



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-third session

24 February–20 March 2020

Agenda item 6

### Universal Periodic Review

## Written statement\* submitted by Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 January 2020]

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\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.20-02548(E)



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## **EOHR encourages the Egyptian government to take more steps to protect and uphold freedom of association**

Over the past 3 decades the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights has spearheaded relentless efforts to defend the right of association and ensure the freedom and independence of civil society organizations in Egypt. Article 75 of the Egyptian constitution guarantees freedom of civil society and grants citizens the right to establish NGOs upon notification. However, law No.70 of 2017 came as a shock to all as it placed unprecedented restrictions on Egyptian civil society. EOHR campaigned against the law and challenged it on constitutional grounds at the administrative court. The Egyptian president in response to this outcry proposed an initiative to launch a societal dialogue to replace Law No. 70, and indeed this process produced law No. 149 of 2019. The new law satisfied much but not all of Egyptian civil society's aspirations and EOHR's recommendations and suggestions were seriously considered and taken into account. However, challenges still remain as to the nature of the executive regulation and the actual application of the law. EOHR calls upon the Egyptian government to uphold law No. 149 and suspend case 173 and drop all charges against human rights workers.

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