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Violations Monitored in Egypt's prisons and detention facilities in Egypt during the period from November 1 to November 30, 2024



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Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution states:

“Everyone who is arrested, detained or has their freedom restricted shall be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. they shall not be detained or imprisoned except in places that are suitable, humane, and healthy...”

Updates on the Egyptian situation in November 2024

Egypt continues to witness a significant escalation in human rights violations, particularly concerning the conditions of detention facilities and restrictions on public freedoms, throughout November 2024. This ongoing deterioration persists despite repeated calls from both international and local organizations for reform. With Egypt facing a downgraded international ranking for its National Human Rights Council, severe judicial rulings, and ongoing cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests, the country's commitment to upholding global human rights standards remains under scrutiny.

At the start of the month, the Accreditation Subcommittee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) recommended [downgrading](#) the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) from Category A to Category B. This decision marks a significant shift from the council's previous top-tier ratings in 2006 and 2018, reflecting growing concerns over its failure to adhere to the Paris Principles, which emphasize the independence and effectiveness of national human rights institutions.

In terms of security measures against citizens, one of the most notable incidents involved the sudden [appearance](#) of Nasser Abdel Moneim Abdel Naeem and his family before the Supreme State Security Prosecution after 182 days of enforced disappearance. The family of five had been arbitrarily arrested in May and detained under unclear circumstances until their recent presentation to the prosecution. Additionally, Dr. Emad Saadallah, a consultant residing in the UAE, was [extradited](#) to Egypt based on an Interpol notice. Upon his return, he faced charges of spreading false information and misusing social media, resulting in his imprisonment.

Protests [erupted](#) on November 16 following a tragic traffic accident on the Matareya–Port Said road in Dakahlia Governorate, which claimed 14 lives. Frustrated locals demanded improvements to the hazardous road, including better services and banning heavy transport vehicles. In response, authorities arrested dozens of demonstrators, including a child, accusing them of “gathering, blocking the road, and assaulting the police.” Lawyers defending the detainees argued that the arrests occurred before any clashes and emphasized the absence of evidence to justify the charges. While 24 individuals were eventually released, five others—labeled as instigators—remain in custody. Notably, the protesters' demands were later addressed by local authorities, raising further questions about the necessity of these detentions. The month also saw renewed security [crackdowns](#) on residents of Warraq Island, resulting in multiple arrests following clashes over ongoing disputes with the government.

In judicial developments, the Second Terrorism Appeals Circuit upheld the [death](#) sentence against Mohamed Zaki Bashandi in the case known as the “Popular Resistance Committees in Kerdasa.” The court dismissed Bashandi's appeal for retrial, convicting him of charges that include forming a terrorist group aimed at disrupting the constitution and law and obstructing state institutions from performing their duties.

Article 55 Coalition monitoring data summary of violations inside Egyptian detention facilities November 2024

During November 2024, Article 55 coalition organizations in prisons and other detention facilities in Egypt monitored the following violations:

Political detainee Ihab Masoud Ibrahim Juha, aged 51, [passed away](#) on Monday, November 4, 2024, in Borg El Arab Prison in Alexandria. His death followed a prolonged period of medical negligence and inhumane detention conditions endured during six years of arbitrary imprisonment. Despite his deteriorating health, authorities repeatedly denied his family's appeals for his release. Ihab, who suffered from diabetes, underwent surgery during his detention and faced further health complications, including severe burns on his feet that left him unable to walk.

Continuing reports of abuses by the National Security officer in Borg El Arab 2 Prison, identified as "Hamza al-Masri," include severe physical and psychological [torture](#) of detainee Medhat Abdel Rahman, which now threatens his life. Meanwhile, detainees in Ward 21 of Borg El Arab Prison have staged a hunger strike, protesting ongoing mistreatment, deprivation, and repeated violations of their rights.

Our organizations also documented distressing reports from the family of Mohamed Omar, who has been arbitrarily detained for two years in Tenth of Ramadan Prison "Rehabilitation 6," pending investigations in Case No. 1977 of 2022 (Supreme State Security). Despite being [paralyzed](#) and entirely dependent on others for his daily needs, Mohamed has been denied the critical medical care he requires.

Conditions in Liman Minya Prison also remain dire, with [reports](#) of excessive searches, intrusive strip searches, and violations of the privacy of prisoners' families during visits. Authorities have been slow to issue transfer permits for critically ill detainees, restricted access to personal hygiene products, and prohibited textbooks from entering the prison. Furthermore, detainees face difficulties obtaining medication, often forced to purchase it at inflated prices from within the prison.

At Tenth of Ramadan Women's Prison, violations continue against detainee Warda Juma'a, who has been subjected to repeated "rotation" on fabricated charges. Detained since August 2019, Warda is now facing her third case, No. 305 of 2022 (Supreme State Security), and has been [deprived](#) of necessary medical care despite suffering from uterine tumors.

Given these alarming incidents, the organizations in the "Article 55" coalition assert that the conditions inside Egyptian prisons and detention facilities are not isolated incidents but part of a broader, systematic approach by the Egyptian authorities towards detainees, particularly political prisoners. These abuses are not merely individual acts of misconduct, as the Egyptian Ministry of Interior often claims, but rather indicative of a wider policy of impunity within the Egyptian Prisons Authority.

This culture of impunity has enabled and perpetuated human rights violations within detention facilities, allowing such practices to become entrenched. As a result, the organizations in the "Article 55" coalition express deep concern for the welfare of detainees, particularly considering the rising number of deaths and the worsening conditions inside these facilities.

In response, the coalition calls for an immediate investigation into these violations and demands accountability for those responsible, in accordance with both Egyptian and international law. The coalition also urges authorities to adhere to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, as well as Egypt's own prison regulations, ensuring that detainees are treated with the dignity and respect owed to their humanity.



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Article 55 Coalition

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