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Written statement* submitted by The Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers, 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.

[02 February 2020]

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



The freedom of expression in Egypt

The Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers (AEFL) expresses its worry and concern in regard to the increasing phenomenon of lawsuits against journalists. AEFL realizes that this big number of lawsuits against journalists is because of the misunderstanding of the mission of journalism in society.

During 2018 and 2019, the Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers monitored about 70 cases in front of Egyptian courts in which journalists were trailed because of their work. Also AEFL assures the stability of Egyptian judiciary regarding its tolerance towards journalism cases in Egypt. Yet, the legal framework which organizes freedom of journalism in Egypt still needs to be amended and developed with its legislative structure in accordance with the international conventions and charters signed by Egypt to impede such lawsuits sued by the affected from publishing.

In this regard, the Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers demands the Egyptian government to launch awareness programs for employees in journalism field and share experiences of legal dealing with publishing issues with press institutions along with implementing programs to provide legal protection for journalists with networking with national bodies concerned with media and press. In addition, AEFL also demands the government to provide specialized programs to raise the journalists' awareness in regard to the legal dimensions of journalism so that they will not be easily affected by the political trends and orientations inside their press institutions. Finally, AEFL demands the Egyptian government to immediately issue the law of information circulation in a way which facilitate the mission of the journalist and help journalism in updating and developing society.
