

# **Report for Brazil: Egypt's 2019 UPR Recommendations and Proposed Actions for 2025**

**Geneva office:**

7 chemin de Balaxert, Châtelaine  
1219 Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 940 35 38

**Paris office:**

60, rue François 1er  
75008 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 6 85 03 50 85

**Gambia office:**

in front of the Independence Stadium  
Gate, Bakau Newtown, Gambia.  
Tel: +220 238 4045

Website: [www.cfjustice.org](http://www.cfjustice.org)E-Mail: [oc@cfjustice.org](mailto:oc@cfjustice.org)

X: @Cfjusticeorg

Facebook: Cfjusticeorg

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### **1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Consider a moratorium on the death penalty and a revision of sentences, with a view to the abolition of capital punishment.**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report defends the death penalty as constitutionally supported, emphasizing that it is applied with procedural safeguards. Despite this, Egypt remains one of the leading countries in terms of executions, including in cases with political overtones. There has been no indication of steps toward establishing a moratorium on the death penalty or re-evaluating current sentences, even though there is significant international pressure for Egypt to limit or abolish capital punishment.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 1:* Egypt should consider establishing an immediate moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its abolition. The government should also review all death penalty cases to ensure compliance with fair trial standards and offer commutations where appropriate.

#### **Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- What actions has Egypt taken to consider a moratorium on the death penalty and review of death penalty cases?
- How does Egypt ensure that death penalty sentences meet fair trial and due process standards?

### **2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Eliminate mentions of religion on identity cards to promote freedom of religion.**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report does not address the recommendation to remove religious identification from identity cards. Religious affiliation remains a mandatory field on Egyptian national ID cards, which has

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led to concerns regarding freedom of religion and potential discrimination. Human rights organizations have raised issues related to religious discrimination, particularly affecting minority religions.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 2:* Egypt should amend its national ID card policy to make the inclusion of religious affiliation optional, in order to promote freedom of religion and protect individuals from potential religious discrimination.

#### **Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- Has Egypt considered making religious identification on national ID cards optional?
- How does Egypt ensure that mandatory religious identification on ID cards does not lead to discrimination or infringement on freedom of religion?

### **3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Eliminate undue restrictions on the building and renovation of churches.**

#### **Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report references recent amendments aimed at facilitating church construction. However, reports indicate that building and renovating churches still face significant bureaucratic obstacles, including lengthy approval processes and local opposition. Restrictions on church construction disproportionately affect religious minorities and hinder their freedom of worship.

#### **Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 3:* Egypt should streamline the approval process for building and renovating churches, ensuring that it is free from undue restrictions or delays. The government should implement policies that respect religious freedom and prevent discrimination against religious minorities in construction approvals.

#### **Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:**

- What steps has Egypt taken to remove bureaucratic obstacles in the church construction approval process?

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- How does Egypt ensure that restrictions on church building and renovation do not infringe on religious freedom, particularly for minority religions?

## Conclusion

Brazil's 2019 recommendations to Egypt focused on establishing a moratorium on the death penalty, protecting freedom of religion, and ensuring equal treatment for all religious groups. While Egypt's National Report highlights procedural safeguards for the death penalty and amendments to facilitate church construction, key concerns remain, particularly regarding the visibility of religious identity on ID cards and the obstacles faced by religious minorities. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize Egypt's alignment with international human rights standards on freedom of religion and fair judicial practices.

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