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Universal Periodic Review

Written statement* submitted by International-Lawyers.Org, 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.

[31 January 2020]

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



Implementation of UPR Recommendations in Egypt

Following Egypt 3rd cycle UPR adoption in November, INTLawyers.Org would like to express its deep concern regarding Egypt's failure to address its 2nd cycle recommendations, in particular concerning ending practices of arbitrary detention and deprivation of life, unfair trials, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and crackdown on civil societies.

Since last cycle in 2014, serious and massive violations in Egypt has reached its Zenith; Enforced Disappearance is daily practice, Loss of Life following unfair trials became the norm, ill-treatment of prisoners and intentional deprivation of treating prisoners leading to death in custody became weekly news.

According to local and International NGOs,¹ hundreds of cases of custodial deaths have occurred since September 2013 with total impunity. In January 2020, seven cases of death in custody² have occurred including a case of female prisoner, Mariam Salim who was allegedly deprived of cancer treatment according to her lawyers. None of the cases have been investigated and Egypt showed no willingness to improve squalid detention conditions.

In January, over 300³ prisoners at Scorpion prison went on hunger strike after exhausting all means to complain about torturous detention conditions including deprivation of urgent medical care, family visitations, blankets and other basic necessities.

Silencing civil societies and locking lawyers behind bars for defending political prisoners is frequent. Hoda Abdul Moneom, Ibrahim Metwally, Mahinour Al Masry, Mohamed Baker and hundred other lawyers arbitrarily detained for performing their duties as lawyers.

Recommendations

To Egypt

To implement its new UPR recommendations and meet its International Human Rights Obligations, particularly those relating to Prohibition from Torture and Ill-treatment and Right to Fair Trial.

Ratify significant instruments such as (OP CAT, OP 1 & 2 ICCPR, ICPPED).

Release immediately all prisoners of conscience including activists, journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and political dissidents and those detained for merely exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

Lift all restrictions on imposed on NGOs and engage with them to promote and protect fundamental human rights of Egyptian citizens.

Abolish Death Penalty and order retrial into mass trials resulting in death penalties and other harsh sentences.

Immediately investigate custodial deaths, bring those responsible to accountability as well as improving conditions of detention.

Accept pending visits requests made by special Mandate Holders including the WGEID and SR on Torture and submit overdue Treaty bodies Reports.

To Member States

Put pressure on Government of Egypt to implement its UPR obligations to protect fundamental rights of its people and end the cycle of impunity.

¹ <https://www.alkarama.org/en/documents/egypt-death-behind-bars-torture-and-denial-medical-care-detention-egypt-2015>

² Mariam Salim died in Qanater Prison, Alaa Saad in Borg Al Arab Prison, Mahmoud Mohamed died in Luxor Police Station, Mostafa Qassim at Scorpion Prison and Atef Al Naqatri at Sharqia Police Station, Shawki Moussa died in Damanhour Prison and Sabry Metwally died in Faqoos Police Station.

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/17/us-citizen-dies-egyptian-prison>

Hold the Government of Egypt accountable if does not change its policies and fulfil its international obligations.
