



## **Follow-up Report to the UN Committee against Torture**

**78th Session – Egypt**

**January 2025**

**Submitting organization:** The Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR) is an independent European organization established in the Czech Republic in 2017. The Front works to improve the human rights situation in Egypt through research, advocacy and legal work, specifically in criminal justice. Email: [info@egyptianfront.org](mailto:info@egyptianfront.org)



1. The Egyptian government responded, to the concluded observations of the United Nations Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in October 2024.
2. The Egyptian government remains firmly committed to denying the widespread human rights abuses committed by its authorities, including torture, enforced disappearances, ill-treatment, and medical neglect in detention facilities. The government's report continues to praise national laws and legal frameworks that either offer insufficient guarantees or legitimize repressive actions, all while deliberately ignoring the frequent violations carried out by law enforcement and government officials, who are shielded from accountability through a broad policy of impunity.
3. The report ignores the observations of the serious and widespread human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention and conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence by military forces, national security officers and army-affiliated militias in the context of the armed conflict in North Sinai.
4. The report also failed to respond to numerous allegations of threats, harassment, intimidation, assault, prolonged and illegal pretrial detention, arbitrary detention, prosecution and conviction on trumped up politically motivated charges of terrorism or disinformation, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment and extrajudicial executions of human rights defenders, political opponents, civil society activists, journalists, lawyers, trade unionists, scholars, students, bloggers and artists who are critical of the Government.
5. Contrary to the state response that the authorities activated the presidential pardon committee in 2022, which pardoned several detainees, the Egyptian Front for Human Rights monitored throughout 2024 the performance of terrorism courts in the pre-trial phase, the terrorism courts ceased to release defendants in state security cases. Throughout 2024, three terrorism courts reviewed 104 sessions, issuing no fewer than 45,965 detention renewal orders distributed across 3,217 state security cases. In these sessions, the courts did not issue any release orders from the detention decisions being reviewed before them.

#### **I. State of emergency:**

6. The State party's response referred to lifting the state of emergency in December 2021. However, it didn't mention that one month before the lifting, another two amendments were added to the terrorism law No. 94/2015; giving the authority to the President to issue decisions on implementing measures taken to confront the threat of terrorism and judicial power that allow him to decide penalties and stipulate them during terrorist acts and to ban the filming, recording or broadcasting of terrorism court trials except with the permission of the presiding judge. Article 2 makes it a crime to engage in "any conduct committed in



furtherance of a terrorist purpose." The law defines such purposes as causing environmental harm and occupying, seizing, or damaging public or private property. Terms like infringing on "public order" or "society's safety" are so broad that they give authorities power to violate basic freedoms.

7. Contrary to the state response that fair trial standards were guaranteed during the state of emergency, members of the NGO Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms - [arrested](#) in November 2018- have been sentenced by The Emergency State Security Criminal Court in March 2023 despite of the subjection of several of them to enforced disappearance in National Security premises and torture, as well as their denial to right to defense in the initial interrogations and their detention in inhumane conditions.

## II. Criminal Procedure Code:

8. The State Party's response referred to the drafted criminal procedure code as a progress. However, the [draft law](#) would only make minor reductions to the maximum limits on pretrial detention. While it removes the exceptions that allow higher courts to extend detention orders indefinitely, it does not address the underlying problem of prolonged pretrial detention—the practice of rotating or conducting multiple, overlapping investigations. This effectively makes the legal limits on pretrial detention meaningless.
9. Moreover, the draft legalises the remote hearings and the isolation of detained individuals depriving them of the opportunity to file complaints or communicate with the prosecution and judiciary regarding their detention conditions. Detainees are not only obstructed from having private conversations with their lawyers but are frequently denied the opportunity to appear before a judge, which hampers the ability to review the legality of their detention and the conditions they endure. In one reported case, a judge abruptly ended a call when a detainee tried to report being tortured by a prison officer, citing poor internet connection as the reason. Despite these concerns, the new version of the law does nothing to address or reduce such violations.
10. In addition, the draft law gives the prosecution extensive discretion to deny lawyers the right to review or photocopy case files if the prosecution deems such to be in the interest of the investigation.

## III. Death penalty:

11. The state party's response referred to amending the death penalty article of the Arms and Ammunition Code 394/1954, on the contrary, there are 104 articles in different laws that impose the death penalty for certain crimes. The laws are; **Penal Code No. 5/1937, Civil Aviation Law No. 28/1981, System, security and discipline aboard ships Law 167/1960, Drugs Control Law No. 82/1960, High Treason Law No. 247/1956, Military Provisions Law No 25/1966, Organ Transplant Law No. 142/2017, Anti-Terrorism Law No. 94/2015,**



12. In 2024, 380 citizens were sentenced to death (accused under 255 different cases), including 31 citizens accused under nine different political cases. Also, the courts upheld death sentences for 35 citizens including 13 under political cases. As for the implementation, 13 citizens were executed.

#### IV. Conditions in new detention places:

13. Contrary to the State Party's response that the establishment of new prisons is an improvement to Egypt's human rights record, the Egyptian Front documented several violations inside the new prisons:

- **Visits prohibition:** Detainees who were transferred from Tora Maximum Security (Scorpion) Prison to Badr III Prison have been banned from family/lawyer visits noting that they were subjected to the same violation in the Tora Prison for six years. Therefore, families of some detainees submitted an official complaint to the National Council for Human Rights regarding the continuous deprivation of their right to visit. It's worth noting that there is not any communication means (phone calls or letters) between those detainees and their families/lawyers. The administration of Badr III Prison continues to prevent families from bringing in clothes, textbooks, hygiene tools, or anything else that is permitted by law. Regarding the food, the guards sometimes allow a specific quantity of food and other times, they don't allow food to detainees during the visit.
- **Inhuman treatment:** Prisoners detained inside Badr III Prison are subjected to insults by prison officials, which prompted one of the detainees, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, to declare his hunger strike for more than three weeks in response to being insulted. The water is not potable, it is polluted and contains grains of sand. Despite this, the prison administration refuses to allow the families to bring water during the visit. Also, the flashlights are continuously shining inside all the cells 24/7 in addition to the presence of surveillance cameras inside the cells which violates the privacy of detainees and puts additional psychological pressure on them.
- In May 2024, the violations were escalated in Badr 1 Prison/Rehabilitation Center including power cuts and their impact on the ventilation system and detainees' health. This led the detainees to announce a protest strike at the end of May to demand improvements in these deteriorating conditions. In response, the prison administration imposed punitive measures, including "taghrib", transferring some detainees to other cells or other prisons such as Minya Prison. In light of these conditions, the detainees announced their demands concerning improving conditions inside the prison in a letter reviewed by EFHR. After the demands were presented to the national security officer through negotiations, they were rejected. The prison administration responded by increasing daily cell inspections, including disruptive night searches where detainees were exposed to bright lights during sleep, believed to be a pressure tactic against the strikers, impacting their psychological and physical health. Furthermore, the authorities separated the striking detainees



from non-striking ones based on the lists provided. They isolated these individuals in separate cells within Badr 1 Prison and transferred some to Minya Prison on June 8, with additional plans to move them to New Valley Prison, according to the families of detainees. For those who remained, conditions worsened with cuts to water and electricity, and restricted access to food and canteen services. Additionally, the prison authorities took a group of detainees, shaved their heads, and did not allow them to take any extra clothing or food with them, confiscating their medications and essential items.

- In 2024, several detained girls in the 10th of Ramadan Prison for women were being harassed and treated harshly. They are being harassed by inmates incited by the prison security and are forced to sleep on the floor without beds.
- The Egyptian Front for Human Rights documented that a large number of detainees in pretrial detention at the 10th of Ramadan Correctional and Rehabilitation Center went on a hunger strike that began on January 9, 2025, due to the prison administration's forceful treatment of them after they protested inside the prison against visit restrictions. This prompted the detainees to escalate by announcing their refusal to receive prison meals and to go on a hunger strike.
- Ihab Masoud Ibrahim Juha, one of the leaders of the Independence Party, died in November 4, 2024, after suffering severe health problems that lasted for five years while in detention. Juha had been in pretrial detention since September 23, 2019, pending case No. 1358 of 2019, in which he was accused of joining a group established illegally, the "Independence Current," calling for demonstrations and disrupting state facilities, and spreading false news using social media. Juha died after suffering a second stroke last September, which deteriorated his health, leaving him unable to move.