

# **Report for Czechia: 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

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

### **1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Improve the access of observers to the election process and review and amend legislation governing freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, in line with international human rights law.**

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

Egypt's National Report asserts that election processes are conducted transparently and mentions constitutional protections for freedom of expression, association, and assembly. However, observers report limited access to the electoral process, and several restrictive laws, including the Protest Law and NGO Law, continue to impede free expression and assembly. These restrictions hinder the ability of civil society and independent monitors to oversee elections and limit the rights of citizens to freely express political opinions.

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

*Recommendation 1:* Egypt should ensure unrestricted access for independent observers throughout the election process. The government should also amend restrictive laws, such as the Protest Law and NGO Law, to fully protect freedoms of expression, association, and assembly in line with international standards.

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

- What steps has Egypt taken to ensure full access for observers in the electoral process?
- How does Egypt plan to amend laws restricting freedoms of expression, association, and assembly?

### **2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Facilitate the work of civil society by amending the relevant restrictive legislation.**

**Geneva office:**

7 chemin de Balexert, 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

**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

The National Report highlights the enactment of Law No. 149 of 2019, which replaced the prior NGO law. However, independent assessments indicate that this new law continues to impose significant restrictions on civil society, particularly concerning funding, registration, and operational independence. Human rights defenders and civil society organizations still face asset freezes, travel bans, and limitations on funding sources, which restrict their ability to operate freely.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 2:* Egypt should revise Law No. 149 of 2019 to remove restrictive provisions, ensuring that civil society organizations can operate independently and without undue government interference. The government should eliminate arbitrary asset freezes and travel bans imposed on civil society actors.

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

- Has Egypt taken steps to amend Law No. 149 to facilitate the work of civil society?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure civil society organizations can operate freely without fear of reprisal?

**3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee the right to a fair trial in accordance with international obligations and end all military trials of civilians.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report claims adherence to fair trial standards, but independent reports indicate that military courts continue to try civilians, especially in cases involving political dissidents. Military trials typically lack transparency and often fall short of international fair trial standards, raising concerns about defendants' access to justice and legal representation.

**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

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 3:* Egypt should amend its laws to prohibit the trial of civilians in military courts and ensure that all defendants are tried in civilian courts under fair trial standards. The government should establish mechanisms to guarantee transparency and access to legal representation for all defendants.

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

- What steps has Egypt taken to end the practice of trying civilians in military courts?
- How does Egypt ensure that all defendants receive fair trials in line with international standards?

**4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition.****Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report defends the death penalty as constitutionally supported, emphasizing procedural safeguards. However, Egypt continues to have one of the highest execution rates globally, often in politically sensitive cases. There has been no move toward establishing a moratorium, despite international recommendations.

**Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:**

*Recommendation 4:* Egypt should establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a preliminary step toward abolition. The government should review existing death penalty cases to ensure compliance with fair trial standards, particularly in cases with potential political motivations.

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

- Has Egypt considered imposing a moratorium on the death penalty as a step toward eventual abolition?
- What review mechanisms exist to ensure fair trial standards are met in death penalty cases?

**5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), establish a national preventive mechanism, and cooperate with the****Geneva office:**

7 chemin de Balexert, 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

## **Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.**

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

Egypt has not ratified OPCAT, and there is no national preventive mechanism for monitoring detention facilities independently. Reports of torture and mistreatment in detention facilities persist, with limited accountability for perpetrators. Egypt has not extended an invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, nor established effective oversight mechanisms to prevent abuse.

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

*Recommendation 5:* Egypt should ratify OPCAT, establish a national preventive mechanism for monitoring detention conditions, and cooperate fully with the UN Special Rapporteur on torture. Independent oversight is essential to prevent abuse and ensure accountability for violations.

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

- Has Egypt taken any steps toward ratifying OPCAT and establishing a national preventive mechanism?
- What measures are in place to ensure transparency and accountability regarding allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities?

## **Conclusion**

Czechia's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to improve election transparency, enhance freedoms for civil society, end military trials for civilians, and take steps toward abolishing the death penalty and preventing torture. While Egypt's National Report highlights procedural reforms, substantial gaps remain. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize Egypt's need to implement legal reforms and establish independent oversight to protect human rights in line with international standards.

#### **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