

# **The Commentary**

Commentary of the Committee for Justice on the Egyptian Government's Responses to the Recommendations of the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review



#### Introduction

Within the framework of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Egyptian government participated in this UN mechanism, which was originally designed as a tool for monitoring, assessment, and encouragement to improve human rights conditions through voluntary and constructive international dialogue. However, a thorough examination of Egypt's conduct throughout this cycle and its responses to the recommendations reveals a clear pattern: the government has approached the mechanism as a public relations exercise and a platform for political propaganda, rather than a binding or motivating process for genuine reform. The state has worked to strip the UPR of its substance by broadly accepting vague and general recommendations while rejecting—or merely "noting"—the substantive recommendations that are fundamental to any real progress in the human rights situation.

It is worth noting that the UPR has become the last standing and effective international mechanism available to the international community in addressing Egypt's human rights record. Over the past years, various international actors have made concerted efforts to encourage voluntary and meaningful improvements in Egypt's human rights conditions through different tools. These included initiatives by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), such as proposals to provide technical and institutional support for a broad reform program targeting rights-related institutions. Similarly, UN Special Procedures have played a role by addressing individual cases and specific violations, engaging the Egyptian authorities in official communications and offering training and technical assistance to improve state capacity in the fields of justice and human rights.

Despite these multiple efforts, the Egyptian state has continued to act evasively and dismissively, especially when it comes to recommendations that address the core of the country's rights crisis— such as ending security force abuses, guaranteeing fair trial standards, lifting restrictions on civil society, and safeguarding public freedoms. The lack of tangible progress—sometimes even deterioration—in key human rights indicators casts serious doubt on the government's credibility and commitment to its international obligations. It reflects a strategy of deflecting external pressure without any real intent to implement reform.

A closer analysis of Egypt's position on the recommendations received during this UPR cycle reveals the government's selective and evasive approach. While Egypt formally accepted 265 recommendations and partially accepted 16, it chose to merely "note" 62 recommendations effectively a form of indirect rejection. These 62 recommendations largely concern core issues that would put the state's willingness to implement political and human rights reforms to the test. They include calls for ratification of key international instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as demands to halt executions, guarantee fair trials, release political detainees (including Alaa Abdel Fattah), investigate extrajudicial killings (such as the Giulio Regeni case), and recognize the rights of LGBTQ+ persons.



This selective approach, combined with the use of vague diplomatic language that conceals an underlying rejection of reform, demonstrates that the Egyptian government has failed to show even the minimum political or legal responsiveness expected of a member state of the Human Rights Council. In light of this, the international community is now more than ever called upon to link Egypt's UPR commitments to stronger follow-up mechanisms and independent periodic oversight. Symbolic acceptance of recommendations should no longer be interpreted as genuine cooperation or goodwill, especially in the context of persistent, systematic human rights violations affecting large segments of the population.

Egypt's efforts to hollow out the UPR process have become apparent through the use of vague and formalistic responses that avoid any clear commitment to substantive reform. Although the government has accepted a large proportion of recommendations, most of these relate to general or uncontroversial issues, or to actions already undertaken with little real impact on the human rights landscape. Meanwhile, the government has systematically rejected or deflected recommendations concerning fundamental civil and political rights—such as the abolition of the death penalty, combatting torture, ensuring judicial independence, ceasing security harassment of human rights defenders, and upholding freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, and expression. Rather than rejecting these recommendations outright, the government has resorted to using the phrase "noted" as a diplomatic loophole to avoid binding commitments while masking its refusal to take real action. Notably, most of the recommendations treated in this way are those that represent cornerstones of any credible human rights reform agenda, thus revealing a clear lack of political will and an implicit refusal to acknowledge the gravity of Egypt's human rights crisis.

This approach confirms that the Egyptian authorities are exploiting the UPR as a stage for political propaganda rather than viewing it as an opportunity for self-assessment, identification of gaps, and engagement in a comprehensive reform process. Such a stance undermines the very objectives of the UPR, erodes international confidence in Egypt's voluntary commitments, and entrenches a reality of impunity and systemic violations of fundamental rights. Therefore, the upcoming follow-up phase must be marked by rigorous monitoring and objective analysis of Egypt's actual responsiveness to its international obligations, rather than reliance on the state's rhetorical assurances.

In conclusion, as Egypt continues its strategy of evasion and neglect of the UPR's core recommendations, it has become evident that voluntary mechanisms alone are insufficient to address the country's deteriorating human rights situation. Experience has shown that diplomatic discourse, training sessions, and technical support—despite their importance—have not produced any measurable improvement. On the contrary, violations have become more widespread, and indicators of justice and freedom have continued to decline. In this context, the international community now faces an urgent necessity: to push for the establishment of an independent international monitoring and investigative mechanism on Egypt. Such a mechanism should be mandated to gather and document gross human rights violations, submit periodic reports to international bodies, and track the extent of the Egyptian authorities' compliance with their



obligations. This is no longer a matter of political luxury—it is a pressing requirement dictated by the seriousness of the situation and the failure of all previous avenues to produce meaningful reform.



# Methodology of the Commentary

As part of the Committee for Justice's (CFJ) follow-up to the outcomes of Egypt's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle, held in July 2025 before the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Committee has conducted a comprehensive and detailed analytical review of all 343 recommendations issued by member states to the Egyptian government. These recommendations span the full range of human rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and issues related to justice, accountability, and redress.

# **1. Reference Sources for Evaluation**

In developing its commentary on the recommendations, the Committee relied on several key reference points:

- **Official Government Reports**: Primarily the national report submitted by Egypt to the UPR mechanism.
- International Legal Standards: As outlined in the core UN human rights treaties to which Egypt is a party, as well as customary international law.
- **Stakeholder Submissions**: Including more than five joint reports to which CFJ contributed, submitted to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Independent Documentation and Briefings: Prepared and submitted by the Committee to over 40 diplomatic missions of member states, aiming to influence the substance of recommendations directed to Egypt.

# 2. Method of Presentation and Analysis

The Committee adopted a systematic, comparative approach designed to highlight the gaps between the Egyptian government's formal responses and the documented human rights reality. Each analytical entry includes:

- The Full Text of the Recommendation: As submitted by the recommending state during the UPR session.
- **Egypt's Official Position**: Whether the recommendation was supported, already implemented, noted, or rejected.
- **Government Explanation**: As stated in Egypt's official responses, including justifications for its position and any actions allegedly taken.
- **CFJ Commentary**: Providing a critical assessment of the government's position based on independent monitoring, legal analysis, and compliance with international standards.



# 3. Objectives and Importance of the Review

This commentary seeks to:

- **Expose the Disconnect** between Egypt's official statements and the actual human rights situation.
- **Provide a Documentation and Monitoring Tool** for stakeholders, including NGOs, diplomatic missions, and international mechanisms, to track implementation effectively.
- **Strengthen Accountability and Transparency** regarding Egypt's international commitments, especially in light of its repeated failure to implement past recommendations.
- **Support Sustained International Pressure** to push the government toward structural reforms in its security, legislative, and executive practices, beyond formalistic or verbal commitments.

# 4. Methodological Notes

- Recommendations are presented in their official order as per the Human Rights Council documentation.
- The original wording of each recommendation has been preserved.
- CFJ's commentary is grounded in real-life examples and verified cases documented by the Committee and its partners.
- The following symbols are used:

# for accepted recommendations

- for partially accepted recommendations
- X for "noted" recommendations (used by the Egyptian government to indirectly reject them)



# Purpose of the Commentary

This commentary represents a crucial step in leveraging the UPR as an effective international accountability mechanism for improving human rights in Egypt. Beyond documenting Egypt's shortcomings in fulfilling its obligations, it offers an analytical tool for international actors and Egyptian civil society to track progress and identify priority areas for follow-up and advocacy. Moreover, this report reflects CFJ's conviction that the UPR mechanism, while valuable, is no longer sufficient on its own. Unless its recommendations are accompanied by real follow-up procedures and fact-based accountability, its impact will remain limited. The current situation calls for serious consideration of the need to establish an independent international monitoring mechanism on Egypt, one tasked with ongoing documentation, reporting, and assessment of the country's compliance with human rights obligations. Such a mechanism is no longer a political luxury—it is an urgent necessity in light of the continuing deterioration in Egypt's human rights record and the ineffectiveness of prior efforts.

#### • Recommendation 42.1

Text: "Consider acceding to international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party" (Paraguay).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite Egypt's support for this recommendation, no significant progress has been made towards joining key international instruments, notably:

- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture,
- The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Despite repeated demands by Egyptian and international civil society, Egypt has shown no tangible political or time-bound commitment towards ratification. CFJ emphasizes that this formal endorsement has not translated into concrete actions, widening the gap between declared international obligations and internal practices, thus undermining Egypt's credibility before UN mechanisms and limiting victims' access to justice.



Text: "Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" (Mongolia).

Egypt's Position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt supported this recommendation for the third consecutive cycle (previously in 2014 and 2019) but has yet to take any practical steps toward accession. CFJ reports show systematic enforced disappearances in Egypt, documenting 4,253 cases since 2015, including 821 cases from August 2022 to August 2023 alone. Repeated patterns include "disappearance after release" and "case recycling," where detainees are reassigned new charges after release orders. Egypt's persistent refusal to ratify the Convention or effectively engage with UN mechanisms underscores its lack of political will to end this crime, rendering its support a mere formality without genuine guarantees for victims.

• Recommendation 42.3

Text: "Continue its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" (Angola).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt's stated support is part of recurring political rhetoric without tangible or transparent engagement. Since 2010, Egypt has refused visits from Special Rapporteurs on enforced disappearances and torture, ignoring repeated visitation requests. Furthermore, Egypt's continued non-responsiveness to Special Procedures' communications and lack of effective national investigations contradict this recommendation's intent. CFJ recommends linking such cooperation to practical measures, including immediate ratification of the Convention, acceptance of Special Procedures visits, activating independent national complaint monitoring committees, and enabling victims' access to effective remedies and judicial accountability.



Text: "Enhance its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" (Republic of Korea).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite supporting this recommendation, Egypt has not initiated any legislative or procedural actions toward ratification. The state continues to deny systematic enforced disappearances despite clear evidence, including illegal detention in secret locations, prolonged denial of detainees' whereabouts, torture and ill-treatment during disappearances, and threats against family members attempting to file complaints. This indicates that Egypt's endorsement is superficial, necessitating international oversight and pressure to ensure genuine implementation and to end impunity.

• Recommendation 42.5

Text: "Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" (Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Mexico, North Macedonia, South Sudan, Ukraine).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt's multiple endorsements of ratifying the Convention from various states represent formal acceptance without concrete action. CFJ monitoring confirms ongoing enforced disappearances as a tool to suppress dissent, with the Public Prosecution refusing serious investigations and security authorities treating disappearances as a legitimate policy. Ratification remains off parliamentary or governmental agendas despite repeated endorsements since 2014. CFJ calls for a clear action plan to implement these recommendations, including parliamentary discussions, legal alignment, a national mechanism for locating the disappeared, and guarantees of non-recurrence through accountability.

# • Recommendation 42.6

**Text:** "Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment" (Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ghana, Madagascar, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Ukraine); "Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture" (Sweden).

# Egypt's Position: X Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's refusal to ratify the Optional Protocol indicates a lack of political will to establish an



independent preventive mechanism against torture. CFJ and partner reports document systematic torture in detention centers, including electric shocks, suspension by limbs, sexual assaults, severe beatings, and medical neglect. These abuses occur amidst impunity and absence of effective oversight. CFJ stresses that ratifying and implementing the protocol is essential to fulfill minimal international obligations to prevent torture.

#### Recommendation 42.7

**Text:** "Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture" (Liechtenstein). **Egypt's Position:** X Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt consistently notes this recommendation without taking action, highlighting its intention to avoid commitments that could result in direct accountability. CFJ's data reveal persistent enforced disappearances under vague legal justifications and absent judicial oversight. Egypt demonstrates no intent to prioritize ratification despite persistent international demands.

Recommendation 42.8

Text: "Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture" (Cyprus). Egypt's Position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt's support is a positive rhetorical step but has not translated into actions. A national preventive mechanism remains absent, and CFJ reports severe torture violations in detention facilities, including electric shocks, suspension, beatings, sexual threats, and medical neglect. Torture predominantly targets political opponents without accountability. CFJ urges adopting a clear action plan, legislative review, civil society monitoring, and ensuring the independence of the preventive mechanism from security control.

#### Recommendation 42.9

**Text:** "Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty" (Czechia, Estonia, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay).

#### Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt repeatedly merely notes this recommendation without commitment to abolishing or limiting the death penalty. CFJ reports indicate Egypt is among the top executioners globally, often lacking fair trial guarantees and relying on coerced confessions. CFJ urges an immediate moratorium on



executions and encourages public and legislative discussions towards progressively abolishing the death penalty.

# • Recommendation 42.10

**Text:** "Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR" (Iceland). **Egypt's Position:** X Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's mere notation of this recommendation, without genuine commitment to abolition or ratification, is concerning. CFJ emphasizes the need for immediate practical steps, including a moratorium on executions and ensuring transparent fair trials. Maintaining capital punishment continues to severely impact Egypt's human rights record, international credibility, and domestic legal stability.

• Recommendation 42.11

Text: "Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families" (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported and already implemented

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt ratified this Convention in 1993 and has submitted periodic reports, indicating formal compliance. However, CFJ documents significant violations against migrant workers, including poor working conditions, arbitrary detention, employer exploitation, and inadequate complaint mechanisms. Despite ratification, substantial gaps remain between international commitments and practical enforcement, necessitating stronger oversight and legislative reforms to effectively protect migrant workers, particularly in informal sectors.



Text: "Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (Eswatini, Rwanda).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt formally supports this recommendation yet maintains significant reservations citing conflicts with national laws and religious norms. CFJ notes limited progress on women's rights, particularly regarding legal equality, personal status laws, protection from violence, and political-economic representation. CFJ urges reviewing existing reservations, accelerating accession to the Optional Protocol, and strengthening domestic legislation to align fully with international obligations protecting women's rights comprehensively.

# Recommendation 42.13

**Text:** "Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia); "Finalize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW" (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

#### Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's choice to merely note this recommendation without genuine commitment to ratification reflects continuing reservations and reluctance to embrace comprehensive international obligations for women's rights. CFJ highlights persistent obstacles to actual equality, especially regarding family rights, judicial access, and institutional discrimination. Though some formal legislative actions were taken, significant legal protection gaps and traditional discriminatory practices remain. CFJ advocates for inclusive national dialogue and comprehensive review of the Egyptian legal framework.



Text: "Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure" (Rwanda).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's support for this recommendation is positive and aligns with its international commitments. However, CFJ stresses significant implementation gaps regarding child protection, children's access to justice mechanisms, and independent and effective complaint procedures. CFJ recommends reinforcing national mechanisms ensuring real protection for children, particularly vulnerable groups, and involving specialized civil society organizations in monitoring and oversight.

# Recommendation 42.15

**Text:** "Finalize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure" (Democratic Republic of the Congo); "Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure" (Namibia).

# Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt has again noted this recommendation without concrete action, reflecting reluctance towards adopting the Optional Protocol. CFJ emphasizes the importance of ratification as a crucial tool enabling children to submit complaints about violations directly to international bodies. The absence of ratification severely limits children's access to international protection mechanisms, exacerbating existing domestic challenges in enforcing child rights, combating family violence, preventing exploitation, and establishing independent complaint structures.

#### Recommendation 42.16

**Text:** "Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (Rwanda).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt expressed support for this recommendation, reflecting a positive stance internationally regarding economic, social, and cultural human rights. However, CFJ notes significant gaps between declared international obligations and actual implementation, particularly in areas such as:

- Right to health,
- Quality education,
- Decent work,



Social protection.

CFJ recommends strengthening the legal and institutional framework to guarantee the enjoyment of these rights for all, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, alongside effective mechanisms for submitting grievances.

#### Recommendation 42.17

**Text:** "Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (Ecuador, Namibia).

Egypt's Position: X Noted

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt merely noted this recommendation without committing clearly to ratification. CFJ expresses concern about ongoing gaps in economic and social rights, particularly regarding:

- Public health,
- Educational equity,
- Poverty alleviation,
- Decent working conditions.

The absence of effective accountability mechanisms enabling citizens to claim their rights makes ratification of this Optional Protocol essential for strengthening Egypt's human rights protection system.

# • Recommendation 42.18

Text: "Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court" (Liechtenstein).

# Egypt's Position: X Noted

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt has not ratified the Rome Statute, reflecting a political and legal reluctance towards international jurisdiction for grave crimes, particularly war crimes and crimes against humanity. CFJ highlights that non-ratification represents a significant obstacle to enhancing accountability culture and combating impunity. It also signals hesitation by the Egyptian state to engage fully with international mechanisms aimed at prosecuting serious human rights violators, thus limiting cooperation with international efforts to protect human rights.

#### Recommendation 42.19

**Text:** "Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness" (Togo).

Egypt's Position: X Noted



#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's non-ratification negatively affects the protection of stateless persons or individuals with unclear nationality status, especially in border areas and among marginalized groups. CFJ has documented cases where lack of nationality led to deprivation of education, healthcare, and basic services due to the absence of a comprehensive legal framework addressing statelessness. CFJ urges prompt ratification, development of clear policies addressing statelessness, and measures ensuring non-recurrence.

#### • Recommendation 42.20

**Text:** "Ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), to enhance protection from violence and harassment against women in the workplace" (Denmark).

Egypt's Position: X Noted

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite noting the recommendation, Egypt has shown no clear intent to ratify or implement ILO Convention No. 190, reflected in persistent cases of workplace violence and harassment faced by women. Egypt lacks comprehensive national legislation explicitly prohibiting workplace harassment and violence, as well as effective independent complaint mechanisms, particularly in informal sectors. CFJ strongly recommends ratifying the convention, updating national laws for comprehensive protection, and implementing widespread preventive and educational measures.

# Recommendation 42.21

**Text:** "Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)" (Mauritius). **Egypt's Position:** ✓ Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt supported the recommendation without specifying practical or time-bound steps for ratification or protecting domestic workers' rights. CFJ reports highlight significant abuses faced by domestic workers, including:

- Lack of legal employment contracts,
- Exclusion from social protection,
- Weak oversight of working conditions,
- Violations including forced labor and physical abuse.
   CFJ recommends prompt ratification, adopting specific national legislation for domestic workers, including effective complaint and accountability mechanisms.



**Text:** "Review the personal status law and the Penal Code to modify or delete articles discriminating against women, including lifting reservations to Article 16 of CEDAW" (Sweden).

# Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt has not committed to a comprehensive legislative review and continues to maintain reservations on Article 16 of CEDAW related to personal status. CFJ highlights clear discriminatory provisions within Egyptian personal status laws, particularly concerning:

- Inheritance issues,
- Divorce and child custody,
- Guardianship,
- Polygamy and obedience clauses.

Moreover, the Penal Code does not criminalize certain forms of gender-based violence, including marital rape, leaving substantial protection gaps. CFJ urges a comprehensive legislative review aligning national laws with international standards ensuring gender equality and non-discrimination.

#### • Recommendation 42.23

**Text:** "Continue efforts to submit overdue periodic reports to treaty bodies and ensure regularized submission of national reports" (Viet Nam).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt generally fulfills its obligation to submit periodic reports to treaty bodies, despite delays in some cases, notably reports on ICCPR and CAT. CFJ recommends improving transparency in report preparation, genuine civil society engagement, and ensuring reports reflect real-world conditions rather than merely stating legislative texts. CFJ emphasizes aligning report content with genuine international obligations and human rights standards.

#### Recommendation 42.24

**Text:** "Further enhance its institutional human rights framework, including implementing international obligations" (Japan).

#### **Egypt's Position:** Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Enhancing the institutional human rights framework is a positive objective officially endorsed by Egypt. However, in practice, CFJ notes:

• Weak independence of national institutions,



- Insufficient resources,
- Predominantly formal rather than substantive efforts.
   CFJ warns that continued superficial approaches could undermine this recommendation's effectiveness and calls for true institutional independence, effective monitoring, and practical implementation of international obligations.

**Text:** "Extend an open and standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council" (Colombia, Paraguay).

# Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt has not issued a standing invitation to special rapporteurs, significantly restricting international oversight and undermining declared cooperation with the Human Rights Council. CFJ views this absence as indicative of a desire to avoid international scrutiny of severe violations, allowing the state to control the scope of rapporteurs' visits. CFJ recommends an unconditional, permanent invitation demonstrating genuine transparency and enabling independent UN mechanisms to function freely.

#### • Recommendation 42.26

**Text:** "Consider extending a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council" (Latvia).

# Egypt's Position: 🗙 Noted

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's hesitant stance repeats the pattern of Recommendation 42.25, demonstrating reluctance to invite special rapporteurs regularly. CFJ stresses that this hesitation limits international evaluations of Egypt's actual human rights situation and enables impunity, particularly regarding torture, enforced disappearances, and freedom of expression. CFJ recommends issuing formal invitations and establishing mechanisms facilitating regular independent visits.

#### • Recommendation 42.27

Text: "Consider inviting other special rapporteurs to conduct official visits" (Guinea).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt expressed willingness to invite a limited number of special rapporteurs but has not provided clear timelines or conducted announced visits in recent years. CFJ calls for expanding invitations to include mandates covering priority human rights concerns, such as torture, peaceful assembly, and



human rights defenders. Visits should be transparent, results publicly disclosed, and recommendations integrated into a national human rights reform agenda.

#### • Recommendation 42.28

**Text:** "Consider extending invitations for visits by special rapporteurs, in order to evaluate the results achieved within the framework of the National Human Rights Strategy" (El Salvador).

# Egypt's Position: 🔽 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's formal support for inviting Special Rapporteurs to assess the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy is commendable. However, there have been no publicly announced visits or practical measures to realize this recommendation. CFJ calls for transparent monitoring mechanisms and active civil society engagement to evaluate the strategy's effectiveness, ensuring the results of such visits are publicly available and actionable.

# Recommendation 42.29

**Text:** "Strengthen its dialogue with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council" (Morocco). **Egypt's Position:** Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Although Egypt formally affirms its commitment to dialogue with Special Procedures, concrete actions remain limited. CFJ highlights the importance of translating this dialogue into concrete measures, including accepting Special Rapporteurs' visits, responding regularly to their communications, effectively implementing their recommendations, and publicly disseminating reports. Without these actions, dialogue remains superficial and ineffective.

# Recommendation 42.30

**Text:** "Expedite the finalization and submission of its outstanding reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" (Kenya).

# **Egypt's Position: V** Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt committed to submitting overdue reports but has experienced significant delays, weakening oversight capabilities by treaty bodies. CFJ recommends adopting a permanent mechanism for timely report preparation, actively involving independent institutions and genuine civil society organizations, and ensuring that reports comprehensively reflect real conditions rather than simply reciting legislative texts.





**Text:** "Continue cooperation with OHCHR in order to strengthen the capacity of public officials to promote and protect human rights" (Republic of Korea).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's cooperation with OHCHR is positive, notably through training workshops for public officials. However, CFJ observes that cooperation is limited primarily to symbolic measures without demonstrable impact on official practices, especially in law enforcement, public prosecution, and local governance sectors. CFJ recommends institutionalized, continuous training and integrating human rights principles practically into public policy, with measurable outcomes.

# • Recommendation 42.32

**Text:** "Adopt a definition of torture in line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and criminalize enforced disappearance" (Colombia).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, it has yet to fully incorporate a definition of torture consistent with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture into domestic legislation. The current penal code lacks essential components, such as recognizing torture as a continuous crime, non-applicability of statutes of limitation, and prohibition on using evidence extracted through torture. Additionally, enforced disappearance is not explicitly criminalized under Egyptian law. CFJ urges comprehensive legal revisions aligning national law with international standards and establishing independent mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

# Recommendation 42.33

**Text:** "Uphold Egypt's valuable commitments to combating and preventing illegal migration, including those stemming from relevant international agreements" (Hungary).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite formal support, CFJ documents ongoing unlawful detention and forced deportation of migrants without adequate assessment of their protection claims, alongside ineffective judicial oversight. CFJ emphasizes aligning national migration policies with international standards, particularly providing robust protections for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and refugees from conflict zones.



**Text:** "Continue to work on raising awareness of the importance of respecting religious and cultural diversity and the values of tolerance and coexistence among various segments of society, especially in rural areas" (Morocco).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite Egypt's official support, comprehensive and effective policies promoting religious and cultural diversity remain lacking, particularly in rural areas. Discrimination and harassment against minorities, including Christians in Upper Egypt, Bahá'ís, and certain ethnic groups, persist. Official statements are rarely matched by genuine community or media initiatives, and educational curricula inadequately address pluralism and tolerance. CFJ recommends educational and cultural programs promoting equal citizenship and holding accountable those who incite hatred.

#### Recommendation 42.35

**Text:** "Strengthen efforts to raise awareness in society about the culture of human rights" (Jordan). **Egypt's Position:** Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt supports this recommendation, yet tangible outcomes in society remain minimal, with ongoing limitations on civil and political rights, persistent repression targeting human rights defenders, journalists, and political opponents. State media fails to effectively promote a human rights culture and frequently perpetuates negative stereotypes about activists. CFJ recommends integrating human rights education into school curricula, enhancing public media's role, and empowering independent civil society to actively engage in human rights awareness.

#### Recommendation 42.36

**Text:** "Strengthen efforts with a view to promoting a human rights culture, especially among law enforcement personnel and public employees" (Bangladesh).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite official support, violations by police and security services remain widespread, including torture, arbitrary detention, and excessive use of force. Trainings provided to law enforcement personnel are mostly symbolic, lacking systematic structure, evaluation mechanisms, or accountability. CFJ recommends establishing permanent institutional human rights training programs for law enforcement, linked with genuine accountability for violations.



**Text:** "Increase human rights assessments and training programmes in cooperation with civil society organizations" (Iraq).

#### Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

In practice, independent civil society organizations are effectively excluded from meaningful engagement in Egypt. They face restrictive laws, judicial harassment, and bans on funding, while only pro-government organizations are allowed to operate freely. CFJ recommends enabling independent civil society to participate in human rights assessments and to conduct training programs for public officials in a secure and enabling environment.

#### • Recommendation 42.38

**Text:** "Implement the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) by announcing its executive programme and providing it with sufficient human and financial resources" (Lebanon).

# Egypt's Position: 🔽 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Although the strategy has been announced along with a general implementation plan, the allocated resources are insufficient to achieve the stated goals. CFJ notes the strategy lacks clear performance indicators, independent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and transparency in implementation. CFJ urges active involvement of genuine stakeholders, including independent civil society, in all stages of implementation and follow-up.

#### Recommendation 42.39

**Text:** "Continue implementing the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) and realizing its goals" (Libya).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

While the strategy provides a formal framework, implementation suffers from limited transparency, inadequate resource allocation, and the ineffectiveness of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR). CFJ notes that the NCHR lost its "A" status and was downgraded to "B" by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions due to lack of independence, political interference, and failure to produce tangible improvements. CFJ recommends restructuring the implementation mechanisms and linking them to genuine accountability and independent participation.

#### Recommendation 42.40

Text: "Continue implementing the National Human Rights Strategy" (Sudan).



# **Egypt's Position: V** Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite official support, the NCHR—responsible for following up on the strategy—suffers from limited independence, subordination to the executive branch, and a lack of oversight tools. This undermines its capacity to address serious violations or pressure authorities to reform. CFJ recommends strengthening the council's autonomy and establishing transparent mechanisms to monitor implementation of the strategy.

# • Recommendation 42.41

**Text:** "Strengthen the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy, especially in the areas of civil and political rights, and human rights education and capacity-building" (Thailand). **Egypt's Position:** Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

While Egypt declares commitment to the strategy, practical implementation—particularly regarding civil and political rights—remains weak. CFJ observes that the national committee tasked with execution lacks real independence and is unable to address sensitive issues such as repression of free expression, torture, and enforced disappearance. Human rights education programs are limited in impact and do not systematically include security or judicial sectors. CFJ recommends redirecting resources toward genuine reforms in civil and political rights and establishing an independent follow-up and evaluation mechanism.

#### • Recommendation 42.42

Text: "Continue to implement the first National Human Rights Strategy" (Tunisia).

#### Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite formal endorsement, the strategy faces significant implementation challenges, including a lack of transparency in performance indicators, insufficient funding, weak coordination between relevant bodies, and exclusion of independent civil society. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms lack independence and effectiveness. CFJ recommends developing a realistic implementation plan based on independent assessments and meaningful engagement of active civil society actors.

#### Recommendation 42.43

**Text:** "Further strengthen its efforts to implement the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026), including through engagement with relevant stakeholders" (Japan).

**Egypt's Position:** Supported **CFJ Commentary:** 



While Egypt supports stakeholder engagement, in reality this is limited to pro-government NGOs operating under heavy security oversight. Independent organizations are excluded from influencing strategy implementation due to funding bans, administrative restrictions, and security threats. CFJ calls for removing these barriers and enabling independent civil society to play a real role in shaping and evaluating human rights policies.

# • Recommendation 42.44

**Text:** "Continue efforts to implement the National Human Rights Strategy, and develop follow-up and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the achievement of its objectives" (Bahrain).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are weak and largely controlled by the same government entities responsible for implementation, with no involvement of independent institutions. Public progress reports are lacking, undermining public accountability. CFJ recommends establishing an independent evaluation mechanism composed of national and international human rights organizations to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

# • Recommendation 42.45

**Text:** "Continue to regularly assess the implementation of the National Dialogue and follow up accordingly" (Türkiye).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's National Dialogue has had limited impact and is often used for image-building rather than substantive reform. Recommendations from the dialogue have not been integrated into government policies or accompanied by clear follow-up mechanisms. Opposition groups and independent civil society actors have been excluded. CFJ recommends transforming the dialogue into a genuine tool for political and social negotiation, with legal guarantees to respect its outcomes and integrate them into public policies.

# Recommendation 42.47

**Text:** "Take concrete measures to strengthen the independence of the National Council for Human Rights so that it can regain its A status with Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions" (Portugal).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

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#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Restoring the NCHR's "A" status requires clear legal and institutional reforms, including:

- Amending its founding law to ensure structural independence,
- Providing a sufficient and independent budget,
- Granting unrestricted access to detention facilities,
- Ensuring legal protections for its members and collaborators.
   CFJ also emphasizes the need to involve independent civil society in the council's activities and reporting processes.

# • Recommendation 42.48

**Text:** "Strengthen the independence and capacity of the National Council for Human Rights in line with the Paris Principles" (Gambia).

**Egypt's Position: Supported** 

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, CFJ observes that the NCHR still experiences direct and indirect interference from the executive. It suffers from:

- A shortage of skilled technical staff,
- Insufficient independent funding,
- Weak communication with victims and civil society.
   CFJ urges enabling the NCHR to access all places of detention, publish its findings publicly, and ensure its recommendations are tied to government obligations.

# • Recommendation 42.49

**Text:** "Continue to strengthen its national human rights institutions, particularly by ensuring the full implementation of Act No. 182 (2023)" (Kenya).

# Egypt's Position: 🔽 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Law No. 182 of 2023 may represent a formal step toward institutional human rights development, but its implementation has been minimal due to:

- Lack of transparency,
- No independent oversight mechanisms,
- Absence of periodic assessments of its impact.

There are no signs of improved protection for rights defenders or a better working environment for civil society. CFJ recommends issuing a comprehensive implementing



regulation, allocating real resources, and ensuring independent institutional oversight of the law's application.

#### • Recommendation 42.50

**Text:** "Continue to support the national human rights institution in performing its role in accordance with the Paris Principles" (Malaysia).

# Egypt's Position: 🔽 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

The declared support remains largely symbolic. The NCHR lacks full independence, and its monitoring performance is weak, particularly in key areas like torture, arbitrary detention, and freedom of expression. CFJ urges linking institutional support to structural measures such as financial and administrative autonomy, authority to investigate violations, and the ability to publish reports without interference.

#### Recommendation 42.51

**Text:** "Finalise the process of reforming the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles" (Senegal).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Though the NCHR has existed for years, it still faces structural deficiencies, including:

- Lack of independence from the executive,
- Insufficient financial and administrative resources,
- Limited authority beyond issuing non-binding recommendations,
- Inability to access detention facilities without prior security coordination.
   CFJ affirms that the mere existence of the council does not guarantee compliance with the Paris Principles unless it is empowered through genuine structural reform.

#### • Recommendation 42.52

Text: "Continue to support the work of the National Council for Human Rights" (Cuba).

#### Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite official declarations of support, several challenges still hinder the NCHR's effective operation, including:

- Lack of independent funding,
- No binding authority,
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Executive interference in appointments and work scope.
 Many of the council's reports are not made public and fail to document serious violations. CFJ recommends transforming support from a rhetorical commitment into institutional backing that includes funding, oversight powers, and transparency in reporting.

#### Recommendation 42.53

**Text:** "Intensify efforts to ensure the effectiveness of national human rights institutions and specialized national councils" (Türkiye).

Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

# **CFJ Commentary:**

In practice, national institutions in Egypt remain weak due to:

- Lack of structural independence,
- Administrative and financial subordination to the executive,
- Absence of parliamentary or public oversight.

Specialized councils, such as those for women and children, have limited authority and are sometimes used to obscure policy shortcomings. CFJ recommends restructuring these institutions according to the Paris Principles and ensuring their independence, accountability, and transparency.

#### Recommendation 42.54

Text: "Establish a fully operational national preventive mechanism" (Montenegro).

# Egypt's Position: 🗹 Supported

**Government Response:** Egypt claims that the national preventive mechanism is in place and fully functional.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

CFJ disagrees with the government's claim. Egypt lacks an effective independent national preventive mechanism to prevent torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities. Reports continue to document:

- Electric shocks,
- Enforced disappearances,
- Rape and medical neglect,

All of which occur without meaningful independent oversight. CFJ urges the establishment of a fully independent NPM in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, with unimpeded access to all places of detention and authority to investigate and issue binding recommendations.



**Text:** "Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up with regard to recommendations on human rights, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose" (Paraguay).

#### **Egypt's Position:** Supported

**Government Response:** The Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights was established in 2018, composed of relevant ministries and chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It oversees recommendation follow-up, technical support, and establishing human rights units within government agencies.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Although the committee exists, it lacks independence and transparency, as it is operated by entities implicated in rights violations. It excludes independent civil society and does not publish reports or demonstrate policy or legislative impacts. CFJ recommends restructuring the committee to include independent stakeholders, ensure civil society participation, and establish accountability for implementing international recommendations.

#### • Recommendation 42.56

#### Text:

"Consider expanding its complaint mechanisms for human rights violations, building upon the existing channels such as the National Council for Human Rights to ensure greater accessibility and effectiveness for all citizens" — (Kenya)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Although Egypt formally supported the recommendation, the current complaint mechanisms suffer from:

- Lack of independence,
- Ineffective investigative procedures,
- Slow processing of complaints,
- Limited transparency in outcomes.

Citizens have little trust in these mechanisms due to their past inefficacy and the close alignment of the National Council for Human Rights with the executive authorities.

CFJ recommends establishing an independent body to receive and process complaints, issuing quarterly public reports, and ensuring robust protections for complainants and victims.



Text:

"Consider creating an independent commission to combat discrimination" — (South Africa) Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite supporting this recommendation, Egypt has yet to establish a truly independent and effective anti-discrimination commission, as stipulated in Article 53 of the Constitution. Discrimination remains prevalent in Egypt based on:

• Religion,

• Gender,

• Social class,

• Political affiliation.

No clear accountability or remedy mechanisms exist.

CFJ calls for activating the constitutional provision through legislation that establishes an independent commission with investigative and enforcement powers, ensuring representation of affected groups in its composition.

• Recommendation 42.58

Text:

"Create an independent commission to combat discrimination, in accordance with article 53 of the Constitution" — (Mexico)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

More than 10 years after Egypt's 2014 Constitution was passed, the government has failed to enact legislation to establish the anti-discrimination commission mentioned in Article 53. This delay reflects a lack of political will to address systemic and societal discrimination. CFJ urges the government to pass legislation without delay to establish this commission, grant it clear investigatory powers, and compel state institutions to comply with its recommendations.



Text:

"Accelerate efforts to establish an independent national commission on non-discrimination in accordance with article 53 of the Constitution" — (Pakistan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt's support for this recommendation remains rhetorical, with no concrete steps taken to establish the constitutionally mandated body.

In its absence, discrimination continues against:

• Religious minorities (particularly Christians and Bahá'ís),

• Women (especially in personal status laws),

• Lower social classes (in service distribution and subsidies).

CFJ urges expedited legislation and guarantees for financial and administrative independence of the commission, empowering it to receive complaints and issue binding recommendations.

• Recommendation 42.60

Text:

"Consider adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation" — (Togo)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt lacks a comprehensive anti-discrimination law. Instead, scattered references exist across different laws that fail to provide sufficient protection.

Discriminatory practices persist in:

- Employment,
- Education,
- Public services,
- Media.

There is no legal framework offering effective remedies.

CFJ calls for the adoption of a comprehensive law that defines and criminalizes all forms of discrimination, establishes a complaints mechanism, and creates an independent monitoring body.



Text:

"Continue to combat the various manifestations of violence and discrimination on religious grounds" — (Russian Federation)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite its formal support, Egypt continues to witness religious discrimination, particularly against:

- Christians,
- Bahá'ís,
- Individuals who renounce or change religion.
- Discrimination is evident in:
- Public appointments,
- Church construction,
- Educational curricula,
- Religious media discourse.

There is no comprehensive national policy or independent body monitoring or addressing these violations.

CFJ recommends a national action plan addressing legislative reforms, education and media initiatives, and accountability mechanisms for incitement and discrimination.

# • Recommendation 42.62

# Text:

"Implement policies that promote gender equality and protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities" — (Mozambique)

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported

# Government reply:

Egypt accepted the first part related to gender equality and claimed the second part was already implemented, citing constitutional provisions on citizenship and equality.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite constitutional guarantees, discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities continues, particularly in marginalized areas.

Violations include:

- Poor service delivery in Nubian and Sinai regions,
- Hate speech targeting Bahá'ís and Christians,
- Bureaucratic obstacles in issuing official documents aligned with minority identities or beliefs.

CFJ emphasizes that protection must go beyond legal texts to include practical policies, independent monitoring, and genuine community empowerment.



Text:

"Consider implementing mechanisms that guarantee non-discrimination against women and girls" — (Peru)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite official support, Egyptian women and girls continue to face discrimination in:

• Personal status laws,

• Inheritance,

• Domestic violence,

• Political participation.

There is no effective national mechanism to monitor or address this discrimination, and governmental efforts have focused primarily on economic empowerment without addressing discriminatory legal frameworks.

CFJ recommends creating a national body to monitor and combat gender-based discrimination and amending relevant legislation, especially personal status laws.

• Recommendation 42.64

Text:

"Take meaningful steps towards the elimination of discrimination against women and girls" — (Latvia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

While some initiatives have emerged—such as supporting women entrepreneurs and awareness campaigns—discrimination remains widespread, manifested in:

• Absence of a clear law criminalizing domestic violence,

• Low representation of women in decision-making positions,

• Deep-rooted norms limiting women's freedom in education, employment, and mobility.

Women are also excluded from key public offices, and customary practices continue to justify violence and inequality.

CFJ recommends concrete legal reforms and broad-based social awareness programs to challenge entrenched gender stereotypes.



Text:

"Consider the development and adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that will provide full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres" — (Bulgaria) Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Egypt still lacks a unified anti-discrimination law. The current fragmented approach fails to:

- Address discrimination based on gender, religion, ethnicity, or opinion,
- Provide clear accountability mechanisms.

Citizens have no effective legal recourse against discrimination or means to claim compensation. CFJ urges the adoption of a single comprehensive anti-discrimination law that establishes an independent body to investigate complaints and protect victims and whistleblowers.

• Recommendation 42.66

Text:

"Continue to take measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including by supporting the dissemination of a culture of equality and non-discrimination through educational, cultural and media institutions" — (Greece)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

There are no national educational or media policies promoting equality. On the contrary, some curricula and programs reinforce harmful stereotypes, especially against:

- Women,
- Religious minorities,
- Persons with disabilities.

Both state and private media lack oversight and accountability in this domain.

CFJ recommends updating school curricula to include human rights values and enabling the media to contribute to public awareness with support from relevant state institutions.



#### Text:

"Guarantee that the death penalty is never imposed in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" — (Czechia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Claimed to be implemented

Government reply:

Egypt stated that the death penalty is reserved for the "most serious crimes" and claimed to ensure procedural safeguards, including access to legal counsel, presumption of innocence, unanimous court decisions, appeals, mandatory review by the Public Prosecution, and referral to the President for possible clemency. The government also mentioned a "notable decline" in executions.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

# In reality, Egypt's application of the death penalty does not align with international standards.

- 1. The death penalty is applied to crimes beyond the "most serious" threshold, including protestrelated offenses or vague political charges.
- 2. Fair trial guarantees are often absent, including:
  - Forced confessions under torture,
  - Mass trials before terrorism courts,
  - Restricted access to lawyers,
  - Inadequate defense participation,
  - Use of exceptional judicial circuits.
- Review mechanisms are largely formalistic, and presidential clemency is rarely granted. The claim of "notable decline" in executions lacks transparency; CFJ documented at least 38 executions in 2023 alone, amid severe information restrictions.

# **Conclusion:**

Egypt remains one of the world's top executing countries, with a legal and judicial system that fails to meet international safeguards, contradicting its claim of compliance.

# • Recommendation 42.68

#### Text:

"Respect the right to life and therefore ensure that the death penalty is not imposed and, as a first step, establish an official moratorium" — (Austria)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government reply:

Egypt reaffirmed its "firm commitment to the right to life" in line with international obligations but did not commit to an official or optional moratorium on executions.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

The government's response is vague and avoids addressing the core of the recommendation: the



establishment of an official moratorium on executions as a step toward abolition. In practice:

- Egypt continues to carry out executions annually with no official freeze, permanent or temporary.
- Authorities do not notify prisoners or families in advance of executions, violating UN minimum standards for humane treatment.
- Some executions have been implemented despite allegations of torture or denial of due process, and without thorough judicial review.

#### **Conclusion:**

By merely "noting" the recommendation without practical steps, Egypt remains in clear breach of international trends and standards. The continued use of the death penalty without transparency or safeguards reflects a lack of political will to limit or abolish the practice.

# • Recommendation 42.69

#### Text:

"Promote parliamentary discussion to adjust the types of crimes punishable by the death penalty and the minimum age of persons liable to execution according to article 6 (2) and (5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to their reduction and the gradual abolition of the death penalty" — (Paraguay)

Egypt's position: - Partially supported

# Government reply:

Egypt supported only the first part of the recommendation (up to the mention of the Covenant), while objecting to the gradual abolition component.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

This partial support effectively rejects the key reform goal: reducing and eventually abolishing the death penalty.

There is no evidence of any parliamentary initiative to review or reduce the list of capital crimes — which currently exceeds 100 offenses, including many that are not considered "most serious" under international law.

By opposing the notion of gradual abolition, Egypt closes the door on meaningful reform and stands in opposition to growing global consensus on this issue.



Text:

"Limit the death penalty to the most serious crimes under international law and abolish it for minors, in accordance with Egypt's international obligations" — (Switzerland)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Claimed to be implemented

Government reply:

Egypt stated that it prohibits the imposition of the death penalty on minors, citing Article 111 of the Child Law.

**CFJ Commentary:** 

While Egyptian law theoretically bans executions for individuals under 18, implementation gaps persist:

• CFJ has documented cases where defendants were sentenced to death for crimes committed as minors due to failures in verifying age or ignoring official birth documents.

• Many capital offenses in Egypt are political or ideological in nature and do not meet the international threshold of "most serious crimes."

Conclusion:

Legal safeguards exist on paper, but their enforcement is unreliable. Egypt's use of the death penalty continues to fall short of its international obligations both in scope and in its application to juveniles.

# • Recommendation 42.71

# Text:

"Reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty and encourage public debate on a moratorium" — (Chile)

Egypt's position: – Partially supported

# Government reply:

Egypt supported only the first part of the recommendation related to reducing capital offenses.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

In practice, no legislative action has been taken to reduce the number of crimes eligible for the death penalty.

On the contrary, its use appears to be expanding — particularly in politically charged cases.

There has been no public or parliamentary debate on imposing a moratorium.

# **Conclusion:**

Partial support without accompanying measures renders the recommendation ineffective and signals a lack of intention to reduce executions or engage in meaningful reform.



#### Text:

"Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and, in the meantime, reduce the number of crimes to which the death penalty applies and limit its application to only the most serious crimes as defined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" — (Australia)

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported **Government reply:** 

Egypt stated it supports only the portion related to reducing the number of capital crimes.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

As in previous cases, no steps have been taken to reduce the scope of the death penalty.

Egypt continues to reject any move toward a formal or informal moratorium.

Without a clear definition of "most serious crimes" in national law, capital punishment is applied inconsistently, including in non-violent or politically motivated cases.

# **Conclusion:**

The limited support expressed by Egypt does not translate into practical measures. The refusal to consider a moratorium and the broad application of the death penalty highlight Egypt's disregard for international standards.

# • Recommendation 42.73

# Text:

"Amend article 122 of the Children's Code, review all death penalty convictions and commute all death sentences for juvenile offenders to ensure that no person under the age of 18 at the time of the offence is sentenced to death" — (Belgium)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government reply:

Egypt did not provide a detailed response to this recommendation. It merely reiterated that Egyptian law prohibits the execution of individuals under the age of 18, without addressing the recommendation's call for reviewing past cases or amending Article 122 of the Child Law.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Although Egyptian law theoretically bans the death penalty for minors, practical gaps persist due to:

• Article 122 of the Child Law, which allows minors to be tried before adult criminal courts when implicated with adults, potentially exposing them to capital punishment;

- Inadequate verification of age at the time of the alleged crime;
- Judicial disregard of official documents like birth certificates.

CFJ has documented cases where individuals were sentenced to death despite strong evidence they were minors at the time of the offense.

# **Conclusion:**

By failing to amend Article 122 or review death sentences against juveniles, Egypt falls short of its international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ICCPR. The



continued use of this legal loophole allows the imposition of the death penalty on child offenders in practice, despite legal prohibitions in principle.

## • Recommendation 42.74

## Text:

"Commute all death sentences and establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition" — (Portugal)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government reply:

Egypt reiterated its position that the death penalty is applied only to the most serious crimes and with full procedural safeguards. However, it rejected the recommendation to commute existing sentences or impose a moratorium.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt's refusal to engage with the core of the recommendation reflects its entrenched stance in favor of maintaining and actively applying the death penalty.

• No commutations of existing death sentences have been announced, even in cases involving minors, political detainees, or allegations of unfair trials;

• There is no movement toward a moratorium — either formal or informal — despite repeated international calls;

• The number of individuals on death row remains high, and executions continue to be carried out without transparency.

# **Conclusion**:

Egypt's rejection of this recommendation exemplifies its resistance to global trends toward abolition. The absence of both political will and practical action toward commutation or moratorium constitutes a clear violation of the evolving standards of international human rights law.

# Recommendation 42.75

### Text:

"Continue efforts to review the framework of crimes punishable by the death penalty in line with the objectives of the National Human Rights Strategy" — (Guinea)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

# Government reply:

The government indicated its support for the recommendation but did not provide further clarification on whether any legislative or executive measures had been taken. It simply referred to the alignment of the recommendation with the National Human Rights Strategy.



### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite Egypt's declared support, there is no tangible evidence that any review of the legal framework governing the death penalty has occurred.

# Detailed analysis by CFJ:

1. Absence of legislative or institutional action:

The Egyptian authorities have not taken concrete steps toward a comprehensive review of the laws governing capital punishment. No parliamentary or technical committees have been formed to assess the relevant legislation, nor have public consultations been conducted with civil society or other stakeholders — despite the recommendation's call to "continue efforts."

# 2. The National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026):

While the recommendation refers to aligning reforms with the strategy's goals, the strategy itself includes no explicit target or performance indicator related to reviewing or reducing the scope of the death penalty — let alone its gradual abolition. Instead, it contains only vague references to "developing punitive legislation" without clear commitments or timelines.

# 3. Broad scope of capital offenses:

Egypt remains one of the countries with a particularly wide application of the death penalty, with more than 100 provisions in its Penal Code, Anti-Terrorism Law, and Drug Law prescribing capital punishment. Many of these offenses do not meet the threshold of the "most serious crimes" as defined by Article 6 of the ICCPR, such as:

- Membership in a banned group,
- Incitement to violence,
- Possession of weapons or explosives without actual use,
- Some drug-related offenses.

# 4. Lack of transparency and data:

Egypt does not publish regular, official statistics on the number of death sentences issued or executions carried out. This lack of transparency is inconsistent with international best practices and makes it difficult to monitor implementation or evaluate penal policies.

### 5. Lack of political will:

All available evidence indicates that the government's support for the recommendation is merely symbolic. There have been no official initiatives, proposals, or statements by the executive or legislative branches suggesting serious intent to reform death penalty laws.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's declared support for Guinea's recommendation to review the scope of death-eligible crimes has not translated into meaningful action. The death penalty continues to be applied extensively and disproportionately, in the absence of serious measures to implement this recommendation. This casts doubt on the credibility of the government's commitment and reflects a regressive stance resistant to growing international calls for reform.



# Recommendation 42.76

### Text:

"Consider abolishing the death penalty, or at least establish a moratorium as an initial step" — (Mozambique)

"Consider a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition" — (Sierra Leone)

# Egypt's position: X Noted Government reply:

The government did not provide a detailed response, simply stating that it had taken note of the recommendation without expressing any formal commitment or outlining legal or policy steps toward a moratorium or abolition.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

Although this recommendation adopts a gradual and realistic approach — starting with a discretionary moratorium — the Egyptian state has shown no willingness to engage positively with this path. Instead, it has continued to carry out executions and rejected discussions on any form of temporary suspension of the death penalty.

# **Detailed CFJ analysis:**

# 1. De facto rejection of suspension measures:

At no point in recent years has Egypt declared an official or discretionary moratorium on executions — even temporarily — placing it in opposition to the global trend of suspending the death penalty as a first step toward abolition. Many retentionist states have issued executive or legislative moratoriums, but Egypt has not taken any such action.

# 2. Continued executions on a regular basis:

CFJ has documented the regular implementation of executions in Egypt since 2014, including in mass trials and without prior notification. There has been no presidential or governmental decree announcing a halt — not even during humanitarian crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, when many countries paused executions.

3. A hostile legal and political environment:

There are no signs of parliamentary or judicial discussions about suspending the death penalty — either temporarily or permanently. Official rhetoric continues to portray capital punishment as a necessary tool for "general deterrence," disregarding growing legal and human rights consensus questioning the deterrent effect of executions.

### 4. Contradiction with international commitments:

Egypt's decision to classify the recommendation as "noted" contradicts its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which limits the application of the death penalty and imposes strict procedural safeguards for its use. Egypt also disregards recommendations from the UN Human Rights Committee calling for its gradual abolition or suspension.



#### Conclusion:

By placing this recommendation in the "noted" category, Egypt signals a clear lack of political will to take even symbolic or humanitarian steps such as a discretionary moratorium. Its refusal to consider this minimum measure positions it among a shrinking minority of states that continue to actively implement the death penalty under conditions that lack transparency, fairness, and basic procedural guarantees — in direct contradiction with global human rights trends.

### • Recommendation 42.77

#### Text:

"Immediately establish an official moratorium on executions and commute all death sentences with a view to abolishing the death penalty" — (Liechtenstein)

# Egypt's position: X Noted

### Government reply:

The Egyptian government did not issue a detailed response to this recommendation. It was merely marked as "noted," with no indication of willingness to consider its core proposals — particularly the commutation of existing sentences or the establishment of a moratorium.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation is among the clearest and most structured in addressing capital punishment, proposing a phased and balanced approach:

- 1. Immediate moratorium on executions,
- 2. Commutation of all existing death sentences,
- Gradual abolition of the death penalty.
   Despite the practical and humanitarian nature of this proposal, Egypt has chosen to disregard its content entirely.

### **CFJ Analysis:**

1. No moratorium despite international calls:

Egypt continues to carry out executions on a regular basis, including in cases that raise serious concerns about procedural fairness. The government has never announced a moratorium — even temporarily — at any point in the past decade.

2. Disregard for commutation as a humanitarian measure:

Commuting existing death sentences is a step many states have taken as a humanitarian gesture, even without abolishing the death penalty entirely. Yet Egypt has shown no willingness to review cases involving flawed trials, allegations of torture, or mass sentencing. It continues to carry out executions despite widespread appeals from rights organizations and defense lawyers.



# 3. Complete lack of transparency:

There is no public database or regular reporting on the number of individuals on death row, how many have been executed, or how many await execution. This opacity makes it nearly impossible to assess Egypt's compliance with any death penalty-related recommendations.

# 4. Absence of political will:

Egypt's classification of this recommendation as merely "noted," without even stating an intent to study it, reflects a broader unwillingness to engage seriously with the issue of the death penalty — despite substantial documentation of flawed trials, torture allegations, and arbitrary detention.

### **Conclusion:**

Egypt's disregard for the recommendation to immediately halt executions and commute existing death sentences is deeply concerning. The country continues to apply capital punishment even amid serious due process concerns. Its refusal to adopt a transparent, humane, or reform-oriented approach signals a direct challenge to its human rights obligations — particularly the right to life — and places it at odds with growing international consensus on the need to end this irreversible and harsh punishment.

#### • Recommendation 42.78

#### Text:

"Introduce a discretionary moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition" — (Finland)

# Egypt's position: X Noted Government reply:

The Egyptian government did not provide any specific remarks, merely categorizing the recommendation as "noted" without expressing its stance on the gradual proposal for a discretionary moratorium.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation proposes a pragmatic, phased approach in line with Egypt's international obligations. It calls for a discretionary moratorium as an initial step toward full abolition. Despite its balanced nature, Egyptian authorities ignored the substance of the recommendation entirely.

### Expanded CFJ Analysis:

### 1. No political or legislative initiative for a moratorium:

There have been no government or parliamentary efforts to issue a decree or law for a temporary suspension of executions. This minimal response reflects a complete lack of engagement, even at the symbolic or consultative level.



### 2. Repeated international appeals disregarded:

The recommendation echoes long-standing calls by UN mechanisms and civil society for a moratorium. Egypt's decision to simply "note" it demonstrates a policy of avoidance rather than willingness to initiate gradual reform.

- 3. Missed opportunity in the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026): The government could have included a temporary suspension as a progressive benchmark within its national strategy, but chose not to. The topic is completely absent from the strategy, revealing a disconnect between international discourse and Egypt's domestic policy.
- 4. Negative impact on Egypt's judiciary image: Continuing executions without policy review, transparency, or distinction between crime categories fosters international perceptions that the death penalty is used arbitrarily sometimes for political purposes — undermining the credibility of Egypt's judicial system.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's refusal to adopt a discretionary moratorium reflects a failure to engage with even the most modest forms of reform. This inaction undermines its human rights reputation and forgoes a crucial opportunity to ease international pressure through symbolic yet impactful measures.

# • Recommendation 42.79

### Text:

"Establish a discretionary moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty" — (New Zealand)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government reply:

No substantive response was provided. Egypt placed the recommendation in the "noted" category without addressing its legal or practical implications.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation, like others in the same cluster, urges Egypt to take a preliminary step toward criminal justice reform by adopting a discretionary moratorium. Such a measure is widely recognized internationally as a transitional phase toward full or partial abolition of capital punishment and is key to assessing a state's commitment to the right to life and fair trial standards.

### **Detailed CFJ Analysis:**

### 1. A globally accepted middle ground:

A discretionary moratorium allows states to maintain existing laws while halting executions, creating space for policy reflection and dialogue. Egypt has shown no willingness to pursue even this measured approach.



# 2. Implied rejection of any moratorium:

By "noting" the recommendation without further comment, Egypt signals an implicit refusal to reconsider its use of the death penalty. The state continues to issue and implement death sentences, including in politically sensitive and procedurally flawed cases.

## 3. Ongoing procedural violations in capital cases:

CFJ has documented serious due process violations in recent death penalty cases, including torture-extracted confessions, denial of legal counsel, and mass trials lacking individual criminal accountability.

# 4. Global human rights context:

As the international trend moves toward abolition or moratoriums, Egypt's refusal to even discuss temporary suspension suggests the death penalty is used not only for justice but at times for political or deterrent purposes outside a fair legal framework.

# 5. Incoherence with related recommendations:

Ignoring this recommendation also contradicts Egypt's positions on others in the same thematic group (e.g., 42.67, 42.77), revealing the absence of a coherent or integrated strategy for addressing capital punishment.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's rejection of this moderate recommendation reinforces its refusal to consider any discussion — domestic or international — on reforming its capital punishment policy. This reflects not only a lack of political will but highlights the systemic use of executions in a politicized context, contrary to international human rights commitments and norms.

### • Recommendation 42.80

### Text:

"Establish a discretionary moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its gradual abolition" — (Netherlands)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

### Government reply:

No additional clarification was provided. The government categorized the recommendation as "noted," without expressing a clear position on the proposed moratorium.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation aligns with the global movement to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of capital punishment. It respects national legal contexts by proposing a discretionary — rather than immediate or permanent — moratorium. Yet Egypt refuses to even open a discussion on this trajectory.

### **Detailed CFJ Analysis:**



### 1. Pragmatic and consistent with international law:

Freezing executions without immediate legal reform is a widely used tool by states aiming for gradual abolition. Egypt's refusal to consider this option, even as a trial or study, reflects a rigid and regressive approach to criminal justice policy.

## 2. Non-committal official response:

The "noted" designation functions as bureaucratic evasion, signaling no intention to engage with the recommendation's content. This contradicts earlier declarations by Egypt supporting the right to life and human dignity.

### 3. Ongoing secretive executions:

Egypt continues to carry out executions without transparency or prior notification to families, while restricting lawyers' access to monitor proceedings — practices that fall short of international minimum standards for death row detainees.

# 4. Eroding confidence in the judiciary:

There is growing international concern over the ability of Egyptian courts to guarantee fair trials in capital cases, particularly when evidence is obtained through torture or when systemic procedural violations occur. Ignoring this recommendation further fuels a climate of impunity and weakens judicial credibility.

# 5. Symbolic value of a moratorium:

Even without full abolition, a temporary suspension sends a powerful message of intent to reform. Egypt, facing increasing international scrutiny, could have improved its record simply by declaring a time-limited moratorium — without having to amend legislation.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's refusal to engage with discussions on even a discretionary or temporary moratorium underscores a broader lack of reform-oriented vision. With continued executions and opaque practices, dismissing this recommendation directly undermines respect for the right to life and entrenches patterns of systematic abuse under legal cover.

# • Recommendation 42.81

### Text:

"Establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty" — (Estonia)

# Egypt's position: X Noted

# Government reply:

The government did not issue a detailed response. It merely classified the recommendation as "noted," without clarifying its stance or indicating any intention to consider the proposal for a formal halt to executions.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation is a direct and concrete call for the Egyptian authorities to formally suspend the application of the death penalty as a first step toward its abolition or limitation. Egypt's official



silence on the substance of the recommendation once again reflects a lack of political will to initiate any substantive reform in this area.

# Expanded CFJ Analysis:

1. "Official moratorium" vs. informal suspension:

Estonia's recommendation goes beyond an unspoken freeze on executions. It calls for a clear legislative or executive act — such as a presidential decree or parliamentary decision — to suspend all executions indefinitely. Over 40 countries have adopted similar measures before fully abolishing the death penalty. Egypt refuses to even consider such discussions.

2. Continued executions under a legal façade:

Executions in Egypt continue to be carried out systematically by criminal and terrorismrelated courts, often lacking basic procedural safeguards. Sentences are frequently executed without ensuring that defendants have exhausted all legal remedies, and sometimes without prior notification to their families.

3. Lack of transparency and official data:

The Egyptian authorities do not publish regular or accessible reports on the number of death sentences issued or executed. The National Council for Human Rights lacks real oversight power in this domain, making public or legal scrutiny nearly impossible.

4. Symbolic and political cost of refusal:

Even a modest gesture such as a formal moratorium could have improved Egypt's international human rights profile. Yet by choosing to simply "note" the recommendation without explanation or engagement, the government undermines its credibility and misses an opportunity for positive reform.

5. Contradiction with global trends:

Egypt's position runs counter to a global movement toward ending capital punishment. More than two-thirds of countries have either abolished it or implemented official moratoriums — including several in the Arab and African regions. Egypt's continued use of the death penalty without reassessment isolates it from this evolving consensus.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

By refusing to consider a formal suspension of the death penalty, or even to discuss it publicly, Egypt demonstrates a rigid attachment to punitive policies in a context where fair trial guarantees are often lacking. This amounts to a clear violation of the right to life and reinforces the urgent need for greater international pressure to reform Egypt's approach to capital punishment.

### Recommendation 42.82

#### Text:

"Approve a discretionary moratorium on the death penalty, as a preliminary step toward its abolition" — (Spain)



# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government reply:

The government classified the recommendation as "noted" without providing a justification or indicating whether it intends to study the proposal for a discretionary moratorium as a transitional step.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation reflects growing international demands for Egypt to suspend the use of capital punishment through transitional measures, such as a discretionary moratorium — a legally and politically realistic step. However, Egypt has continued to reject this approach by offering only a formal acknowledgment without any engagement, underscoring a lack of willingness to pursue reform or dialogue on the future of the death penalty.

# **Detailed CFJ Analysis:**

# 1. A feasible and realistic framework:

Spain's recommendation does not require Egypt to immediately abolish the death penalty or amend its laws. It merely proposes freezing executions through an administrative or political decision — a step already taken by many retentionist states.

# 2. Deliberate dismissal of gradual reform:

Egypt has shown no willingness to consider phased solutions that take into account national legal or cultural particularities. This appears to be a deliberate obstruction of reforms that could reduce the scale of violations linked to capital punishment.

### 3. Continued execution practices:

CFJ documents confirm that Egypt continues to execute death sentences without meaningful oversight or procedural review. In some cases, executions occur suddenly, without prior notice to the families or the presence of defense lawyers, violating international minimum standards, especially Article 6 of the ICCPR.

### 4. Missed opportunity for civil dialogue:

A discretionary moratorium could have provided a valuable opening for national dialogue on the future of the death penalty — involving state institutions, civil society, and legal associations. Instead, Egyptian authorities have ignored this opportunity, closing the door on collaborative reform.

### 5. Negative impact on judicial reputation:

Even implicit rejection of this recommendation reinforces the perception of Egypt's judiciary as inflexible and unwilling to revise its policies, especially in light of repeated UN expert reports documenting procedural violations in capital cases.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

By insisting on ignoring international calls for a discretionary moratorium, Egypt isolates itself from the global shift toward abolition and blocks the possibility of a common ground for reform. This



failure harms not only the right to life but also erodes international confidence in Egypt's declared human rights commitments.

# Recommendation 42.83

### Text:

"Impose a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it" — (Norway) Egypt's position: X Noted

### Government reply:

The Egyptian government did not provide any clarification or commentary on the content of the recommendation. It merely classified it as "noted" without committing to any legislative or political steps regarding the introduction of a moratorium or any intention to work toward abolition.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation outlines a realistic and phased approach aligned with international human rights standards:

- 1. Introduce an optional moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
- 2. Use the moratorium as a transitional step toward the eventual abolition of capital punishment.

Yet, Egypt's response—merely noting the recommendation without engagement—demonstrates continued unwillingness to initiate even the most moderate reforms in this area.

### **Detailed CFJ Analysis:**

### 1. No engagement with transitional reform:

The recommendation avoids calling for immediate abolition, instead promoting a practical, phased approach. However, Egypt refuses to take even this minimal step, reflecting a rigid stance and lack of reform-oriented political will.

2. Continued application of the death penalty:

Executions continue to be carried out regularly, including in cases raising serious due process concerns. No temporary or formal suspension of executions has been announced, despite international and domestic calls for such measures.

3. Lack of legislative or executive action:

No draft legislation, presidential decree, or parliamentary discussion has been proposed to introduce a moratorium. There is also no indication of consultation with civil society or legal experts on this issue.

4. Isolation from global trends:

Most countries worldwide have either abolished the death penalty or established a



moratorium. Egypt's refusal to engage with this global movement places it among a small minority of states that still uphold and enforce capital punishment.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

By declining to engage with this moderate recommendation, Egypt signals a strong resistance to reform and a disregard for the growing international consensus against the death penalty. A moratorium would be a humane and pragmatic first step toward aligning Egypt's justice system with human rights standards. Its absence reinforces concerns about arbitrary and politically motivated executions in a system lacking fundamental safeguards.

# Recommendation 42.84

#### Text:

"Impose a moratorium on the death penalty and at least significantly reduce the number of offences that can lead to the use of the death penalty" — (Germany)

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government reply:

The government of Egypt provided no detailed commentary or official position on this recommendation. It simply classified it as "noted," with no indication of intent to study or gradually implement any part of its content, such as reducing the scope or suspending the use of the death penalty.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation reflects a firm and comprehensive stance by Germany, combining the call for both an immediate moratorium and a significant restriction on the number of capital crimes. It aligns fully with international human rights standards and reflects the global consensus on limiting and eventually abolishing capital punishment. Egypt's lack of engagement with its substance reflects a persistent pattern of tacit rejection and political resistance to reform.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

### 1. Refusal to abolish despite legal and political incentives:

Egypt remains among a shrinking group of states that continue to actively implement the death penalty, despite mounting evidence of its limited deterrent effect and harmful consequences for the justice system and human rights. The government has presented no legislative or policy initiatives to limit or abolish the death penalty.

### 2. Use of the death penalty as a political tool:

Since 2013, Egypt has increasingly used capital punishment in politically charged cases, particularly against individuals linked to protests or political/religious opposition. Mass death



sentences have been issued in trials lacking basic procedural safeguards, raising serious questions about fairness and due process.

3. Absence of preliminary steps like a moratorium:

No formal or transitional measures have been adopted to suspend executions, and there is no indication of internal debate among state institutions (e.g., Parliament or Ministry of Justice) regarding the future of capital punishment.

4. Systemic violations of fair trial guarantees:

In many death penalty cases, human rights organizations—including CFJ—have documented violations such as torture during interrogation, denial of legal counsel, reliance on coerced confessions, and trials before special courts, including terrorism chambers.

5. A stance contrary to regional and international trends:

Several Arab and African states, such as Morocco, Mauritania, and Chad, have abolished or suspended the death penalty. Egypt's continued insistence on using it—even amid international criticism—places it increasingly in isolation.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's unwillingness to engage with Germany's recommendation demonstrates a lack of political will to pursue meaningful reform. Continuing executions in a judiciary marred by systemic flaws raises serious doubts about Egypt's respect for the right to life and reinforces impunity in a system that lacks transparency and accountability.

# • Recommendation 42.85

### Text:

"Abolish the death penalty and implement an immediate moratorium on all executions and on the imposition of capital punishment in the interim" — (Ireland) **Egypt's position:** X Noted

# Government reply:

The Egyptian authorities offered no clarification or engagement with this recommendation. It was placed under the "noted" category without addressing any of its elements, such as abolition, a temporary moratorium, or aligning death penalty practices with international standards.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation outlines three interrelated obligations:

- 1. An immediate (even optional) moratorium on executions;
- 2. A pathway toward full abolition of the death penalty;
- 3. Compliance, in the interim, with international standards limiting the use of capital punishment.



### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

1. No abolition, no moratorium, no international compliance:

Egypt continues to implement the death penalty, including for crimes that do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law—such as peaceful protest or membership in banned groups. There is no effort to narrow its application or align with Article 6 of the ICCPR.

# 2. Judicial safeguards remain critically flawed:

Although the recommendation assumes legal application is possible, Egypt's judicial system lacks independence and is plagued by political influence and disregard for fair trial standards, including:

- Rapid trials,
- o Denial of counsel during investigations,
- Use of torture-induced confessions,
- Prosecution of activists under anti-terrorism laws.

# 3. Silent rejection of all proposed reforms:

By merely "noting" the recommendation with no response, Egypt sends a message of refusal to:

- o Abolish the death penalty,
- o Implement even a temporary moratorium,
- Limit its application to the most serious cases.

### 4. Grave legal and human consequences:

Ongoing executions in a deeply flawed legal environment raise the risk of wrongful executions. Without independent review mechanisms, such errors are irreversible violations of the right to life.

### 5. No mechanisms for review or accountability:

There are no national mechanisms for reviewing the application of the death penalty, and no regular public disclosure of execution statistics. This prevents civil or parliamentary oversight.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt rejects even the minimum international expectations for regulating the use of capital punishment, including temporary moratoria or strict legal safeguards. This defiance signals a systemic failure to uphold the right to life and deepens concerns about arbitrary justice and human rights abuses in the Egyptian penal system.



#### Recommendation 42.86

#### Text:

"Release all convicted prisoners who have already served their sentence" — (Costa Rica) Egypt's position: Supported – Already Implemented

#### Government reply:

The Egyptian government affirmed that this recommendation is already being implemented, citing its commitment to releasing prisoners who have completed their sentences in accordance with the law. However, no further details were provided regarding oversight mechanisms or related statistics.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite the claim of "actual implementation," the reality on the ground contradicts this in many documented cases. Committee for Justice (CFJ) and other rights organizations have recorded repeated patterns of continued detention beyond sentence completion, either through "case recycling" or under the pretext of "security measures."

#### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

#### 1. The practice of "case recycling":

One of the most common tactics used to prevent the release of detainees is the filing of new cases—often with similar or recycled charges like "joining a banned group" or "spreading false news"—right before or immediately after the end of the sentence. This leads to prolonged pretrial detention far beyond the original sentence.

#### 2. Lack of effective judicial oversight:

There is no independent mechanism ensuring the immediate release of those who have served their full sentence. The Ministry of Interior holds broad discretionary powers to delay releases—especially in cases deemed to have a "security" dimension—without effective accountability.

#### 3. Discriminatory application of the law:

While some detainees are released promptly after serving their term, others remain detained for political, religious, or activism-related reasons. This indicates that releases are not consistently based on legal principles but influenced by selective security criteria.

#### 4. Lack of transparent data:

The government has not disclosed statistics or public reports on the number of individuals released post-sentence or those kept beyond their legal terms. This lack of transparency obstructs monitoring and accountability.

#### 5. Violation of the right to liberty and personal security:

Detaining any individual beyond the completion of their sentence constitutes arbitrary detention under international law and violates Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Egypt is a State Party.



#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

The government's assertion of compliance is undermined by clear patterns of continued detention after sentence completion. These practices illustrate the sustained influence of the security apparatus over justice processes and seriously erode the rule of law. They are a form of disguised arbitrary detention and must be addressed by both national and international actors.

### • Recommendation 42.87

Text:

"Release those persons held in pretrial detention beyond the legal limit of two years and ensure that the Code of Criminal Procedure complies with international human rights standards" — (Switzerland)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

#### **Government reply:**

Egypt declared that it already complies with this recommendation, noting that its Criminal Procedure Code sets a maximum of two years for pretrial detention in felony cases and that it adheres to this rule.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

The government's claim does not reflect the actual situation. Prolonged pretrial detention remains one of the most widely used tools of repression against opponents and human rights defenders, frequently exceeding the two-year legal limit.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

### 1. Exceeding legal limits through "case recycling":

CFJ has documented hundreds of cases where individuals are re-detained in new cases with similar content as their original charges just as the two-year limit nears. This tactic— commonly known as "case recycling"—is systematically used to prolong detention without a final court judgment.

### 2. Direct violation of Egyptian law:

Article 143 of the Criminal Procedure Code sets a maximum pretrial detention period, but this is often bypassed. Authorities exploit vague interpretations and loopholes, and the Public Prosecution fails to act as an independent overseer. Renewal orders are issued routinely without proper investigations.

### 3. Denial of procedural safeguards:

Most detainees held beyond two years are denied effective judicial review. In many cases, lawyers are not permitted to contest renewal decisions or access investigation files, undermining the right to defense and rendering pretrial detention arbitrary.



# 4. Political use of pretrial detention:

Authorities routinely use pretrial detention as a tool to silence dissent, imprison activists, journalists, and human rights defenders without trial. Recurring generic charges such as "spreading false news" and "joining a terrorist group" are employed to justify these prolonged detentions.

## 5. Lack of independent oversight:

There is no independent national mechanism to monitor pretrial detention practices. The absence of periodic public reporting on the number of pretrial detainees, their legal status, or detention conditions hinders any meaningful assessment of compliance.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Despite Egypt's stated support for the recommendation, its actual practices violate both domestic and international legal standards. The systematic misuse of pretrial detention and its function as a punitive measure without trial represent severe breaches of the rights to liberty and fair trial. These patterns call for sustained international pressure to halt arbitrary use and reform Egypt's pretrial detention system.

### • Recommendation 42.88

#### Text:

"Release all those detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of association or their right to freedom of expression or detained solely for actual or perceived links to political parties or groups" — (New Zealand)

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

### Government response:

Egypt denied the existence of any detainees imprisoned for exercising fundamental rights such as freedom of expression or political affiliation. It asserted that all prisoners were convicted of criminal offenses through judicial procedures that meet fairness standards.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

The Egyptian government's response outright denies the existence of political prisoners or prisoners of conscience, which contradicts extensive documentation by both local and international human rights organizations, including reports by UN Special Procedures. It also overlooks systematic patterns of arrest and prosecution targeting individuals solely for peacefully expressing their views or for perceived political affiliations.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**



### 1. Well-documented prisoners of conscience:

CFJ, in collaboration with international partners, has documented hundreds of cases involving individuals detained for:

- Participating in peaceful demonstrations,
- Expressing political views online,
- Actual or perceived affiliation with opposition groups or parties.
   These individuals include journalists, human rights defenders, unionists, and academics.

### 2. Government denial contradicts international findings:

Egypt's official narrative ignores the findings of UN bodies such as the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which has issued legal opinions confirming that many cases in Egypt amount to arbitrary detention due to the peaceful exercise of fundamental freedoms. **Case in point:** The prolonged detention of researcher Patrick George Zaki, despite the absence of legitimate criminal charges, and his eventual release by presidential pardon, highlights the political nature of his detention.

#### 3. Criminalization of rights through legislation:

Laws on terrorism, civil associations, and cybercrime are misused to give a "criminal appearance" to acts protected under international law, enabling the state to deny the existence of political detainees under the pretext of criminal charges, even when those charges are vague or fabricated.

#### 4. Equating prosecution with justice:

The claim that detainees undergo fair judicial procedures disregards the nature of Egypt's judicial system, where:

- o Trials are held before exceptional courts,
- o Appeals of pretrial detention are often dismissed automatically,
- o Families are denied contact with detainees for extended periods,
- Defense lawyers are denied access to case files.

### 5. Selective prosecution based on ideology or affiliation:

The state routinely targets individuals purely for political or ideological associations—even without any criminal act—including Islamists, socialists, liberals, and independent activists. This reflects discriminatory law enforcement practices.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's response rests on denying reality and using the criminal justice system as a cover for human rights violations. Detaining individuals for their opinions or affiliations, in the absence of fair trial guarantees, constitutes a clear breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The international community must continue pressing the Egyptian authorities to release all prisoners of conscience and end this systematic repression.



### Recommendation 42.89

#### Text:

 "Release all detainees held for exercising their right to freedom of expression and lift restrictions on news and social media websites in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights"
 — (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

The government reiterated its previous denial (as in recommendation 42.88) of holding any individuals for exercising free expression. It maintained that all detainees were convicted for criminal offenses, with judicial procedures respecting fairness standards.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation highlights three central demands:

- 1. Releasing individuals detained over freedom of expression;
- 2. Ending the blocking of independent media websites;
- 3. Protecting online expression.

Yet Egypt's government chose to deny any violations of these rights, contrary to extensive documentation.

#### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

1. Widespread detention for online expression:

Journalists, bloggers, political activists, and ordinary citizens are regularly detained for social media posts or working with independent media outlets.

Examples include:

- Rana Mamdouh (journalist),
- Ahmed Douma (activist),
- Alaa Abdel Fattah (blogger and programmer),
- Mohamed Oxygen (independent journalist).

All were charged with "spreading false news" or "joining a terrorist group" due to their expressions, violating Article 19 of the ICCPR.

#### 2. Massive internet censorship:

Since 2017, over 600 websites have been blocked in Egypt, including independent media like *Mada Masr, Al-Manassa*, and *Al Jazeera Net*, as well as NGO websites. These actions were taken without judicial orders or legal justification.

Apps like Signal and VPN services are also blocked, and social platforms are restricted during protests or politically sensitive events.

- 3. Repressive legislation used to criminalize expression:
  - **Cybercrime Law (Law No. 175/2018):** Criminalizes vague digital content and allows website blocking.



- **Media Regulation Law (Law No. 180/2018):** Imposes licensing requirements on media under a non-independent regulatory body.
- **Anti-terrorism Law:** Used to prosecute critics for allegedly spreading extremist content via social media.
- 4. Unfair trials for expression-related charges:

Cases are handled by the Supreme State Security Prosecution, with long pretrial detention periods and limited access to case files. Defense lawyers often face restrictions, and investigations lack transparency or due process.

# 5. Complete disregard for ICCPR obligations:

Article 19 of the ICCPR obligates Egypt to uphold freedom of expression, restricting it only under narrow, lawful, and necessary conditions. Egypt's legal and institutional framework, however, legitimizes repression and violates these standards.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's response fails to address the core elements of the recommendation and relies on blanket denial to justify rights violations. The ongoing detention of individuals for expressing opinions, the blocking of media outlets, and the criminalization of speech online confirm that Egypt treats free expression as a threat rather than a protected right. The international community must maintain pressure to free opinion-based detainees and lift restrictions on the public and digital spheres in Egypt.

# • Recommendation 42.90

# Text:

"Promptly release Alaa Abd el-Fattah and all other human rights defenders imprisoned for exercising their freedom of expression" — (Luxembourg)
Egypt's position: X Noted

# Government response:

The Egyptian government denied that Alaa Abd el-Fattah or any other human rights defenders are imprisoned for exercising their freedom of expression. It reiterated that all detainees were convicted of criminal offenses following judicial procedures that met "fair trial standards," and referred to paragraph 40 of the UPR Working Group report to support its position.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

The government's response constitutes a stark denial of the internationally recognized nature of Alaa Abd el-Fattah's case, which has drawn widespread concern and calls for release from the United Nations, the European Parliament, and numerous Western governments. His continued detention symbolizes Egypt's repression of free expression and the persecution of human rights defenders.



# **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

# 1. Alaa Abd el-Fattah: An internationally recognized prisoner of conscience:

- In December 2021, Alaa was sentenced to five years in prison over a Facebook post, accused of "spreading false news," despite no incitement to violence or hate.
- He had been previously detained multiple times for his peaceful activism during and after the Egyptian revolution, and was subjected to enforced disappearance, illtreatment, and prolonged hunger strikes.
- Several UN Special Rapporteurs deemed his detention arbitrary and a violation of his right to freedom of expression.

# 2. The government ignores the human rights context of his case:

By merely repeating that he is "convicted of a criminal offense," Egypt avoids addressing the political and rights-based nature of the charges. Legal language is used to justify the unlawful detention of individuals for peaceful activism—a recurring pattern in human rights cases.

# 3. Refusal to release him despite official appeals:

Formal calls for Alaa's release have been issued by the UK, Germany, the EU, the European Parliament, and international organizations. Yet, the Egyptian government has ignored these demands and continues to detain him under harsh conditions, including extended periods without visits or correspondence.

### 4. Alaa's case is emblematic, not exceptional:

Dozens of other human rights defenders are similarly detained for:

- Social media posts,
- Participation in conferences,
- Merely being labeled as activists.

Notable cases include **Mohamed el-Baqer** (human rights lawyer, imprisoned since 2019), **Ziad el-Alimi**, and **Esraa Abdel Fattah** (released later), among others frequently cited in UN reports.

### 5. Misuse of UN documents and absence of transparency:

Instead of engaging with the legal or humanitarian dimensions of the recommendation, the government uses paragraph 40 of the UPR Working Group report selectively, ignoring that the same paragraph also notes systematic repression of freedom of expression, including Alaa's case.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

The continued detention of Alaa Abd el-Fattah reflects the punitive nature of Egypt's approach to dissent and freedom of expression. The government's refusal to release him, and its denial of his status as a human rights defender, is a clear violation of international human rights law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Egypt is a party.



### Recommendation 42.91

#### Text:

"Release human rights defender Alaa Abd el-Fattah" — (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

The Egyptian government reiterated its position from Recommendation 42.90, claiming that Alaa Abd el-Fattah is convicted of criminal offenses after due legal process. It rejected the characterization of him as a prisoner of conscience or that his detention is linked to peaceful expression.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This response replicates the political and legal denial seen in the previous recommendation. It dismisses not only the repeated international demands for Alaa's release, but also the symbolic weight of his case as a leading example of the crackdown on free expression in Egypt and the broader Middle East.

#### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. Alaa Abd el-Fattah: A global symbol of repressed speech:
  - Alaa is not only a political activist but also a prominent writer and digital rights advocate since 2011.
  - His detention centers around a Facebook post in which he questioned the death of a detainee under torture—an act that led to a five-year prison sentence for "spreading false news."
  - The nature of the charges and the disproportionate punishment point to the retaliatory and political basis of the prosecution.

### 2. Refusal to acknowledge the human rights dimension:

- Despite statements by the UN, Human Rights Council, EU, and British Parliament all affirming Alaa's status as a prisoner of conscience, the Egyptian government maintains its rejection of this designation.
- His family filed multiple complaints to UN Special Procedures, which documented his torture and ill-treatment in detention.

### 3. The judiciary used as a tool of repression:

- Alaa's trial followed a familiar pattern for activists in Egypt:
  - Vague and unsupported charges,
  - Trials held in emergency or terrorism courts,
  - Lawyers denied access to case files or the opportunity to present evidence,
  - No access to appeal before a higher court.
- 4. Evading the substance of the recommendation:



- The government avoided addressing any of the legal or humanitarian concerns raised, and offered no explanation as to why Alaa's case is ineligible for independent review or presidential pardon—both of which are constitutionally available.
- 5. His continued imprisonment violates Egypt's international obligations:
  - Alaa's detention contravenes not only Article 19 (freedom of expression) but also
     Article 9 (right to liberty and security of person) of the ICCPR.
  - The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has already classified his case as unlawful detention.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's persistent refusal to release Alaa Abd el-Fattah, and its denial of his identity as a human rights defender, exemplifies the state's broader repression of independent voices. Rejecting this recommendation further erodes any trust between the government and the human rights community and underscores Egypt's failure to comply with its international commitments, particularly those made before the Human Rights Council.

### • Recommendation 42.92

#### Text:

"Intensify efforts to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, leading to the reinforcement of alternatives to pretrial detention" — (Morocco) Egypt's position: Supported

### **Government response:**

The government affirmed its support for the recommendation and reiterated its commitment to developing legislation and enhancing alternatives to pretrial detention. However, it did not provide any details about concrete legislative steps taken, nor did it clarify the scope or practical implementation of such alternatives.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite the government's stated support, Egypt's legal framework and judicial practices still reflect a systematic overuse of pretrial detention as a punitive measure, with little real activation of alternatives—either in legal texts or in practice.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

1. No substantial amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code:

Key articles regulating pretrial detention—especially Article 143—have not undergone meaningful reform. Alternatives to pretrial detention are not codified as mandatory or default options to be applied by the judiciary or prosecution.



### 2. Legal alternatives remain largely unused in practice:

Existing legal alternatives include:

- o Release on bail,
- Police supervision,
- House arrest,
- Prohibition from leaving residence.

Yet these measures are rarely applied, particularly in politically sensitive or freedom of expression cases.

### 3. Systematic rejection of release requests by prosecutors:

Even when there are no legal grounds to continue detention, public prosecutors routinely reject defense lawyers' motions for release without presenting valid justifications. This turns pretrial detention into a disguised punishment without a final verdict.

#### 4. Lack of objective criteria in detention decisions:

Decisions to extend pretrial detention are often issued automatically, during hearings lasting only minutes, without serious review of the necessity, risk, or potential interference with evidence. This practice violates Article 9 of the ICCPR, which requires individualized and substantiated justification for detention.

### 5. Cumulative impact on detainees and prison conditions:

The continued detention of thousands of individuals without trial exacerbates prison overcrowding and contributes to widespread physical and psychological abuse, especially among vulnerable groups such as the sick and elderly. These patterns are documented in numerous reports by domestic and international organizations.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

While the government has endorsed the recommendation in principle, it has shown no serious intent to reform the criminal procedure code in ways that effectively promote alternatives to pretrial detention. The judiciary continues to rely excessively on detention, using it as a tool of political and social control. If the government is serious about reform, it must immediately amend the legal framework and implement genuine alternatives to end the practice of "open-ended detention," which blatantly contradicts the principles of fair trial.

#### • Recommendation 42.93

Text:

"Establish independent bodies to investigate torture, disappearance and poor conditions of detention" — (Austria)

### Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

#### Government response:

The government claimed that the Public Prosecution, as an independent authority and part of the judiciary, is already tasked with investigating the crimes mentioned in the recommendation. It



reiterated the state's commitment to prosecuting and holding perpetrators of torture and illtreatment accountable.

# **CFJ Commentary:**

While the government identifies the Public Prosecution as an independent body fulfilling this role, the actual practice in Egypt tells a different story. In reality, the Public Prosecution operates under executive influence, and cannot be considered an independent mechanism capable of effectively investigating serious violations such as torture and enforced disappearances.

# **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. The Public Prosecution lacks genuine independence:
  - Despite legal provisions nominally guaranteeing its independence, the prosecution in Egypt often acts in coordination with security services—especially in politically sensitive or security-related cases.
  - CFJ has documented dozens of cases in which families and lawyers submitted credible complaints about torture or disappearance, but the prosecution either failed to open an investigation or summarily closed the case without legal justification.
- 2. Absence of a truly independent investigative body:

There is no legally established, functionally independent authority in Egypt to investigate allegations of torture or enforced disappearance. In practice, the responsibility falls on the same institutions often accused of committing these violations, such as the Ministry of Interior—a clear conflict of interest that undermines the credibility of investigations.

# 3. Persistent impunity for perpetrators:

In the rare instances when complaints of torture are investigated, victims and their representatives face severe obstacles—such as denial of access to medical records or forensic evidence—leading most cases to be closed without any accountability. Notable examples include:

- The **Khaled Said** and **Afroto** cases, which exposed structural flaws in police accountability.
- The deaths of **Shady Habash** and **Reda Helal** following enforced disappearance and detention, which have not led to serious investigations.
- 4. No independent oversight of detention conditions:

The recommendation also called for investigation into poor detention conditions. However, Egypt does not allow independent national bodies or civil society organizations to inspect prisons. The country has also not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which would mandate the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism.

5. International bodies question the credibility of official investigations: Numerous UN Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups have reported a lack of effective accountability in Egypt for serious violations such as torture and inhumane detention conditions. Security forces continue to operate with virtual impunity.



### **CFJ Conclusion:**

The government's claim that the Public Prosecution serves as an independent body investigating serious abuses does not hold up to scrutiny. The persistence of impunity, the influence of security agencies, and the absence of an independent oversight body highlight the urgent need to establish a genuinely independent mechanism with a clear mandate to investigate torture, enforced disappearances, and prison conditions—ensuring transparency, accountability, and protection of the right to dignity and bodily integrity.

### • Recommendation 42.94

#### Text:

"Create accountability mechanisms for enforced disappearance resulting from illegal actions by security forces" — (Spain)
Egypt's position: X Noted

### Government response:

The government did not provide any substantive or detailed response, and simply categorized the recommendation as "noted." It made a vague reference to the role of the judiciary—particularly the Public Prosecution—reiterating that these bodies already carry out their duties in this area.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation is especially urgent given the systematic nature of enforced disappearance in Egypt, which has dramatically increased since 2013 and become a central tool of state repression. The government's minimal response constitutes a de facto denial of the issue and a disregard for international demands for accountability.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. Enforced disappearance: A systematic and documented practice:
  - CFJ, in collaboration with international organizations, documents hundreds of cases annually involving individuals abducted from their homes or public spaces by security forces without warrants, disappearing for weeks, months, or even years.
  - Victims include minors, women, political activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens.
- 2. Lack of specialized accountability mechanisms:
  - Egypt has no dedicated agency or committee to investigate enforced disappearance complaints.
  - Investigations, when initiated, are handled by the same security agencies accused of the violations, or by the State Security Prosecution, which rarely conducts serious inquiries or holds officers accountable.
- 3. Public Prosecution reinforces impunity:



- When victims reappear after weeks or months, arrest records are falsified to show a later detention date, without accountability for the illegal detention period.
- Prosecutors routinely reject families' complaints or refer them back to the Ministry of Interior—an institutional dead end.

# 4. No transparency or oversight over detention sites:

- Independent monitoring bodies, including the National Council for Human Rights and NGOs, are not permitted to access secret detention facilities such as those operated by the National Security Agency.
- The Ministry of Interior often denies holding disappeared persons, even in the face of strong evidence.

### 5. Official denial of the existence of enforced disappearance:

 In official reports, the Egyptian government consistently reclassifies enforced disappearances as "missing persons" or "legal arrests," effectively closing the door to investigation or reform.

### 6. Firm international condemnation:

- The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has received hundreds of complaints against Egypt.
- Several UN mechanisms have expressed grave concern over Egypt's failure to respond adequately.
- Egypt still refuses to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, despite numerous UPR recommendations to do so.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

The government's failure to engage seriously with this recommendation and its refusal to establish independent investigative mechanisms for enforced disappearance amounts to institutionalized impunity. So long as the state continues to deny one of the most egregious violations of life and liberty—committed in secrecy and without oversight—claims of human rights compliance remain deeply unconvincing.

### • Recommendation 42.95

#### Text:

"Investigate effectively and prosecute police officers in cases of torture, use of force and ill-treatment" — (Russian Federation)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

### Government response:

The Egyptian government claimed it is already implementing the recommendation, stating that the Public Prosecution investigates all reported allegations of torture and mistreatment, and



emphasizing its independence and mandate to prosecute offenders, including members of the security forces.

## **CFJ Commentary:**

While the government affirms a commitment to accountability, in reality this commitment is largely superficial. In most cases, serious investigations are either not conducted at all or do not lead to meaningful prosecutions. Accountability remains rare, and institutional complicity prevails.

## **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. Many complaints, very few credible investigations:
  - Egypt's prosecution and judicial authorities receive hundreds of torture complaints each year from victims, lawyers, and family members.
  - The overwhelming majority of these complaints are either dismissed, shelved without investigation, or never officially registered.

# 2. Informal protection of perpetrators:

- In the rare cases where officers are named as suspects, internal inquiries are superficial, and those involved are typically transferred or disciplined without facing prosecution.
- Even when there are medical reports or witness testimony, few officers face serious consequences.

### 3. Widespread torture in police custody:

- CFJ documents consistent torture patterns in police stations and National Security facilities, particularly during early interrogations, including:
  - Electric shocks,
  - Suspension by limbs,
  - Severe beatings,
  - Deprivation of food and medical care.
- Despite the severity of these abuses, no senior official has been prosecuted, nor has the government addressed the institutional networks that enable such practices.

### 4. The Khaled Said case is the exception, not the rule:

- Authorities often cite the 2010 prosecution of police officers in the Khaled Said case as proof of accountability.
- However, this case resulted from exceptional public outrage and predates Egypt's 2011 revolution.
- More recent cases—such as Afroto (2018), Islam al-Australi (2020), and Mohamed Sayed Shehata (2022)—have not led to successful prosecutions, despite substantial evidence.

# 5. **Obstruction of victims' access to justice:**

 Victims are often detained during or after reporting torture, and many face threats if they file complaints.



 Egypt lacks witness protection programs, which further discourages reporting and hampers legal proceedings.

# 6. Lack of institutional transparency:

- Egypt does not publish regular statistics on the number of police abuse cases investigated or the outcomes of such investigations.
- This violates international norms regarding transparency and accountability in justice systems.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Despite formal support for this recommendation, Egypt lacks an effective accountability framework for police abuse. The state continues to deny or conceal violations, in the absence of political will and judicial independence. This failure significantly undermines the credibility of the justice system and perpetuates a culture of impunity that allows torture and abuse to persist unchecked.

### • Recommendation 42.96

#### Text:

"Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by State agents and ensure that alleged perpetrators are held to account" — (Luxembourg) Egypt's position: Supported – Already implemented

#### Government response:

The government claimed it is already implementing the recommendation, stating that the Public Prosecution investigates all complaints related to torture or ill-treatment by state officials, and that it is committed to ensuring accountability within the legal framework.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

Despite the formal acknowledgment, there is little evidence of serious investigations or accountability for widespread torture and ill-treatment in detention and interrogation facilities. On the contrary, perpetrators usually enjoy de facto impunity, while victims are often treated as suspects or accused of fabricating their claims.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. Lack of serious investigations in most cases:
  - Independent and effective investigations are rarely conducted, even in welldocumented cases presented by local and international human rights organizations.
  - Many complaints are dismissed, shelved, or filed "against unknown persons," despite strong medical evidence, witness testimony, and human rights reports.
- 2. Accountability rarely goes beyond low-ranking officers:



- In the few cases that reach court, prosecutions typically target junior officers, with lenient sentences often issued or overturned on appeal.
- High-level institutional networks responsible for enabling and covering up torture within the National Security Agency or prison administrations remain untouched.

# 3. Torture as a policy, not isolated misconduct:

- Documented torture methods show systematic patterns in technique, location, and timing—indicating that torture is state-sanctioned rather than the result of rogue actors.
- The UN Committee Against Torture has described torture in Egypt as "widespread and systematic."

# 4. Procedural formalities used to mask impunity:

- The Public Prosecution may announce an "investigation" into high-profile deaths in custody, but such cases usually end with vague conclusions such as "suicide" or "natural causes," as seen in:
  - The death of *Shady Habash*,
  - The death of Walid Shawky in Al-Aqrab Prison,
  - The death of Tariq Sami (a.k.a. Tito).

# 5. Lack of transparency and data disclosure:

- Neither the judiciary nor the Ministry of Interior provides public statistics on torture complaints or the outcomes of investigations.
- Parliamentary and judicial oversight of security forces remains non-existent or ineffective.

### 6. Erosion of public trust in the justice system:

• The persistent impunity for torture undermines public confidence in judicial institutions and deters victims from filing complaints due to fear of retaliation or renewed abuse.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

The claim that this recommendation is "already implemented" contradicts the documented reality. Egypt continues to lack an effective and independent mechanism for investigating torture and holding perpetrators accountable. This failure violates Egypt's obligations under the UN Convention Against Torture and reflects a systemic breakdown in safeguarding bodily integrity and human dignity.



### • Recommendation 42.97

#### Text:

"Ensure that all complaints of torture and ill-treatment are investigated in a prompt, effective and impartial manner by an independent body, and that perpetrators are duly tried and adequately punished" — (Liechtenstein)

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

### Government response:

The government stated that the Public Prosecution, as an independent authority, investigates all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and that the state is committed to prosecuting offenders in accordance with the law and applying appropriate sanctions.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

While the government claims to support and implement this recommendation, in practice Egypt does not operate any independent or effective body to investigate torture claims. The official response is misleading and inconsistent with the facts. The absence of serious accountability, combined with the Public Prosecution's institutional role in shielding perpetrators, reinforces a climate of impunity.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

### 1. Absence of the required independent body:

- The recommendation explicitly calls for investigations by an "independent body."
- The Public Prosecution, however, is not structurally or functionally independent, as the Prosecutor General is appointed by the President.
- In politically sensitive cases, prosecutors routinely echo the narratives of the security services, compromising impartiality.

### 2. Investigations lack promptness, effectiveness, and impartiality:

- Complaints are often delayed, ignored, or superficially addressed.
- Security officers are not promptly summoned, and no formal records are created.
- Victims are often denied medical examination or legal counsel.
- In some cases, false charges are filed against victims to undermine their credibility.

### 3. Reliance on accused institutions to receive complaints:

- Victims are sometimes referred to the Ministry of Interior's Human Rights Unit to file complaints—despite it being the body implicated in violations.
- This presents a clear conflict of interest and invalidates any appearance of impartiality.
- 4. No significant outcomes in major torture cases:
  - There are no known cases in which high-ranking police or security officials have been held accountable for deaths or severe injuries resulting from torture.
  - In contrast, many officers have been acquitted or released despite credible evidence, as in:
    - The death of Adel Mowad in Wadi al-Natrun Prison,



• The *Tariq Kamel* case at El-Matariya police station.

### 5. UN assessment of systematic torture in Egypt:

- The UN Committee Against Torture stated in its 2017 report that torture in Egypt is practiced "on a large scale and in a climate of impunity."
- Egypt has failed to adopt any serious reforms in response.

# 6. Lack of political will for structural reform:

- There is no indication that the government intends to amend laws to enable independent investigations.
- Egypt has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which requires states to establish a national preventive mechanism.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's response misrepresents the essence of the recommendation, which calls for **independent**, **prompt**, and **effective** investigations. Referring to the Public Prosecution as an adequate body is disingenuous given its track record of complicity and inaction. This recommendation remains unimplemented in practice, and urgent structural reforms are needed—beginning with the creation of a genuinely independent national mechanism for the investigation and prosecution of torture.

# • Recommendation 42.98

### Text:

"End the excessive use of pretrial detention and the illegal practice of arbitrarily reopening cases (so-called recycling) and guarantee the rights of prisoners, including access to lawyers and medical treatment" — (Germany)

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

### Government response:

The government implicitly rejected the substance of the recommendation, claiming that references to "excessive use of pretrial detention" or "arbitrary reopening of cases" are "inaccurate," without providing any clarification about actual practices or measures taken to protect detainees' rights.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation is among the most accurate and urgent regarding Egypt's current human rights violations. Pretrial detention has become a systematic tool of repression targeting journalists, human rights defenders, political opponents, and victims' families. The practice of "recycling" cases is used to indefinitely prolong detention outside any genuine judicial logic.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

1. Pretrial detention has become a de facto punitive measure:



- Thousands remain imprisoned for years without trial, in clear violation of the Criminal Procedure Code.
- Their detention is automatically renewed every 45 days by judicial panels that fail to meaningfully assess evidence.
- Detainees like *Alaa Abdel-Fattah* and *Ahmed Samir Santawy* (before his conviction) have remained in custody beyond the legal maximum of two years.
- 2. Recycling (arbitrarily fabricating new cases while in custody):
  - Once a detainee finishes their legal pretrial period in one case, they are charged in a new case with similar accusations without ever leaving the prison.
  - This strategy prolongs detention unlawfully and is commonly used against activists and political figures.
  - Notable examples include:
    - *Mohamed El-Baqer* (human rights lawyer),
    - Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh (former party leader),
    - Esraa Abdel Fattah (journalist and activist).

# 3. Systematic denial of the right to legal defense:

- Detainees are often denied regular access to their lawyers.
- Legal visits lack privacy.
- Lawyers face numerous obstacles in filing motions or appeals.

### 4. Violations of medical care rights:

- Prisoners' health conditions have deteriorated due to denial of medicine and appropriate care.
- CFJ has documented several deaths due to deliberate medical neglect, such as:
  - Essam El-Erian,
  - Ahmed Zaki,
  - Others who repeatedly requested care but were ignored.

### 5. Government response denies the reality:

- No official denial or data has been provided to address the recycling practice or the scale of pretrial detention.
- No legislative reforms have been announced despite repeated promises since 2018 to amend the Criminal Procedure Code.

# 6. Violation of international standards:

- Article 9 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to trial within a reasonable time or to release.
- Egypt's ongoing practices constitute a direct violation of this provision and undermine the credibility of its judiciary.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

The Egyptian government refuses to confront one of the most abusive and systemic legal-security practices used to silence dissent. Denying the existence of arbitrary detention and recycling is a denial of a documented daily reality. CFJ confirms that the recommendation remains unimplemented



and actively resisted through policies that weaponize the judiciary to suppress freedoms. Addressing this issue requires urgent legal reforms, independent oversight of detention decisions, and a clear end to the security apparatus's interference in judicial processes.

### • Recommendation 42.99

#### Text:

"Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of torture and ill-treatment, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable, including the perpetrators of the brutal killing of Giulio Regeni" — (Italy)

Egypt's position: X Noted

### **Government response:**

The government referred only to "clarifications provided by the Egyptian delegation during the session" (paragraph 40 of the UPR Working Group Report), without offering any direct response to the substance of the recommendation or outlining commitments to accountability in the Regeni case or broader anti-torture reforms.

#### **CFJ Commentary:**

This recommendation highlights one of the most internationally embarrassing cases for the Egyptian authorities: the torture and murder of Italian researcher Giulio Regeni in 2016, in which official security forces were implicated. Egypt's refusal to cooperate with Italian judicial investigations and to acknowledge institutional responsibility demonstrates a clear lack of political will to combat torture or ensure accountability.

### **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. The Regeni case illustrates the systemic nature of torture:
  - Regeni's body bore clear signs of systematic torture (burns, fractures, bruises) consistent with techniques known to be used by National Security.
  - Egypt has never acknowledged that the crime occurred in a security facility, offering contradictory narratives—including blaming a criminal gang, which was later itself suspiciously killed.
- 2. Complete lack of judicial cooperation with Italy:
  - Egypt has refused to extradite the four National Security officers indicted by Italian prosecutors, despite international arrest warrants.
  - Authorities dismissed the Italian evidence as "insufficient," completely obstructing justice.
- 3. Pattern of impunity mirrored in other torture cases:
  - Regeni's case is not an exception. CFJ has documented many similar cases, including:
    - The death of Shady Habash in Tora Prison due to medical neglect,



- The torture of activists like Ahmed Douma and Alaa Abdel-Fattah,
- The enforced disappearance and torture of minors like *Sherif Hassan* and *Abdelrahman Tarek*.
- Yet no mid- or high-ranking National Security officers have ever faced trial, reinforcing a culture of total impunity.
- 4. Government response evades the core of the recommendation:
  - Egypt made no mention of safeguards against torture or serious review of security practices and legislation.
  - It also ignored the explicit call for accountability in Regeni's murder, a crime that severely strained relations with Italy and the EU.
- 5. Disregard for related international recommendations:
  - Egypt has not implemented any recommendations from the UN Committee Against Torture or the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances.
  - It still refuses to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

The Giulio Regeni case is emblematic of Egypt's failure to uphold even minimum standards of accountability and transparency in torture cases. Its continued refusal to cooperate with Italian judicial authorities constitutes a serious breach of its international obligations. The government's denial that torture is a systematic policy is contradicted by its failure to punish those responsible for Regeni's death and other victims. This recommendation remains entirely unimplemented and deliberately ignored—warranting ongoing international pressure and scrutiny.

### • Recommendation 42.100

### Text:

"Ensure that no detainee is held without charge, and reduce the maximum duration of pretrial detention to 48 hours" — (Zambia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

### Government response:

The Egyptian government claims that the recommendation is already implemented, without indicating any intention to amend the current legal framework or reduce the maximum pretrial detention period. No explanation was provided regarding the proposed 48-hour limit or whether it aligns with existing national standards.

### **CFJ Commentary:**

The assertion that this recommendation is "already implemented" starkly contradicts Egypt's legal and security practices. For years, pretrial detention has been systematically used as a political punishment, with individuals often held for months or even years without formal charges or trial.



# **CFJ Detailed Analysis:**

- 1. Egypt's legal framework allows detention far beyond 48 hours:
  - Article 143 of Egypt's Code of Criminal Procedure permits pretrial detention for up to two years before trial in felony cases, and in practice, this period is extended indefinitely through "case recycling."
  - No provision in Egyptian law limits pretrial detention to 48 hours, as requested in the recommendation, indicating that this part of the recommendation has not been implemented at all.

# 2. Detention without formal charges is the norm, not the exception:

- Thousands of detainees are held based solely on unsubstantiated National Security reports without material evidence.
- They are routinely charged with vague accusations such as "joining a terrorist group" or "spreading false news," and their detention is renewed periodically without being referred to trial.

# 3. Continued use of 'case recycling' to prolong arbitrary detention:

- Many activists, journalists, and human rights defenders are released from one case only to be re-arrested in another with identical charges, all while never leaving prison.
- This practice keeps them in prolonged pretrial detention for years, violating the core principle of not detaining individuals without charges.
- 4. Public prosecution lacks effective oversight role:
  - Rather than acting as a safeguard against unlawful detention, the prosecution often facilitates automatic renewals of detention without evaluating the necessity or legality of continued custody.

### 5. Extended detention without charge severely impacts basic rights:

- Detainees are often denied visits, medical care, reading materials, and legal communication.
- CFJ has documented deaths in pretrial detention due to medical neglect and poor conditions, such as in the case of *Mostafa Kassem*.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt has not implemented this recommendation in any meaningful way — neither by reducing the pretrial detention limit to 48 hours nor by ensuring detainees are not held without charge. Instead, the authorities continue to use pretrial detention as a tool of political repression, exploiting legal loopholes and the lack of judicial independence.

CFJ urges Egypt to urgently revise its Code of Criminal Procedure to reduce maximum detention periods, end the practice of "case recycling," and ensure either rapid referral to an independent judiciary or immediate release for those not formally charged.



### Recommendation 42.101

#### Text:

"Strengthen measures to ensure that conditions in detention are compatible with the Nelson Mandela Rules" — *(South Africa)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Already implemented

#### Government response:

The Egyptian government asserts that the recommendation is already being implemented, without providing specific steps or a realistic assessment of whether the conditions in prisons and detention centers comply with the international standards outlined in the Nelson Mandela Rules (the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners).

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The government's claim of full implementation lacks accuracy and transparency. In reality, the conditions in Egyptian prisons systematically violate the principles of the Mandela Rules, which emphasize human dignity, fair treatment, access to healthcare, and contact with the outside world.

### **Detailed CFJ Analysis:**

- 1. Living conditions remain dire:
  - **Severe overcrowding:** Many prison cells house far more inmates than their intended capacity, creating inhumane conditions.
  - Poor ventilation and lighting: Most facilities lack adequate air circulation and natural light, contributing to the spread of respiratory diseases in violation of Rules 13 and 14 of the Mandela Rules.
  - Lack of clean water and sanitary facilities.
- 2. Denial of healthcare:
  - Prisoners are frequently denied basic medications or medical checkups, especially those who are elderly or chronically ill.
  - Documented medical neglect has led to deaths in custody, including:
    - Mustafa Kassem (Egyptian-American),
    - Essam El-Erian,
    - Ahmed Abdullah, and others.
  - These practices violate Rule 24 and subsequent rules, which mandate nondiscriminatory healthcare.

## 3. Use of solitary confinement:

- Many political detainees are placed in prolonged solitary confinement, exceeding the 15-day limit set by Rule 44.
- Solitary is often used punitively or in retaliation for exercising the right to expression within prisons, with no judicial oversight.
- 4. Restrictions on contact with lawyers and families:



- Prisoners are frequently denied regular visits, particularly in high-security prisons like Scorpion (Al-Aqrab) and Badr.
- They are barred from sending or receiving letters or phone calls in violation of Rules 58 and 59.
- 5. Lack of effective and independent complaint mechanisms:
  - There are no independent channels through which prisoners can file complaints regarding ill-treatment or rights violations.
  - Investigations, when they occur, are internal, opaque, and rarely lead to accountability.

The on-the-ground reality contradicts the government's claim of compliance. Systematic violations — from medical neglect and inhumane detention conditions to denial of communication — amount to clear breaches of the Mandela Rules.

CFJ stresses that genuine compliance requires:

- An independent review of prison conditions,
- The establishment of an effective national monitoring mechanism,
- Guaranteed access to healthcare and family visits,
- Accountability for violations, especially in National Security-run facilities.

Accordingly, **CFJ concludes that the recommendation has not been genuinely implemented**, and that the current prison conditions in Egypt warrant **urgent international scrutiny** to ensure respect for the minimum rights of detainees.

## • Recommendation 42.102

#### Text:

"Continue to take effective measures to improve the situation in the penitentiary sphere" — *(Russian Federation)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Already implemented

#### Government response:

Egypt claims to have taken multiple measures to improve prison conditions, such as infrastructure development, healthcare provision, better nutrition, and training of correctional facility staff.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ reports indicate a significant gap between official statements and on-the-ground reality. Key issues persist in the penitentiary system:



- **Persistent overcrowding:** Despite official claims, prisons continue to hold far more inmates than their designed capacity, aggravating health and living conditions.
- **Insufficient healthcare:** Many prisoners lack access to basic medication and appropriate treatment, with numerous deaths reported due to medical neglect.
- **Poor nutrition:** Detainees still report inadequate, low-quality meals.
- Lack of trained staff: Many prison personnel are not properly trained in humane prisoner management, contributing to continued abuse and mistreatment.

Despite announcements of reforms, no significant improvements have been observed in Egypt's penitentiary system. CFJ calls for an independent and objective review of prison conditions, the establishment of transparent oversight mechanisms, and the involvement of civil society in monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure prisoners' rights to health, safety, and dignity are upheld.

## • Recommendation 42.103

## Text:

"Review the definition of terrorism in Act No. 94 (2015), on counter-terrorism, and harmonize it with international human rights standards" — *(Mexico)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## Government response:

The government claims that the definition of terrorism under Act No. 94 (2015) complies with international standards, stating that the law targets only acts of a terrorist nature and is not used to suppress fundamental rights or freedoms.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ's analysis shows that Egypt's definition of terrorism is overly broad and vague, allowing its misuse to criminalize legitimate and peaceful activities. This has led to the repression of human rights defenders, journalists, and political dissidents.

## Key points from CFJ's analysis:

- **Ambiguity and overbreadth:** The law lacks a clear and narrow definition of terrorism, opening the door to its application against peaceful protests, public expression, and civic activism.
- Repressive application: In recent years, terrorism charges have been widely used against individuals involved in peaceful political or human rights activities, in violation of international standards.
- Lack of safeguards: The law lacks adequate judicial safeguards to prevent arbitrary accusations, with no effective mechanisms for appeal or oversight.



CFJ strongly recommends a substantive revision of the definition of terrorism in Egyptian law to prevent its misuse as a tool of repression. The law must be harmonized with international human rights standards, including the introduction of robust judicial protections.

## • Recommendation 42.104

### Text:

"Review its anti-terrorism legislation and draft Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure compliance with international human rights law" — *(Ireland)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

## Government response:

The government states that both the Anti-Terrorism Law and the new draft Criminal Procedure Code are aligned with international human rights standards. It claims these laws strike a balance between national security and individual rights.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official claims, there have been no significant reforms to bring Egypt's anti-terrorism and criminal procedure laws into full compliance with international human rights obligations.

## Key observations:

- **Persistent vague provisions:** Both laws contain vague language that enables broad interpretation and application against peaceful dissent and activism.
- **Prolonged pretrial detention:** The legislation allows extended detention without trial, undermining the right to liberty and due process.
- Lack of fair trial guarantees: Many trials, especially those involving terrorism charges, fail to meet basic international standards for due process.

## **CFJ conclusion:**

CFJ urges a comprehensive review of the anti-terrorism and criminal procedure frameworks, with meaningful consultation with civil society, to ensure protection against abuse and conformity with human rights norms.

## Recommendation 42.105

#### Text:

"Review its counter-terrorism legislation and measures to ensure that crimes solely of a terrorist nature are addressed" — *(Czechia)* 



# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

Egypt asserts that its anti-terrorism legislation targets only acts of a terrorist nature and is not used to criminalize peaceful activities. The government reiterates its commitment to international standards in applying the law.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ's assessment of both the legal framework and its application reveals that the anti-terrorism law is still broadly applied to suppress dissent and target peaceful actors.

### Key concerns:

- **Over-criminalization:** The law includes non-violent activities within its scope, resulting in terrorism charges against peaceful protesters, journalists, and civil society actors.
- Lack of effective judicial oversight: This has enabled systemic abuse of the law, with little to no accountability or redress for wrongful accusations.
- **Repressive impact:** The law has become a key tool in silencing political opposition and curbing freedoms of expression and assembly.

#### **CFJ conclusion:**

Egypt must revise its anti-terrorism legislation to clearly define and limit its scope to genuinely terrorist acts, in line with strict international criteria. Legal safeguards must be introduced to prevent the misuse of the law as a means of political repression.

#### • Recommendation 42.106

#### Text:

"Ensure the adequate protection of human rights defenders, including refraining from arrests under anti-terrorist legislation" — *(Norway)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

The government claims that legal measures are in place to protect human rights defenders and that anti-terror laws are not applied to them unless national security concerns require it.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, Egyptian authorities continue to misuse anti-terrorism legislation to arbitrarily arrest and detain human rights defenders, restrict their freedom of expression and movement, and intimidate civil society.



### Key concerns:

- **Arbitrary arrests:** Peaceful defenders have been charged under terrorism laws simply for their activism.
- Lack of protection mechanisms: There are no effective legal or practical measures in place to safeguard HRDs.
- Chilling effect on civil society: Fear of persecution limits activism and civic engagement.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the Egyptian authorities to cease applying anti-terror laws against human rights defenders and to introduce concrete legal and institutional safeguards to ensure a safe and enabling environment for their work.

## • Recommendation 42.107

### Text:

"Stop the use of counter-terrorism measures to detain peaceful protesters, journalists and human rights defenders" — *(Canada)* 

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## Government response:

The government claims that counter-terrorism measures are only applied in cases affecting national security and not used arbitrarily against peaceful protest or journalism.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Contrary to these claims, counter-terrorism laws in Egypt are widely used to detain peaceful protesters, journalists, and HRDs under fabricated or vague terrorism charges.

## Key concerns:

- **Arbitrary detention:** Individuals exercising their legitimate rights are prosecuted under antiterror laws.
- Absence of legal safeguards: Detainees are denied fair trials and due process.
- **Suppressive climate:** This practice restricts freedom of expression, assembly, and creates a climate of fear.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for an immediate halt to the misuse of terrorism legislation against peaceful dissent, and for Egypt to uphold its obligations to protect fundamental freedoms.



## Recommendation 42.108

#### Text:

"Continue with actions aimed at the preventive fight against terrorism and strengthen mechanisms aimed at creating job opportunities" — *(El Salvador)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt affirms that it implements preventive anti-terrorism strategies while strengthening monitoring mechanisms and adhering to human rights within legal frameworks.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these claims, there are serious concerns over the lack of transparency and accountability in counter-terror operations, including:

- Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance: Suspected individuals are held without charge or access to legal counsel.
- Lack of judicial oversight: Independent review mechanisms are absent or ineffective.
- **Human rights violations:** Security measures are often used as justification for restricting civil liberties.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends enhancing transparency, strengthening judicial oversight, and ensuring full respect for human rights throughout all counter-terrorism processes.

## • Recommendation 42.109

#### Text:

"Continue efforts to combat terrorism while paying due attention to protecting human rights" — *(India)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt reiterates its commitment to fighting terrorism while adhering to human rights principles and international standards.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, Egypt's counter-terrorism approach remains overly security-driven, resulting in the erosion of civil liberties and systematic human rights violations.

#### Key concerns:



- **Excessive security focus:** Restrictions on expression, movement, and assembly under the guise of national security.
- Lack of fair trial guarantees: Prolonged pretrial detention, secret trials, and denial of legal representation.
- Political misuse of laws: Anti-terror laws used to target opposition and activists.

CFJ urges a rebalancing of counter-terror efforts to protect national security without infringing on fundamental rights and freedoms. Reforms should include judicial safeguards and independent oversight.

# • Recommendation 42.110

## Text:

"Continue efforts aimed at combating corruption within the framework of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030)" — *(Algeria)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

## Government response:

Egypt highlights the implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy, which includes institutional and legislative reforms to promote transparency and accountability.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

While the strategy exists, major challenges persist:

- Weak independence of oversight bodies: Undermines the effectiveness of investigations.
- Lack of transparency: Especially in high-level corruption cases involving state institutions.
- Ineffective accountability: Limited follow-through on recommendations and prosecutions.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends strengthening the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies, increasing transparency, and enforcing accountability to ensure meaningful progress.

## Recommendation 42.111

## Text:

"Ensure an independent, transparent and accountable anti-corruption mechanism in the implementation process of the third phase of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2023–2030)" — *(Armenia)* 



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt points to existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms under relevant authorities as part of its anti-corruption framework.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Current mechanisms lack genuine independence, limiting their ability to investigate sensitive or high-level corruption.

### Key issues:

- Lack of independence: Oversight bodies are subject to executive influence.
- **Opaque processes:** Limited public disclosure of investigation outcomes.
- Marginal civil society role: Community oversight is minimal or excluded.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the establishment of truly independent and transparent accountability mechanisms and meaningful civil society participation in monitoring anti-corruption efforts.

#### • Recommendation 42.112

#### Text:

"Guarantee the independence and safety of lawyers, judges and prosecutors through legal safeguards and effective practices" — *(Italy)* 

## Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt states its commitment to judicial independence and to protecting legal professionals through appropriate legal frameworks.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite this claim, interference from the executive continues to undermine judicial independence and expose legal professionals to pressure.

#### Key concerns:

- **Executive influence:** Judges have been retired or reassigned based on independent positions.
- **Harassment of lawyers:** Particularly those involved in human rights cases, facing travel bans and legal persecution.
- Insufficient protection: Lawyers and judges operate in an environment of fear and pressure.



Egypt must adopt concrete measures to safeguard judicial independence and the security of legal professionals, ensuring they can operate without interference or retaliation.

## • Recommendation 42.113

#### Text:

"Continue to strengthen the independence of the judiciary by accelerating the establishment of mechanisms guaranteeing fair and transparent access to justice for all citizens" — *(Cameroon)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt reiterates its efforts to support judicial independence and to improve access to justice for all through reforms.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The Egyptian judicial system still suffers from structural problems:

- Slow procedures: Delay citizens' access to justice.
- Lack of transparency: Especially in politically sensitive cases.
- Discriminatory access: Disparities in judicial treatment based on political affiliation or social status.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends deep structural reforms to the judiciary, including streamlining procedures, enhancing transparency, and ensuring equal access to justice for all segments of society.

#### • Recommendation 42.115

#### Text:

"Ensure the rule of law and the protection of all citizens against torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" — *(Norway)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government affirms its commitment to the rule of law and to combating torture and all forms of cruel or degrading treatment, highlighting the existence of legal mechanisms to investigate violations.



## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these claims, credible reports document the ongoing use of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities across Egypt.

### Key issues:

- **Systematic torture practices:** Including beatings, sleep deprivation, and electric shocks widely documented by human rights groups.
- Lack of independent investigations: Most complaints are handled internally with no transparency or effective accountability.
- **Detainee abuse:** Includes denial of medical care, poor food, and degrading treatment.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the establishment of independent and transparent investigative bodies, effective prosecution of those responsible for torture, and strong preventive measures to protect detainees.

## Recommendation 42.116

#### Text:

"Ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are able to communicate promptly and regularly with their legal representatives and families, and to benefit from necessary and appropriate healthcare and consular services" — *(Canada)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt asserts that detainees have the right to communicate with lawyers and families, and receive healthcare and consular services, in accordance with existing laws and international standards.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In reality, CFJ continues to document serious restrictions on detainees' contact with the outside world and access to medical care.

#### Key issues:

- Visit bans and delays: Especially in high-security prisons like Scorpion (Al-Aqrab).
- **Communication restrictions:** Phone calls and letters are blocked or heavily monitored.
- **Medical neglect:** Detainees are often denied essential treatment despite serious health conditions.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges Egypt to enforce the rights of detainees to contact their families and legal representatives





and receive adequate healthcare, while enabling independent oversight to prevent arbitrary restrictions.

## • Recommendation 42.117

## Text:

"Guarantee the right to a fair trial in accordance with international obligations" — *(Kingdom of the Netherlands)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

## Government response:

Egypt reiterates its commitment to ensuring fair trials for all defendants, in line with international standards and with full access to legal representation.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ highlights consistent violations of fair trial guarantees, especially in politically sensitive cases.

## Key issues:

- **Prolonged pretrial detention:** Many individuals are held for years without trial.
- **Restricted legal defense:** Lawyers face obstacles accessing their clients or case files.
- **Exceptional courts:** Civilians are often tried in terrorism or emergency courts lacking impartiality.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends urgent reforms to the judicial process, including reducing arbitrary pretrial detention, eliminating exceptional courts for civilians, and ensuring full legal defense rights.

## Recommendation 42.118

#### Text:

"Continue to guarantee the right to a fair trial and due process in all cases" — (Thailand)

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

## Government response:

The government affirms its ongoing efforts to ensure fair trial standards and procedural guarantees for all defendants.



### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these claims, major concerns remain over judicial independence and due process in Egypt, particularly in politically motivated trials.

## Key issues:

- Lack of judicial independence: Executive pressure influences court decisions.
- **Restricted defense rights:** Lawyers face harassment, and are often blocked from seeing clients during interrogation or trial.
- **Non-transparent trials:** Many proceedings are closed or fast-tracked, limiting public and media scrutiny.
- Use of coerced confessions: Statements obtained under torture continue to be used as evidence.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges immediate reforms to safeguard judicial independence, protect defense rights, ensure trial transparency, and prohibit the use of coerced confessions in court.

## • Recommendation 42.119

#### Text:

"Accelerate the processes leading to the adoption by the parliament of the new draft Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as to the adoption of the draft law on asylum aimed at regulating the status of foreigners in or arriving in Egypt" — *(Togo)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt reports that it is working to finalize the new Code of Criminal Procedure and to introduce asylum legislation that regulates the status of migrants and refugees in line with international standards.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

While legislative efforts are welcomed, delays persist in adopting these crucial legal reforms.

#### Key concerns:

- **Stalled reform process:** Years have passed with no adoption of the new Code or asylum law.
- Legal uncertainty: Refugees and migrants face arbitrary detention and lack clear legal protections.
- **Procedural gaps:** The outdated criminal procedure framework enables prolonged pretrial detention and abuse.



CFJ urges the Egyptian government to expedite the adoption of the new criminal and asylum laws, with input from civil society, to align legal protections with Egypt's human rights obligations.

## • Recommendation 42.120

#### Text:

"Ensure that the new Code of Criminal Procedure guarantees fair trial standards, and end the practice of 'rotating' detainees in pretrial detention" — *(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)* 

## Egypt's position: — Partially supported

## Government response:

Egypt supports the part of the recommendation related to ensuring fair trial standards but rejects the reference to the existence of a "practice of rotating detainees" as stated in the recommendation.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ affirms that Egypt continues to employ the practice commonly known as "case rotation" or *tadweer*, where detainees are kept in prolonged pretrial detention by bringing new charges against them before their release:

- **Systematic practice:** Detainees are repeatedly charged in new cases to extend their detention, effectively transforming pretrial detention into an unlawful punitive measure.
- **Violation of legal rights:** This practice undermines the right to liberty and basic legal guarantees for detainees.
- Lack of judicial oversight: The judiciary fails to curb this abuse, enabling the misuse of pretrial detention.
- **Psychological and legal consequences:** Rotation inflicts mental harm on detainees and delays access to fair and timely trials.

CFJ notes that the government's denial of this practice obstructs necessary reform and perpetuates a system of arbitrary detention.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the immediate abolition of this practice, a stronger judicial role in protecting detainee rights, and the adoption of strict legal safeguards to limit the misuse of pretrial detention.

• Recommendation 42.121

Text:



"Ensure that all laws, court proceedings and pretrial detention practices comply with due process rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and articles 54 and 55 of the Constitution" — *(Australia)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

## Government response:

The government affirms its commitment to due process in accordance with both international standards and the Egyptian Constitution, asserting that all relevant laws and procedures comply accordingly.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite formal commitments, CFJ notes widespread violations in the actual application of due process guarantees:

- **Delayed presentation to prosecution:** Detainees are often held for extended periods before appearing before a prosecutor, undermining judicial oversight.
- **Excessive pretrial detention:** Detainees frequently remain imprisoned beyond legal limits without clear justification.
- **Lack of transparency and oversight:** Particularly in politically sensitive cases, detention conditions and legal proceedings lack independent monitoring.
- Violation of defense rights: Lawyers are frequently denied access to clients or case files during key stages of investigation.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for strengthened judicial oversight and strict enforcement of due process protections to ensure fair and lawful treatment of all detainees throughout legal proceedings.

## • Recommendation 42.122

## Text:

"Align domestic laws with international human rights standards by improving pretrial detention standards and fair trial procedures, introducing reconciliation-based justice such as parole, abolishing expedited judicial processes and reforming emergency laws" — *(Austria)* 

Egypt's position: — Partially supported

## Government response:

Egypt supports the part of the recommendation concerning the improvement of pretrial detention standards, but rejects references to "expedited judicial processes" or rights violations under emergency laws, asserting compliance with international standards.



## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ expresses concern over continued use of exceptional court proceedings that lack adequate procedural safeguards:

- **Exceptional courts:** Civilian cases are still tried before special or emergency courts that do not meet transparency and fairness standards.
- Lack of functional parole or reconciliation justice: There are no effective legal frameworks supporting conditional release or restorative justice.
- **Repressive emergency legislation:** Despite partial reforms, Egypt's emergency-related laws still grant sweeping powers to security forces at the expense of fundamental rights.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends a comprehensive legislative review to abolish expedited or exceptional trial procedures, reform emergency laws, promote parole and restorative justice, and ensure full compliance with international human rights norms.

### • Recommendation 42.123

#### Text:

"Ensure full respect for fair trial and due process guarantees for all defendants and restrict the excessive use of pretrial detention, including by putting an end to the practice of rotation of cases" — *(Belgium)* 

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported

#### Government response:

Egypt supports the portion concerning fair trial guarantees but denies the existence of excessive pretrial detention or the rotation of cases.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ emphasizes that Egypt continues to excessively use pretrial detention and engages in *tadweer* (case rotation) to keep detainees imprisoned without trial:

- **Case rotation:** Authorities open new cases against detainees just before release to prolong detention unlawfully.
- **Harm to defendants' rights:** These practices obstruct access to justice, delay trials, and undermine legal defense.
- Lack of judicial checks: Courts often fail to curb these practices, leading to arbitrary and prolonged imprisonment.



CFJ calls for clear legal limits on pretrial detention, a complete ban on case rotation practices, and stronger judicial protection of defendants' rights.

### • Recommendation 42.124

#### Text:

"Consider, if necessary, taking additional steps for the release of persons held in pretrial detention in excess of two years, and further enhance safeguards for pretrial detention through legislation amendments and their swift implementation" — (Bulgaria)

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government affirms adherence to legal limits on pretrial detention and states that it is reviewing and implementing legislative reforms to strengthen due process guarantees.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ observes that prolonged pretrial detention beyond two years remains a serious and widespread issue:

- **Extended detention without trial:** Many detainees remain imprisoned for years with no substantive legal review.
- **Delays in legislative reform:** The slow pace of law reform and its limited enforcement hinder effective protections.
- Lack of independent oversight: Weak judicial supervision allows indefinite detention to persist.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges Egypt to expedite the enactment and enforcement of legal reforms, empower independent judicial oversight, and implement effective mechanisms to release long-term pretrial detainees.

#### • Recommendation 42.125

#### Text:

"Ensure that the maximum legal duration of pretrial detention is respected and increase the use of alternative measures" — *(Canada)* 



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt affirms its commitment to respecting the maximum duration of pretrial detention as stipulated by law and encourages the use of alternative measures where appropriate.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite this commitment, CFJ documents ongoing violations of legal limits on pretrial detention, alongside limited use of legally available alternatives:

- **Exceeding legal time limits:** Many detainees remain in pretrial detention well beyond the maximum legal period without proper justification.
- **Underutilization of alternatives:** Legal alternatives such as bail or judicial supervision are rarely applied.
- **Negative impact on defendants' rights:** Prolonged detention harms fair trial rights and imposes long-term personal and social consequences.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the Egyptian authorities to ensure strict adherence to legal timeframes for detention, expand the use of alternative measures, and strengthen judicial oversight to protect detainees' rights.

## • Recommendation 42.126

#### Text:

"Continue ongoing efforts to ensure freedom of religion and belief" — (Pakistan)

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government reaffirms its commitment to protecting freedom of religion and belief for all citizens, guaranteeing non-discrimination and implementing laws to uphold religious rights.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite legal provisions, CFJ notes persistent challenges in the practical exercise of religious freedom in Egypt:

- **Systematic discrimination:** Religious minorities such as Bahá'ís and Shi'a Muslims face legal and administrative barriers that restrict religious practice.
- **Restrictions on religious rites:** Certain minority communities are prevented from publicly observing their religious practices.



• Lack of legal protection: Authorities fail to effectively respond to hate speech and sectarian incitement.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends implementing strong protection mechanisms for religious minorities, ensuring institutional respect for religious diversity, and reviewing state policies that restrict religious freedom.

## • Recommendation 42.127

#### Text:

"Continue to take concrete measures to guarantee religious tolerance and diversity" — (Sierra Leone)

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government states that it is implementing programs to promote religious tolerance and cultural diversity, including interfaith dialogue and community initiatives.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official initiatives, CFJ highlights ongoing barriers faced by religious communities:

- **Sectarian hate speech:** Continues to circulate in some regions, with limited government intervention.
- **Discrimination in employment and education:** Religious affiliation sometimes influences access to jobs or educational opportunities.
- **Underrepresentation of minorities:** Religious minorities are not adequately represented in public institutions or decision-making bodies.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for stronger measures to combat hate speech, ensure equal opportunities regardless of religion, and improve minority representation in public life.

## Recommendation 42.128

#### Text:

"Continue and sustain efforts to promote freedom of opinion and expression, including considering a review of relevant legislation" — (*Nigeria*)



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government affirms its commitment to protecting freedom of expression and states that it is reviewing legislation to align with international standards.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, however, Egypt continues to impose restrictions on freedom of expression through legal and extralegal means:

- **Targeting activists and journalists:** Continued arrests and prosecutions for expressing dissenting views.
- **Restrictive laws:** Laws such as the Cybercrime Law are used to criminalize online speech.
- **Climate of fear and self-censorship:** Government pressure leads many journalists and activists to censor themselves.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends comprehensive legal reform to repeal restrictive legislation, guarantee media and online freedom, and ensure a safe environment for diverse opinions.

## • Recommendation 42.129

#### Text:

"Take steps to promote freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in accordance with Egypt's constitutional provisions and international commitments" — *(Republic of Korea)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government reaffirms its constitutional commitment to protecting freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these assertions, CFJ observes systematic restrictions on civic freedoms in Egypt:

- **Barriers to NGO registration:** Independent organizations often face rejections or excessive regulatory requirements.
- Suppression of protests: Peaceful gatherings are frequently dispersed with force.
- **Legal harassment:** Protest organizers and civil society actors face criminal charges and imprisonment.



CFJ calls for the removal of unlawful restrictions on civic freedoms, repeal of repressive laws, and effective guarantees for the right to peaceful expression, association, and assembly.

## • Recommendation 42.130

#### Text:

"Promote and protect freedom of expression and a safe and secure environment for human rights defenders, civil activists, journalists and media workers" — *(Latvia)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### Government response:

The government affirms its support for human rights defenders and freedom of expression, stating that legal protections are in place within the national legislative framework.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, the environment remains highly restrictive and unsafe for human rights actors:

- Security and judicial harassment: HRDs and journalists face arbitrary arrest and prosecution for peaceful activities.
- **Restrictions on funding:** Foreign funding for civil society is heavily regulated and often obstructed, undermining organizational sustainability.
- Lack of effective protection mechanisms: There are no adequate measures to prevent attacks or intimidation against rights defenders.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends the creation of legal and practical protection mechanisms for defenders and journalists, and the revision of laws restricting civil society operations, to ensure a safe and sustainable working environment.

#### Recommendation 42.131

#### Text:

"Safeguard freedom of expression, ensuring alignment with international law and promoting independent media free from censorship and undue restrictions" — (*Brazil*)



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government states that freedom of expression is protected by law and that media regulations are in place to ensure balance and responsibility.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these assertions, freedom of the press is severely restricted:

- **State control of media:** Official narratives dominate, with little space for independent journalism.
- Widespread website blocking: Numerous independent and opposition news sites remain inaccessible.
- **Prosecution of journalists:** Reporters are arrested and tried under vague national security charges.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the government to cease repressive actions against independent media, unblock news websites, and foster a pluralistic media environment in line with international obligations.

## • Recommendation 42.132

#### Text:

"Take the necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders can work safely and exercise their right to freedom of expression" — *(Spain)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Already implemented

#### Government response:

The government claims to have implemented measures to protect human rights defenders and ensure the safe exercise of their rights.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Contrary to these claims, HRDs in Egypt continue to face systematic harassment:

- Arbitrary detention: Many defenders have been detained solely for their peaceful activism.
- **Travel bans and asset freezes:** These measures restrict freedom of movement and organizational operations.
- Hostile environment: Ongoing threats discourage public advocacy and shrink civic space.



CFJ calls for an end to all forms of harassment, the lifting of travel bans and asset restrictions, and the establishment of protective frameworks that enable defenders to operate freely and safely.

### • Recommendation 42.133

#### Text:

"Ensure that criminal laws are not used to silence journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers and bring relevant legislation in line with international human rights law" — *(Liechtenstein)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

The government asserts that criminal laws are applied in accordance with the law and are not used to suppress freedom of expression, citing the independence of the judiciary and prosecution.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, criminal law is routinely used to silence dissent:

- **Vague charges:** Accusations like "spreading false news" and "membership in a terrorist group" are used broadly against critics.
- Lack of fair trial safeguards: Many trials are opaque and result in disproportionate sentences.
- **Chilling effect:** The fear of criminal prosecution stifles journalism and rights work.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends a comprehensive review of the Penal Code and national security legislation, the repeal of overly broad provisions, and the guarantee of fair trial standards for all.

#### • Recommendation 42.134

#### Text:

"Guarantee the independence and safety of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders" — *(Czechia)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government states its commitment to protecting the independence and safety of lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders through existing legal frameworks.



### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these commitments, violations persist:

- Judicial and security harassment: Legal professionals and media workers are often arrested or prosecuted arbitrarily.
- **Prolonged detention:** Some lawyers and defenders remain imprisoned for extended periods without fair trial.
- Lack of practical protection: There are few mechanisms to prevent or respond to threats against these groups.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the government to implement effective legal and practical protections, ensure the independence of the judiciary, and shield lawyers, journalists, and defenders from interference or retaliation.

### • Recommendation 42.135

#### Text:

"In close cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, update the legislative framework concerning the work of non-governmental organizations in line with international commitments" — *(Lithuania)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Already implemented

#### Government response:

The government highlights the adoption of the new NGO law, claiming it aligns with international standards and promotes cooperation with civil society.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite the enactment of the new law, CFJ observes ongoing challenges:

- **Restrictive legal framework:** Registration and funding regulations continue to hinder the operation of independent organizations.
- Lack of genuine consultation: There is minimal engagement or structured dialogue with independent civil society actors.
- **Bureaucratic obstacles:** Complex administrative procedures obstruct the formation and functioning of NGOs.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends a comprehensive review of existing legislation to ensure genuine freedom of association, stronger consultation mechanisms, and the removal of arbitrary administrative barriers.



### Recommendation 42.136

#### Text:

"Ensure freedom of expression online and offline, and freedom of association and assembly, including by allowing peaceful assembly" — *(Norway)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### Government response:

Egypt asserts its commitment to protecting freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including internet use, within national legal and international standards.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The practical situation contradicts these claims:

- Website censorship: Numerous human rights and independent news websites are blocked.
- **Restrictions on protests:** Demonstrations require prior approval, often denied arbitrarily, and are frequently dispersed by force.
- **Internet surveillance:** Online activity is closely monitored, with users facing prosecution for dissenting content.
- **Barriers to association:** Independent NGOs face legal and procedural obstacles to registration and operation.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the government to cease online censorship, lift arbitrary restrictions on assembly and association, and ensure full protection of digital and offline civic freedoms.

## • Recommendation 42.137

#### Text:

"Guarantee and protect effectively the right to peaceful assembly, aligning national provisions with international human rights standards" — *(Italy)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government affirms its protection of the right to peaceful assembly through constitutional and legal guarantees.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ continues to record frequent violations of this right:



- **Permit denials:** Peaceful protest applications are often rejected without clear legal justification.
- **Violent dispersal of demonstrations:** Authorities regularly use excessive force, leading to arbitrary arrests.
- Lack of accountability: Security forces are rarely held responsible for abuses during protests.

CFJ calls for legal guarantees that facilitate, rather than restrict, peaceful assembly; an end to excessive use of force; and the implementation of transparent accountability mechanisms.

## • Recommendation 42.138

## Text:

"End undue restrictions on the space for civil society, including asset freezes, travel bans, long periods of pretrial detention and arbitrary arrests" — *(Sweden)* 

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## **Government response:**

Egypt denies the existence of undue restrictions, asserting its commitment to legal norms and respect for civil society rights.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Evidence shows a pattern of systematic repression of civil society:

- Asset freezes: Used against NGOs and individuals without fair judicial procedures.
- Travel bans: Imposed arbitrarily on human rights defenders.
- **Arbitrary detention:** Many activists remain in lengthy pretrial detention without formal charges.
- Harassment and surveillance: Independent organizations are closely monitored and obstructed.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges Egypt to immediately end these repressive practices and guarantee a legal and political environment that enables civil society to function freely and independently.

## Recommendation 42.139

### Text:

"Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful association, facilitating a favourable, free and safe environment for their exercise, including online" — *(Costa Rica)* 



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government asserts that it ensures an enabling environment for civil and political rights through its legal framework.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In reality, significant restrictions remain:

- Security harassment: Journalists and activists are targeted for their peaceful activities.
- **Online censorship and surveillance:** Authorities block websites and monitor social media to suppress dissent.
- Unjust laws: Laws restricting protest, association, and digital rights remain in effect.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends removing all unjustified legal and practical restrictions on civic freedoms, and aligning domestic practices with international standards on rights and freedoms.

### • Recommendation 42.140

#### Text:

"Review all requirements unduly restricting freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, freedom of expression and media freedom, both offline and online" — *(Estonia)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

Egypt rejects the implication that its legal framework imposes unjustified restrictions on these freedoms, asserting that it upholds rights within legal boundaries.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ documents the existence of multiple legal and practical restrictions on civic and media freedoms:

- **Protest Law:** Requires prior permits and grants excessive authority to security forces to deny or disperse gatherings.
- **NGO Law:** Imposes burdensome registration, funding, and operational requirements on civil society.
- Media and Cyber Laws: Enable censorship, website blocking, and surveillance.
- Security practices: Include arbitrary detention and prosecution of activists and protestors.



CFJ urges Egypt to conduct a comprehensive review of relevant laws and practices, in order to ensure genuine protection of freedoms of assembly, association, expression, and media in line with international standards.

### • Recommendation 42.141

#### Text:

"Guarantee the freedom of expression and freedom of the media and press, online and offline" — *(Germany)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### Government response:

Egypt affirms its commitment to freedom of expression and media regulation in line with national law and international obligations.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite this position, media freedom in Egypt remains severely restricted:

- State control of media: Independent media is largely absent, with dominance by state-aligned outlets.
- **Website blocking:** Numerous independent and rights-focused news platforms remain inaccessible.
- Journalist prosecutions: Arbitrary arrests and trials of journalists are common.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the dismantling of media monopolies, the unblocking of news websites, and legal protections to ensure a free and pluralistic media environment.

## • Recommendation 42.142

#### Text:

"Ensure the right to freedom of expression both online and offline for all, including by enabling all journalists and human rights defenders to carry out their work without fear of reprisals and by enabling all Egyptians to have access to free and independent information" — *(Kingdom of the Netherlands)* 



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

The government asserts its protection of freedom of expression and access to information, and guarantees legal protections for journalists and defenders.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ notes significant limitations on these rights in practice:

- Harassment and detention: Journalists and HRDs face arrest and intimidation for critical reporting or advocacy.
- Internet censorship and surveillance: Dozens of websites are blocked, and digital activity is closely monitored.
- Climate of fear: Reprisals against critics contribute to widespread self-censorship.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the elimination of all forms of retaliation and censorship, and the establishment of a safe environment for expression and access to independent information for all.

#### Recommendation 42.143

#### Text:

"Release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their legitimate freedoms of opinion, expression and assembly, particularly those whose pretrial detention has exceeded legally prescribed limits" — *(Australia)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

The government denies the existence of arbitrary arrests or violations of pretrial detention limits, asserting adherence to legal standards.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Contrary to official claims, CFJ records widespread arbitrary detention of peaceful dissidents:

- Detention without charges: Many remain imprisoned solely for their peaceful activism.
- Excessive pretrial detention: Legal time limits are routinely exceeded without justification.
- Lack of oversight: Judiciary and prosecution fail to ensure prompt release or fair trial.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the immediate release of all arbitrarily detained persons, and enforcement of legal limits on pretrial detention through effective judicial oversight.



#### Recommendation 42.144

#### Text:

"Review Act No. 149 (2019) with a view to removing unduly restrictive requirements regarding the registration and operation of civil society organizations" — *(Czechia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### **Government response:**

Egypt denies the presence of undue restrictions, asserting that the law organizes civil society work in line with the public interest.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ continues to observe legal and procedural obstacles affecting civil society:

- Complex registration process: Hinders establishment of independent NGOs.
- **Funding restrictions:** Particularly on foreign funding, with burdensome approval procedures.
- Retaliation against NGOs: Includes asset freezes and legal sanctions against staff.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends a full review of the law and removal of administrative and legal barriers to enable free and independent civil society operations.

#### • Recommendation 42.145

#### Text:

"Repeal restrictive NGO laws and protect freedom of expression" — (Austria)

## Egypt's position: – Partially supported

#### Government response:

Egypt affirms its commitment to freedom of expression but does not commit to repealing current NGO legislation, stating that civil work is regulated in accordance with national law.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ views Law No. 149 of 2019 as overly restrictive and harmful to civil space:

- **Continued legal restrictions:** Oversight and control over activities and funding undermine independence.
- Lack of substantial reforms: Promised improvements have not translated into concrete changes.





• **Impact on expression:** The law weakens civil society's role in promoting and defending rights.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges the repeal or substantial amendment of restrictive NGO laws and the enactment of comprehensive protections for freedom of expression and civic activism.

### • Recommendation 42.146

#### Text:

"Remove restrictions on civil society so that NGOs and human rights defenders can operate freely, and unblock access to online independent news platforms and media" — *(New Zealand)* 

## Egypt's position: X Noted

#### Government response:

Egypt denies the existence of undue restrictions on civil society, asserting that NGO and media work is regulated according to national law and within legal frameworks.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ documents persistent restrictions that hinder both civil society and media freedom:

- **Website blocking:** Widespread censorship affects independent news outlets and human rights organizations.
- **Barriers to registration and funding:** Arbitrary procedures make it difficult for NGOs to operate legally or access funding.
- **Security harassment:** Human rights defenders are subject to surveillance, travel bans, and legal harassment.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the immediate removal of all unjustified restrictions, unblocking of independent media websites, and creation of an enabling environment for civil society in line with international norms.

#### Recommendation 42.147

#### Text:

"Intensify its efforts to establish a free and active civil society" — (Germany)



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt reiterates its commitment to strengthening the role of civil society and supporting its contribution to development within the law.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official rhetoric, civil society in Egypt remains constrained:

- **Legal and administrative barriers:** Laws and procedures continue to restrict the establishment and functioning of independent organizations.
- Security pressure: Activists and organizations face threats, asset freezes, and prosecution.
- Lack of transparency and genuine engagement: There is little meaningful dialogue or partnership between the state and civil society.

#### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ recommends real and sustained measures to remove constraints, promote inclusive dialogue, and support the full and free operation of independent civil society.

#### Recommendation 42.148

#### Text:

"Assure that all legislation impacting the activities and rights of human rights defenders are in line with international human rights standards, by rescinding or amending laws such as those on civic work, cybercrime, regulation of the press and media and counter-terrorism" — *(Belgium)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

#### Government response:

Egypt affirms its intention to review national legislation while balancing the need for public order and national security.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, restrictive laws continue to be used to silence dissent:

- **Criminalization of peaceful activities:** Cybercrime and anti-terror laws are routinely applied against activists and defenders.
- **Media control:** Press and media laws impose censorship and licensing restrictions on independent journalism.
- Lack of legal reform: No effective review or amendment process has been implemented to align with human rights obligations.



CFJ urges Egypt to comprehensively revise or repeal laws that restrict civil liberties, particularly those weaponized against defenders, and bring national legislation into full compliance with international standards.

### Recommendation 42.149

#### Text:

"Ensure that human rights defenders and civil society organizations carry out their functions in complete safety and freedom" — *(Cabo Verde)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

#### Government response:

Egypt asserts its commitment to protecting human rights defenders and enabling them to work safely under national legal guarantees.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite these assurances, defenders continue to face systemic threats:

- **Arbitrary arrests and legal harassment:** Peaceful activism is often met with detention and prosecution.
- **Travel bans and asset freezes:** Defenders are routinely targeted through administrative repression.
- Hostile working environment: Intimidation and surveillance hinder open human rights work.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ calls for the cessation of all repressive practices and the implementation of legal and institutional protections that allow defenders and NGOs to operate freely and securely.

## • Recommendation 42.150

#### Text:

"Adopt a national strategy with a human rights-based approach to end the intimidation, arbitrary detention and criminalization of human rights defenders, especially women and girls human rights defenders" — *(Costa Rica)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted



#### Government response:

Egypt indicates there is no dedicated strategy for HRD protection but affirms that defenders are protected under the general legal framework.

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

CFJ notes that intimidation and criminalization of HRDs—especially women—continue without adequate safeguards:

- **Arbitrary detention of women defenders:** Activists are detained without trial under vague charges.
- **Defamation and gendered attacks:** Women HRDs face smear campaigns and social stigma.
- **Absence of targeted protection:** There are no mechanisms addressing the specific risks faced by women and girls in human rights work.

### **CFJ Conclusion:**

CFJ urges Egypt to adopt a national, gender-sensitive protection strategy for HRDs that includes legal, psychosocial, and institutional support, with particular attention to the needs of women and girls.

### Recommendation 42.151

#### Text:

"Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, in particular to lift any remaining asset freezes and travel bans on them, and release those arbitrarily detained" — *(Finland)* 

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported

#### Government response:

Egypt rejected what it called "inaccurate implications" in the recommendation.

#### **CFJ Comment:**

Despite Egypt's partial support, the reality on the ground reflects continued and even escalating arbitrary measures against human rights defenders (HRDs). These include:

- **Travel bans and asset freezes:** Dozens of HRDs remain subject to arbitrary travel restrictions and prolonged asset freezes without judicial transparency or due process.
- Arbitrary detention: HRDs are detained based on vague charges such as "spreading false news" or "belonging to a banned group," with pretrial detention used as a de facto punishment.
- **Violation of international standards:** Many HRDs remain detained beyond the legal two-year limit for pretrial detention, in violation of the ICCPR, UDHR, and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.



CFJ stresses that the government's dismissal of the recommendation ignores well-documented reports from national and international organizations, and reflects a lack of political will to improve Egypt's record on HRD protection.

## • Recommendation 42.152

#### Text:

"Stop restricting and criminalizing the work of human rights defenders, opposition politicians and civil society representatives and release all political prisoners" — *(Germany)* 

Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## Government response:

Egypt rejected the recommendation, claiming it contained "false assumptions."

## **CFJ Comment:**

Despite Egypt's rejection, widespread documentation shows:

- **Ongoing repression:** HRDs, opposition figures, and civil society actors continue to face repression through national security charges, counterterrorism laws, and vague accusations such as "misuse of social media" or "terrorist affiliation."
- **Political prisoners:** CFJ and other groups document hundreds of cases involving individuals detained solely for peaceful political activity or expression.
- Lack of fair trials: Many have been held for years without trial or under severely flawed judicial procedures.

CFJ concludes that the government's denial of the existence of political prisoners reflects a broader strategy of denial rather than reform. It calls for the unconditional release of all individuals detained for peaceful activism.

## • Recommendation 42.153

#### Text:

"Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and the press, including by adopting a law on access to information and unblocking the websites of independent media" — *(Switzerland)* 

Egypt's position: — Partially supported

#### Government response:

Egypt accepted the part on freedom of expression and drafting an access-to-information law, but not the part on unblocking media websites.



#### CFJ Comment:

The refusal to address online censorship undermines Egypt's partial support:

- **Media website blocking:** Hundreds of independent media and human rights websites remain inaccessible without transparency or legal basis.
- No access-to-information law: Despite promises, no serious steps have been taken to draft or pass such a law.
- **Use of repressive legislation:** The Cybercrime Law continues to be used to restrict access to independent content.

CFJ urges the government to lift the media blackout and enact a transparent, rights-based information access law.

## • Recommendation 42.154

#### Text:

"Enhance efforts to implement broad digital and media literacy programmes" — (Lithuania)

## Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

#### **CFJ Comment:**

CFJ welcomes Egypt's support but notes:

- **Limited scope of implementation:** Efforts remain localized and insufficient, particularly in rural or marginalized communities.
- **Need for institutional integration:** Media and digital literacy should be embedded in educational curricula and public programs.
- **Civil society inclusion:** Partnerships with NGOs are essential for widespread and inclusive outreach.

CFJ recommends scaling up these programs and integrating them systematically across sectors to empower citizens and safeguard rights in the digital age.

#### Recommendation 42.155

#### Text:

"Continue efforts to ensure the freedom of the press and the right of access to information" — (India)



# Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### **CFJ Comment:**

Despite formal support, actual practices remain concerning:

- **Press freedom under threat:** Continued censorship, arrests of journalists, and media self-censorship dominate the media landscape.
- **Lack of transparency:** No access-to-information law has been passed, leaving citizens without effective tools to obtain public information.
- **Systematic constraints:** Media outlets operate under fear of retaliation, leading to limited diversity and critical reporting.

CFJ urges Egypt to back its commitments with concrete reforms, including legal protections for journalists, repeal of restrictive laws, and adoption of an access-to-information framework.

### • Recommendation 42.156

#### Text:

"Continue to enhance the participation of Egyptian youth, through the New Republic Youth Union initiative" — *(Nicaragua)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### **CFJ Comment:**

Although Egypt supported this recommendation, the official government initiatives aimed at youth participation often lack inclusiveness and genuine pluralism. Youth involvement in political and public life remains confined within tightly controlled spaces, while dissenting or critical youth face restrictive measures such as arrest, harassment, or travel bans — contradicting the declared objectives of youth-targeted programs.

### Recommendation 42.157

### Text:

"Reform laws on immorality to prevent their use as a tool to restrict fundamental rights and freedoms, especially those of activists, women and the LGBTIQ+ community" — *(Chile)* 

## Egypt's position: — Partially Supported

Egypt rejected the specific reference in this recommendation, claiming that no laws are used to restrict fundamental rights and freedoms.

## **CFJ Comment:**

Despite Egypt's denial, documented reality indicates the systematic use of laws concerning "public indecency," "immorality," and "debauchery" to target women, personal freedom activists, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. CFJ has documented dozens of cases where individuals were



arrested or prosecuted under these vague accusations — in clear violation of constitutionally and internationally protected fundamental rights.

## • Recommendation 42.158

### Text:

"Enact a law with human rights safeguards that transparently regulates the use of spyware" — *(Costa Rica)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

## **CFJ Comment:**

Despite Egypt's claim of having already implemented this recommendation, no clear or transparent law has been issued to establish strict limitations and human rights safeguards for the use of spyware or digital surveillance tools. On the contrary, international reports indicate the use of advanced spyware such as "Pegasus" against human rights defenders and political opponents. CFJ calls on the Egyptian government to genuinely implement this recommendation through clear legislation, legal safeguards, and independent oversight mechanisms in line with international human rights standards.

## • Recommendation 42.159

## Text:

"Repeal all provisions in the personal status law that discriminate against women and girls, including in marriage, divorce and custody" — *(Iceland)* 

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported

## **CFJ Comment:**

Despite Egypt's partial support, the government has taken no concrete steps to repeal or amend the discriminatory provisions in personal status laws. Women and girls continue to face inequality in matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody. No unified and modern personal status law has been adopted to ensure gender equality in line with Egypt's constitutional and international obligations.



#### Text:

"Continue efforts to prevent early and forced marriage" — (Yemen)
 Egypt's position: Supported
 CFJ Comment:

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, its efforts to combat early and forced marriage remain limited. No clear legal framework has yet been established to definitively set a minimum marriage age, and child marriage remains widespread, especially in rural and impoverished areas.

• Recommendation 42.161

#### Text:

"Enact, as a matter of priority, legislation banning child marriage" — (Romania)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite officially supporting the recommendation, no tangible legislative steps have been taken to pass a clear law banning child marriage. Egypt still relies on vague general laws that allow for legal loopholes, contributing to the persistence of underage marriage, particularly among girls.

• Recommendation 42.162

Text:

"Accelerate the adoption of the draft law to prohibit child marriage" — (Montenegro)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, the draft law banning child marriage has been stalled for years without clear justification or urgent action. This delay contributes to the ongoing practice of child marriage, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

• Recommendation 42.163

Text:

"Maintain social policies that support the family in line with societal values" — *(Qatar)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While Egypt supports this recommendation, the vague reference to "societal values" raises concerns that it could be used to justify continued discrimination against women or vulnerable groups under the pretext of preserving cultural norms.



Text:

"Continue the policy of protecting and supporting the family as the basic unit of society" — *(Saudi Arabia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ recognizes the importance of supporting families but urges that such policies should not be used as a cover to enforce laws or customs that entrench inequality or discrimination within the family structure.

• Recommendation 42.165

Text:

"Continue the policy of protecting the family and supporting it as a basic unit of society" — *(Kuwait)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ reiterates that family-support policies must be grounded in principles of justice, equality, and non-discrimination, while fully respecting the rights of all family members—particularly women and children.

Recommendation 42.166

Text:

"Continue to promote family values and its critical contribution to the fulfilment of human rights"

— (Indonesia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ emphasizes that promoting family values must be explicitly linked to human rights standards to ensure these values are not used to justify discrimination or violations within the family.

• Recommendation 42.167

Text:

"Implement the national strategy on combating trafficking in persons" — (Yemen)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ urges the Egyptian government to fully and effectively implement the national anti-trafficking strategy, supported by clear resource allocation and independent mechanisms to monitor impact and results.



Text:

"Continue the implementation of measures to combat trafficking in persons, including within the framework of the Third National Strategy on Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons (2022–2026)" — *(Belarus)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ highlights the need for clear enforcement and monitoring mechanisms in applying this strategy, along with adequate support and protection for trafficking victims in accordance with international standards.

Recommendation 42.169

Text:

"Continue its efforts towards the implementation of the Third National Strategy on Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons" — *(Greece)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ stresses the importance of allocating a dedicated budget and maintaining sustained efforts to implement the strategy effectively and ensure accountability for those involved in trafficking.

# • Recommendation 42.170

Text:

"Continue with implementation of the national plan of action against trafficking in persons" — (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ stresses that continuing implementation of the National Action Plan must be accompanied by independent monitoring and regular evaluation by impartial human rights actors. The plan should meaningfully include civil society organizations and provide adequate protection and support for victims, in line with international anti-trafficking protocols. It is also essential to activate complaint mechanisms and legal remedies for victims, and to increase public awareness on human trafficking.



**The Commentary** 

## • Recommendation 42.171

Text:

"Continue the implementation of the national action plan against trafficking in persons" — *(Cuba)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ welcomes Egypt's support for this recommendation but emphasizes the need to strengthen and operationalize victim protection measures. There is a significant gap in providing rehabilitation services and psychosocial and legal assistance to victims, especially among vulnerable groups such as women, children, and migrant workers.

• Recommendation 42.172

#### Text:

"Continue its efforts to eradicate child trafficking and labour exploitation" — *(Burundi)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ recommends the allocation of sufficient financial and human resources to build institutional capacity and continuous training for law enforcement and the judiciary in combating trafficking. Clear accountability standards must be established for handling trafficking cases.

• Recommendation 42.173

Text:

"Enhance efforts to provide assistance to victims of trafficking subjected to abduction, exploitation and physical abuse" — *(Kyrgyzstan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Awareness programs should go beyond media campaigns to reach at-risk communities effectively. CFJ stresses the importance of involving civil society actors to ensure outreach efforts are locally relevant and impactful.

• Recommendation 42.174

Text:

"Redouble efforts against trafficking in persons, ensuring victims receive comprehensive assistance, protection and access to justice" — *(Peru)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ calls for systematic and well-designed training programs that include all relevant actors, with a strong focus on victim-centered procedures and the protection of human dignity.



Text:

"Continue efforts in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, and establish victim-centred protection programmes" — *(Armenia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite Egypt's support, there remains a lack of effective accountability for trafficking perpetrators, particularly when connected to influential actors. CFJ recommends strengthening judicial independence and ensuring full legal accountability.

• Recommendation 42.176

## Text:

"Operationalize and strengthen the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking" — *(Eswatini)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ emphasizes the importance of transparent and inclusive regional and international cooperation, including with civil society and international human rights organizations, for sharing best practices in cross-border cases.

• Recommendation 42.177

Text:

"Further strengthen the implementation of the national strategy against trafficking in persons by ensuring adequate resources for the recently established comprehensive protection system for victims, among other measures" — *(Philippines)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, CFJ notes that child labor remains prevalent, particularly in rural areas. Effective enforcement and stronger inspection mechanisms must be prioritized, along with application of child protection laws.



Text:

"Continue to take steps in combating trafficking in persons, with sustained attention and resources for victim protection and support and, training and capacity-building for the relevant officials" — *(Sri Lanka)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ stresses the need for full enforcement of child labor laws and recommends financial and social support to poor families that rely on child labor. Rehabilitation programs must be available for exploited children.

Recommendation 42.179

Text:

"Further efforts in the areas of combating trafficking in persons and guaranteeing education without discrimination" — *(State of Palestine)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ welcomes the support but highlights the persistence of the street children phenomenon in Egypt. It calls for institutional mechanisms that provide care, education, and reintegration, as well as support to families to prevent recurrence.



Text:

"Continue to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in women and children, and provide effective protection and assistance to victims of trafficking" — *(Chad)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ notes that despite Egypt's formal support, current social protection programs lack sufficient resources and administrative capacity. It urges increased funding, stronger oversight, and targeted support to women, children, and persons with disabilities as the most vulnerable populations.

Recommendation 42.181

Text:

"Enhance social protection measures to ensure adequate support for poor and at-risk families" — *(Mali)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ welcomes Egypt's support but notes that existing social protection programs remain limited and insufficient to meet the real needs of the poorest and most vulnerable families. It recommends increasing funding, and ensuring that support is delivered transparently and fairly, free from political or security interference.

• Recommendation 42.182

Text:

"Continue efforts to eradicate poverty, with a focus on rural and marginalized areas" — *(Mauritius)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite formal support, poverty levels remain high, particularly in rural and marginalized regions. CFJ finds current governmental efforts unsustainable and ineffective, and urges the adoption of integrated economic programs that create jobs and strengthen infrastructure and services in these areas.

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Text:

"Intensify efforts to improve the standard of living for all citizens, especially marginalized groups" — *(Namibia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While Egypt supports the recommendation, CFJ points out that most current measures are inadequate or unsustainable and fail to reach marginalized populations effectively. It calls for clear strategies that ensure real and lasting improvements in living standards for the most vulnerable.

• Recommendation 42.185

Text:

"Provide effective economic and social support programs for women living in poverty and vulnerability" — *(Nepal)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ finds that existing programs fall short in reaching the most vulnerable women. It calls for increased funding and the launch of targeted programs that directly address women's needs, ensuring their active involvement in planning and implementation.

• Recommendation 42.186

Text:

"Intensify efforts to provide education and healthcare services to rural and poor communities" — *(Nigeria)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ stresses that rural education and healthcare services remain weak and under-resourced. It recommends allocating sufficient financial and human resources and investing in basic infrastructure to improve service quality.



Text:

"Continue to strengthen support programs for persons with disabilities in education, employment and healthcare" — *(Oman)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite formal support, persons with disabilities in Egypt still face real barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and employment. CFJ urges the adoption of clear policies and practical measures that ensure equal opportunities in line with international human rights standards.

• Recommendation 42.188

### Text:

"Ensure access to adequate health and social services for the elderly" — (Pakistan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ highlights the need for a comprehensive and modern elderly care system, with increased funding for health and social services. It calls for the introduction of dedicated social programs for the elderly, who remain neglected in many areas.

• Recommendation 42.189

Text:

"Provide a safe and adequate working environment for women, ensuring equal opportunities" — *(Panama)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ finds that women in Egypt face serious challenges in the labor market, including harassment and unequal pay and promotion. It calls for effective legislative and practical measures to guarantee safe and equal working environments, and robust enforcement of labor laws.



Text:

"Ensure full support and protection for vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities" — (*Paraguay*)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported (with reservation)

Egypt interprets "vulnerable/marginalized groups" according to its national laws and strategies. CFJ Comment:

CFJ welcomes Egypt's support but raises concern over the government's vague definition of "vulnerable or marginalized groups," which leads to arbitrary exclusion from support programs. It calls on Egypt to adopt a comprehensive definition aligned with international standards and ensure all individuals in need receive protection without discrimination.

Recommendation 42.191

Text:

"Continue to ensure the welfare and social security of its citizens through existing social protection programmes" — *(Brunei Darussalam)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ welcomes Egypt's support, but notes that social protection programs remain limited in coverage and impact. Many vulnerable families still do not benefit adequately. CFJ recommends increasing financial allocations and ensuring fair and transparent access to support without political or security-based discrimination.

• Recommendation 42.192

Text:

"Strengthen social protection programmes for marginalized communities, ensuring access to healthcare, education and housing for vulnerable populations" — *(Gambia)* Egypt's position: Supported

CFJ Comment:

Although Egypt supports this recommendation, CFJ stresses that marginalized communities continue to face serious challenges in accessing quality services. It calls for reinforced programs specifically targeting healthcare, education, and housing, with participation from civil society to ensure alignment with actual needs.



**The Commentary** 

• Recommendation 42.193

Text:

"Make further efforts to enhance the quality of life and improve services, as outlined in the national report" — *(Eritrea)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ acknowledges the commitment, but observes that government initiatives often lack sustainability and inclusivity. It urges the adoption of measurable strategies focused on improving living conditions, particularly in underserved areas.

• Recommendation 42.194

Text:

"Continue efforts to effectively target poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas" — *(Mali, Viet Nam)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ notes that rural poverty remains high and current programs do not reach many of those in need. It recommends integrated rural development plans that go beyond short-term aid, focusing on job creation, infrastructure, and long-term economic empowerment.

• Recommendation 42.195

Text:

"Intensify ongoing efforts to alleviate poverty through targeted programmes, and enhance food security and access to health, particularly for those deemed most vulnerable" — *(Bhutan)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite support, poverty and food insecurity persist in many regions. CFJ recommends a comprehensive approach that includes nutrition, healthcare, and financial inclusion, particularly for women, children, and informal workers.



Text:

"Continue efforts to combat poverty and improve the standard of living of vulnerable populations in accordance with the national employment strategy and the Mehany 2030 project" — *(Djibouti)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ calls for transparent evaluation of the Mehany 2030 project and clearer indicators of impact. Many vulnerable populations remain excluded from employment and social support programs. Implementation should be inclusive and rights-based.

• Recommendation 42.197

#### Text:

"Continue to increase support to rural and remote areas, steadily narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor" — *(China)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Regional disparities remain stark. CFJ stresses the need for strategic investments in infrastructure, education, and local economies to reduce the urban-rural divide and promote equitable development.

• Recommendation 42.198

Text:

"Scale up initiatives to improve rural living conditions and enhance access to education,

healthcare and housing for vulnerable groups" — (Malaysia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While Egypt supports this recommendation, access to basic services in rural areas is still inadequate. CFJ urges expansion of rural initiatives with proper funding, local consultation, and accountability mechanisms.

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Text:

"Continue to work towards decent housing and pay special attention to low- and middle-income groups" — *(Oman)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ acknowledges public housing efforts but notes that many low- and middle-income families still face inadequate housing conditions. It recommends prioritizing affordability, inclusive urban planning, and transparency in housing allocation.

• Recommendation 42.200

### Text:

"Continue the implementation of the national Housing for All Egyptians plan to guarantee the right to adequate housing for all" — *(Libya)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ urges the government to fully align the Housing for All Egyptians plan with international standards on adequate housing. This includes security of tenure, habitability, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, women, and other marginalized groups.

• Recommendation 42.201

Text:

"Continue to implement social housing projects" — (Sudan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although Egypt has launched social housing projects under the "Decent Life" initiative, UPR stakeholder reports highlight ongoing challenges in ensuring access for the most vulnerable, particularly in remote and border regions. There is also a lack of transparency regarding eligibility criteria and distribution mechanisms.



Text:

"Ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the national housing strategy, launched in 2020, taking into account vulnerable groups in particular" — *(Angola)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

There is no evidence of effective or independent mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the housing strategy. Periodic reports or evaluations assessing its responsiveness to marginalized groups' needs have not been made public. Civil society actors have raised concerns about transparency and accountability gaps.

Recommendation 42.203

## Text:

"Put in place social protection programmes to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis and guarantee the right to an adequate standard of living for all" — *(North Macedonia)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Social protection programs have been undermined by rising inflation and reduced subsidies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. Reports highlight inadequate support for the unemployed and low-income families, inconsistent eligibility criteria, and limited civil society engagement in program evaluation.

• Recommendation 42.204

Text:

"Accelerate measures to increase the coverage of safe drinking water and sanitation in villages"

— (United Republic of Tanzania)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While some infrastructure projects were implemented under the "Decent Life" initiative, field reports from governorates like Minya and Sohag show continued difficulties in accessing clean water and adequate sanitation, with reports of contamination and water outages. There is no effective complaints mechanism or accountability system in place.



### Text:

"Continue the implementation of national programmes to support all socially vulnerable segments of the population" — *(Uzbekistan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

No independent mechanisms currently monitor the effectiveness of these programs in reaching the truly vulnerable. Publicly available data on coverage and social impact are insufficient. Questions remain about inclusion of rural residents, persons with disabilities, and families of victims of human rights violations.

Recommendation 42.206

### Text:

"Increase budget allocations for health, education and social protection, with the aim of reducing poverty and inequality, particularly among women and girls" — *(Dominican Republic)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt has not announced meaningful increases in budget allocations for these sectors, despite rising challenges such as inflation and economic deterioration. Budget transparency and independent oversight remain weak, and gender disparities in access to education and health services persist, especially in rural and border areas.

• Recommendation 42.207

Text:

"Continue to implement the Decent Life initiative, ensuring equitable access to housing, education and healthcare for rural communities" — *(Islamic Republic of Iran)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite the initiative's expansion, human rights reports indicate a lack of clarity in selection criteria and absence of independent monitoring. Concerns have been raised about the role of security agencies in overseeing parts of the initiative, which limits community participation and oversight.



Text:

"Continue efforts to accelerate access to the highest attainable standard of healthcare for all citizens" — *(Malawi)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

The public healthcare system faces major challenges, including poor infrastructure, shortage of medical staff in remote areas, and unequal distribution of services between urban and rural zones. Documented cases of healthcare denial in detention facilities highlight further systemic issues.

Recommendation 42.209

Text:

"Consider expanding universal healthcare programmes, paying special attention to women and children" — *(Kuwait)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Women and children continue to face barriers to comprehensive healthcare, particularly in marginalized and border areas. Reproductive and mental health services remain underdeveloped and inaccessible to many. There is also a lack of public awareness and specialized support centers for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



Text:

"Continue its work towards universal health coverage" — (Georgia)

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt has yet to show tangible progress toward achieving universal health coverage. A large portion of the population continues to rely on out-of-pocket expenses, with weak access to free health insurance and limited availability of subsidized medication. No effective government programs have been introduced to track progress toward universal coverage.

• Recommendation 42.211

Text:

"Strengthen efforts to achieve 100 per cent universal health insurance coverage by 2030" — *(Oman)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although Egypt has started implementing the universal health insurance system in select governorates, progress remains limited and partial. There is no clear or transparent plan for phased nationwide rollout, particularly in Upper Egypt and border regions. Performance assessments or user satisfaction data have not been published.

• Recommendation 42.212

Text:

"Continue to develop actions to fully implement the law on universal healthcare coverage" — *(Peru)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Implementation of the law has been slow and lacks transparency. There is no independent oversight mechanism to ensure accountability. Moreover, the criteria for fee exemptions for low-income groups remain unclear, raising concerns about equitable access to healthcare.



Text:

"Bolster the implementation of the universal healthcare system law to ensure the provision of healthcare services for all" — *(South Africa)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt lacks a detailed implementation plan that includes community participation and independent oversight. Health services continue to vary in quality and responsiveness, especially for people with disabilities and detainees who face additional access barriers.

• Recommendation 42.214

### Text:

"Continue its effort in promoting the right to health and the protection of vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities and older persons" — *(Vanuatu)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Vulnerable groups still face significant obstacles in accessing appropriate health services due to lack of specialized infrastructure and trained staff, especially in rural areas. Reports document the state's failure to provide adequate health services for older persons and persons with disabilities.

• Recommendation 42.215

### Text:

"Continue efforts to enhance mental health services and increase the number of qualified mental health professionals working with children" — *(Maldives)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Mental health services—particularly for children—are severely neglected. There is a lack of school-based psychological services and primary care mental health units. The number of trained child psychologists is very low, and national training or recruitment programs are virtually nonexistent.



Text:

"Strengthen the implementation of the national strategy and plan of action to provide equal access to quality education for all children without discrimination" — *(Lao People's Democratic Republic)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite having a national education plan, disparities persist in access to education, especially for children in remote areas, impoverished families, refugees, and stateless children. Discrimination against children with disabilities remains a systemic issue in Egypt's education system.

• Recommendation 42.217

#### Text:

"Intensify measures to facilitate access to education for all children, including those with disabilities" — *(Lebanon)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Public schools lack the infrastructure to support the inclusion of children with disabilities. There is a shortage of trained teachers and adapted learning materials. Civil society reports cite recurring instances of discrimination and informal exclusion under the pretext of "incompatibility."

• Recommendation 42.218

Text:

"Continue efforts to improve access to quality education for all" — (Nepal)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Public education suffers from poor quality, especially in rural and impoverished areas.

Overcrowded classrooms, unqualified teachers, and weak curricula undermine children's right to education. There is no effective system for quality control or community participation in education reform.



Text:

"Step up efforts to ensure that all children have equal access to education" — *(Serbia)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Many children in Egypt face barriers to equal education, including street children, children of incarcerated mothers, and minority children. There is no comprehensive national policy to close the social and economic gaps affecting educational equality.

• Recommendation 42.220

Text:

"Continue efforts to ensure that all children have equal access to free, high-quality primary and secondary education" — *(Maldives)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Secondary education continues to experience high dropout rates, particularly among girls in rural areas. Quality also varies widely across governorates. Civil society reports highlight the absence of a national strategy to address disparities in secondary education, including retention and financial/logistical support for poor families.

## • Recommendation 42.221

Text:

"Ensure that all children have equal access to free and quality primary and secondary education"

— (South Sudan)

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although the Constitution guarantees free education, families face growing financial burdens from unofficial fees, private tutoring, and the lack of basic school infrastructure. This undermines the principles of equality and accessibility. Rural and informal settlement schools are particularly under-resourced, reinforcing inequality in education quality.

• Recommendation 42.222

Text:

"Implement measures to reduce the school dropout rate, and endorse the Safe Schools Declaration" — *(Colombia)* 

Egypt's position: — Partially Supported

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### **CFJ Comment:**

Egypt supported the part on reducing dropout rates but rejected the reference to the Safe Schools Declaration, citing its non-UN status. Dropout rates remain high, especially in rural areas and among girls. Egypt lacks a clear national strategy to combat dropout and has not established support mechanisms for at-risk students affected by poverty or family instability.

• Recommendation 42.223

Text:

"Effectively tackle school dropout rates among girls, particularly those living in rural areas" — *(Congo)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Rural girls face social and economic barriers to continuing education, and there are no dedicated support programs or financial incentives for families. The absence of disaggregated data by gender and location hampers effective monitoring of progress.

• Recommendation 42.224

Text:

"Continue efforts to promote the level of education in rural areas" — (Kazakhstan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Rural and Upper Egypt schools suffer from poor infrastructure, including inadequate sanitation and lack of clean water. Teacher shortages and unequal working conditions lead to urban migration of qualified staff, weakening education quality in rural areas.

• Recommendation 42.225

Text:

"Redouble efforts so that all children enjoy equal access to free, quality primary and secondary education" — *(Bangladesh)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite reaffirming its commitment to free education, deep inequalities persist in education quality, and private tutoring remains a major financial burden. No substantial actions have been taken to address educational gaps across different social and geographic groups.



Text:

"Continue efforts to further reduce illiteracy rates" — *(United Republic of Tanzania)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Government literacy programs exist, but illiteracy remains high, especially among women and the elderly in rural areas. There is no sustainable, well-funded national plan, and coordination among relevant agencies is weak. Transparency around program outcomes is lacking.

• Recommendation 42.227

### Text:

"Continue to expand both access to and the quality of education, with an emphasis on women and girls and those in remote areas" — *(Bhutan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

There has been no measurable progress in closing gender or geographic gaps in education access. Dropout rates among girls remain high, especially in Upper Egypt, and schools in remote areas face staffing and facility shortages. Educational policy still lacks effective integration of equality and non-discrimination principles.

## • Recommendation 42.228

### Text:

"Uphold the right to education of children in North Sinai by repairing and rebuilding damaged or destroyed schools, and sign the Safe Schools Declaration" — *(Costa Rica)* 

## Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## **CFJ Comment:**

Egypt rejected the Safe Schools Declaration, despite it being an international initiative for education protection during conflict. In conflict-affected areas like North Sinai, schools remain under-equipped or closed, with no effective mechanisms to ensure continuity of education.



Text:

"Further enhance human rights education and implementation of training programmes targeting security forces and public service officials" — *(Bulgaria)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite claiming implementation, existing training programs lack comprehensive and independent evaluation. Continued violations by security forces—including against minors and detainees indicate that these trainings have not led to institutional behavioral change or fostered a genuine human rights culture.

• Recommendation 42.230

### Text:

"Continue efforts to spread and promote a culture of human rights by integrating it into school curricula" — *(Uzbekistan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Civil society reviews show that human rights education is limited in scope and methodology, often presented only from a state-centric perspective. Key topics such as freedom of expression and minority rights are largely absent, and there is no data on teacher training or curriculum impact assessments.

• Recommendation 42.230

Text:

"Continue efforts to spread and promote a culture of human rights by integrating it into school curricula" — *(Uzbekistan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Civil society reviews show that human rights integration into curricula remains limited in content and methodology. Topics such as freedom of expression and minority rights are largely absent, and instruction is often state-centric. There is no public data on teacher training or curriculum effectiveness.



Text:

"Continue to support youth-led cultural and creative initiatives and provide platforms for their skills development" — *(United Arab Emirates)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While some official initiatives exist, Egypt's legal and security environment restricts independent cultural activities, particularly among youth. Non-governmental initiatives struggle to obtain licenses or funding, and digital and cultural spaces are tightly monitored, limiting innovation and free participation.

• Recommendation 42.232

### Text:

"Continue to promote international efforts to realize the right to development" — *(Kazakhstan)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Development efforts are heavily focused on mega-projects, which often neglect social justice or human development indicators. Local communities and civil society are excluded from development planning, creating a disconnect between official strategies and actual developmental impact, particularly in rural and border regions.

• Recommendation 42.233

Text:

"Take further measures to implement the goals of the Egypt Vision 2030 sustainable development strategy" — (Azerbaijan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Though Egypt has a national plan (Vision 2030), its implementation lacks independent oversight and transparency. No regular data is published on progress indicators. International reports highlight deepening gender, regional, and income inequalities, undermining inclusive development.



Text:

"Develop and implement inclusive national policies that promote the right to development" — *(Cuba)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt's economic and social policies are developed without meaningful stakeholder participation. Recent fiscal reforms—including subsidy cuts and increased taxes—have reduced living standards for many. This contradicts the right to development, which demands fair resource distribution and equal opportunity.

Recommendation 42.235

### Text:

"Continue to implement economic financial reform to achieve sustainable development" — *(China)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Economic reforms are implemented top-down, with no public dialogue or assessment of social impact. These policies have led to increased poverty and unemployment, especially among youth and women. Their consequences on vulnerable groups remain unaddressed and unmeasured.

• Recommendation 42.236

Text:

"Continue to strengthen international and regional cooperation to operationalize the right to

development for all" — *(Uganda)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt participates in regional initiatives like the Aswan Forum and African Free Trade Agreement, but these partnerships have yet to yield tangible local development benefits. There is no published data on how local communities benefit from such collaborations or how they promote social and economic justice.



#### Text:

"Continue the implementation and execution of comprehensive national policies on development aimed at improving the well-being of the entire population, ensuring the creation of favourable conditions for equitable development for all" — *(Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)* Egypt's position: Supported

CFJ Comment:

Review reports highlight imbalances in development project distribution, lack of public spending transparency, and exclusion of local communities from planning. Development remains concentrated in select areas, while marginalized populations are left out of the process and its benefits.

Recommendation 42.238

### Text:

"Ensure and strengthen the implementation of the Decent Life project on the development of rural areas of Egypt" — *(Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite its expansion, the "Decent Life" project lacks independent evaluation mechanisms and transparency in identifying target areas and beneficiaries. Civil society is not allowed to monitor or participate in priority setting. Complaints have emerged from villages excluded or facing delays in promised services.

• Recommendation 42.239

### Text:

"Continue to implement a comprehensive programme of economic and financial reforms aimed at promoting sustainable development, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and improving the well-being of citizens and their social protection" — *(Belarus)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Reforms have led to sharp increases in prices of essential services without parallel increases in income or social protection. This has deepened inequality and poverty. National and international reports point to the absence of public consultation and independent monitoring of their impact on economic justice.



### Text:

"Continue to take measures to realize the right to development, including through projects aimed at reducing unemployment and enhancing living standards" — *(India)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Development measures lack focus on equitable resource and service distribution. A large ruralurban divide persists in living standards. Official discourse emphasizes investment and megaprojects, with little attention to the social and economic rights of disadvantaged groups or their integration into development planning.

• Recommendation 42.241

### Text:

"Continue the implementation of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030" — *(Germany)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While the government has adopted the strategy, its implementation suffers from weak funding, lack of independent monitoring, and limited impact in rural and marginalized areas. Women are not meaningfully included in the planning and execution processes, and many face institutional and cultural barriers to accessing leadership and decent work.

• Recommendation 42.242

Text:

"Repeal all discriminatory provisions to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls" — (Rwanda)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

**CFJ Comment:** 

Discriminatory provisions persist in laws such as the Personal Status Law and Penal Code, especially concerning guardianship, divorce, domestic violence, and inheritance. Egypt has yet to adopt a unified law on violence against women, despite repeated calls from civil society and UN bodies.



Text:

"Establish a commission to combat discrimination against women" — (Colombia)
 Egypt's position: Supported – Already Implemented
 CFJ Comment:

Egypt's National Council for Women exists, but it lacks legal independence and does not have binding authority over state institutions. Most of its functions are advisory and coordinated with the government, limiting its ability to hold institutions accountable or push for transformative legal reforms.

• Recommendation 42.244

Text:

"Continue efforts to promote women's representation and participation in the three main areas of empowerment: political, social and economic" — *(Mali)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite improved female representation in parliament and some government positions, women remain absent from key decision-making roles in executive, security, and judicial bodies. Wage and opportunity gaps persist, and there are few effective labor empowerment programs or independently managed women-led economic initiatives.

• Recommendation 42.245

Text:

"Redouble efforts to promote gender equality, by emphasizing the adoption of inclusive policies aimed at ensuring equal access to education, employment and positions of responsibility" — *(Cameroon)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Current gender policies remain limited in scope and are non-binding. There is a lack of institutional coordination, and stakeholder reports highlight persistent structural and societal barriers to women's access to higher education and employment—especially in rural areas. Public sector hiring lacks discrimination monitoring or redress mechanisms.



Text:

"Continue efforts to promote women's rights and consider enacting legislation to ensure gender equality in the labour market" — *(Kyrgyzstan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Women face significant wage and opportunity gaps, especially in the private sector. No clear law requires employers to ensure a gender-sensitive and safe work environment. There is no comprehensive anti-discrimination law or effective mechanism to monitor private and public sector compliance with equality principles.

Recommendation 42.247

### Text:

"Continue to bridge gender gaps and enhance women's job opportunities" — *(State of Palestine)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Female labor force participation remains very low. Women face legal, social, and structural barriers including limited paid leave, insufficient childcare options, and workplace harassment. There are inadequate programs to empower rural women or support female-led small and medium enterprises.

• Recommendation 42.248

### Text:

"Continue efforts to promote gender equality by creating a conducive environment and the opportunity for women to access to employment and entrepreneurship" — *(Lao People's Democratic Republic)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Women face significant challenges in accessing justice, particularly in personal status and domestic violence cases, due to slow procedures and weak enforcement. The entrepreneurship environment lacks institutional support for women in financing, training, and removing bureaucratic obstacles.



#### Text:

"Increase government spending on comprehensive family planning and reproductive life skills for women and girls, and meet the Egyptian Constitution's provision for 3 per cent of gross domestic product to be spent on healthcare" — *(New Zealand)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

### **CFJ Comment:**

No official reports confirm compliance with the constitutional 3% health spending requirement. Reproductive health programs remain underfunded and poorly distributed, especially in rural areas. The concept of reproductive life skills is narrowly interpreted and lacks focus on rights awareness or protection from violence.

Recommendation 42.250

### Text:

"Continue its work under the Decent Life project, the national plan to promote employment gender equality, the National Strategy for Early Childhood Development (2024–2029) and the Strategic Framework for Childhood and Motherhood (2018–2030)" — *(Nicaragua)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While women's empowerment is included in development programs like "Decent Life," the absence of gender indicators in assessments and weak female participation in planning and execution undermine results. The National Family Development Strategy focuses mainly on birth control, lacking broader social and economic rights integration for women.

Recommendation 42.251

### Text:

"Continue efforts to ensure equal rights and a safe environment for women in the workplace" — *(Malaysia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite initiatives for women's empowerment, workplace discrimination persists, especially in the private sector — including disparities in wages, promotions, and inadequate protection from harassment or gender-based discrimination. Effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms remain absent.



Text:

"Strengthen initiatives to ensure equal rights for women in the workplace, including creating and maintaining a safe and supportive work environment for women" — *(Nigeria)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Workplace protections for women are inadequate. Egyptian labor laws lack clear and comprehensive regulations against workplace harassment, and cases of arbitrary dismissal of pregnant women or new mothers are reported. Oversight by unions and institutions is weak.

• Recommendation 42.253

### Text:

"Implement policies that protect girls' and women's rights in both social and political spheres of life" — *(Uganda)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite constitutional commitments, women's participation in political life remains largely symbolic and unstructured. Cultural and societal constraints continue to hinder full inclusion. Policies targeting girls' protection from violence and discrimination are limited in both scope and enforcement.

• Recommendation 42.254

Text:

"Strengthen political measures and concrete actions aimed at eliminating all obstacles that prevent women from occupying positions of responsibility in the country" — *(Cabo Verde)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

No specific policies exist to address the structural barriers limiting women's access to leadership roles. Civil society reports show that female appointments are often tokenistic and politically driven, not based on merit or a clear principle of equal opportunity.

# • Recommendation 42.255

## Text:

"Promote women's leadership, representation and participation and adopt new policies to address structural obstacles that hinder women from holding decision-making positions" — *(Ecuador)* 

Egypt's position: — Partially Supported

## **CFJ Comment:**

Egypt lacks a systematic policy approach to overcome structural barriers to women's leadership.

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Although some women are appointed to leadership roles, these remain limited and imbalanced, not based on a sustainable strategy with measurable indicators for accountability.

Recommendation 42.256

Text:

"Redouble efforts to increase women's representation in decision-making bodies" — *(Nepal)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Women's representation in executive and judicial leadership remains low. Egypt lacks a clear national plan to address this imbalance, and there is a wide gap between public commitments and on-the-ground realities, especially at local governance levels.

• Recommendation 42.257

### Text:

"Continue to enhance women's political participation and fair representation in the parliament and Government" — (*Qatar*)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

While quota systems ensure women's parliamentary presence, participation in executive authority and government roles remains very limited. Appointments are often based on political loyalty rather than merit or institutional empowerment.

• Recommendation 42.258

Text:

"Intensify its efforts to prohibit wage discrimination and to increase the representation of women in positions of responsibility" — *(Burundi)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Despite constitutional provisions, wage discrimination persists — particularly in the informal sector. There is no effective mechanism requiring employers to disclose wage and promotion data, nor are there targeted programs to train and prepare women for leadership roles.



Text:

"Continue its efforts to ensure that women and girls have equal access to technical and vocational education and training, including in non-traditional fields" — *(Serbia)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Although official statistics indicate increased female school enrollment, gender disparities remain in technical and vocational fields. Institutional encouragement is weak, stereotypes about women's roles persist, and programs promoting access to non-traditional sectors are scarce.

• Recommendation 42.260

### Text:

"Further consolidate the progress achieved in advancing the rights of women and children, in all relevant spheres" — *(Sri Lanka)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Comment:** 

Economic and social rights for women and girls continue to face serious challenges, especially in rural and marginalized areas. Poor coordination among relevant ministries and agencies weakens the impact of declared efforts and fails to translate institutional progress into tangible improvements in daily life.

Recommendation 42.251

Text: "Continue efforts to ensure equal rights and a safe environment for women in the workplace" — (Malaysia)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite Egypt's launch of initiatives on women's empowerment, discrimination persists in workplaces, especially in the private sector, in terms of pay gaps, promotion opportunities, and protection from harassment. Effective accountability and monitoring mechanisms remain absent.



Text: "Strengthen initiatives to ensure equal rights for women in the workplace, including creating and maintaining a safe and supportive work environment for women" — *(Nigeria)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Women remain inadequately protected in the workplace. Egyptian legislation lacks comprehensive provisions on workplace harassment, and cases of arbitrary dismissal, especially of pregnant or postpartum women, are reported. Institutional and union oversight is weak.

• Recommendation 42.253

Text: "Implement policies that protect girls' and women's rights in both social and political spheres of life" — *(Uganda)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite constitutional guarantees, women's participation in political life remains largely symbolic. Social and cultural constraints hinder full engagement, and protective policies for girls against violence and discrimination remain limited in scope and implementation.

• Recommendation 42.254

Text: "Strengthen political measures and concrete actions aimed at eliminating all obstacles that prevent women from occupying positions of responsibility in the country" — *(Cabo Verde)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

No targeted policies have been adopted to address structural barriers to women's leadership. Civil society reports indicate that female appointments are often tokenistic and politically motivated rather than based on equal opportunity or merit-based selection.

## Recommendation 42.255

**Text:** "Promote women's leadership, representation and participation and adopt new policies to address structural obstacles that hinder women from holding decision-making positions" — *(Ecuador)* 

Egypt's position: – Partially supported

### **CFJ Commentary:**

Egypt lacks a comprehensive policy to dismantle structural obstacles to women's leadership. Though some women hold senior roles, participation remains limited and imbalanced, without strategic planning or clear accountability indicators.



Text: "Redouble efforts to increase women's representation in decision-making bodies" — *(Nepal)* Egypt's position: Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Women's representation in executive and judicial leadership roles remains low. No national plan exists to address these disparities. There is a stark gap between Egypt's public commitments and the actual situation, particularly at the local governance level.

• Recommendation 42.257

Text: "Continue to enhance women's political participation and fair representation in the parliament and Government" — (Qatar)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Despite parliamentary quotas, women's representation in government and executive bodies remains limited. Appointments often prioritize political loyalty over competence or institutional empowerment, hindering meaningful inclusion.

• Recommendation 42.258

Text: "Intensify its efforts to prohibit wage discrimination and to increase the representation of women in positions of responsibility" — *(Burundi)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Constitutional protections are not enforced effectively. Wage discrimination remains prevalent, particularly in the informal sector. Employers are not required to disclose gender pay policies, and training programs for leadership roles are inadequate.

Recommendation 42.259

Text: "Continue its efforts to ensure that women and girls have equal access to technical and vocational education and training, including in non-traditional fields" — *(Serbia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

While female enrollment in education is rising, disparities persist in technical and vocational fields due to weak institutional encouragement, gender stereotypes, and limited equality-focused programming in non-traditional sectors.



Text: "Further consolidate the progress achieved in advancing the rights of women and children, in all relevant spheres" — *(Sri Lanka)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Women and girls still face serious socioeconomic challenges, especially in rural and marginalized regions. Weak coordination among relevant ministries hampers effective progress, and official efforts rarely translate into tangible improvements.

Recommendation 42.261

Text: "Ensure the participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in economic development programmes" — *(Tunisia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**CFJ Commentary:** 

Women's involvement in development planning remains limited. Independent women's organizations and civil society actors are excluded from consultation

#### Recommendation 42.267

#### Text:

"Continue to strengthen efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, enhance women's participation in decision-making roles and ensure equal access to economic and social opportunities" — *(Ethiopia)* 

**Egypt's position:** Partially supported

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official initiatives, Egypt's efforts to combat gender-based violence remain unstructured and insufficient. The country still lacks a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape. Women's participation in decision-making roles remains weak and unsustainable, and there are no effective programs in place to ensure equal access to economic and social opportunities.



Text:

"Take all necessary legislative and operational measures to guarantee equal remuneration between men and women in similar or analogous working conditions" — *(Cabo Verde)* Egypt's position: Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

No effective oversight mechanism has been implemented to guarantee equal pay. Current legislation does not obligate employers to disclose gender-disaggregated pay policies. Moreover, women working in the informal sector remain completely unprotected from wage discrimination or inequality.

Recommendation 42.269

Text:

"Continue to strengthen women's economic empowerment as part of the implementation of the Egypt Vision 2030 sustainable development strategy" — *(Cambodia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Although women's issues are integrated into Egypt Vision 2030, the strategy's implementation has yet to yield tangible improvements in expanding women's economic participation, particularly in vulnerable sectors. There are no publicly available indicators to monitor or evaluate the actual impact of the strategy on women's economic empowerment.

• Recommendation 42.270

Text:

"Continue efforts to support and improve the status of women, particularly in the political and economic sectors" — *(Chad)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Women continue to face systemic exclusion from key political and economic positions. There are no serious or transparent initiatives to address this structural imbalance. Government-led support programs for women tend to lack public accountability and community involvement, limiting their effectiveness.



#### Text:

"Continue to work to promote women's rights and achieve gender equality in the labour market" — *(Jordan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Women in Egypt face a dual layer of discrimination in the labour market: legal, due to insufficient protections, and social, due to prevailing norms that restrict equal employment opportunities. No effective policies or sustained public campaigns have been adopted to address these entrenched discriminatory practices.

• Recommendation 42.273

#### Text:

"Improve women's rights by criminalizing domestic violence and by revising the personal status law to ensure that women's rights are respected" — *(Germany)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Implemented

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Domestic violence is still not criminalized as a distinct offense under Egyptian law, which limits the protection of women from family-based violence. The personal status law continues to include discriminatory provisions regarding guardianship, custody, and divorce, and no comprehensive reform has been introduced to uphold principles of equality and non-discrimination.

• Recommendation 42.274

#### Text:

"Continue efforts for the economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women, as well as raising awareness about and protecting their rights" — *(Hungary)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Although limited microfinance programs exist, women—particularly in rural areas—face major barriers in accessing financial and credit services. Awareness campaigns remain sporadic and top-down, lacking grassroots participation, which undermines their effectiveness and real impact.

### Recommendation 42.275

#### Text:

"Continue efforts towards the empowerment of women, including through equitable divorce laws" — *(India)* 



# Egypt's position: 😑 Partially supported

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Divorce procedures remain slow and complicated for women. Post-divorce, women often do not receive fair rights to alimony or housing. The legislative approach remains traditional and fails to incorporate gender justice principles, weakening prospects for equality in family dispute contexts.

## • Recommendation 42.276

## Text:

"Continue to strengthen women's rights by improving reproductive health services and addressing gender-based violence" — (Norway)

Egypt's position: - Partially supported

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Reproductive health services are largely limited to major urban areas and face societal and regulatory restrictions that hinder access for women and girls. The response to gender-based violence lacks a comprehensive legal framework or effective psychosocial support systems, weakening the institutional response.

### • Recommendation 42.277

## Text:

"Continue to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls" — *(Czechia)* Egypt's position: Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite positive official rhetoric, girls remain vulnerable to family violence and child marriage. There are no comprehensive prevention programs in place. Moreover, the mechanisms available to women and girls for protection or complaints remain limited, and institutional coordination is lacking.

## • Recommendation 42.278

Text:

"Strengthen measures to promote gender equity and give due consideration to the criminalization of all forms of violence against women" — *(Sierra Leone)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

To date, no comprehensive law has been passed to address all forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, marital rape, and public harassment. The enforcement of existing laws lacks gender sensitivity, and victims are often met with stigma or institutional neglect.



Text:

"Enact and effectively implement legislation to eliminate and criminalize all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls" — *(Estonia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

While some scattered legal provisions criminalize certain acts of violence, a legislative gap persists regarding domestic violence, marital rape, and gender-based discrimination. Law enforcement remains weak, due to poor investigations, inadequate police responses, and the absence of a comprehensive victim protection framework.

Recommendation 42.280

#### Text:

"Ensure the effective implementation of policies on gender equality and on combating violence against women" — *(Kazakhstan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

There is no unified national policy specifically dedicated to gender equality. Resources allocated for the implementation of declared commitments are insufficient. Violence against women remains widespread, and no monitoring or evaluation mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness of official programs and policies.

• Recommendation 42.281

Text:

"Accelerate the examination and adoption of the draft law on combating all forms of violence against women and girls" — *(Romania)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

As of now, there is no draft comprehensive law on violence against women and girls being considered by the Egyptian Parliament. The current legal and practical reality reflects a continued disregard for gender-based violence as an independent legal issue requiring dedicated legislative intervention.

## • Recommendation 42.282

Text:

"Continue efforts to combat gender-based discrimination and violence" — *(Mongolia)* Egypt's position: X Noted

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### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's position reflects a reservation toward the broader concept of "gender-based violence," which includes gender identity-related issues. This indicates a fundamental shortcoming in the state's approach to protecting the rights of groups most vulnerable to discrimination, despite its international commitments.

### • Recommendation 42.283

Text:

"Continue its initiatives to protect the rights of women, including by accelerating measures to eliminate violence against women" — *(Japan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite government rhetoric about women's empowerment, legal protection measures remain insufficient. Institutional support for women victims of violence is limited and often relies on civil society initiatives, which operate in a highly restricted legal and security environment.

• Recommendation 42.284

#### Text:

"Consider enacting a law criminalizing all forms of violence against women" — *(South Africa)* Egypt's position: Supported – Already Implemented

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

There is no unified law in Egypt criminalizing all forms of violence against women. Existing provisions in the Penal Code only address certain isolated offenses and lack a gender-based definition of violence, which weakens victims' ability to report incidents or access justice effectively.

## • Recommendation 42.285

## Text:

"Criminalize all forms of gender-based violence and put in place effective preventive measures" — *(Luxembourg)* 

## Egypt's position: X Noted

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's rejection of the term "gender-based violence" reflects a legal reluctance to recognize discrimination based on gender identity. Public policies lack effective preventive measures, and awareness campaigns are largely absent, leaving violence unaddressed until after harm occurs.



Text:

"Classify gender-based violence as a crime" — *(Spain)* Egypt's position: Supported – Already Implemented Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The criminalization of violence remains fragmented and insufficient. Egypt has yet to adopt a clear legal definition of gender-based violence encompassing psychological, economic, and identity-based violence. No independent institution exists to receive complaints or support victims.

• Recommendation 42.287

### Text:

"Criminalize all forms of violence against women" — (Uruguay)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Although certain acts are criminalized, Egypt lacks a comprehensive legal framework that integrates all forms of violence against women with clear provisions for protection, prevention, and redress. No specialized police or judicial units exist to handle these cases.

• Recommendation 42.288

Text:

"Further strengthen the legal framework for combating domestic violence" — (Georgia)
Egypt's position: Supported – Already Implemented
Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):
There is no legal provision classifying domestic violence as a standalene crime in Egypt

There is no legal provision classifying domestic violence as a standalone crime in Egypt. This results in underreporting and the treatment of incidents as private family matters. Shelters are lacking, and women victims of domestic violence remain without real protection or support.

## • Recommendation 42.289

#### Text:

"Adopt and implement legislation to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and marital rape" — *(Finland)* 

**Egypt's position:** — Partially supported

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The state refuses to recognize some specific forms of violence, such as marital rape, despite its obligations under international law. Current legislation does not address structural discrimination, and no gender-sensitive courts or procedural codes exist.



## Text:

"Criminalize all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape" — *(Portugal)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite Egypt's stated support for women's rights, it continues to reject the recognition of marital rape as a distinct criminal offense, treating it instead as part of so-called "marital rights." This denies women the legal capacity to refuse coerced sex within marriage and contradicts Egypt's obligations under CEDAW and its General Recommendations, particularly Recommendation 35.

Furthermore, domestic violence is neither legally defined nor explicitly criminalized, and related acts are treated as general misdemeanors (e.g., assault or battery) without consideration of the specific relationship between perpetrator and victim or the unique psychological and social consequences involved.

This legislative gap exposes women and girls to ongoing risk and weakens their ability to report abuse, seek protection orders, or obtain adequate redress. Stakeholder reports emphasize that Egypt's continued failure to adopt a comprehensive law against violence places it behind regional standards and undermines broader efforts to empower women and achieve substantive gender equality. The lack of accountability, coupled with gender-insensitive policing and judiciary practices, exacerbates the severity of these violations.

## • Recommendation 42.291

## Text:

"Criminalize marital rape" — (Iceland)

Egypt's position: X Noted

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's refusal to legally recognize marital rape is a serious gap in protecting women from sexual violence. Egyptian criminal law does not acknowledge the possibility of rape within marriage, thereby reinforcing traditional notions that deny women the right to continuous, free, and informed consent to sexual relations. This undermines bodily autonomy and the dignity of women. This stance directly contradicts Egypt's obligations under Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which requires the elimination of discrimination in all matters relating to marriage and family relations. It also defies repeated recommendations by UN human rights bodies emphasizing the criminalization of marital rape as essential to safeguarding women's physical and psychological integrity.

Civil society organizations have documented multiple cases of women subjected to repeated sexual violence by their husbands, with no legal avenues for protection or justice. Social stigma and a prevailing sense of futility often silence victims. The lack of legal awareness and societal discrimination against survivors exacerbates the danger.



Egypt's continued disregard for this recommendation legally and socially normalizes violence against women and fundamentally undermines any official discourse on women's empowerment or human rights protection.

# • Recommendation 42.292

### Text:

"Continue efforts in terms of equality between women and men and guarantee women's rights by prohibiting domestic violence, including marital rape" — *(France)* 

# Egypt's position: X Noted

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's decision to merely "note" this recommendation reveals a reserved and inadequate stance toward core issues of protection against domestic violence. To date, there is no explicit legal provision criminalizing domestic violence. Incidents are treated as generic criminal offenses (e.g., battery or insult), without recognizing the specific dynamics of familial dependency that hinder access to justice.

On the issue of marital rape, Egypt's legal and institutional discourse continues to deny its existence, treating sexual relations within marriage as a conjugal "entitlement," with no regard for the woman's consent or bodily autonomy. This approach stands in contradiction to international standards, including those found in CEDAW, to which Egypt is a State Party.

Human rights groups report documented cases of women who have approached police or prosecutors after suffering sexual abuse from spouses, only to face mockery or dismissal due to the absence of legal protections and enforcement mechanisms that uphold victims' dignity and privacy. Egypt's rejection of this recommendation represents not only a failure to protect women, but also the establishment of a legal environment that normalizes violence and leaves survivors without legal, psychological, or social support.

## • Recommendation 42.293

## Text:

"Enact a law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, marital rape, institutional violence, virginity testing and honour killing" — *(Slovakia)* 

## Egypt's position: X Noted

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's rejection of this comprehensive recommendation reflects a lack of political will to adopt a robust legal framework capable of protecting women from violence in both private and public spheres.

There is still no unified law on violence against women, despite repeated calls from civil society and UN bodies. Crimes such as domestic violence, harassment, or virginity testing are scattered across the Penal Code, often lacking gender sensitivity and clear legal definitions, which obstruct access to



justice and effective redress.

Egypt also fails to criminalize marital rape and institutional violence—leaving women vulnerable to abusive practices in detention, healthcare, or education settings with no accountability mechanisms. Although "honour killings" are not explicitly mentioned in the law, sentence-mitigating provisions referencing "honour motives" continue to be invoked to justify or lessen punishments for violence against women.

Virginity testing, while not legally sanctioned, is still reportedly used in investigations—especially in morality-related cases—constituting a form of inhuman and degrading treatment under international law.

By failing to seriously engage with this recommendation, Egypt reinforces a culture of impunity and places itself in direct violation of its international obligations to combat systemic violence and discrimination against women and girls.

### Recommendation 42.294

#### Text:

"End the practice of forced anal exams and forced 'virginity tests'" — (Canada)

### Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Egypt's decision to merely "note" this recommendation reflects a troubling disregard for one of the most degrading and inhumane practices carried out under the guise of law enforcement or "forensic verification." Human rights organizations, including CFJ, have documented repeated cases of forced anal examinations—particularly of individuals suspected in cases related to homosexuality or "public morality"—conducted without consent and often under prosecutorial supervision. These practices violate bodily integrity and the prohibition of torture under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Virginity testing continues to be used against women and girls, especially in cases involving accusations of premarital sexual conduct or so-called morality violations. In some institutions, these tests are conducted arbitrarily. These procedures constitute a form of institutional sexual violence involving humiliation and physical and psychological harm, condemned explicitly by the World Health Organization.

Egypt's rejection of this recommendation implicitly legitimizes torture and degrading treatment, worsening abuses based on gender identity or actual/perceived sexual orientation. The fact that these acts sometimes occur with judicial approval underscores the urgent need for deep reforms in the security and judicial systems.



Text:

"Intensify efforts to raise awareness among both men and women of the criminal nature of gender-based violence" — *(Slovakia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

There are no comprehensive or sustainable national programs aimed at raising awareness of gender-based violence. Existing efforts are limited to seasonal publicity campaigns and fail to address the root causes of violence or clarify its legal definition. Gender-sensitive education is also absent from school curricula and media programming.

Recommendation 42.296

#### Text:

"Continue to strengthen measures to combat all forms of discrimination as well as violence against women and girls" — *(Ukraine)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Government measures remain insufficient. Egypt lacks an independent national body to monitor and prevent gender-based discrimination. Victims face significant obstacles in reporting abuses or obtaining justice, and indirect discrimination against women persists across public and private institutions.

• Recommendation 42.297

Text:

"Intensify awareness-raising campaigns to combat violence against women and girls, particularly in villages and remote areas" — *(Guinea)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Rights-based, sustained awareness campaigns are largely absent, particularly in rural and border regions where gender-based violence is especially prevalent. Current outreach efforts lack coordination and are often carried out by non-specialized entities with limited impact.



Text:

"Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination and violence against girls and women, including prevention measures and prompt assistance to victims of trafficking" — (Honduras)
 Egypt's position: Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Despite Egypt's adoption of a national strategy to combat human trafficking, women and girls remain among the most vulnerable and least protected. There is no effective referral system or specialized shelters offering psychological and legal support—particularly for refugee and migrant victims.

Recommendation 42.299

#### Text:

"Intensify its work in developing domestic violence legislation to further safeguard family members from that crime" — *(Indonesia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

There is no legal provision that defines or criminalizes domestic violence as a distinct offense. State institutions do not treat family violence as a policy priority and often downplay or ignore such cases. Victims face blame and lack access to protective shelters or enforceable protection orders.

• Recommendation 42.300

Text:

"Sustain efforts to eliminate violence against children and women by expanding support services and strengthening enforcement mechanisms" — *(Islamic Republic of Iran)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

State efforts remain limited in expanding available services for women and child victims.

Enforcement mechanisms face major challenges such as underfunding, lack of gender-sensitive training for officials, and an absence of serious prosecution in most reported cases.



Text:

"Consider taking further measures to eliminate corporal punishment of children, particularly in families, educational institutions and care centres" — *(Mauritius)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Corporal punishment remains widely practiced in schools, homes, and care institutions in Egypt, with no explicit legal ban in place. There is no comprehensive law criminalizing physical or psychological violence against children in all contexts, including within families. The absence of educational programs for parents and teachers normalizes violence as a socially acceptable disciplinary method. Furthermore, no effective monitoring or reporting mechanisms exist, leaving thousands of children without adequate protection.

Recommendation 42.302

Text:

"Accelerate the process of establishing specialized child courts with adequate human, technical and financial resources" — *(Mongolia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

While juvenile court circuits exist, specialized child courts are not available in all governorates and often lack the necessary resources and staff trained in restorative justice principles. Children are sometimes tried in non-specialized courts, in violation of both Egypt's Child Law and international standards. Alternative measures to detention are rarely applied, leading to children being held in overcrowded, unfit facilities where serious abuses can occur.

Recommendation 42.303

Text:

"Expressly prohibit by law corporal punishment of children" — (Gabon)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Although Egypt claims to have implemented this recommendation, existing laws do not explicitly and clearly criminalize corporal punishment in all settings, including the home. Corporal punishment remains socially and institutionally accepted, particularly in schools and families, with no effective legislative or regulatory action to stop it. A national strategy to end violence against children—including disciplinary violence—has yet to be adopted.



Text:

"Continue to enhance its efforts to eradicate youth illiteracy" — *(Singapore)* Egypt's position: Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Youth illiteracy remains high, especially among girls in rural areas and Upper Egypt, despite some governmental programs. Existing initiatives suffer from weak coordination, underfunding, and lack of effective evaluation frameworks. Literacy efforts are not integrated with broader economic and social empowerment policies, limiting their long-term impact.

• Recommendation 42.305

#### Text:

"Continue to make comprehensive efforts to end child labour as envisioned by the Government of Egypt through appropriate interventions" — *(Sri Lanka)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite Egypt's ratification of international conventions against child labour, the practice remains widespread, particularly in agriculture, workshops, and domestic work. Thousands of children are believed to work under exploitative conditions without oversight or protection. Labour inspections and law enforcement mechanisms are weak or nearly absent, and there is no reliable database to assess the true scale of the problem. Child labour is also linked to poverty and the absence of social safety nets, requiring a more comprehensive response.

Recommendation 42.306

#### Text:

"Prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home, and repeal all provisions that justify its use in child-rearing" — *(Uruguay)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already Implemented

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Provisions in Egypt's Penal Code and Civil Code still implicitly allow the use of violence in childrearing. No explicit legal ban exists on corporal punishment in homes. Educational curricula have not been revised, nor have public awareness campaigns been launched to shift societal attitudes. Prosecutors lack specialized mechanisms for dealing with family-based violence against children, and complaints are often dismissed due to "lack of criminal intent."



Text:

"Continue efforts aimed at protecting the rights of children" — (Chad)
Egypt's position: Supported
Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Field data indicates that children in Egypt still face systemic violations, including early marriage, school dropout, and domestic violence. There are no effective systems to monitor or ensure accountability for these abuses. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, despite its importance, operates with limited resources and lacks real influence in decision-making processes.

Recommendation 42.308

#### Text:

"Continue efforts to ensure that children are protected from the worst forms of child labour" — *(Cyprus)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite national strategies, efforts on the ground are still insufficient. Large numbers of children are engaged in hazardous work—including construction, waste collection, and factories—often under dangerous and inhumane conditions. Sanctions against employers are rarely enforced, and coordination among relevant ministries is weak.

• Recommendation 42.309

Text:

"Strengthen policies to tackle school dropout rates and combat child labour" — (Gabon)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

School dropout is closely linked to child labour and poverty. Dropout rates are especially high in rural and informal settlements, particularly among girls due to poverty, early marriage, or distance from schools. While programs like "Takaful and Karama" exist, they lack universal coverage and are not tied to an effective educational oversight system. Public schools themselves often lack sufficient resources, prompting families to withdraw their children.

## Recommendation 42.310

## Text:

"Promote the protection of children's rights in conflict zones, ensuring their safety, especially in the digital space, and ensuring that schools are not used as military bases" — *(Dominican Republic)* **Egypt's position:** X Noted

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#### Government response:

Egypt rejected what it described as "false implications" in the recommendation, without providing detailed rebuttals or evidence of specific efforts to protect children in conflict areas, digital spaces, or school facilities.

#### Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Field evidence—especially from North Sinai—confirms serious violations of children's rights in the context of the protracted, undeclared conflict. These include:

- Use of school buildings and educational facilities as military or security posts, in violation of international humanitarian law.
- Forced displacement of families, depriving thousands of children of access to education and healthcare.
- Lack of protection measures in the digital space, including digital surveillance, platform censorship, and no institutional training on digital safety.
- No mechanisms exist to report abuses or provide psychological support to children affected by violence or conflict.

Egypt's denial of the existence of such violations obstructs necessary reform. The absence of transparency regarding children's conditions in conflict areas entrenches a culture of impunity and hinders accountability.

#### **CFJ conclusion:**

Rejecting the recommendation without addressing the substantiated on-the-ground violations demonstrates a failure to meet Egypt's legal obligations toward children in conflict zones, in breach of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Egypt is a State Party.

#### **Recommendation 42.311**

#### Text:

"Consolidate the implementation of public policies on childhood and early childhood,

strengthening the work of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood" — *(El Salvador)* 

#### Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government reiterated its commitment to child protection and identified the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) as the key coordinating body, without providing specific details on new or enhanced policies since the last UPR cycle.

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite formal support, the NCCM remains significantly constrained in its effectiveness due to:

• Inadequate funding and institutional independence, rendering it subordinate to the executive branch and limiting its oversight capacity;



- Lack of transparency and accountability mechanisms in implementing child protection programs;
- Absence of a clear national strategy mandating coordinated action across ministries and agencies;
- Limited engagement of independent civil society organizations in consultation and policy formulation.

In terms of early childhood, significant gaps persist in health, nutrition, and pre-primary education—especially in rural and low-income areas, where this age group is often neglected in public policy priorities.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

Although the recommendation was officially supported, Egypt has not taken meaningful steps to strengthen the NCCM or to develop comprehensive, interlinked early childhood policies. Thus, the recommendation has not been effectively implemented in practice.

## • Recommendation 42.312

Text:

"Develop a strategy to effectively protect children in street situations and ensure their social integration" — *(Gabon)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government referenced ongoing efforts such as the "Children Without Shelter" program by the Ministry of Social Solidarity in partnership with the Tahya Misr Fund, but did not indicate the existence of a national, time-bound, or rights-based strategy.

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Despite some government programs, Egypt still lacks a comprehensive and sustainable national strategy for addressing the rights of street children. An effective approach would require action across multiple pillars: prevention, protection, reintegration, psychosocial support, and educational rehabilitation. Current initiatives suffer from:

- Poor inter-agency coordination;
- A security-oriented or temporary shelter-based approach that fails to address root causes;
- Limited civil society involvement due to shrinking civic space;
- Inadequate infrastructure for shelters in terms of quality, number, and geographic reach.
   Many children on the street continue to face abuse, exploitation, and neglect, with no functioning complaint or protection mechanisms.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's endorsement of the recommendation has not translated into substantial progress. In the absence of a child rights-based national strategy, the situation remains unaddressed, and the recommendation remains unfulfilled in practice.





#### Text:

"Continue to improve the quality of life of children through the development of health and education systems to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, have access to basic services" — (Jordan)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Government response:** 

Egypt reiterated its commitment to free education and healthcare for all children and cited the Disability Rights Law and some inclusive health and education programs, though it provided no performance data or outcome indicators.

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official declarations, a wide gap persists between policy and practice—particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities, children from poor families, and refugee children continue to struggle with access to:

- Quality education;
- Basic health services;
- Comprehensive early childhood care. Children with disabilities in particular face:
- A shortage of accessible schools and appropriate accommodations;
- A lack of specially trained educators;
- High dropout rates and institutional discrimination.

In the health sector, many facilities lack necessary equipment and staff, especially in Upper Egypt and informal settlements, and integrated child health programs are absent.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Despite official support, Egypt has made little measurable progress in guaranteeing universal access to basic services for all children. The most disadvantaged—especially children with disabilities—remain excluded from enjoying their rights, leaving the recommendation unmet in substance.



Text:

"Continue to respond to the challenges posed by the ageing population and, in general, improve protection of the rights of older persons" — *(Cambodia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

To date, Egypt has no comprehensive legal framework to protect the rights of older persons. There are no coordinated national policies addressing the implications of an aging population, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Elderly individuals face significant barriers in accessing social security, healthcare, and independent living support.

**CFJ Conclusion:** 

Despite supporting the recommendation, Egypt has not taken substantial steps toward fulfilling the rights of older persons, nor has it addressed demographic aging with any strategic foresight.

• Recommendation 42.315

Text:

"Strengthen the national bodies responsible for ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting their full integration into society" — *(Saudi Arabia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Despite the existence of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the body operates with limited resources and lacks genuine institutional independence. It has little to no influence over policymaking processes.

• Recommendation 42.316

Text:

"Strengthen the national bodies responsible for guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities and promote their full integration into society" — *(Djibouti)* 

Egypt's position: 🔽 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The situation remains unchanged from the previous recommendation. National bodies for disability rights are not empowered to play an effective or independent role in ensuring the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.



Text:

"Continue to strengthen access to education for persons with disabilities" — *(Singapore)* Egypt's position: Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Public schools in Egypt lack the necessary structural and pedagogical accommodations for inclusive education. Teachers are generally not trained to work with students with disabilities, limiting effective integration.

• Recommendation 42.318

#### Text:

"Continue efforts to provide adequate housing to persons with disabilities and enhance educational and health services provided for them" — *(Kyrgyzstan)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

There are no specific housing policies tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities. Their requirements are not incorporated into public housing programs or urban planning frameworks.

• Recommendation 42.319

Text:

"Continue efforts to support the participation of persons with disabilities in the decision-making process on areas related to their rights" — *(Tunisia)* Egypt's position: Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Participation remains largely symbolic or formal. Persons with disabilities are absent from legislative councils and executive or policy-making bodies.

• Recommendation 42.320

## Text:

"Ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes on matters related to their rights" — *(Cuba)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

There is no legal framework in place to guarantee such participation. Persons with disabilities do not have effective tools or platforms to influence policies that affect their lives.



Text:

"Continue to support persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making processes in matters relating to their human rights" — *(Democratic People's Republic of Korea)* Egypt's position: Supported

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Government institutions do not meaningfully consult organizations of persons with disabilities when drafting policies or reviewing legislation.

• Recommendation 42.322

#### Text:

"Continue to implement policies that support the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market and provide them with appropriate working environments" — *(United Arab Emirates)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

The legally mandated 5% employment quota for persons with disabilities is not effectively enforced. Workplaces in both the public and private sectors lack basic accessibility and reasonable accommodations.

• Recommendation 42.323

Text:

"Continue efforts to provide optimal care for the most vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and older persons" — *(Algeria)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

There are no comprehensive protection programs, and existing efforts lack sustainable funding and coordination—particularly in marginalized regions.



#### Text:

"Continue to focus on strategies to secure employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, ensuring their full inclusion in the workforce and in society" — *(Eritrea)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

There are no specialized vocational training programs, and many persons with disabilities are denied access to decent work due to discrimination and the lack of institutional accommodations in the job market.

## • Recommendation 42.325

### Text:

"Take measures to combat discrimination and violence against religious or belief minorities" — *(South Sudan)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

## **Government response:**

Egypt rejected this recommendation, referring to alleged "inaccurate implications" regarding religious discrimination. It affirmed that the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and belief and denied any persecution or discrimination against religious minorities in law or practice.

## Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

This denial contradicts well-documented violations against religious minorities in Egypt, including:

- Institutional discrimination against Bahá'ís and Shi'a Muslims, who are barred from officially registering their religion or freely practicing their faith;
- Ongoing sectarian violence against Christians in rural villages, with impunity and a lack of effective investigations;
- Political and administrative exclusion of minority groups and absence of policies promoting inclusion or community education on pluralism;
- Exclusion of religious minorities from school curricula and state media, reinforcing public biases.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's refusal to acknowledge organized religious discrimination undermines any real prospects for reform or protection. The recommendation has not been implemented, and there are no signs of future action.

#### • Recommendation 42.326

Text:





"Redouble efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against religious minorities" — *(Congo)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government response:

The government reiterated its previous position, claiming constitutional guarantees and denying the existence of discrimination requiring further action. It cited legal texts but did not outline any concrete policies or enforcement mechanisms.

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite the rhetoric, there is no evidence of enhanced efforts to protect religious minorities. On the contrary, the continued denial of facts, marginalization of reform efforts, and the absence of legal penalties for hate speech indicate regression rather than progress.

Authorities also fail to collaborate with independent civil society organizations to monitor or address discriminatory incidents, and often restrict documentation or advocacy efforts led by non-state actors.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

By noting the recommendation without a clear implementation plan, Egypt effectively refuses to recognize pluralism as a public value. This keeps the state in breach of its international commitments to eliminate religious discrimination.

Recommendation 42.327

Text:

"Work to spread awareness of the importance of respecting religious and cultural diversity, and promoting tolerance and acceptance of others among various sectors of society, especially in villages and remote areas" — (Bahrain)

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

Egypt claimed to promote citizenship and peaceful coexistence through constitutional protections, school curricula, and official religious discourse. However, it did not present concrete indicators or targeted initiatives, especially for rural areas.

**Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):** 

Despite official support, there is no effective national strategy to promote tolerance or respect for religious and cultural diversity—especially in rural and marginalized regions that frequently experience sectarian tensions or violence. Key gaps include:

- Absence of educational curricula that positively present religious and cultural diversity. Religious and language textbooks often reinforce exclusionary narratives;
- Lack of inclusion of religious or cultural minority representatives in educational or media policymaking;



- Overreliance on official institutions (Al-Azhar and the Church) as the sole mediators of religious discourse, without broader community engagement;
- Weak governmental initiatives to organize local awareness campaigns in areas prone to religious conflict.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Although Egypt supported the recommendation, it has not taken practical steps to implement it. Rural and marginalized communities remain excluded from systemic efforts to promote tolerance and diversity, leaving them vulnerable to discrimination and polarization and undermining the principle of equal citizenship.

# • Recommendation 42.328

# Text:

"Prevent criminal prosecution for sexual orientation and gender identity, and protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons" — *(Spain)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government response:

The Egyptian government rejected the recommendation, claiming that there is no prosecution based on sexual orientation and that its legal actions target criminal conduct, not identities or orientations.

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

The government's denial contradicts multiple verified reports by local and international organizations that confirm systematic targeting of LGBTQI+ individuals under vague "morality" or "debauchery" laws.

Violations include:

- Arrests based on appearance or private messages;
- Forced anal examinations;
- Torture and abuse in detention;
- Defamatory media coverage.

The state has failed to offer legal protection or even acknowledge this pattern of discrimination, exacerbating the legal and social vulnerability of LGBTQI+ persons.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

The claim that prosecutions are unrelated to sexual orientation is inconsistent with documented legal practices and field evidence. Egypt's position reveals a lack of commitment to protecting individual rights regardless of orientation or identity, and instead reinforces systemic discrimination through state policy and practice.

• Recommendation 42.329

Text:



"Repeal Act No. 10 (1961) and article 157 of the Penal Code, which may be used to target persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics" — *(Iceland)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government response:

The government rejected the notion that these laws are used to target individuals based on sexual orientation, stating that they are applied solely to criminal acts and contain no discriminatory language.

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In practice, Egypt regularly applies Law No. 10 of 1961 on "debauchery" and Penal Code articles (e.g., Article 178 on "public indecency") to prosecute individuals based on their perceived sexual orientation or gender expression—even though same-sex relations are not explicitly criminalized. Documented patterns include:

- Use of dating apps to entrap individuals;
- Searches of personal phones;
- Fabricated charges of "inciting debauchery";
- Coercive medical exams and public shaming;
- Prison sentences driven by moral and societal bias, not criminal conduct. The assertion that these laws are neutral ignores their vague wording and selective enforcement, which effectively criminalize LGBTQI+ identities.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Continued use of these provisions without legislative reform constitutes a serious violation of the principles of non-discrimination, privacy, and freedom of expression. Egypt's rejection of this recommendation amounts to an implicit endorsement of repressive and abusive practices.

## • Recommendation 42.330

## Text:

"Cease immediately all coercive and intrusive examinations of persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics" — *(Iceland)* 

# Egypt's position: 🗙 Noted

# Government response:

The government denied that such examinations are carried out and rejected claims of coercive or intrusive procedures targeting detainees based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

# Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite official denials, victim testimonies and independent reports confirm that authorities routinely subject individuals accused of "debauchery" to forced anal examinations—often without consent or under duress. These procedures clearly amount to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment under international law.

They are typically performed without impartial medical oversight, in degrading conditions, and



without legal safeguards.

Multiple UN mechanisms, including the Committee Against Torture and Special Rapporteurs on Health and Discrimination, have condemned such practices as blatant violations of human dignity.

# **CFJ Conclusion:**

Egypt's refusal to acknowledge the existence of these practices constitutes a denial of a systematic and well-documented reality. Far from implementing the recommendation, the state continues policies that facilitate one of the most egregious forms of physical and psychological abuse against an already marginalized group.

• Recommendation 42.331

### Text:

"Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers" — *(Senegal)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government stated its continued commitment to protecting migrants and asylum-seekers and referenced its cooperation with UNHCR. However, it did not mention the adoption of any new national asylum legislation.

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

In November 2024, Egypt enacted a new asylum law. While this development could mark progress, the law significantly falls short of international standards, especially the 1951 Refugee Convention, to which Egypt is a party. Key shortcomings include:

- **Absence of a non-refoulement guarantee:** The law does not explicitly prohibit the return of refugees to countries where they may face persecution or torture, violating Article 33 of the Refugee Convention.
- Lack of judicial review mechanisms: The law fails to grant asylum seekers the right to appeal rejection or cancellation decisions before an independent judicial body.
- Severe restrictions on movement and work: Refugees face strict mobility constraints and are denied the right to work or access public services on equal terms, exacerbating marginalization.
- Security-first approach: The law adopts a securitized view of asylum, expanding the powers
  of security agencies while sidelining UNHCR and civil society from the process.
   CFJ Conclusion:

While adopting a national asylum law is a significant step, its current content undermines core refugee protections and contradicts Egypt's international obligations. The recommendation remains unimplemented in substance, despite formal support.



Text:

"Enhance the implementation of policies that protect the rights of all migrants and eliminate all forms of discrimination" — *(Uganda)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government cited constitutional guarantees of equality and ongoing cooperation with international organizations, but failed to identify specific policies adopted or any measurable implementation efforts.

Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

Despite Egypt's stated support, it has not taken effective action to strengthen protections for migrants or address widespread discrimination—particularly against Sub-Saharan African nationals.

# CFJ and other rights groups document:

- Racial discrimination and abuse in public spaces and detention centers;
- Denial of housing, healthcare, and education;
- Arbitrary arrests and lack of legal safeguards for undocumented migrants;
- Absence of effective complaint or redress mechanisms.

Without a comprehensive, rights-based migration policy, migrants continue to be treated primarily through a security lens rather than as rights-holders.

## **CFJ Conclusion:**

Although Egypt supported the recommendation, it has not implemented it substantively. Its policies continue to lack transparency, rights guarantees, and meaningful legal protections for migrants.



### Text:

"Intensify national efforts and enhance international cooperation to combat irregular migration and transnational organized crime" — *(Mozambique)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

Egypt highlighted its national strategy to combat irregular migration and migrant smuggling (2016–2026), as well as its cooperation with international partners and relevant legislation. Comment by the Committee for Justice (CFJ):

While a national strategy exists, Egypt's approach remains predominantly security-focused, with minimal regard for the human rights of irregular migrants. Key concerns include:

- Lack of balance between enforcement and protection: The government prioritizes border control without offering legal migration pathways or protection for those fleeing conflict or persecution.
- Weak legal safeguards for detained migrants: Detainees often lack access to asylum procedures or legal aid and are held in substandard conditions, sometimes facing forced return without individual assessment.
- Lack of transparency: There are no public reports or data evaluating the strategy's implementation or its compliance with human rights standards.
   CFJ Conclusion:

Despite formal support, Egypt's implementation remains partial and overly punitive. Its failure to adopt a human-rights-based approach undermines the goal of protecting migrants while addressing irregular migration.



Text:

"Continue to work with international partners to enhance its national policy on migrants and refugees, ensuring equal access to health and education" — *(Zimbabwe)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government stated that it collaborates with UNHCR and other international partners to provide basic services to migrants and refugees, highlighting access to public schools and healthcare without offering concrete data or a national framework to guarantee such access sustainably. CFJ Comment:

Despite existing cooperation with international bodies, Egypt lacks a clear and enforceable national policy to ensure equal access to health and education for migrants and displaced persons.

Key concerns include:

- Administrative barriers and implicit discrimination: Migrants—especially of African descent—face difficulties enrolling their children in public schools due to bureaucratic requirements or unofficial refusals.
- Limited healthcare access: Refugees are often charged for medical services or denied treatment at public hospitals, particularly when lacking formal documentation or UNHCR registration.
- No legal framework: Access to services is based on informal agreements rather than enforceable laws, leading to inconsistent implementation across governorates.
   CFJ Conclusion:

Despite Egypt's stated support, the absence of a binding national policy undermines real progress. Implementation remains dependent on external partnerships, lacking sustainable institutional commitment.

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### Text:

"Continue existing efforts to provide protection and services for migrants, refugees and asylumseekers" — *(Bangladesh)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government emphasized its continued cooperation with UNHCR and other international actors, stating that it provides health and education services to migrants and asylum-seekers, without referencing a comprehensive national framework.

**CFJ Comment:** 

Egypt has no overarching policy ensuring protection for migrants and asylum seekers. These groups remain highly vulnerable due to:

- **Absence of legal safeguards:** Migrants and asylum seekers lack the ability to appeal deportation or detention decisions, and authorities restrict access to legal representation and transparent asylum procedures.
- Widespread abuse and discrimination: CFJ and others document ongoing verbal and physical abuse—particularly against Sub-Saharan Africans—in public spaces and detention facilities.
- Weak service provision: Access to health and education often depends on overburdened international actors, with no systematic governmental support.
   CFJ Conclusion:

Egypt's support for the recommendation has not resulted in meaningful implementation. Protection efforts remain fragmented, dependent on external actors, and unsupported by a state-led legal or policy framework.



#### Text:

"Continue to strengthen existing efforts and services for migrants and refugees" — *(Pakistan)* Egypt's position: Supported

Government response:

Egypt reiterated its provision of services in collaboration with international organizations, but did not present data on service coverage or outline a national institutional framework. CFJ Comment:

No comprehensive national policy exists to govern migration or protect displaced persons. Instead, efforts are disjointed and rely heavily on international organizations. Key gaps include:

- Lack of recognition for internally displaced persons or vulnerable migrants: Egypt fails to legally define or support groups displaced internally due to demolition or conflict (e.g., in Sinai).
- **Institutional weaknesses:** No designated agency oversees migrant/refugee rights or interministerial coordination to ensure access to services.
- Systemic discrimination: Migrants—especially of African origin—face denial of housing, healthcare, and education, often exacerbated by racism and lack of official documentation. CFJ Conclusion:

Despite formal support, Egypt's current efforts are insufficient and lack institutional backing, making implementation partial, externally driven, and legally unguaranteed.

#### • Recommendation 42.337

#### Text:

"Strengthen protection for migrants and asylum-seekers by upholding the principle of nonrefoulement, improving reception centre conditions, and ensuring healthcare and education access, especially for children" — *(Brazil)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported – Already implemented

Government response:

Egypt claimed compliance with the non-refoulement principle and asserted that it provides essential services for migrants and refugees, especially children, through cooperation with UNHCR, and that reception conditions meet humanitarian standards.

#### **CFJ Comment:**

Contrary to these claims, CFJ and other groups document violations of the non-refoulement principle and poor detention conditions:

• **Forced deportations without due process:** Refugees from Sudan, Eritrea, and Yemen have been deported without access to asylum procedures or legal counsel.

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- **Inhumane detention conditions:** Refugees, including children, are held in overcrowded and unsanitary facilities, lacking medical care or independent monitoring.
- Unequal access to services: Refugee children struggle to enroll in schools and often face bureaucratic or discriminatory barriers, while healthcare access is sometimes subject to fees. CFJ Conclusion:

The claim of full implementation is inconsistent with field realities. Migrants and asylumseekers remain vulnerable to deportation, detention, and discriminatory barriers, making Egypt's response non-compliant with its international obligations.

### • Recommendation 42.338

Text:

"Ensure that the asylum act of November 2024 complies with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees" — *(France)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government referred to the adoption of the new asylum law and its general commitment to international treaties, without clarifying whether the new law aligns with the 1951 Refugee Convention.

**CFJ Comment:** 

CFJ's review of the law reveals serious inconsistencies with international standards, including:

- **No explicit prohibition of refoulement:** The law lacks a clear ban on deporting individuals to countries where they may face persecution or torture.
- Lack of independent judicial oversight: Decisions regarding asylum claims are controlled by administrative or security bodies, with no right to appeal before a neutral court.
- **Restricted rights:** The law imposes mobility restrictions and does not affirm the right to work, healthcare, or education on equal footing, reinforcing systemic exclusion.
- Security-dominated approach: The law treats asylum primarily as a security matter, sidelining humanitarian principles and international protections.
   CFJ Conclusion:

While Egypt formally endorsed the recommendation, the 2024 asylum law does not comply with the 1951 Refugee Convention. Legislative reform is urgently needed to align national law with international refugee standards.



Text:

"Implement the asylum law, in collaboration with UNHCR and in accordance with Egypt's international obligations, including the principles of protection and non-refoulement" — *(Switzerland)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government stated that it works in cooperation with UNHCR and that the asylum law issued in November 2024 reflects Egypt's international obligations. However, it provided no details about implementation mechanisms or guarantees to uphold the principle of non-refoulement.

## **CFJ Comment:**

Despite formal support, the law suffers from serious flaws:

- 1. It does not explicitly prohibit or define procedures for non-refoulement, which risks violations of Article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- 2. The UNHCR is sidelined in key asylum procedures, with no binding role in case review or protection guarantees.
- 3. The law lacks judicial review mechanisms, preventing appeals before an independent court.
- 4. Implementation occurs in a security-heavy environment that restricts mobility and access to basic rights like education, healthcare, and legal counsel.

#### **Conclusion:**

Although Egypt supported the recommendation, the current legal framework and practices fall short of international standards. Legislative amendments and strong safeguards are urgently needed to ensure full compliance.

## • Recommendation 42.340

#### Text:

"Respect the principle of non-refoulement by ensuring international protection for all persons who request or need it, in particular those stopped at the border for irregular entry" — *(Niger)* Egypt's position: Supported – Claimed fully implemented

Government response:

Egypt affirmed its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement and highlighted its cooperation with UNHCR. However, it failed to specify how this is guaranteed in practice, especially for individuals apprehended at borders or in detention.

## **CFJ Comment:**

Contrary to the official claim, multiple reports document:

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- 1. **Forced deportations from border areas**, including Sudanese, Eritrean, and Yemeni nationals, without proper screening or access to legal assistance.
- 2. Lack of protection mechanisms in detention centers no formal procedures to request asylum or challenge deportation orders.
- 3. **Discriminatory treatment** based on nationality, particularly against Sub-Saharan Africans, leading to faster deportation without due process.
- 4. No transparency or oversight no public data or judicial review of removal cases.

# **Conclusion:**

Despite Egypt's claim of full implementation, the lack of transparent procedures and repeated violations of non-refoulement indicate that the recommendation has not been genuinely fulfilled.

• Recommendation 42.341

## Text:

"Redouble efforts to facilitate effective and adequate access for refugees to education and healthcare services" — *(Ecuador)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

The government noted that registered refugees can access public education and basic healthcare through cooperation with UNHCR, but it did not provide clear data or implementation assessments.

# **CFJ Comment:**

Access remains severely restricted due to:

- **Bureaucratic barriers** in school enrollment, especially due to documentation issues or administrative rejection.
- Lack of inclusive policies and no dedicated support for refugee children (e.g., language or psychological assistance).
- Out-of-pocket healthcare costs and denial of treatment for unregistered refugees.
- **Absence of a national legal framework** guaranteeing equal access; implementation depends on inconsistent MoUs with UN agencies.

# **Conclusion:**

Despite formal support, refugee access to education and healthcare remains limited, fragmented, and inconsistent. A comprehensive national policy is needed to ensure equality and sustainability.



#### Text:

"Continue to strengthen efforts to ensure that all marginalized communities, including rural populations, persons with disabilities and refugees, have equitable access to quality education and healthcare services" — *(Ethiopia)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

Egypt cited its National Human Rights Strategy and "Decent Life" initiative as efforts to improve access for vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities and rural communities. It also referenced cooperation with UNHCR for refugee services.

### **CFJ Comment:**

Challenges persist across all groups:

- **Rural populations:** Face lack of facilities, staff shortages, and long travel distances for services.
- **Persons with disabilities:** Encounter poor infrastructure, lack of inclusive education, and minimal individual support.
- **Refugees:** Face discrimination, access barriers, and inconsistent service availability, especially for the unregistered.

#### **Conclusion:**

Existing plans do not fully meet the needs of marginalized communities. Without binding policies and institutional accountability, equitable access remains unmet.

#### • Recommendation 42.343

#### Text:

"Continue to adopt measures aimed at facilitating the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as providing adequate services to migrants" — *(Honduras)* 

Egypt's position: 🗹 Supported

Government response:

Egypt reiterated its cooperation with UNHCR and other international actors, claiming to provide basic services to migrants and asylum-seekers within available capacities.

#### **CFJ Comment:**

Key issues remain unresolved:

- 1. No comprehensive national asylum law that fully aligns with international standards.
- 2. **Over-reliance on international organizations** for service provision, with little domestic accountability.

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3. **Widespread violations**, including forced returns, arbitrary detention, and denial of public services to migrants and unrecognized asylum-seekers.

### **Conclusion:**

Egypt has not yet adopted structural measures necessary to guarantee refugee and migrant rights. The recommendation remains unimplemented in practice, pending legislative reform and domestic ownership of protection responsibilities.