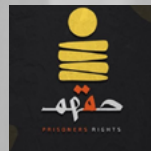
 **article55egypt**

Violations Documented in Egypt's Prisons and Detention Centers (December 1 – 31, 2023)



الشبكة المصرية
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Egyptian Network For Human Rights ENHR



Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution: “Anyone who is apprehended, detained or has his freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves his dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. Their detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated facilities that are suitable, both in terms of humane and health standards.”

Developments in December 2023

December 2023 was a date with the Egyptian presidential elections, which were marred by many violations before and during the voting phase, starting with targeting the former potential candidate, “Ahmed Al-Tantawi,” his campaign, and those wishing to issue endorsement documents for him with detention, arrest, and prevention, which resulted in his withdrawal and “Jamila Ismail” from the candidacy race and limiting the competition to “Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi” and three other candidates who do not have a presence within Egyptian society, until the voting stage in which the method of the political arm of the regime represented in the “Mostakbal watan” in forcing and mobilizing citizens in front of the polling stations and co-opting them either with bribes or repression, as well as judicial and media conspiracy to implement the anti-democratic electoral scene.¹ Also during the month, and in parallel with the elections, the Accreditation Subcommittee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions [postponed](#) consideration of the request of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights to be re-accredited as a first-class institution for 12 months based on a report prepared by the “committee for justice” as an evaluation of the Council’s performance, which revealed many shortcomings in the performance and independence of the Council, which was one of the institutions authorized to monitor the farcical presidential elections, such as the Council’s cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Council failed to respond to hundreds of complaints, including enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and the lack of guarantees to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the National Council about visits to places of deprivation of liberty, where such visits are often denied or arranged in advance. Accordingly, the Subcommittee postponed the approval of the National Council for Human Rights’ request.

At the beginning of the month, the Egyptian authorities decided to [deport](#) 4 foreign activists from Egypt after organizing a limited stand in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to demand a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and demanding the necessary permissions to cross the convoy of the conscience of the world to the Gaza Strip to help under the bloody war waged by the Israeli forces on it, so the security authorities detained them for a day in the Bulaq Police Station and then deported them from the country, in conjunction with the continuity of the arbitrary detention of dozens of citizens after responding to calls for demonstrations in support of the Palestinian cause, as well as announced the summoning of the editor of the “Mada Masr” press website by the Cairo Appeals Prosecution after the Supreme Council for Media Regulation began in mid-October 2023 to investigate the site against the background of publishing a press report about the possible displacement of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli occupation to Egyptian territory.

¹ For more details on CFJ’s assessment of Egypt’s presidential elections, please see the Right to Free Elections project publications at <https://www.cfjustice.org/ar/right-to-free-elections/>.

List of the Documented cases

During December 2023, the “Article 55” coalition organizations documented the following violations inside prisons and other detention facilities in Egypt:

The coalition organizations documented the [renewal](#) of the ban on the visit of the human rights defender “Hoda Abdel Moneim” by the administration of the “Al- Asher mn Ramdan prison for women” in Sharkia after it had been allowed before amid the deterioration of the health condition of “Hoda”, and after she was subjected to the renewal of detention after completing her sentence of 5 years in prison , the organizations also documented the continuation of “Ahmed Ismail Thabet” in his [hunger strike](#) to demand his right to undergo surgery in any specialized government hospital instead of the Wadi Al-Natroun Medical Center Hospital, which is famous for its poor health care, and the family of “Ismail” expressed their shock at the loss of 25 kilos of weight and the deterioration of his health, according to them, “Ismail” was brought to visit carried by two men because of his inability to move, as well as preventing the entry of medicines and personal hygiene materials despite the decline in his health condition.

We also documented the [deprivation](#) of “Mr. Suleiman” from performing a necessary surgery, which is an open heart operation. The administration of the new Badr Prison Complex insists on conducting it inside the prison, despite the high risks that may result from this, as a previous operation inside the same headquarters caused “Al-Sayed” to be blinded for several months, as well as the death of one of his colleagues during conducting the same surgery for him inside the prison, according to his family, who reported that the headquarters administration is trying to force “Al-Sayed” to sign a document guaranteeing his approval of Performing surgery inside the premises.

The coalition organizations also monitored the expansion of the El-Wadi El-gded Prison administration in the practice of placing prisoners pending political cases in “[disciplinary rooms](#)” as a threatening tool for them, as these dark cells do not have the minimum human standards and prolonged detention in them causes many health and psychological crises, in addition to the allocation of small amounts of food and water by the headquarters administration to prisoners in disciplinary rooms.

In light of all the aforementioned, the organizations in the “Article 55” coalition believe that the conditions within prisons and detention centers are not surprising; they do not deviate from the overall framework of how Egyptian authorities handle the files of detainees, especially political ones. This systematic approach is intentional and not merely an isolated violation, as claimed by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior.

Moreover, the policy of impunity adopted by the Egyptian authorities towards human rights violators within detention facilities has encouraged and fueled such practices; it has become a modus operandi within the Egyptian prison system. Despite documented and verified violations that may have exceeded acceptable limits, no leadership or official has been punished or even reprimanded.

Therefore, the undersigned organizations affirm that these practices within Egyptian prisons and detention facilities raise serious concerns about the fate of detainees; this is especially true given the increasing number of deaths within detention centers and the deteriorating living conditions within them.

We call for an investigation into these violations, holding those responsible accountable following both Egyptian and international law; we urge adherence to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Egyptian Prison Regulations, and the cessation of violations while ensuring living conditions that befit the humanity of detainees.

Article 55 Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/Article55egypt>



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,Committee for Justice (CFJ), El Shehab Center for Human Rights (SHR))
Egyptian Network for Human Rights, Their Right, We Record, Arab Foundation for
Civil and Political Rights-Nedal)

