

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Enact laws and public policies to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) and criminalize sexual harassment and violence against girls, adolescents, and women.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report mentions some initiatives aimed at addressing FGM, including awareness campaigns and limited legislative measures. However, FGM remains prevalent in certain regions, and enforcement of existing laws is inconsistent. Additionally, while there are some legal provisions on sexual harassment, comprehensive legislation that addresses all forms of violence against women and girls remains lacking, limiting access to justice for victims.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should enact comprehensive laws criminalizing all forms of FGM, sexual harassment, and violence against women and girls, with strict penalties and effective enforcement mechanisms. Public policies should focus on eradicating FGM and raising awareness about the legal and health consequences of gender-based violence.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What specific steps has Egypt taken to strengthen legal protections against FGM and sexual harassment?
- How does Egypt ensure enforcement of FGM-related laws and protection for victims of gender-based violence?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Strengthen criminal procedures to safeguard the right to defense and to due process.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

The National Report asserts that Egypt's judicial system operates in accordance with fair trial standards. However, reports indicate that pretrial detention is often prolonged, access to legal representation can be limited, and mass trials continue to occur, raising concerns about compliance

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with due process rights. In many cases, defendants face obstacles in preparing a defense or receiving timely trials, particularly in politically sensitive cases.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend its criminal procedures to ensure that all defendants have timely access to legal representation, the right to prepare an adequate defense, and safeguards against prolonged pretrial detention. Mass trials should be abolished to uphold individual rights to a fair and independent trial.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What actions has Egypt taken to address prolonged pretrial detention and ensure fair trial standards?
- How does Egypt ensure that defendants have access to legal representation and the ability to prepare a defense?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Establish a moratorium on executions and work towards eradicating the death penalty.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report defends the death penalty as constitutionally supported, with procedural safeguards. However, Egypt continues to be one of the leading countries in executions, with death sentences often issued in cases with political implications. No steps have been taken toward establishing a moratorium, despite repeated calls from the international community.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its eventual abolition. The government should review current death penalty cases to ensure fair trial standards and consider commutations where appropriate.

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Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt considered establishing a moratorium on the death penalty?
- What mechanisms are in place to review death penalty cases for compliance with fair trial standards?

4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Establish an independent authority to investigate allegations of torture, enforced disappearance, and ill-treatment.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

The National Report mentions general efforts to improve detention conditions but does not indicate the establishment of an independent authority to investigate human rights abuses. Reports of torture, enforced disappearances, and ill-treatment in detention facilities continue, with limited accountability. The lack of independent oversight has led to insufficient investigation and transparency regarding such allegations.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should establish an independent oversight authority to investigate allegations of torture, enforced disappearance, and ill-treatment, ensuring that it operates with full transparency and accountability. This authority should have the power to hold perpetrators accountable and provide justice for victims.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to create an independent body to investigate allegations of torture and enforced disappearance?
- How does Egypt ensure transparency and accountability for cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities?

5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Bring an immediate end to the practice of torture and ill-treatment in all places of detention.**Geneva office:**

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Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report refers to training programs for law enforcement on human rights, but reports continue to document torture and ill-treatment within detention facilities. The lack of effective mechanisms for monitoring and addressing these abuses prevents meaningful reform and accountability, allowing such practices to persist with minimal oversight.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 5: Egypt should implement a zero-tolerance policy on torture and establish independent monitoring in all detention facilities. The government should ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated promptly, perpetrators are held accountable, and victims receive access to justice and redress.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt taken to prevent torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities?
- How does Egypt ensure that allegations of torture are investigated, and what support is provided to victims?

Conclusion

Costa Rica's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to adopt comprehensive protections against FGM and gender-based violence, strengthen fair trial standards, end the death penalty, and ensure independent investigations of torture and ill-treatment. While Egypt's National Report highlights some improvements, substantial gaps persist. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize the need for legal reform, independent oversight, and accountability mechanisms aligned with international human rights standards.

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