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**Summary prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21**

**Egypt\***

The present report is a summary of 43 stakeholders' submissions<sup>1</sup> to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.



## **I. Information provided by the national human rights institution of the State under review accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

1. The National Council for Human Rights established 73 fact-finding missions to investigate human rights violations since June 2010, and reported on violations during the most important gatherings and events in these years.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Council recommended Egypt to: ratify OP- CAT and OP-ICESR; withdraw reservations to articles 2, 16 of CEDAW; accede international and regional conventions like the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Protocol to African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.<sup>3</sup>

3. The Council noted that the 2014 Constitution contains several new provisions related to human rights and that the Government announced the end of the emergency law in November 2013 and its reform.<sup>4</sup>

4. The Council called on the Government to respond to the requests of the Special Rapporteur on Torture; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression; and the Special Rapporteur to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.<sup>5</sup>

5. The Council called on the Egyptian Government and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to accelerate the opening of the OHCHR regional headquarters in Cairo.<sup>6</sup>

6. The Council reiterated its request for amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in respect of the definition of the crime of torture consistent with the Constitution. The Council called for: the immediate release of those who are not found to be involved in a crime punishable by law; amending the Prisons Act No. 396, especially regarding places of detention, nutrition, health care, and rehabilitation of prisoners;<sup>7</sup> amending law 107/2013 on freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the issuance of a new law affirming the right to form NGOs able to exercise their activities freely without interference; amending the laws governing the elections of the House of Representatives to ensure the representation of women by at least one-third, and representation for young people, Christians, persons with disabilities, Egyptians abroad, workers, and peasants, and the establishment of the Independent Commission for Elections;<sup>8</sup> the Government's commitment to protect the rights of refugees, and to reconsider the reservations on the 1951 Convention relating to the status of Refugees.<sup>9</sup>

7. The Council requested the quick adoption of the draft law to combat violence against women, prepared in 2013 by the National Council for Women, and called for a strategy to address the rights of child in new ways.<sup>10</sup>

8. Bearing in mind the establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities in April 2012, the Council urged Egypt to issue legislation and take measures to put the provisions of the 2014 Constitution in place regarding the political, economic and social rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>11</sup>

## II. Information provided by other stakeholders

### A. Background and framework

#### 1. Scope of international obligations<sup>12</sup>

9. AI called on Egypt to ratify or accede to the international human rights treaties to which Egypt is not a state party, the Rome Statute, and implement them in national law.<sup>13</sup> JS8 made a similar recommendation.<sup>14</sup> CSW<sup>15</sup> and FIDH<sup>16</sup> recommended that Egypt ratify CPED. AK<sup>17</sup>, JS8<sup>18</sup>, and FIDH<sup>19</sup> recommended ratifying OP-CAT. JS11 recommended ratifying OP-CESCR.<sup>20</sup>

10. ACIJLP stated that despite Egypt's ratification of the ICCPR in 1982, Egypt has yet to join the two optional protocols to the Covenant.<sup>21</sup> FIDH recommended the ratification of OP2-ICCPR.<sup>22</sup>

11. FIDH<sup>23</sup> and JS8<sup>24</sup> recommended withdrawing reservations to articles 2 and 16 of CEDAW and ratify the OP-CEDAW.<sup>25</sup>

12. JS10 called on Egypt to respect and implement the ICCPR and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.<sup>26</sup>

13. CIHRS noted that since its first UPR in 2010 Egypt has witnessed political changes: all governments have been consistent with violating freedom of association, and adopting measures contradicting Egypt's commitments under international conventions and its first UPR.<sup>27</sup> JS4 made similar remarks.<sup>28</sup> JS8 stated that political changes left a negative impact on human rights. Chaos was also a reason for the inability of consecutive governments to meet Egypt's commitments.<sup>29</sup>

14. HRW recommended the Government to ensure that security forces act in accordance with international human rights laws and standards on the use of force, including the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.<sup>30</sup>

#### 2. Constitutional and legislative framework

15. Several NGOs noted that a new Constitution was adopted in 2014. AI stated that while the new Constitution contains improved human rights guarantees, it fails to address endemic human rights problems.<sup>31</sup> EOHR stated that the new constitution is a real advance in terms of human rights, especially regarding the judiciary, women's rights advocacy and promotion of equality and non-discrimination.<sup>32</sup> JS19 noted that the new constitution includes 12 articles supportive of persons with disabilities.<sup>33</sup>

16. JS17 noted that the Article 151 of the Constitution establishes that international conventions have the force of law pursuant to the Constitution's provisions. Article 93 stipulates that the state must comply with the covenants, treaties and international human rights conventions which have been ratified.<sup>34</sup>

17. JS8 urged Egypt: to amend national laws, the penal code and the criminal procedural law in conformity with the Convention Against Torture and the 2014 Constitution; to ratify the Convention articles 21 and 22 on individual complaints.<sup>35</sup>

18. AI<sup>36</sup> and FIDH<sup>37</sup> stated that both the Constitution and Code of Military Justice provide for unfair trials of civilians before military courts, a practice used excessively since January 2011. AI stated that the Penal Code criminalizes defamation of public officials and of religion.<sup>38</sup>

19. JS7 noted that the 2014 Constitution contains provisions regarding women rights to citizenship, women's role in decision making and public life, poor and marginalized women, girls', violence against women and early marriage, women representation in local councils.<sup>39</sup> ECWR made a similar statement.<sup>40</sup> JS8 called for the activation of the 2014 constitution provisions related to equality between men and women.<sup>41</sup>

20. ECWR recommended amending all laws that enshrine violence and discrimination against women.<sup>42</sup> EIPR<sup>43</sup> and NSF<sup>44</sup> recommended amending the Penal Code to reflect international criminal and human rights standards regarding rape and other forms of sexual violence. HRW recommended criminalizing domestic violence and amend personal status laws that discriminate against women on issues of divorce, custody and inheritance.<sup>45</sup>

21. FIDH noted that national legislation including the Personal Status Law and Penal Code still contain several discriminatory provisions against women.<sup>46</sup> JS4<sup>47</sup> and JS18<sup>48</sup> made similar remarks. JS11 recommended introducing legislation to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, indigenous peoples, refugees or other vulnerable groups.<sup>49</sup> NSF made a similar recommendation.<sup>50</sup> JS7 recommended the adoption of a Gender Equality Act or law.<sup>51</sup>

22. EOHR called for application of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners promulgated by the United Nations.<sup>52</sup>

23. JS15 recommended changing the current labor law to comply with the international conventions and the 2014 Constitution.<sup>53</sup>

24. JS6 observed that the Telecommunications Act, the Anti-Terrorism Act, amongst others, should be amended to reflect Egypt's international human rights obligations.<sup>54</sup>

### **3. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures**

25. CSW<sup>55</sup> and J11<sup>56</sup> recommended that Egypt implement article 53 of the Constitution and establish an independent commission to eliminate all forms of discrimination, and a national mechanism for receiving complaints regarding human rights violations.<sup>57</sup>

26. JS7 recommended strengthening the mandates of both the National Council for Women and the Ombudsperson office for Gender Equality.<sup>58</sup> FIDH noted that in May 2013, the Ministry of Interior announced the establishment of the Department for monitoring crimes and violence against women.<sup>59</sup> In the same context, NSF noted that a special unit of female police officers was formed to combat violence against women.<sup>60</sup>

27. FIDH recommended developing a public national plan for human rights reform, including measures to combat impunity, with the participation of independent civil society representatives, particularly human rights organizations.<sup>61</sup>

28. NFS recommended Egypt to implement a national strategy for combating violence against women in cooperation with women's groups, the ministries of Interior, Health and Justice.<sup>62</sup>

29. The Legal Guidelines to implement the Anti-trafficking Law No 64/2010 were developed jointly between IOM and the Ministry of Justice, and are a primary source of information for law enforcement officials trained on the legal proceedings of cases of trafficking. IOM in cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood operates the first regional shelter for recovery and reintegration of women and girls victims of trafficking. The shelter was established in December 2010 with a capacity of 10 victims.<sup>63</sup>

30. JS17 recommended Egypt to create training programs for the employees of the state whose positions are associated directly or indirectly with public participation and the concomitant rights and freedoms.<sup>64</sup>

31. JS9 recommended supporting mechanisms and ways to combat corruption and the creation of competent authorities for follow-up.<sup>65</sup>

## **B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

### **1. Cooperation with treaty bodies**

32. AK noted that periodical reports to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture are overdue since 2004.<sup>66</sup> AK recommended Egypt to submit its overdue report to the CAT.<sup>67</sup>

### **2. Cooperation with special procedures**

33. CSW<sup>68</sup>, AI<sup>69</sup>, JS10<sup>70</sup> recommended extending a standing invitation to thematic Special Procedures, including the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.<sup>71</sup>

34. CSW<sup>72</sup> and HRW<sup>73</sup> recommended that Egypt responds positively to all outstanding visit requests from Special Procedures.

35. FIDH recommended issuing an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice.<sup>74</sup>

36. JS8<sup>75</sup> and FIDH<sup>76</sup> called for permitting the UN Special Rapporteur on torture to visit Egypt.

## **C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

37. AI stated that women and girls continue to face discrimination in law and in practice. The Personal Status Law discriminates against women in marriage, divorce and custody rights.<sup>77</sup> JS7 made a similar statement.<sup>78</sup>

38. JS7 recommended implementing laws on violence against women, changing the cultural stereotype against women, adopting a cultural program targeted to enhance women's image in the media, and creating a positive image about women's role in the political domain.<sup>79</sup> ECWR made a similar recommendation.<sup>80</sup>

39. JS11 stated that discrimination in employment, wages and work conditions prevent many women from enjoying their economic rights. Moreover, there is no legislation to protect women from sexual harassment at the workplace.<sup>81</sup>

40. JS19 recommended issuing legislation to ensure the protection of rights of persons with disabilities and to prevent exploitation and discrimination against them.<sup>82</sup>

41. JS10 stated that consensual same-sex conduct is not explicitly criminalised but police can arrest LGBTI persons on charges including prostitution and violating the teachings of religion.<sup>83</sup> AI stated that the authorities continue to use the Law 10/1961 on Debauchery to criminalize consensual sexual relations in private.<sup>84</sup>

### **2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

42. ACIJLP stated that many of the criminal acts punishable by death are not within the scope of most serious crimes.<sup>85</sup> JS8 made similar comments.<sup>86</sup> AI recommended the imposition of an immediate moratorium on executions, commute all death sentences and

reduce the number of crimes punishable by death with the view to abolishing the death penalty.<sup>87</sup> JS9 made a similar recommendation.<sup>88</sup>

43. JS13<sup>89</sup> and JS14<sup>90</sup> noted that more than 2,000 people have been killed over the last four years as a result of excessive force security forces. HRW<sup>91</sup>, ICJ<sup>92</sup>, JS14<sup>93</sup> and FIDH<sup>94</sup> made reference to the Raba's and Nahda squares where, in August 2013, up to 1,000 people and seven policemen were killed. IHRC called for an independent public inquiry into those incidents to establish the truth.<sup>95</sup>

44. Article 19 stated that excessive use of force, including lethal force, has been used under each successive government since the 2010 UPR.<sup>96</sup> AK<sup>97</sup> and AI<sup>98</sup> made similar remarks.

45. JS14<sup>99</sup> and RWB<sup>100</sup> observed that since 2011, nine journalists, Egyptians and foreigners, have been killed. Attacks on journalists have escalated, both those committed by security forces and by other citizens. RWB noted that some reporters were judged by a military court, tortured and mistreated while in detention.<sup>101</sup>

46. FIDH<sup>102</sup> and HRW<sup>103</sup> stated that cases of torture in detention centers continue to be reported and yet no investigations have been opened into these allegations. AK stated that torture and ill-treatment are carried out in a systematic way as a usual practice of various Egyptian authorities, police, military and prison authorities.<sup>104</sup> JS8<sup>105</sup> and IHRC<sup>106</sup> made similar comments. AK added that these violations also include sexual harassment of the victim, such as rape, beatings on the genitals, and virginity and pregnancy tests.<sup>107</sup> EIPR made similar remarks.<sup>108</sup> AK recommended Egypt to end the practice of torture by conducting investigations into alleged acts of torture and bring those responsible to justice.<sup>109</sup>

47. AI<sup>110</sup> and FIDH<sup>111</sup> stated that women and girls continue to face high levels of sexual harassment and, since late 2012, women protesters have faced repeated sexual attacks around Cairo's Tahrir Square. Security forces have failed to protect women protesters. ECWR stated that the last four years saw a rise in levels of violence against women in the public and private spheres, and in the targeting of female political activists.<sup>112</sup> JS4 noted that, in spite of the fact that Egypt accepted, in 2010, UPR Working Group recommendations 32 and 41, no significant progress has been made with regard to violence against women.<sup>113</sup> JS11 made similar remarks.<sup>114</sup>

48. JS18 stated that prisons conditions still violate prisoners' human rights due to malnutrition, lack of health care, and short time for family visits.<sup>115</sup>

49. GIEACPC noted that in Egypt corporal punishment of children is unlawful as a sentence for crime and possibly in penal institutions, but it is lawful in the home, alternative care settings, day care and schools.<sup>116</sup>

### **3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

50. ACIJLP observed that the interference of the executive authority continued in breach of the independence of the judiciary.<sup>117</sup> ICJ stated that judicial independence has been undermined by the executive branch's effective control of the courts, the careers of judges and the Office of the Public Prosecutor as well as by the expansion of the use and jurisdiction of military courts.<sup>118</sup> AI stated that successive governments have used the judicial system to target their political opponents and government critics. In contrast, the

Public and Military Prosecutions have largely ignored systemic human rights violations by the security forces and army.<sup>119</sup> ICJ<sup>120</sup> and JS5<sup>121</sup> made similar statements.

51. IBAHRI recommended introducing a bar examination for all members of the legal profession, and publicly administered tests for lawyers wishing to become prosecutors or judges; ending the involvement of the Ministry of Justice in the appointment of investigating judges and any role it may have in setting budgetary allocations relating to the judiciary.<sup>122</sup>

52. ICJ stated that the constitutional provisions fail to ensure effective civilian oversight of the armed forces and enshrine practices that reinforce the unaccountability of the military.<sup>123</sup> ICJ recommended Egypt to ensure that the role of the armed forces is defined and limited to matters of national defence, and the control and accountability of the armed forces granted by legally constituted civilian authorities.<sup>124</sup>

53. JS5 stated that military justice does not meet the minimum standards for neutrality or independence from the executive authority. Military trials of civilians take place without the presence of lawyers chosen by the defendants, or even a chance for defendants to communicate with such lawyers. The right to a public hearing is denied.<sup>125</sup> JS2 stated violations of fair trial standards include the referral of more than 12,000 civilians, including several minors, to military tribunals, and increase in the rates of random arrest. JS2<sup>126</sup> and IBAHRI<sup>127</sup> called for the amendment of legislation in order to guarantee a fair trial. AI called on Egypt to cease trying civilians before military courts.<sup>128</sup> Article 19<sup>129</sup>, AK<sup>130</sup>, ICJ<sup>131</sup>, JS8<sup>132</sup>, JS5<sup>133</sup> and CSW<sup>134</sup> made similar recommendations. IBAHRI recommended reviewing all convictions of civilians handed down by military courts since January 2011 and to grant the right to a retrial in a civilian court.<sup>135</sup>

54. AI called on Egypt to make the findings of any investigation public and bring those responsible for serious human rights violations, regardless of their rank, to justice in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty.<sup>136</sup> JS10<sup>137</sup>, HRW<sup>138</sup>, ICJ<sup>139</sup>, JS5<sup>140</sup> and FIDH<sup>141</sup> made similar recommendations. ICJ recommended ensuring access to an effective remedy and reparation to victims of human rights violations.<sup>142</sup>

55. NFS stated that the Government continues to fail to prosecute the perpetrators of sexual violence,<sup>143</sup> and recommended conducting investigations into complaints of sexual violence faced by women protesters and women human rights defenders.<sup>144</sup> EIPR recommended ensuring that the state is held accountable for physical and psychological damage suffered by victims of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by the state's own agents; and ensure that women subjected to rape or other forms of sexual violence can effectively pursue complaints.<sup>145</sup> FIDH made a similar recommendation.<sup>146</sup>

56. AI stated that the Code of Criminal Procedures provides for extended periods of preventive detention without formal charge or trial.<sup>147</sup> JS13 noted that prisons are currently overcrowded because of the high number of protesters in pre-trial detention.<sup>148</sup>

57. JS14 noted that children arrested in 2012 and 2013 in Cairo and Alexandria after demonstrations weren't separated from adult detainees while in detention. Children with physical or mental disabilities were also detained.<sup>149</sup> JS5 recommended ensuring that children are separated from adults both in pre-trial and post-conviction detention.<sup>150</sup> JS8 called for reconsidering the cases of young detainees who were arbitrarily arrested without a legal justification, and release them.<sup>151</sup> AK was concerned at the administrative detention of minors for non-violent crimes.<sup>152</sup>

#### **4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

58. JS7 recommended improving the implementation of the *Khul'* divorce law, and granting citizenship to the children of Egyptian women who are married to foreigners.<sup>153</sup>

59. JS6 recommended that government authorities expand existing protections for the right to privacy and data protection in relevant national laws to ensure their respect in the context of digital communication, and that an independent oversight mechanism be set up to ensure transparency and accountability of communications surveillance.<sup>154</sup>

##### **5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

60. CSW mentioned that the mistreatment of religious groups by state and non-state actors worsened since 2010. Under the interim Government religious minorities suffered at the hands of non-state actors.<sup>155</sup> HRW stated that following the August 2013 protests in Cairo, mobs attacked at least 42 churches, burning or damaging 37, and leaving 4 people dead.<sup>156</sup> EOHR made similar comments.<sup>157</sup> With reference to recommendation 90, which was accepted by Egypt in its 2010 UPR, MRG stated that the reluctance of the Egyptian Government to prosecute and punish crimes against religious minorities, such as the burning of houses and churches, was a major factor in the ongoing climate of impunity.<sup>158</sup> JS18 noted that there are still violations against religious minorities such as closure of worship place, difficulties to enrol in schools and access to public services.<sup>159</sup>

61. ECLJ stated that Egypt failed to address the problem of forced religious conversion.<sup>160</sup> JS2 called for media and cultural institutions support to promote and protect religious diversity, and to denounce hate crimes.<sup>161</sup>

62. EAJCW stated that Jehovah's Witnesses are exposed to restrictions on their right to practice and other associated rights, such as freedom of expression and of association.<sup>162</sup> JS14 stated that the 2014 Constitution fails to recognize the right to perform religious rituals or build places of worship.<sup>163</sup> HRW recommended Egypt to take steps to ensure the protection of religious minorities.<sup>164</sup>

63. Article 19 noted that under each successive government since the last UPR, attacks on freedom of expression and on journalists have continued: for example on 29 December 2013 four *Al Jazeera* staff members were arrested.<sup>165</sup> HRW<sup>166</sup> and RWB<sup>167</sup> made similar remarks. EOHR noted that some media personalities were subjected to accountability from the public prosecution on charges of offense to the judiciary.<sup>168</sup> RWB observed that the extreme polarization of the media both reflects and encourages the polarization of society, and is undermining freedom of information.<sup>169</sup> FIDH recommended dropping all charges against journalists and media professionals and release the journalists who remain in detention, in particular the staff (including foreigners) of *Al Jazeera English*.<sup>170</sup> JSS<sup>171</sup> and IHRC<sup>172</sup> made similar recommendations. JS17 recommended forming committees of specialists, civil society organizations, and human rights advocates in order to review the provisions of the penal law restricting freedom of opinion and expression, and other restrictive laws.<sup>173</sup>

64. JS11 recommended protecting the right to freedom of association by enacting legislation that recognizes independent labor unions and removes restrictions on the establishment of independent unions, as well as by repealing all laws criminalizing protests and strikes.<sup>174</sup>

65. JS13 stated that the state continues to criminalize protest in law and deploy its security forces to disperse gatherings of citizens.<sup>175</sup> JS14<sup>176</sup>, CIHRS<sup>177</sup> and Article 19<sup>178</sup> noted that the Assembly Law 107/2013 of November 2013 severely restricts the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and puts in place strict obstacles to public meetings and demonstrations. JS13<sup>179</sup>, EOHR<sup>180</sup>, IHRC<sup>181</sup> and JS2<sup>182</sup> made similar comments. FIDH<sup>183</sup>, ISHR<sup>184</sup> and HRW<sup>185</sup> recommended amending Law 107/2013 to bring it in line with international human rights standards. NSF<sup>186</sup>, JS9<sup>187</sup> and JS8<sup>188</sup> made similar recommendations.

66. FLD stated that individuals who are not exclusively in the field of human rights, but remain publicly vocal about governance and democracy issues in general, have also been targeted.<sup>189</sup>

67. CSW recommended that Egypt ends the harassment of peaceful dissent, revises the protest law, and lifts restrictions preventing human rights organisations from receiving funding for their work.<sup>190</sup> HRW made a similar recommendation.<sup>191</sup> FLD recommended ensuring that investigations into all reported cases of attacks against human rights defenders are carried out, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice.<sup>192</sup>

68. AI<sup>193</sup>, Article 19<sup>194</sup>, FIDH<sup>195</sup>, HRW<sup>196</sup>, JS5<sup>197</sup> and JS10<sup>198</sup> called on Egypt to unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience and all citizens detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

69. CPTI-IFOR expressed concern for, inter alia, lack of provisions for conscientious objection to military service.<sup>199</sup>

70. Article 19 observed that cases of targeted violence against women, including sexual violence, demonstrate that women face particular barriers and violations in exercising their rights.<sup>200</sup> NFS stated that women activists, women human rights defenders, and individual women are subjected to sexual violence, arbitrary arrest, lengthy detention and prolonged and unfair trials.<sup>201</sup> JS4 noted that, while Egypt, during its UPR in 2010, agreed to recommendation 48, women human rights defenders continue to face impediments in their activism and are neither protected nor enabled to carry out their legitimate work.<sup>202</sup> ISHR stated that participation of women in the public sphere had diminished due to continued impunity for gender-based violations and that women human rights defenders were targeted through various violations such as virginity tests.<sup>203</sup> FDL<sup>204</sup> and ISHR<sup>205</sup> recommended guaranteeing women human rights defenders rights and take measures to ensure their protection.

71. ECWR noted that decision-makers always claimed that Egyptian society rejects the idea of women participating in politics.<sup>206</sup> JS7 recommended devoting 30% of the parliament seats to women, and increasing women presence in government ministries, and in all judiciary authorities.<sup>207</sup> ECWR and NSF<sup>208</sup> made similar recommendations.<sup>209</sup>

## **6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

72. ECWR stated that the activities of the Equal Opportunities Commissions, tasked with investigating discrimination against women in the workplace, was suspended in 2011.<sup>210</sup> JS4 stated that successive governments failed to protect and provide suitable conditions of work, and achieve equality and non-discrimination for women.<sup>211</sup> AI noted that women continue to face discrimination in public life and in the implementation of their right to work.<sup>212</sup> ECWR recommended eliminating discrimination against women in the labour market and providing job opportunities and training based on equality.<sup>213</sup> JS11 recommended combating unemployment, particularly among women, young people and in rural areas as a matter of priority.<sup>214</sup>

73. JS11 stated that workers' strikes and protests have continued in response to the state's failure to address poor working conditions. The lack of decent jobs is pushing an increasing number of people, especially women and young people, into the informal sector.<sup>215</sup> JS2 called for a national plan for promoting job creation and reducing unemployment rates.<sup>216</sup> JS11 recommended ensuring that measures taken to address the economic crisis do not impede the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.<sup>217</sup>

## 7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

74. JS11 stated that poverty has risen steadily over the past two decades and now affects over a quarter of the population.<sup>218</sup> JS14 observed that the economic policies of the successive governments since January 2011 have prioritized the reduction of the budget deficit over developmental goals.<sup>219</sup> JS11 recommended: combating hunger and malnutrition; increasing food security, particularly for those living in extreme poverty in rural areas; and ensuring that adequate housing is accessible for all.<sup>220</sup> JS15 recommended targeting poor people with effective provision of basic needs.<sup>221</sup>

75. JS11 noted that the lack of affordable housing in Egypt has led to a proliferation of informal housing nationwide, while development plans often violate the rights of residents in informal areas.<sup>222</sup> JS2 called for a comprehensive national plan to address the problem of unplanned slums.<sup>223</sup> JS16 recommended reiterating the state's obligation to guarantee the right to adequate housing through the introduction of policy reform to increase affordability.<sup>224</sup> JS14 stated that the Cairo Governorate removed the homes of almost 1000 families in Ezbet el-Nakhl area without prior consultation with the residents, and using excessive force.<sup>225</sup> JS8 urged to ensure housing for victims of forced evictions and compensate them.<sup>226</sup>

76. JS16 stated that the state slowly relinquished its plans for sustainable agricultural development. This led to a drop in the living standards of farmers and decreased the production capacity of land. JS16 recommended substituting the current policy of food importation with a policy of food self-sufficiency, and adopting food sovereignty.<sup>227</sup>

## 8. Right to health

77. JS11 stated that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is still out of reach for many people in Egypt, particularly those in informal settlements and rural areas.<sup>228</sup> JS2<sup>229</sup> and JS15<sup>230</sup> called for the adoption of a new law on a comprehensive health insurance system. JS11<sup>231</sup> and JS16<sup>232</sup> recommended ensuring that safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are accessible for all.

78. JS4 recommended Egypt to: prioritize reproductive rights and take steps against the medicalization of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and boost its work on the anti-FGM campaign; support family planning programs, especially in remote rural and disadvantaged areas.<sup>233</sup>

79. IBFAN recommended extending maternity protection legislation to working mothers, including those in informal economy.<sup>234</sup>

80. JS1 recommended Egypt to reform abortion laws and guarantee access to safe abortion when pregnancies threaten women's health, and to victims of rape and incest. JS1 also recommended revoking article 262 of the Penal Code on illegal abortion.<sup>235</sup>

## 9. Right to education

81. SCI recommended ensuring the right to affordable education, basic protection and security provisions in the school environment;<sup>236</sup> taking all necessary measures to increase public expenditure for school education; and banning all kinds of violence in school.<sup>237</sup>

82. JS2<sup>238</sup> and JS8<sup>239</sup> called for free education at the various stages in the State's educational institutions.

83. JS7 stated that the percentage of illiteracy in Egypt is about 28% of the population and that two thirds of the illiterate people are women<sup>240</sup>, and recommended setting and implementing a plan to eliminate women's illiteracy within 5 years.<sup>241</sup> JS15 recommended reforming the education system to increase quality and eliminate illiteracy.

84. JS11 recommended ensuring that all children can enjoy the right to free primary education, without discrimination, by improving the quality of public education.<sup>242</sup>

#### **10. Cultural rights**

85. JS3 noted that the Egyptian Penal Code criminalizes numerous forms of artistic expression.<sup>243</sup> JS3 recommended the Government to amend its legislation criminalizing expression on the grounds of protecting public decency, public order, religion and the reputations of others; repeal all legislation that imposes prior censorship; repeal Law 35/1976 that criminalizes artistic work by non-members of the Federation of Artistic Syndicates, and those who practice without a permit.<sup>244</sup>

#### **11. Persons with disabilities**

86. Noting that despite steps for the integration of persons with disabilities, the lack of financial resources has prevented substantive progress, JS19 recommended the reform of education and health services in order to achieve accessibility for those with disabilities.<sup>245</sup> JS19 also recommended developing a joint plan among the organizations of persons with disabilities, the Government and the private sector to develop a strategy for the support of persons with disabilities, especially for women with disabilities.<sup>246</sup>

#### **12. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

87. IOM, together with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Human Trafficking and the Ministry of Interior, established, in January 2012, a National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking to enhance coordination of the protection, medical and social assistance provided to victims of human trafficking in Egypt.<sup>247</sup>

88. JS2 stated that Egyptian authorities detained hundreds of Syrian refugees with their children, and called for the immediate release of all detained refugees.<sup>248</sup> JS8 urged Egypt to immediately release the refugees detained and to grant them free education and free healthcare.<sup>249</sup>

89. HRW mentioned reports of torture and rape of Eritrean nationals at the hands of traffickers in Sinai, and recommended the Government to grant UNHCR access to all places where migrants are detained pending deportation.<sup>250</sup>

#### **13. Human rights and counter-terrorism**

90. AI called on Egypt to repeal the Anti-Terrorism Law 97/1992 or else amend it to be consistent with international standards.<sup>251</sup> JS10 called for the withdrawal of the draft Anti-Terrorism Law.<sup>252</sup> JS8 urged that anti-terrorism measures do not harm the respect for human rights especially the right to life, to freedom, and security of persons.<sup>253</sup>

91. HRW noted that the Government designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation in December 2013, thereby criminalizing its activities and association with it.<sup>254</sup>

92. JS14 indicated that in the Sinai Peninsula and elsewhere, terrorist attacks continue against military personnel, civilians, religious, state and private institutions.<sup>255</sup>

93. JS17 noted the lack of an Anti-terrorism law which provides a clear definition of what is terrorism, who is a terrorist, what is a terrorist organization and a terrorist operation, and the methods of facing and combating terrorism.<sup>256</sup> FLD noted that the transitional authorities have adopted an 'Anti-Terrorism' discourse in an attempt to justify and legitimize actions violating rights and freedoms of human rights defenders.<sup>257</sup> IHRC made a similar comment.<sup>258</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org).

#### Civil society

##### Individual submissions:

ACIJLP	Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Protection, Cairo (Egypt);
AHRA	Assiut Human Rights Association, Assiut (Egypt);
AI	Amnesty International, London (United Kingdom);
AK	Alkarama Foundation, Geneva (Switzerland);
Article 19	Article 19, London (United Kingdom);
CIHRS	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Geneva (Switzerland);
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide, New Malden (United Kingdom);
EAJCW	European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses, Kraainem (Belgium);
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg (France);
ECWR	Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
EIPR	Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
EOHR	Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
FIDH	Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, Paris (France);
FLD	Front Line – International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment on Children, London (United Kingdom);
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva (Switzerland);
IBAHRI	International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, London (United Kingdom);
IBFAN	International Baby Food Action Network, Geneva (Switzerland);
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists, Geneva (Switzerland);
IHRC	Islamic Human Rights Commission, London (United Kingdom);
ISHR	International Service for Human Rights, Geneva (Switzerland);
MRG	Minority Rights Group International, London (United Kingdom);
NFS	Nazra for Feminist Studies, Cairo (Egypt);
RWB	Reporters Without Borders, Paris (France);

##### Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint submission 1 submitted by: Sexual Rights Initiative, Ottawa (Canada);
JS2	Joint submission 2 submitted by: Assiut Human Rights Association, Assiut (Egypt);
JS3	Joint submission 3 submitted by: Freemuse, Copenhagen, (Denmark);
JS4	Joint submission 4 submitted by: Nazra for Feminist Studies, Cairo (Egypt);
JS5	Joint submission 5 submitted by: No Military Trials for Civilians, Cairo (Egypt);
JS6	Joint submission 6 submitted by: Privacy International, London, (United Kingdom);
JS7	Joint submission 7 submitted by: Coalition of Egyptian Civil Society for the UPR, Cairo, (Egypt);

JS8	Joint submission 8 submitted by: Arab Penal Reform Organization, Cairo (Egypt);
JS9	Joint submission 9 submitted by: Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-violence Studies, Cairo (Egypt);
JS10	Joint submission 10 submitted by: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg (South Africa);
JS11	Joint submission 11 submitted by: Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social rights, Cairo (Egypt);
JS12	Joint submission 12 submitted by: International Fellowship for Reconciliation, Grand Lancy (Switzerland);
JS13	Joint submission 13 submitted by: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Geneva (Switzerland);
JS14	Joint submission 14 submitted by: Forum of Egyptian Independent Human Rights Organizations, Cairo (Egypt);
JS15	Joint submission 15 submitted by: Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo (Egypt);
JS16	Joint submission 16 submitted by: Habitat International Coalition and the Urban Reform Coalition, Santiago (Chile);
JS17	Joint submission 17 submitted by: Elma7rosa network, Giza (Egypt);
JS18	Joint submission 18 submitted by: Egyptian Alliance to Raise Awareness and Support for Electoral Democracy, Cairo (Egypt);
JS19	Joint submission 19 submitted by: Egypt Federation of Societies of Persons with Disabilities, Giza (Egypt);

National human rights institution(s):

NCHR\* National Council for Human Rights;

Regional intergovernmental organization(s):

IOM International Organization for Migration in Egypt.

<sup>2</sup> NCHR, page 1.

<sup>3</sup> NCHR, page 2.

<sup>4</sup> NCHR, page 2.

<sup>5</sup> NCHR, page 5.

<sup>6</sup> NCHR, page 5.

<sup>7</sup> NCHR, page 2.

<sup>8</sup> NCHR, page 3.

<sup>9</sup> NCHR, page 4.

<sup>10</sup> NCHR, page 4.

<sup>11</sup> NCHR, page 5.

<sup>12</sup> The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution

	and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

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- 17 AK, page 3.
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- 19 FIDH, page 5.
- 20 JS11, page 9.
- 21 ACIJLP, page 2.
- 22 FIDH, page 5.
- 23 FIDH, page 6.
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- 25 FIDH, page 6.
- 26 JS10, page 10. See also FLD, page 4.
- 27 CIHRS, page 1.
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- 29 JS8, page 1.
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- 32 EOHR, page 1.
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- 38 AI, page 2.
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- 41 JS8, page 6.
- 42 ECWR, page 5.
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