

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

Geneva office:

7 chemin de Balxert, 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.orgE-Mail: oc@cfjustice.org

X: @Cfjusticeorg

Facebook: Cfjusticeorg

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Release all persons detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, online and offline, association, and assembly, in line with international human rights obligations.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report asserts its commitment to constitutional rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. However, many activists, journalists, and HRDs remain detained for exercising these rights. Restrictions, such as travel bans, asset freezes, and legal obstacles, continue to impede the work of HRDs and civil society organizations. These ongoing measures highlight challenges to Egypt's alignment with international human rights obligations and its treatment of peaceful dissent.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should release all individuals detained for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The government should remove restrictions, such as travel bans and asset freezes, imposed on HRDs, activists, and civil society members, and ensure that peaceful activism is protected under international human rights standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to release individuals detained for peaceful expression, association, and assembly?
- How does Egypt ensure the protection of HRDs and activists from legal and administrative restrictions that limit their work?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: End the practice of entrapment and subsequent arrest and prosecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report does not address specific protections for individuals targeted based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Reports indicate that police continue to engage in entrapment tactics, often using online platforms, to arrest and prosecute LGBTQ+ individuals under "debauchery" and

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“indecent” laws. These practices contribute to human rights abuses, including harassment, arbitrary detention, and mistreatment of individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should cease entrapment practices targeting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity and amend relevant laws to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations. Training programs should be implemented for law enforcement to protect the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt implemented to prevent entrapment and ensure the protection of LGBTQ+ individuals?
- How does Egypt address reports of arrests and prosecutions based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Conclusion

The Netherlands’ 2019 recommendations urged Egypt to protect freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, release detained activists, and end entrapment practices based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While Egypt’s National Report acknowledges certain freedoms, significant gaps remain, particularly concerning restrictions on HRDs, activists, and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize the need for comprehensive legal protections in line with Egypt’s international obligations.

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