

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Protect freedom of expression and media independence, ensuring the safety of journalists.

How Egypt addressed this from 2019 (as per National Report):

The National Report emphasizes Egypt's constitutional commitment to freedom of expression and highlights the establishment of oversight bodies like the Supreme Council for Media Regulation. Egypt states it has taken measures to regulate media activities to prevent the spread of misinformation and to protect national security. However, the report does not address the concerns regarding the safety of journalists, nor does it acknowledge the restrictive impact of media laws on free reporting, particularly concerning political issues.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should revise existing media and counterterrorism laws to protect journalists' rights and media independence. An independent monitoring body should be established to investigate threats and attacks against journalists, ensuring accountability for perpetrators. Egypt should also allow international media organizations to operate freely without interference or restrictions.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

Given the continuing crackdown on journalists, what steps has Egypt taken to revise media and counterterrorism laws to safeguard freedom of expression and protect journalists from harassment and arbitrary detention?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Take effective measures to combat torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities.

How Egypt addressed this from 2019 (as per National Report):

The National Report claims that progress has been made in improving detention conditions, highlighting the construction of new "rehabilitation centers" designed to meet international standards for humane treatment. Egypt asserts that it has implemented training programs for police and prison staff to prevent mistreatment. However, we note that these initiatives have not sufficiently addressed issues of torture and ill-treatment, which remain prevalent, particularly in politically sensitive cases. Additionally, the report does not provide specific statistics or independent evaluations of the new facilities.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should implement a zero-tolerance policy on torture, with immediate independent investigations into all allegations. The government should adopt legal reforms aligned with the Convention Against Torture, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable. All detention facilities should meet international standards for humane treatment.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

What concrete actions has Egypt taken to prevent torture in detention facilities and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for acts of torture or ill-treatment?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Strengthen protections against gender-based violence and discrimination, including legal reforms addressing violence against women and girls.**How Egypt addressed this from 2019 (as per National Report):**

Egypt's National Report highlights the formation of a committee tasked with reviewing the Personal Status Law and other measures aimed at protecting women's rights. Additionally, the report refers to the National Strategy for Women's Empowerment 2030 as a framework for promoting gender equality. However, no specific legal protections against domestic violence or reforms to address discriminatory laws were mentioned. There is also no evidence of substantial progress in passing new legislation to protect women from violence and discrimination.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should enact comprehensive legislation to criminalize all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence. The government should reform personal status laws to align with international standards on gender equality and ensure that law enforcement agencies are adequately trained to address gender-based violence.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

What specific steps has Egypt taken to criminalize domestic violence and ensure that personal status laws provide equal protection for women?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Enhance the independence of the judiciary and ensure fair trial standards for all, particularly in politically motivated cases.

How Egypt addressed this from 2019 (as per National Report):

The National Report states that Egypt has taken steps to strengthen the judiciary's role by providing training programs to judges on international legal standards. It mentions that judicial reforms aim to improve access to justice and uphold the rule of law. However, the report does not address concerns about executive interference in politically motivated cases or the use of extended pretrial detention as a punitive measure. There is no mention of reforms to ensure fair trial standards or the independence of the judiciary in sensitive cases.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should ensure the independence of the judiciary by implementing reforms that prohibit executive interference in judicial decisions. Additionally, fair trial standards must be upheld in all cases, with particular attention to politically sensitive cases, guaranteeing defendants' rights to legal representation and timely judicial processes.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

What measures has Egypt introduced to ensure judicial independence and uphold fair trial standards in politically motivated cases?

Conclusion

Italy's 2019 recommendations emphasized the need for Egypt to uphold freedom of expression, combat torture, protect women's rights, and ensure judicial independence. While the National Report claims progress in these areas, significant gaps remain, particularly in terms of concrete legislative reforms and the implementation of effective protections for vulnerable groups. The proposed recommendations for 2025 seek to address these gaps, urging Egypt to take stronger, measurable actions to align with its international human rights obligations.

By implementing these recommendations, Egypt would better support vulnerable populations, promote a fairer judicial system, and strengthen protections for civil society and media freedom.

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