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Egypt: Article 55 Coalition releases July report on human rights abuses in prisons and detention centers



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Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution states: «Everyone who is arrested, detained, or has their freedom restricted shall be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. They shall not be detained or imprisoned except in places that are suitable, humane, and healthy...»

The Article 55 Coalition organizations have documented 19 various violations within prisons and other detention centers in Egypt during the month of July 2023, as follows:

- 6 cases of death..
- 7 cases of medical neglect of detainees in critical condition.
- 5 cases of pleas from detainees in several prisons and detention centers, including pleas related to mistreatment, medical neglect, overcrowding in cells, and denial of medical treatment).
- plea related to the ban on visitation.

Below is a list of cases documented by the Coalition:

1. Plea from the wife of the citizen Ali Hassan Hadib due to violations against him in his detention on July 6, 2023. (<https://rb.gy/zph00>)
2. New plea from the family of political detainee Abdel Shafi Abdel Hai Abdel Shafi (48 years old), held in pretrial detention in Al-Wadi Al-Gedid Prison on July 8, 2023. (<https://rb.gy/31385>)
3. During his enforced disappearance, the citizen Mahmoud Tawfik died after multiple violations on July 9, 2023. (<https://rb.gy/m1jk5>)
4. Ministry of Interior statement confirms and does not deny... Facts of arrest and killing of citizen Mahmoud Tawfik under torture on July 10, 2023. (<https://rb.gy/fm8mz>)
5. Afflicted with jaundice and liver diseases... Egyptian Network uncovers circumstances of detainee Ali Amer's death on July 11, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/yc8r9u3y>)
6. Amidst various violations... «Ahmed Ramadan's» health deteriorating in Borg El Arab Prison on July 11, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/wxvw7xv2>)
7. Ahmed Gamal Anwar in danger due to medical neglect in Wadi El Natrun on July 12, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/2ynjh73h>)
8. Ahmed Nader threatened with leg amputation after his health deteriorated on July 14, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/32h6w8sp>)
9. Death of political detainee inside Al-Laban Police Station in Alexandria on July 18, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/4pk2uxnc>)
10. We demand Egyptian authorities comply with the law and safeguard prisoners' lives on July 19, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/3d4kyh8p>)
11. Article 55 Coalition calls for an investigation into the death of an Egyptian citizen due to torture in an Alexandria detention center and holding those responsible accountable on July 20, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/mstjr374>)
12. A painful message from Mohammed Osama's sister, as he is in critical health in his detention on July 21, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/4s96d46x>)

13. Death of the citizen Mahmoud Abdel Gawad at the age of 33 due to torture, inside Nabaruh Police Station in Dakahlia on July 21, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/zru4y5kd>)
14. CFJ documents two more deaths in Egyptian detention centers on July 21, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/mur9e649>)
15. Management of Egypt's Tenth of Ramadan Prison in Sharqia prohibits prison visits for Hoda Abdel Moneim, human rights lawyer and former member of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights on July 25, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/579f6bw2>)
16. Innovative methods of tormenting political prisoners, subjecting them to psychological pressure on July 25, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/2a7unuuc>)
17. Lengthy plea from within Al-Wadi Al-Gedid Prison on July 28, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/3jchtw9y>)
18. Mohammed Radwan Saad «disappeared» inside the prison on July 28, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/2pfyr4jc>)
19. National Security threatens to turn Badr 3 into «Guantanamo Egypt» on July 29, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/v9aczsz3>)
20. Deliberate slow killing crime as prison authorities decide to «cut off air» in cells during summer on July 25, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/4z6j9ufy>)
21. Ahmed Mohamed Abdel Latif detained without trial for over 7 and a half years on July 30, 2023. (<https://tinyurl.com/yckknuu9>)

Details of the violations can be reviewed on the media outlets of the organizations

Violations documented within prisons and other detention centers in Egypt, from the beginning of 2023 until the present time, are as follows:

- **22** cases of death.
- **50** cases of medical neglect for critically ill detainees requiring medical intervention.
- **33** individual and collective pleas including mistreatment, overcrowding in cells, denial of medical treatment, deportation, disciplinary actions, and assault).
- **35** individual and collective pleas regarding visitation restrictions, including complete closures of certain prisons and detention centers.

In light of all the above, the organizations within the Article 55 Coalition believe that the conditions within prisons and detention centers do not deviate from the general framework of how Egyptian authorities handle detainees, especially political ones. The situation is systematic, not merely isolated breaches as portrayed by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior.

Furthermore, the policy of impunity adopted by the Egyptian authorities towards human rights violators within detention centers has encouraged and perpetuated such practices, to the extent that they have become an institutionalized approach within the Egyptian prison system. Notably, no leadership or official has been punished or even reprimanded despite the established and documented violations, which may have even escalated.

Therefore, the organizations within the Article 55 Coalition stress that these practices occurring within Egyptian prisons and detention centers raise serious concerns about the fate of detainees. This is particularly true given the increasing number of deaths within detention centers in recent times, coupled with deteriorating living conditions within them.

As a result, the Article 55 Coalition calls for an investigation into these violations and the accountability of those responsible in accordance with both Egyptian and international law. They also emphasize the implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Egyptian prison regulations, while discontinuing their violation, and ensuring humane living conditions for detainees.

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Egyptian Network for Human Rights, Their Right, We Record, HuMENA for Human Rights
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