

Belady: an Island for Humanity
Annual Report on Human Rights Violations
in the Egyptian Republic in 2021



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Belady: an Island for Humanity -- A Human Rights Organization Supporting Egyptian Children since 2017

Belady aims to dismantle institutionalized violence by documenting the Egyptian regime's violations against women and children and educating national and international society and decision-makers about them. We also pressure and advocate the amendment of legislation that codifies violations while calling upon authorities to implement overlooked laws that would ensure respect for rights and freedoms. Belady provides legal and psychological support and protection for Egyptian women and children who have been detained in political cases.





Summary

With the advent of the eleventh anniversary of the January 25th revolution, and the beginning of the eighth year since the current President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi took over power in Egypt, the country continues to experience a complete shrink in public liberties and systematic targeting of activism in the public sphere. The authorities are convinced that this authoritarian approach is the only way to prevent the repetition of January 2011 events.

Therefore, adopting the same approach, the Egyptian regime continued in 2021 to resort to anti-terrorism laws to silence opponents, human rights defenders, and journalists and keep critics in pretrial detention indefinitely. The security services have not ceased to arrest and prosecute citizens in political cases that involve numerous charges: terrorist, moral, economic, electronic, etc.

Through this report, Belday first analyzes patterns of arrest and the most targeted groups and sectors. Later, it provides an overview of the statistics on the victims of violations in 2021 through violations against activists, minorities (LGBTQI+ as an example), children, and women. It also stresses the violations to which they are subjected within detention facilities, such as torture and ill-treatment (for example, displacement and medical neglect), denial of visitation and exercise, and many methods of legal abuse to force victims into continuous detention, such as the phenomenon of rotation and the continuous renewal of pretrial detention, etc.

Introduction

Today, 11 years have passed since the dreamy voices of Egyptians called for a democratic transition and social justice. However, in those 11 years, the Egyptian people have reaped nothing but the continuous restriction of rights, limitations of public and private freedoms, and oppression.

Similar to this former decade, the year 2021 was full of political restrictions as well as the detention of activists and citizens trying to express their opinion outside of the Egyptian regime's narrative, which oppresses political life and public space.

Because of the variety of situations and the recurrence of practices, it has nowadays become prosaic to talk about methods of repression. The pathway of any person who thinks to oppose the regime is clear and evident: from arrest to detention amid a total absence of fair trial conditions, flagrant violation of the universal rights of detainees, and indifference to national laws, including Egypt's Constitution.

In addition to the political narrowing, the manifestations of tyranny in Egypt have produced a control system that reaches all aspects of the citizen's life, especially women and girls. This system includes moral control and patriarchal standards dictated by virtues of moral charges related to their clothes, behavior, or methods of earning money from social media activity under the pretext of violating Egyptian family values and public morals.



On top of all these practices, the Egyptian citizen was not spared repression and victimization even after their imprisonment. The year 2021 recorded the most horrific manifestations of abuse, from the moment of arrest to the prisoner's detention, with its violations, the first of which is often enforced disappearance. After appearing before the prosecution, the stage of pretrial detention begins, along with its continuous renewal, which can reach years, and rotation (which means the re-imprisonment of the prisoner in pretrial detention, in a new case or more, whether after their release or during imprisonment). As for inside prison, the prisoner often has no right to be mentioned. Subsequently, the punishment is doubled by means of retribution and retaliation using many methods that will be addressed subsequently in the violations part of this report.

Methodology

This report is based on observations of data on arrests and human rights violations against women, children, and activists in 2021. This data was collected over 12 months during which Belady has used several methods, including data from Belady's legal unit and secondary indirect sources, such as following up on press and news websites, social media, and following up on civil society organizations and observational data. As a reference for documenting violations, the report drew upon the Egyptian Constitution and the international human rights conventions stated in the legal annex of the report. In analyzing the patterns of violations, Belady adopted the following classification:

Arrest patterns: The first pattern is **arbitrary arrest**, which occurs when citizens are arrested in crowds or demonstrations in violation of the assembly law. The second one is the **selective arrest**, which includes arrests that took place through prior targeting, whether by raiding houses or based on political background or activities such as arresting social media influencers.

Regarding violations during arrest, detention, pretrial detention, or imprisonment, Belady divided them as follows:

Physical Violence: It includes the types of assault on the body of a detainee or prisoner by beating, kicking, or slapping in addition to other methods of ill-treatment and torture, such as denial of exercise and their detention in inhuman conditions (like cells which are full of insects and smoke and lack lighting and ventilation).

Social Violence: Isolating the detainee or prisoner from the small prison community or the outside community (solitary confinement, denial of visitation, imprisonment with criminals for political prisoners, etc.).

Psychological Violence: Assaulting a detainee or prisoner using actions or words that psychologically offend them, such as cursing, insulting, blindfolding, etc.

Political and Institutional Violence: The subjugation of a detainee or a prisoner to violence by the authorities and state institutions. It includes many practices that make access to rights difficult and sometimes impossible, such as enforced disappearance, continuous renewal of pretrial detention, rotation pending new cases, deliberate health neglect, and criminal and military trials for children.



Belady evaluated the quality and accuracy of the collected data using the triangulation and several evaluation check-in points during data entry, codification, and analysis.



First, the Arrest Patterns

The crackdown on opponents and critics continues unabatedly in Egypt, as many citizens continue to be arrested on political or semi-political motives. Prisoners of conscience suffer from unfair trials and detention in extremely poor conditions, whether or not they are listed in pending cases and often with unfounded charges. Belady observed arbitrary arrests in 2021 against **59 women**, **23 children**, **33 activists**, **and 3 homosexuals**. Among those whom we know the circumstances of their arrest, Belady has recorded the following patterns of arrest:

Arbitrary Arrest: It occurs when citizens are arrested in crowds or demonstrations usually in violation of the assembly law. In this context, Belady has observed the arrest of **3 Egyptian women**. They are Iman, Shaima, and Fatima Ahmed who got arrested only for their presence next to small crowds.

Selective Arrest: In contrast to arbitrary arrest, it is the arrest of certain individuals by the security forces, whether in their houses or the street, based on prior targeting. In 2021, Belady observed cases of selective arrests as follows: **33 women, 5 minors (children), 18 activists, and 3 homosexuals**. The following is a review of some of the observed cases of arrests, all of them were systematic.

Isees Mustafa: Isees is a -27year-old Egyptian woman who works in the health unit in the village of Kafr Atallah Salama in the Sharkia Governorate. According to her, matters had been stable since the beginning of her work until recently when a new employee was appointed in charge of the attendance and leave register. The latter was deliberately harassing Isees and constantly commenting in an insulting manner on her clothes and the fact that she is not wearing a veil (Hijab), which prompted Isees to file a complaint against this employee. When the aforementioned employee learned about this complaint, she assaulted her, along with some nurses and a worker, with beating and harassment. Isees documented the moment of assault with a video clip and she headed to the Zagazig Police Station, where she filed the record No. 38399 of 2021, the Zagazig Station Misdemeanour, by which she accused her administrative colleagues of assaulting her with beating and harassment.

On October 16th, 2021, Isees was surprised when a security force took her to the Police Station, where she stayed for two days until she was presented before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. The latter issued a decision to imprison her for 15 days pending investigations, on charges of joining a terrorist group and spreading false news. At the time of this report, Isees is still imprisoned, and her pretrial detention is renewed in every hearing.



Tiktok Girls: President Sisi passed Law No. 175 of 2018 on combating cybercrime, which allows the Public Prosecution to impose unconstitutional perceptions on family and community values and use pretrial detention or referral to the criminal trial. Respectively, successive reports of some lawyers were suddenly issued to the Public Prosecution against several girls and women who have accounts on Tik Tok. In July 2021, Nancy Hegazy, the -16year-old girl, was arrested in connection with this case. Then two young women, Haneen Hosam and Mawadda Al-Adham were also sentenced to imprisonment and a fine. The sentences ranged between **6 and 10 years** and the case included a set of moral charges such as "assaulting the values and principles of the Egyptian family and society", "inciting prostitution" and "participating with others in luring girls and exploiting them through direct broadcasts".

Mass Arrest of Families: The security services follow another pattern of selective arrest, which is the detention of entire families in case they failed to find the wanted person to compel them to surrender. Belady has observed two cases of mass arrests of families in 2021: A family was released and another family is still under enforced disappearance at the time of this report. These families include 4 women and 3 infants. Perhaps the most prominent example is the family of Issam Gharib Mahran, which consists of 7 members, including 3 women and an infant. The family members were taken to an unknown location after their house was raided in December 2021. The rest of the family has not been able to obtain any information about their whereabouts at the time of this report.

Second, Statistics on Victims of Violations in 2021

1. Targeting Egyptian Activists and Making an Example of Them to Other Citizens

The Egyptian regime is still targeting activists in continuous campaigns of persecution only because they exercised their right to freedom of expression and were active in the public sphere. In 2021, Belady observed that **62 activists** in the public sphere **(10 women and 52 men)** were arrested or imprisoned in political cases, and/or their rights were violated during their imprisonment. Among these, **33** were arrested in 2021. They are distributed as follows: **14 civil society activists and social media influencers, 11 journalists, 9 political activists, A lawyers, 5 trade unionists, 5 imams, 4 doctors (regarding publication on the Corona pandemic), 4 researchers, and two civil society** employees. Their ages range between 23 and 86 years. The graph at the end of this report reviews the patterns of charges that have been leveled against these activists. In 2021,

3 of these activists were sentenced to imprisonment or aggravated imprisonment and fines for durations ranging between **4 and 15 years**. Perhaps the most prominent of them is the civil activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah who expressed during his interview with his lawyer in September 2021 the poor conditions inside the prison and the deprivation of all his rights. In December 2021, the State Security Misdemeanor Court sentenced him to 5 years imprisonment for "spreading false news".



Belady also observed the subjugation of **14 activists** to enforced disappearance for durations ranging from **5 to 30 days**, and the continuous renewal of pretrial detention against **15 activists**. Among them was the journalist Hisham Abdel Aziz, who has been subjected to many violations since his arrest in 2019, such as enforced disappearance for consecutive days and ill-treatment. In addition to suffering from other diseases, Hisham got cataracts in 2021. He began suffering from ocular hypertension, which caused him corneal opacity and blurred vision. Hisham needs to undergo urgent surgery in order not to lose sight. His family has submitted several appeals to undertake his surgery outside the prison hospital at their own expense. However, the authorities continue to be intransigent in depriving him of his right to health and life, and even continue to renew his pre-trial detention repeatedly.

Seven activists had complained about the inhumane conditions of their imprisonment in cells that are full of insects and lack lighting and ventilation. In addition, **2** of them were denied their right to exercise. Belady also observed that **33** of them were deprived of health care during their imprisonment by preventing the entry of medicines for chronic diseases or denial to see a doctor, etc. This led to the death of **18 activists** in 2021 as a result of deliberate health neglect and improper prison conditions to implement measures to combat the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, including overcrowded and unventilated cells, the lack of medicines, and the prohibition of entry of hygiene and sterilization materials.

As for physical torture, **5 activists** were subjected to it in 2021. In that regard, we should recall the researcher Ahmed Samir Santawi who was arrested in January 2021 and forcibly disappeared for several days, during which he was beaten in the stomach and slapped in the face while he was handcuffed and blindfolded. He was sentenced to **4 years** imprisonment in June 2021 in case 774 of 2021 Emergency State Security Misdemeanour, registered under No. 877 of 2021 - the Supreme State Security Prosecution on charges of spreading false news in the country and abroad.

Two others also complained of psychological torture, including Mahmoud Ezzat, the -77year-old former deputy guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. The latter had complained in his last trial of the lack of consideration of his age and dignity through several practices, including blindfolding during his transportation to the court and throwing food from the cell's door opening, which he is not allowed to leave except when taken to the court.

Belady also observed that **9 activists** were deprived of their right to receive visits and **2** were subjected to **alienation** (transferring a prisoner from one prison to another away from their familiar colleagues as a punitive measure). In addition, **5** others were rotated in new cases. **3** of them went on hunger strike inside prison in protest of these repeated violations.

2. Marginalization of Minorities, LGBTQI+ as a Model

Hostility towards homosexuals and transgenders, which is often combined with the lack of insufficient legal protection against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity, egregiously violate the human rights of many sexual and gender minorities in Egypt.



They are discriminated against in the labor market, as well as in the public and private institutions. They are also subjected to mistreatment by the State institutions. Egyptian discriminatory laws criminalize even their presence and push them to do legally prohibited surgeries in unlicensed hospitals, including Izzeddin, the -26year-old guy known as "Ahmed Fares" who was subjected to various types of violence and social stigmatization. He had suffered from various problems, such as his family's refusal of being trans-gender and taking prescriptions that include female hormones. He had been intimidated by religious beliefs and was asked to wear dresses to feel his womanhood. Then, he was socially stigmatized after he left his family's house and started working until he died on 28 August 2021 because of complications from a sex correction surgery he made in an unlicensed hospital. Concerning the situation of the LGBTQI+ community in Egypt in 2021, Belady has observed 4 cases of violations, including the arrest of 3 homosexuals aged between 19 and 35 years old by the security forces as they discovered their homosexual relationships.

3. The State's Violations Targets even Children and Infants

Belady has observed the arrest and/or imprisonment of **61 children** (**7 girls and 54 boys**) in 2021 for political reasons or the violations of their rights during their detention this year. Among them, **23 children** were arrested in 2021.

In detail, their age rate was 15 years old [13 - 18 years old]. The authorities arrested 3 infants (between one month and 3 years) from January to December 2021 among the so-called family arrest campaigns. We recall the famous story of Manaar Abou Alnaga's enforced disappearance along with her baby who was one year old in 2019. Both the mother and her baby reappeared on February 20th, 2021 before the Supreme State Security Prosecution, when the baby was almost 3 years old. The Egyptian judicial system has arbitrarily kept accumulating charges even against children as shown in the graph at the end of the report.

For the judicial decisions observed by Belady in 2021, the courts of the first instance ruled on life imprisonment against **one child** and sentenced **11 children** to imprisonment or aggravated imprisonment and fines. These sentences ranged from **3 to 25 years** of imprisonment, with an average of **9 years of imprisonment per child**. Only **two children** were sentenced to be held in the juvenile facility. Belady has also observed that **36 children** were brought before the Criminal Court, while **12 others** were brought before the Military Court. **23 children** were subjected to the continuous renewal of their pretrial detention and **3 others** were subjected to enforced disappearance. Among them was **an infant** who was arrested in December 2021 with a family of 6 members which is known as the Isam Gharib Mahran family. It is worth noting that the infant is still disappeared at the time of this report.

2. Marginalization of Minorities, LGBTQI+ as a Model

Egyptian women continue to suffer from restrictions on their rights and freedoms through the criminal and penal system, especially moral and political offenses which have a controversial relationship with the patriarchal Societal Pattern. The judicial authorities continue to prosecute the feminist and human rights women defenders.



In addition, they continue to prosecute women of opposition among the political opponents by pressuring them and arresting members of their families within an unprecedented pattern that considers women a pressure tool on their husbands and fathers, **85 women** were arrested or imprisoned for political motives or subjected to egregious violations during their detention in 2021. Among these, **59** among them were arrested in 2021. Their average age was **33.5 years old**. They are distributed as follows: **17 young women** from 19 to 35 years old, **8 middle-aged women** from 36 to 50 years old, and **6 elder women** from 51 to 80 years old. The graph at the end of the report shows the types of charges leveled against them.

In 2021, Belady observed two sentences of imprisonment against two women and two sentences of aggravated imprisonment and fines. These sentences ranged from 3 to 10 years. In addition, the most notable of many violations are the continuous renewal of pretrial detention against 51 women and the enforced disappearance of 28 women for durations ranging from one day to three months. The violations also included the denial of visitation against two female prisoners and the rotation of 12 other female prisoners in new cases. Rotation is an emerging term that means the reimprisonment of a prisoner pending one or more new cases, whether after the release or during imprisonment. Belady also observed the displacement of two other female prisoners (when the political prisoner is transferred from their ward, after taking their personal belongings, and placing them in the criminal ward, as they are forced to spend the day there or in the toilet). This includes the situation of prisoner Louaya Sabry Al-Shahat, a student of Islamic studies at Al-Azhar University. She was detained pending case No. 1054 of 2020 - Supreme State Security and accused of joining a terrorist group and publishing false news. In 2021, she was displaced to the ward of murder cases. As for Abeer Najed, who has been imprisoned since September 2018, she requested health care in 2021 after feeling symptoms of Covid19- (fever, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell, and complete lethargy in the body). Abeer was punished by displacement to the criminal ward and was deprived of her clothes and medicines.

In this context, Belady has observed **6 cases** of deliberate health negligence against female political prisoners, including the prisoner Fatima Abdel-Rasoul, who was arrested in September 2021 in connection with the case 200 of 2021 - State Security on charges of spreading false news. Fatima was detained in Al Khosous Police Station and then transferred to Al Qanater Prison, which returned her to the Khosous Police Station because of her deteriorating health condition. There, Fatima underwent medical tests that revealed she had leukemia. Instead of being admitted to the hospital in urgent need of treatment, the patient was transferred to prison again.



Charges

Electronic-Related Charges:

managing a website; disseminating false news; inciting violence through social media; possessing, installing, and operating wireless communication devices; filming; broadcasting a video clip on a social media network to incite the overthrow of the regime; misusing social media; incitement against the army and the police through social media; publishing data of military and police officers with the aim of exposing them to danger, et

They Were Directed against Activists

Number of Times They Were Directed against Children (Girls and Boys) **Number of Times** Were Directed against Women

Terrorism-Related Charges:

joining or creating a terrorist or banned group or gang; joining a group established contrary to the provisions of the law or supporting, financing, or helping it achieve its goals; planning to travel to Syria; joining Daesh; murder, threatening or attempting to murder; assaulting citizens; disturbing public peace, assaulting police officers, etc.

Number of Times They Were Directed against Activists

Number of Times They Were Directed against Children (Girls and Boys)

Number of Times against Women

Charges on the Grounds of Assembly and Demonstration:

obstructing roads; disrupting transportation and traffic; assaulting, disrupting an officer or institution from functioning; demonstrating without permit; inciting a demonstration; organizing a demonstration; striking, organizing a strike or inciting to participate in a strike; attempting to overthrow the regime; planning to change the Constitution; assembling; holding inciting signs; writing or chanting anti-military and police expressions; possessing leaflets; writing inflammatory words, etc.

Number of Times They Were Directed against Activists

Number of Times They Were Directed against Children (Girls and Boys)

Were Directed against Women



Moral-Related Charges:

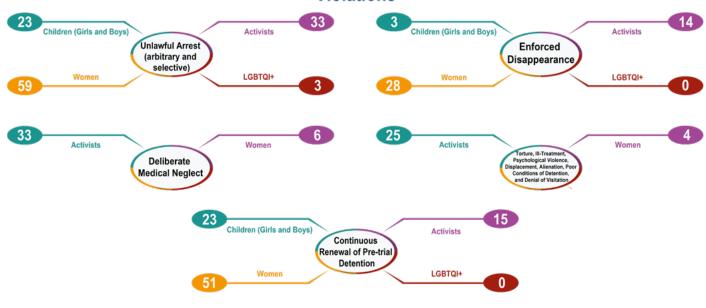
assaulting Egyptian family values, broadcasting indecent videos, practicing prostitution, inciting filth and debauchery, seducing youngesters, etc.

Number of Times They Were Directed against Activists

Number of Times They Were Directed against Children (Girls and Boys)

Number of Times Were Directed against Women

Violations





Conclusion

Finally, and after closely consulting the conditions of women, children, activists, and LGBTQI+ community, among political prisoners, during 2021, we can conclude that the performance of the criminal justice system, with all its institutions, did not differ much from the eight years following the assumption of power by the current authority. The Ministry of Interior did not stop arbitrary arrests, nor did we notice any decrease in the cases of enforced disappearance, in addition to the continuous renewal of pretrial detention without trial or release. Unfortunately, the trials were also devoid of fair trial conditions, especially for children, whose trials are mostly conducted before Criminal and Military Courts, in violation of the Child Law which stipulates that children must be tried before the Children's Court only. In the same vein, we have recorded numerous cases of deliberate health neglect, suffered by a significant number of prisoners, whether by preventing the entry of medicines or preventing them from accessing hospitals for treatment inside or outside the prison. This year, we have even noticed an increase in the number of deaths in places of detention.



1- At the Legislative Level

- Ratification of international treaties related to the protection and guarantee of human rights
- Criminalization of enforced disappearance as a form of torture
- Obligation of judges to monitor the legality of arrest procedures and records before initiating the case
- Repeal of Law No. 175 of 2018 related to cybercrime due to its criminalization of liberties and its failure to respond to the principles of criminal law
- Promulgation of laws to protect minorities who are vulnerable to imprisonment and violations
- Consolidation of the Child Law with effective control tools

2- At the Executive Level

- Review of the prison system and opening the way for periodic oversight by civil society and the relevant state structures on the violations that occur against prisoners
- Release of prisoners of conscience while providing mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration into society
- Cessation of using pretrial detention as a means to punish citizens and expanding it in violation of the law



Legal Annex

This legal annex deals with the legal arsenal that is supposed to protect the rights and freedoms of the Egyptian citizen, starting from the moment of arrest and the foundations of a fair trial to the rights of detainees inside Egyptian prisons. This annex was organized starting with the Egyptian Constitution, then international treaties and laws, and finally national laws related to the organization of prisons.

The Egyptian Constitution

Article 52: All forms of torture are a crime with no statute of limitations **Article 54:** Personal freedom is a natural right that is safeguarded and cannot be infringed upon. Except in cases of in flagrante delicto, citizens may only be apprehended, searched, arrested, or have their freedoms restricted by a

causal judicial warrant necessitated by an investigation.

All those whose freedoms have been restricted shall be immediately informed of the causes therefor, notified of their rights in writing, be allowed to immediately contact their family and lawyer, and be brought before the investigating authority within twenty-four hours of their freedoms having been restricted.

Questioning of the person may only begin once their lawyer is present. If he has no lawyer, a lawyer will be appointed for them. Those with disabilities shall be provided all necessary aid, according to procedures stipulated in the law.

Those who have their freedom restricted and others possess the right of recourse before the judiciary. Judgment must be rendered within a week from such recourse, otherwise, the petitioner shall be immediately released.

The law shall regulate preventive detention, its duration, causes, and which cases are eligible for compensation that the state shall discharge for preventative detention or for the execution of a penalty that had been executed by virtue of a judgment that is overruled by a final judgment.

In all cases, the accused may be brought to criminal trial for crimes that he may be detained for only in the presence of an authorized or appointed lawyer.

Article 55: All those who are apprehended, detained or have their freedom restricted shall be treated in a way that preserves their dignity. They may not be tortured, terrorized, or coerced. They may not be physically or mentally harmed, or arrested and confined in designated locations that are appropriate according to humanitarian and health standards. The state shall provide means of access for those with disabilities.

Any violation of the above is a crime and the perpetrator shall be punished under the law.



The accused possesses the right to remain silent. Any statement that is proven to have been given by the detainee under the pressure of any of that which is stated above, or the threat of such, shall be considered null and void.

Article 56: Prison is a house for reform and rehabilitation. Prisons and detention centers shall be subject to judicial oversight. All that which violates the dignity of the person and or endangers their health is forbidden.

The law shall regulate the provisions to reform and rehabilitate those who have been convicted and to facilitate a decent life once they are released. **Article 57:** Private life is inviolable, safeguarded, and may not be infringed upon.

Telegraph, postal, and electronic correspondence, telephone calls, and other forms of communication are inviolable, their confidentiality is guaranteed and they may only be confiscated, examined, or monitored by causal judicial order, for a limited period, and in cases specified by the law.

The state shall protect the rights of citizens to use all forms of public means of communication, which may not be arbitrarily disrupted, stopped, or withheld from citizens, as regulated by the law.

Article 58: Homes are inviolable. Except in cases of danger, or if a call for help is made, they may not be entered, searched, monitored, or wiretapped except by causal judicial warrant specifying the place, time, and purpose thereof. All of the above is to be conducted in cases specified by the law, and in the manner prescribed. Upon entering or searching homes, those inside shall be notified and informed of the warrant issued in this regard.

Article 59: Every person has the right to a secure life. The state shall provide security and reassurance for citizens, and all those residing within its territory. **Article 60:** The human body is inviolable. Any assault, defilement, or mutilation thereof is a crime punishable by law. Organ trafficking is forbidden, and no medical or scientific experiment may be performed thereon without the documented free consent of the subject, according to the established principles of the medical field as regulated by law.

Article 65: Freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed.

All individuals have the right to express their opinion through speech, writing, imagery, or any other means of expression and publication.

Article 70: Freedom of press and printing, along with paper, visual, audio, and digital distribution is guaranteed. Egyptians -- whether natural or legal persons, public or private -- have the right to own and issue newspapers and establish visual, audio and digital media outlets.

Newspapers may be issued once notification is given as regulated by law. The law shall regulate ownership and establishment procedures for visual and radio broadcast stations in addition to online newspapers.

Article 71: It is prohibited to censor, confiscate, suspend or shut down Egyptian newspapers and media outlets in any way. Exceptions may be made for limited censorship in times of war or general mobilization. No custodial sanction shall be imposed for crimes committed by way of publication or the public nature thereof.



Punishments for crimes connected with incitement to violence or discrimination amongst citizens, or impugning the honor of individuals are specified by law.

Article 73: Citizens have the right to organize public meetings, marches, demonstrations, and all forms of peaceful protest, while not carrying weapons of any type, upon providing notification as regulated by law. The right to peaceful, private meetings is guaranteed, without the need for prior notification. Security forces may not attend, monitor, or eavesdrop on such gatherings.

Article 79: Each citizen has the right to healthy, sufficient amounts of food and clean water. The state shall provide food resources to all citizens. It also ensures food sovereignty in a sustainable manner, and guarantees the protection of agricultural biological diversity and types of local plants to preserve the rights of generations.

Article 80: A child is considered to be anyone who has not reached 18 years of age. Children have the right to be named and possess identification papers, have access to free compulsory vaccinations, health and family care or an alternative, basic nutrition, safe shelter, religious education, and emotional and cognitive development. The state guarantees the rights of children who have disabilities and ensures their rehabilitation and incorporation into society.

The state shall care for children and protect them from all forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment, and commercial and sexual exploitation.

Every child is entitled to early education in a childhood center until the age of six. It is prohibited to employ children before they reach the age of having completed their primary education, and it is prohibited to employ them in jobs that expose them to risk.

The state shall establish a judicial system for child victims and witnesses. No child may be held criminally responsible or detained except in accordance with the law and the time frame specified therein. Legal aid shall be provided to children, and they shall be detained in appropriate locations separate from adult detention centers.

The state shall work to achieve children's best interest in all measures taken with regards to them.

International Treaties: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Article 1:

- 1. No one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance.
- 2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.



Article 2:

For the purposes of this Convention, «enforced disappearance» is considered to be the arrest, detention, abduction, or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support, or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.

Article 5:

The widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance constitutes a crime against humanity as defined in applicable international law and shall attract the consequences provided for under such applicable international law.

International Treaties: Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Article 2:

- 1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial, or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.
- 2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.
- 3. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification for torture.

Article 11:

Each State Party shall keep under systematic review interrogation rules, instructions, methods and practices as well as arrangements for the custody and treatment of persons subjected to any form of arrest, detention, or imprisonment in any territory under its jurisdiction, to prevent any cases of torture.

Article 12:

Each State Party shall ensure that its competent authorities proceed to a prompt and impartial investigation, wherever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed in any territory under its jurisdiction.

Article 13:

Each State Party shall ensure that any individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture in any territory under its jurisdiction has the right to complain to, and to have their case promptly and impartially examined by, its competent authorities. Steps shall be taken to ensure that the complainant and witnesses are protected against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of their complaint or any evidence given.



Article 15:

Each State Party shall ensure that any statement which is established to have been made as a result of torture shall not be invoked as evidence in any proceedings, except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made.

Article 16:

- 1. Each State Party shall undertake to prevent in any territory under its jurisdiction other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment which do not amount to torture as defined in article I, when such acts are committed by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. In particular, the obligations contained in articles 12 ,11 ,10 and 13 shall apply with the substitution for references to torture of references to other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 2. The provisions of this Convention are without prejudice to the provisions of any other international instrument or national law which prohibits cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or which relates to extradition or expulsion.

International Laws: United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

Rule 1:

All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings. No prisoner shall be subjected to, and all prisoners shall be protected from, torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, for which no circumstances whatsoever may be invoked as a justification. The safety and security of prisoners, staff, service providers, and visitors shall be ensured at all times.

Rule 2:

- 1. The present rules shall be applied impartially. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status. The religious beliefs and moral precepts of prisoners shall be respected.
- 2. In order for the principle of non-discrimination to be put into practice, prison administrations shall take account of the individual needs of prisoners, in particular the most vulnerable categories in prison settings. Measures to protect and promote the rights of prisoners with special needs are required and shall not be regarded as discriminatory.

Rule 3:

Imprisonment and other measures that result in cutting off persons from the outside world are afflictive by the very fact of taking from these persons the right of self-determination by depriving them of their liberty. Therefore the prison system shall not, except as incidental to justifiable separation or the maintenance of discipline, aggravate the suffering inherent in such a situation.



Rule 12:

- 1. Where sleeping accommodation is in individual cells or rooms, each prisoner shall occupy by night a cell or room by himself or herself. If for special reasons, such as temporary overcrowding, it becomes necessary for the central prison administration to make an exception to this rule, it is not desirable to have two prisoners in a cell or room.
- 2. Where dormitories are used, they shall be occupied by prisoners carefully selected as being suitable to associate with one another in those conditions. There shall be regular supervision by night, in keeping with the nature of the prison.

Rule 14:

In all places where prisoners are required to live or work:

- (a) The windows shall be large enough to enable the prisoners to read or work by natural light and shall be so constructed that they can allow the entrance of fresh air whether or not there is artificial ventilation;
- (b) Artificial light shall be provided sufficient for the prisoners to read or work without injury to eyesight.

Rule 15:

The sanitary installations shall be adequate to enable every prisoner to comply with the needs of nature when necessary and in a clean and decent manner.

Rule 16:

Adequate bathing and shower installations shall be provided so that every prisoner can, and may be required to, have a bath or shower, at a temperature suitable to the climate, as frequently as necessary for general hygiene according to season and geographical region, but at least once a week in a temperate climate.

Rule 18:

- 1. Prisoners shall be required to keep their persons clean, and to this end, they shall be provided with water and with such toilet articles as are necessary for health and cleanliness.
- 2. In order that prisoners may maintain a good appearance compatible with their self-respect, facilities shall be provided for the proper care of the hair and beard, and men shall be able to shave regularly.

Rule 22:

- 1. Every prisoner shall be provided by the prison administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality, and well prepared and served.
- 2. Drinking water shall be available to every prisoner whenever he or she needs it.



Rule 24:

- 1. The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community and should have access to necessary healthcare services free of charge without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status.
- 2. Health-care services should be organized in close relationship to the general public health administration and in a way that ensures continuity of treatment and care, including for HIV, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases, as well as for drug dependence.

Rule 25:

- 1. Every prison shall have in place a healthcare service tasked with evaluating, promoting, protecting, and improving the physical and mental health of prisoners, paying particular attention to prisoners with special healthcare needs or with health issues that hamper their rehabilitation.
- 2. The health-care service shall consist of an interdisciplinary team with sufficient qualified personnel acting in full clinical independence and shall encompass sufficient expertise in psychology and psychiatry. The services of a qualified dentist shall be available to every prisoner

Rule 27:

- 1. All prisons shall ensure prompt access to medical attention in urgent cases. Prisoners who require specialized treatment or surgery shall be transferred to specialized institutions or civil hospitals. Where a prison service has its own hospital facilities, they shall be adequately staffed and equipped to provide prisoners referred to them with appropriate treatment and care.
- 2. Clinical decisions may only be taken by the responsible healthcare professionals and may not be overruled or ignored by non-medical prison staff.

Rule 51:

Searches shall not be used to harass, intimidate or unnecessarily intrude upon a prisoner's privacy. For the purpose of accountability, the prison administration shall keep appropriate records of searches, in particular strip and body cavity searches and searches of cells, as well as the reasons for the searches, the identities of those who conducted them, and any results of the searches.

Rule 58:

- 1. Prisoners shall be allowed, under necessary supervision, to communicate with their family and friends at regular intervals:
- (a) By corresponding in writing and using, where available, telecommunication, electronic, digital, and other means; and
- (b) By receiving visits.
- 2. Where conjugal visits are allowed, this right shall be applied without discrimination, and women prisoners shall be able to exercise this right on an equal basis with men. Procedures shall be in place and premises shall be made available to ensure fair and equal access with due regard to safety and dignity.



International Laws: United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)

Rule 2:

- 1. Adequate attention shall be paid to the admission procedures for women and children, due to their particular vulnerability at this time. Newly arrived women prisoners shall be provided with facilities to contact their relatives; access to legal advice; information about prison rules and regulations, the prison regime and where to seek help when in need in a language that they understand; and, in the case of foreign nationals, access to consular representatives as well.
- 2. Before or on admission, women with caretaking responsibilities for children shall be permitted to make arrangements for those children, including the possibility of a reasonable suspension of detention, taking into account the best interests of the children.

Rule 5:

The accommodation of women prisoners shall have facilities and materials required to meet women's specific hygiene needs, including sanitary towels, provided free of charge and a regular supply of water to be made available for the personal care of children and women, in particular women involved in cooking and those who are pregnant, breastfeeding or menstruating.

Rule 7:

If the existence of sexual abuse or other forms of violence before or during detention is diagnosed, the woman prisoner shall be informed of her right to seek recourse from judicial authorities. The woman prisoner should be fully informed of the procedures and steps involved. If the woman prisoner agrees to take legal action, appropriate staff shall be informed and immediately refer the case to the competent authority for investigation. Prison authorities shall help such women to access legal assistance.

Whether or not the woman chooses to take legal action, prison authorities shall endeavor to ensure that she has immediate access to specialized psychological support or counseling.

Specific measures shall be developed to avoid any form of retaliation against those making such reports or taking legal action.

Rule 19:

Effective measures shall be taken to ensure that women prisoners' dignity and respect are protected during personal searches, which shall only be carried out by women staff who have been properly trained in appropriate searching methods and in accordance with established procedures.



Egyptian Laws: Law No. 396 for 1956 Concerning the Organization of Prisons

Article 31:

The prison administration shall encourage prisoners to read and learn, facilitate study for prisoners who want to pursue their studies, and allow them to take the examinations in the locations where they are held.

Article 38:

Subject to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, each convict shall have the right to correspondence and telephone communication for a fee, and their family may visit them twice a month. All of this is under the control and supervision of the prison administration and in accordance with the controls and procedures specified by the internal regulations.

Pre-trial detainees shall also have this right unless the competent Public Prosecution or the competent investigative judge decide otherwise, in accordance with the procedures specified by the internal regulations. The prison administration shall treat visitors of prisoners humanely and quarantee them appropriate places to wait and visit.

Article 91 bis:

Any public employee or any person assigned to a public service who issues orders to commit a person sentenced to be deprived of freedom in places other than the prisons and places specified in articles 1 and 1 bis of this law, shall be punished by imprisonment.

Egyptian Laws: Egyptian Child Law No. 126 of 2008

Article 1:

The State shall ensure the protection of childhood and motherhood, the welfare of children, and provide suitable conditions for their appropriate upbringing in all respects, within the framework of freedom and human dignity. Furthermore, the State shall, as a minimum, guarantee the rights of the child, as stated in the Convention of the Rights of the Child and all other relevant international covenants enforced in Egypt.

Article 94:

Criminal responsibility shall not apply to the child who has not reached the age of twelve (12) years at the time of committing the crime. Yet, if the child is at or above seven (7) years and below twelve (12) calendar years, and has committed a felony or a misdemeanor, only the Child Court being the competent court, may rule in accordance with any of the measures set forth in Article 101 Items 7,2,1, and 8 of this Law.

Appeals against rulings placing a child under institutional care are permissible in accordance with Items 7 and 8 before the Appellate Court concerned with child cases, and in accordance with Article 132 of this Law.



Article 95:

Subject to the provisions of Article 111 of this Law, the provisions found in this chapter, shall apply to a child who has not reached the age of eighteen (18) calendar years at the time of committing the crime, or if the child is in an at risk situation.

Article 101:

The verdict for a child who has not reached fifteen (15) years of age, in case he commits a crime shall include one of the following interventions:

Reproach/censure

Delivery to parents, guardians, or custodians

Training and rehabilitation

Commitment to certain obligations

Judicial probation

Community service activities that are not harmful to the child's health or mental state. The By-laws shall determine the nature of this work and restrictions thereof.

Placement in one of the specialized hospitals

Placement in one of the social care institutions

Except for confiscation, closing stores, and returning the place to its original state, the child shall not be subjected to any other penalty or intervention stated in any other law.

Article 111:

No accused person shall be sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or forced labor if, at the time of committing the crime, he did not reach the age of eighteen (18) years.

Without prejudice to the provision of Article 17 of the Penal Code, if the child who has reached the age of fifteen (15) years commits a crime punishable by a death sentence, life imprisonment, or forced labor, he shall be sentenced to imprisonment. Furthermore, if the crime committed is punishable by imprisonment, he shall be placed in custody for a period not less than three (3) months.

The Court, instead of placing the child in custody, may sentence them with the measure stated in Article 101, Item 8 of this Law.

However, if the child who has reached fifteen (15) years of age commits a misdemeanor punishable by placing them in custody, the Court may, instead of sentencing the child to the penalty decreed for it, sentence the child to one of the measures set forth in Article 101, Items 6,5, and 8 of this Law.



Article 112:

Children may not be detained, placed in custody, or imprisoned with adults in one place. In detention, it should be observed that children are to be classified according to their age, sex, and nature of their crime. Shall be sentenced to jail for a period not less than three (3) months, and not exceeding two (2) years, and a fine not less than one thousand (1,000) Egyptian pounds, and not more than five thousand (5,000) Egyptian pounds, or by one of the two penalties, any public official or in charge of a public service who detains, places in custody, or imprisons a child with one or more adults in one place.

Article 115:

With the exception of the parents, the grandparents, the husband, and the wife, shall be penalized with imprisonment and a fine not exceeding one thousand (1,000) Egyptian pounds, or by one of the two penalties, whoever hides a child who has been sentenced to be delivered to a person or an entity in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or induces the child to run away, or helps them to do so.