

Report for Belgium: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Repeal all laws and policies that restrict activities and rights of human rights defenders, including Law No. 70/2017 on NGOs, Counter-Terrorism Law No. 94, Article 78 of the Penal Code, the Anti-Cyber and Information Technology Crimes Law, and the Media Regulation Law.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights Law No. 149 of 2019, replacing Law No. 70/2017, claiming it aligns with international standards. However, independent assessments reveal that restrictive measures persist, as Law No. 149 continues to impose extensive control over NGO funding, registration, and operations. Additionally, other laws such as the Counter-Terrorism Law No. 94, the Anti-Cyber Crimes Law, and the Media Regulation Law impose severe restrictions on freedom of expression, often used to target HRDs, journalists, and activists.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should repeal or comprehensively amend restrictive laws, including the Counter-Terrorism Law No. 94, the Anti-Cyber Crimes Law, and the Media Regulation Law, to ensure they do not infringe on the rights of HRDs and civil society actors. The government should guarantee freedom of expression and association, aligning with international standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What specific steps has Egypt taken to amend or repeal restrictive laws that hinder HRD activities and restrict freedom of expression?
- How does Egypt ensure that HRDs, journalists, and activists are protected from arbitrary detention and restrictions under these laws?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Amend Article 22 of the Child Law to prevent children at the time of an alleged offense from being tried on capital offenses alongside adults.

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Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report does not specifically address Article 22 of the Child Law. Reports indicate that juveniles are still at risk of being prosecuted alongside adults in capital offense cases, raising serious concerns regarding compliance with international standards for the treatment of minors in the justice system.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend Article 22 of the Child Law to ensure that juveniles are never tried on capital offenses alongside adults. The government should establish specialized juvenile courts and alternative measures for young offenders in line with international child rights standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken any steps to amend Article 22 to protect juveniles from being tried alongside adults?
- What measures are in place to ensure that juveniles accused of capital offenses receive appropriate legal treatment and are not subject to adult court procedures?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Conduct investigations, in accordance with international standards, into excessive violence committed by military and security forces during demonstrations and ensure accountability for those responsible.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

The National Report asserts that Egypt's security forces operate under strict legal guidelines; however, independent reports indicate that excessive force continues to be used during demonstrations, with limited transparency or accountability for such incidents. There is no evidence of independent investigations into cases where excessive force by security or military personnel led to injuries or fatalities.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**Geneva office:**

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Recommendation 3: Egypt should establish independent investigative bodies to examine allegations of excessive violence by security forces during demonstrations. The government should ensure accountability for all cases where excessive force was used, bringing those responsible to justice and providing reparations to victims.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to investigate incidents involving excessive force by security personnel during demonstrations?
- How does Egypt ensure that those responsible for excessive violence against demonstrators are held accountable?

Conclusion

Belgium's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to protect human rights defenders, ensure appropriate treatment for juveniles in the justice system, and hold security forces accountable for excessive force during demonstrations. While Egypt's National Report highlights some legislative changes, significant gaps persist, particularly in repealing restrictive laws, amending the Child Law, and ensuring accountability for security abuses. The proposed recommendations for 2025 focus on legal reforms, accountability mechanisms, and protections aligned with international human rights standards.

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