a human rights activist and an iconic figure of the January 2011 Revolution, was arrested in February 2015 and released in March 2019 after completing his sentence. However, he was rearrested in September 2019 again and, in December 2021, was sentenced to five years in prison for "spreading fake news," a conviction widely condemned by human rights organizations and considered "invalid." In April 2022, he began a hunger strike and still remains imprisoned even though his sentence has been completed.

- Ibrahim Metwally, a lawyer and founder of the Association of Families of Disappeared Persons, was arrested at Cairo Airport on Sep-



-tember 10, 2017, while attempting to travel to participate in the 113th session of the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances. He was initially remanded in custody in case No. 900 of 2017, handled by the State Security Supreme Court. Despite a verdict ordering his release, he was "rotated" and detained again under case No. 1470 of 2019 by the State Security Supreme Court. Following another release decision, he was rotated once more and held in custody under case No. 786 of 2020.

- Nabeel Abu Sheikha, 54, a lawyer and human rights advocate, was arrested in April 2022 for expressing his human rights views and mocking actions taken by state media aligned with the Egyptian regime, particularly the series "The Choice", which he criticized for falsifying facts. He was accused of spreading fake news and membership in a terrorist group. His detention exceeded the legal limit for pre-trial detention. On November 13, 2024, the State Security Supreme Prosecution referred him to the Criminal Court of Appeal in Cairo to schedule a trial session in case No. 93 of 2022, tried by the State Security Supreme court. Despite his critical health condition, including heart disease and high blood pressure, the prison tration failed to provide him with necessary medical care.

- Imam Mahmoud Imam Al-Shafei, a human rights lawyer and advocate, was arrested on December 7, 2021, while leaving his office in HIHA Center, Al-Sharqiya Governorate. His detention exceeded the legal limit for pre-trial detention. On November 16, 2024, the State



Security Supreme Prosecution decided to refer him to court under pre-trial detention in case No. 2976 of 2021.

- Atef Abdulsameei Abu Talib, a lawyer and human rights advocate, was arrested on December 11, 2021, in front of his house in Abu Hammad Center after attending defense trials for political prisoners. On November 16, 2024, the State Security Prosecution referred him to the Criminal Court in case No. 2976 of 2021.

- Tariq Shoman, a lawyer, human rights advocate, and former member of the Bar Association Council, was arrested in 2021. On November 16, 2024, the State Security Prosecution referred him to the Criminal Court in case No. 2976 of 2021.

- On March 20, 2024, five UN special rapporteurs—focused on the conditions of human rights advocates, the independence of lawyers and judges, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the protection of human rights in counter-terrorism efforts—sent a letter to the Egyptian government. The letter addressed the ongoing targeting of lawyers involved in human rights cases, using counter-terrorism laws to imprison them or force them to abandon their advocacy.

The rapporteurs highlighted the cases of Muhammad Eissa Rajeh and Mahmoud Abdulmajeed Adel, two lawyers from the Egyptian Front for Human Rights. These lawyers have documented human rights violations, provided legal assistance to victims, and cooperated with UN mechanisms. In June 2023, both were accused of joining and



financing a terrorist group in a state security case. The UN rapporteurs urged the Egyptian government to end the judicial prosecutions and arbitrary arrests of lawyers working on human rights cases.

- On March 5, 2023, the Emergency State Security Supreme Court (an exceptional court) issued a verdict in Case No. 1 of 2021, tried by the Second Emergency State Security Criminal Court in Nasr City. The court sentenced members of the "Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms". Among the members Ezzat Ghounaim, Muhammad Abu Huraira, and Tariq Al-Salkawi were sentenced to 15 years in prison, Aisha Khayrat Al-Shater and Sumaiya Nasif to 10 years in prison, and Huda Abdoulmouneim to 5 years in prison.

Prison Violations

- The Egyptian authorities practice numerous violations inside prisons targeting political opponents and prisoners of conscience. These actions appear aimed at exacting revenge and suppressing dissent by depriving detainees of rights guaranteed by the constitution and law, constituting a clear breach of Article 65 of the Egyptian Constitution. This has exposed some detainees to a slow death caused by medical negligence and dire detention conditions, contributing to a rising death toll in prisons over recent years.

Based on claims and complaints received over the past years, we have documented the following violations inside prisons and detention centers:



The Solitary Confinement.

Physical and psychological torture, including electric shocks, beatings, blindfolding, and other methods of torture, are used to coerce detainees into confessing to crimes they did not commit.

Denial of appropriate clothing and blankets, especially during the cold winter months.

Denial of opportunities for physical exercise and exposure to sunlight.

Confinement in overcrowded cells with inadequate or no ventilation.

Confinement in cells that lack basic cleanliness and sanitation.

Imposition of prolonged power and water outages in cells.

The food provided to detainees in prisons does not meet the standards outlined in the Interior Minister's Decision No. 691 of 1998, as amended by Decision No. 468 of 2017.

Routine denial of the simplest requests from prisoners, including access to books and libraries established inside prisons.

Denial of access to telephone calls.

Denial of access to personal hygiene items.

Separation of detainees from their families by transferring them to prisons and detention centers far from their homes.

Denial of visitation rights.

Denial of foods or certain types of food.

Maltreatment of detainees' families, including assault during visitation.



Deliberate medical neglect inside prisons and detention centers.

- Egyptian prisons are witnessing a medical neglect and lack of adequate healthcare, although there are legal articles guaranteeing prisoners' rights to healthcare. The inaction shown by Egyptian authorities in terms of providing adequate healthcare to prisoners caused the avoidable death of hundreds and caused irreparable harms to the health of thousands of prisoners.

- Prison administrations, under the orders of the national security sector, deliberately deny political detainees access to healthcare as a form of punishment, abuse and revenge against political opponents. This denial prevents detainees from receiving essential medical care to protect their health from deterioration, despite many suffering from chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and pulmonary disorders.

- Between 2013 and 2024, 917 individuals were killed as a result of medical neglect inside prisons.

- Distribution of deaths caused by medical neglect over 11 years, from 2013 to 2024:

Year	Death Toll	Year	Death Toll
2013	73	2019	40
2014	166	2020	74
2015	185	2021	50
2016	121	2022	40
2017	80	2023	26
2018	36	2024	26
Total	917		

Forced Disappearance

- In recent years, many citizens have been forcibly disappeared and detained without judicial oversight. They have been denied contact with their families and lawyers, and were subjected to torture and mistreatment by security forces in an effort to coerce false confessions. Fabricated charges have been brought against them, and many of the disappeared have been killed under torture. Additionally, police have killed several detainees, claiming they were terrorists killed in a firefight.

- Annual distribution of forced disappearance cases from 2013 to 2024:

560 individuals between 2013 and 2014

1720 individuals in 2015

1300 individuals in 2016

2171 individuals in 2017

905 individuals in 2018

1523 individuals in 2019

3045 individuals in 2020

1536 individuals in 2021

1887 individuals in 2022

2369 individuals in 2023

1385 individuals in 2024

- Between 2013 and November 2024, the number of forced disappearances reached 18401 cases.



- 65 Egyptian citizens from forced disappearance cases have been documented as having been extra-judicially executed. The Egyptian government claims that they were killed in firefights with security forces or died from heart attacks or other causes. Even though numerous complaints were filed regarding these individuals during their forced disappearance, the public prosecution adopted a dubious approach to handle these complaints, often withholding any reports or submissions related to these cases.

Follow the link to read the report on the crime of forced disappearance, titled "Alive in The Memory 2024."



Women's Rights Violations

- Thousands of women in Egypt have endured both physical and psychological torture, along with various forms of degrading mistreatment while detained or held in detention centers. This occurs despite legal provisions under international law, as well as the Egyptian constitution and domestic laws, which are meant to safeguard women's rights and protect them from violation.

- Egyptian authorities have employed arbitrary measures against women, including the dismissal of 530 female students from universities and the firing of female university faculty members. Since 2013,



25 women have been subjected to unfair military trials, resulting in sentences ranging from death to life imprisonment, or five-year prison terms. Additionally, 188 Egyptian women have experienced forced disappearance.

- Since 2013 151 women have been designated as terrorists and their assets have been confiscated.

- Since 2013 14 female journalists have been subjected to detention, imprisonment and violence.

- Since 2013, at least 2800 Egyptian women have been subjected to detention and imprisonment under civil or military verdicts, lacking even the most basic standards for a just trial.

- Since 2013, decisions have been issued to confiscate the properties and possessions of at least 100 women.

- Since 2013, more than 106 women have been denied the right to travel abroad.

- In mid-2023, female political detainees were transferred from Al-Qanater Prison to the 10th Ramadan Prison. Upon arriving at their new cells, they were shocked to discover security cameras installed, which is a clear violation of their privacy and constitutes a form of molestation against the female detainees.

Rotation

In recent years, security and judicial authorities have adopted the increasingly common practice of "rotation" applied to many detainees.



This practice can involve releasing a detainee for weeks or months, only to later detain them again under new cases based on the same old charges. Alternatively, it can occur when a release order is issued, but the detainee is not actually released. Instead, they are secretly held in detention centers for a period before reappearing in a new case based on the same charges.

Between January 1, 2018, and March 15, 2021, 941 incidents of rotation were documented, affecting 774 victims. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2023, 228 political prisoners were subjected to rotation under new cases.

- In 2023, 216 detainees were subjected to rotation in Al-Sharquiya Governorate.

- Abdulmoneim Abu Al-Fotouh, a former presidential candidate, was detained in 2018 in connection with Case No. 440 of 2018. Before the legal limit for his provisional detention expired, authorities added him to Case No. 1781 of 2019 on February 18, 2020.

- Huda Abdulmoneim, a lawyer, was detained in November 2018 in connection with Case No. 1 of 2021, Second Emergency State Security Criminal Prosecution in Nasr City. She was sentenced to five years in prison. Upon completing her sentence, she was subjected to investigation in Case No. 730 of 2020, State Security Supreme Prosecution, leading to an order for her provisional detention. On November 17, 2024, the State Security Prosecution summoned her for investigation in a third



case, Case No. 800 of 2019.

- Rifa'aa Al-Tahtawi/an ambassador, was detained in July 2013 alongside former Egyptian President Muhammad Morsi. He was initially sentenced to three years in prison in Case No. 15530, Al-Maadi Criminal Court. Later, he received a seven-year sentence in Case No. 56458 of 2013, First Criminal Court of Nasr City, as part of Case No. 2925 of 2013, Plenary Court of Eastern Cairo. Upon completing his prison term, he was subjected to rotation in a new case.

- Osama Muhammad Morsi, detained since December 2016, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. In September 2023, he appeared before the State Security Supreme Prosecution for investigation in Case No. 1096 of 2022.

Muhammad Adel, a member of the April 6 Movement, has been detained since 2016. Upon completing his prison term in April 2023, he was shocked to learn that he had been referred to prosecution for investigation in Case No. 2981 of 2023, Aja Misdemeanor. On September 2, 2023, the Misdemeanor Court sentenced him to four years in prison.

- Ali Abdulmaqsoud Ali, Ahmad Farhat Saleem, Muhammad Abdulraaouf Muhammad, and Muhammad Abdullah Al-Sadeq were subjected to investigation by Al-Zakazeek Prosecution on August 12, 2023. This followed their rotation into new cases after the disruption of release procedures ordered by the Cairo Criminal Court.



- Ahmad Sabri Khalaf has been imprisoned since January 2017. In September 2023, he was rotated into Case No. 10232 of 2023, marking the fifth case against him after being cleared of all previous charges over six years of provisional imprisonment.
- Muhammad Saeed Fahmi, a journalist, completed five years in detention under provisional imprisonment in May 2023. His detention was linked to several cases, the most recent being Case No. 955 of 2020, registered under State Security Prosecution.
- Samer Ahmad Al-Dusoqi Hasan Al-Kholi, 23 years old and formerly the financial manager of the Dumyat Port Commission, was arrested in May 2022. Despite being cleared of the same charges in three successive trials within less than a year, he was not released from prison. In January 2023, he was rotated into Case No. 1633 of 2022.
- Dr. Hasan Shihab, 70 years old, the former dean of the Faculty of Engineering at Helwan University, was imprisoned for nine years. Despite a verdict from the Cassation Court clearing him of all charges, he was rotated in December 2022 into Case No. 786 of 2020, registered under the State Security Supreme Prosecution. He remains imprisoned in connection with this case to this day.
- Mouaz Al-Shirqawi, the vice-president of the Students Union at Tanta University, was arrested in September 2018 and forcibly disappeared for three weeks. He was then provisionally imprisoned for 18 months before being detained again on May 11, 2023.



Recommendations

- We urge and call on the Egyptian government to take the following actions:

First: To endorse the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims to abolish the death penalty, and to remove the death penalty from Egyptian laws, particularly in political and opinion-related cases.

Second: To accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, criminalize enforced disappearance in the penal code, and designate it as an offense for which no statute of limitations applies.

Third: To endorse the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and to amend the law to provide a clear and precise definition of torture, ensuring that perpetrators cannot evade accountability.

Fourth: To abolish exceptional courts and any legal provisions that allow trials to be held before such courts.

Fifth: To guarantee freedom of expression in accordance with international law, particularly Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to abolish legal provisions that restrict freedom of expression. Additionally, to end the imprisonment of human rights advocates for their professional work.



Sixth: To endorse, accede to, or lift reservations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to put an end to violations of women's rights, particularly those of female political dissenters.

Seventh: To allow the Human Rights Working Group and the Special Rapporteurs to visit Egypt in order to assess the human rights situation in the country.

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