

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: End arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances, and ensure the accountability of those responsible.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights general commitments to rule of law and human rights, yet reports of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances persist. HRDs, journalists, and activists are particularly vulnerable to such practices, which often occur without due process. Addressing these issues requires independent oversight mechanisms and transparent investigations to hold perpetrators accountable.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should take immediate steps to end arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances by establishing independent oversight and investigation mechanisms. Transparent reporting and accountability measures should be implemented to address these violations.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt taken to eliminate arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances?
- How does Egypt ensure accountability for security forces involved in such practices?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Protect the rights of detainees by ensuring access to legal representation, medical care, and family visits.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report claims adherence to humane treatment standards, but detainees often face restricted access to legal representation, medical care, and family contact. Reports of overcrowded facilities and lack of medical care underscore the need for systemic reforms to ensure compliance with international detention standards.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should ensure that all detainees have guaranteed access to legal representation, adequate medical care, and family visits. Independent monitoring of detention facilities should be implemented to address violations.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to improve detainees' access to legal representation, medical care, and family visits?
- How does Egypt monitor detention conditions to ensure compliance with international standards?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee freedom of expression and protect journalists, human rights defenders, and activists from harassment, arbitrary detention, and violence.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report emphasizes constitutional protections for freedom of expression, yet restrictive laws and practices, including censorship, detention, and harassment of journalists and HRDs, continue to undermine these rights. Legislative reforms and legal protections are necessary to ensure the safe exercise of freedom of expression.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should revise restrictive laws to guarantee freedom of expression, both online and offline, and ensure that journalists, HRDs, and activists are protected from harassment, detention, and violence.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What legislative reforms has Egypt undertaken to protect freedom of expression?
- How does Egypt ensure the safety of journalists and HRDs from harassment and arbitrary detention?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and establish independent mechanisms to investigate and prevent torture.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has yet to ratify OPCAT, despite ongoing reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities. Establishing independent monitoring mechanisms and ratifying OPCAT would enhance Egypt's compliance with international human rights obligations and prevent future violations.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should ratify OPCAT and create independent national preventive mechanisms to monitor detention facilities and address allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps toward ratifying OPCAT?
- What mechanisms are in place to independently investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment?

Conclusion

Ireland's 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to address arbitrary detention, protect freedom of expression, and prevent torture and ill-treatment in detention. While Egypt's National Report notes general commitments, significant gaps remain in implementation and compliance with international standards. The proposed actions for 2025 emphasize the importance of independent oversight, legislative reforms, and protective mechanisms to uphold human rights and ensure accountability.

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