

Report for New Zealand: 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: Increase support for family planning and reproductive life skills.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report mentions initiatives in health and family planning, but comprehensive programs targeting reproductive health education and family planning support remain limited. Many communities, particularly in rural areas, lack access to reproductive health resources and education, which impacts women's health and autonomy.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should expand access to family planning services and reproductive health education, focusing on rural and underserved areas. Increased funding and targeted programs are essential to ensure that women and families can make informed choices about reproductive health.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to expand family planning and reproductive health services to underserved areas?
- How does Egypt ensure that reproductive life skills education is accessible to all, particularly in rural communities?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Foster an environment conducive to an active civil society, including by unblocking news and social media websites.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report acknowledges some protections for civil society, but restrictive laws and continued blocking of news and social media websites impede free expression. Many civil society organizations (CSOs) and independent media outlets face challenges in operating freely, and internet censorship limits access to independent information sources.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend restrictive laws to foster a supportive environment for civil society and remove blocks on news and social media websites. Ensuring freedom of information and expression is essential for a vibrant civil society.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt implemented to unblock news and social media websites?
- How does Egypt ensure that civil society organizations can operate independently and without undue restrictions?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ensure that all prisoners are provided with the minimum standards of humane treatment, including protection from all forms of torture.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report claims adherence to humane treatment standards in detention facilities. However, reports from human rights organizations highlight ongoing issues with overcrowding, lack of medical care, and instances of torture and ill-treatment in prisons. Strengthening oversight mechanisms is necessary to protect prisoners' rights and prevent abuse.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should implement independent oversight mechanisms for detention facilities to ensure compliance with humane treatment standards and prevent torture. Transparency in detention conditions and accountability for violations are critical for safeguarding prisoners' rights.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to improve conditions and prevent torture in detention facilities?
- How does Egypt ensure transparency and accountability in addressing allegations of abuse in prisons?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Cease immediately the use of the death penalty for those under the age of 18 years at the time of offending.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report emphasizes adherence to fair trial standards, yet reports indicate that individuals who were minors at the time of their alleged offenses have been sentenced to death. This practice contravenes international norms, which prohibit the death penalty for minors.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should immediately cease the use of the death penalty for individuals who were minors at the time of the offense and review existing cases to ensure compliance with international standards on juvenile justice.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What mechanisms has Egypt established to ensure that minors are not sentenced to death?
- How does Egypt review death penalty cases to confirm that no individuals who were minors at the time of their offense face capital punishment?

5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Cease immediately the use of the death penalty.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report defends the use of the death penalty, citing procedural safeguards, but Egypt remains one of the countries with the highest rates of executions. No steps have been taken towards establishing a moratorium, and the scope of capital punishment has not been restricted.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 5: Egypt should establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step toward its eventual abolition. The government should conduct reviews of death penalty cases to ensure compliance with fair trial standards.

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Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt considered implementing a moratorium on the death penalty?
- How does Egypt review death penalty cases to ensure fair trial standards are met?

6. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report mentions engagement with some UN bodies, but Egypt has not extended a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders. Such an invitation would demonstrate Egypt's commitment to transparency and accountability in human rights practices.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 6: Egypt should extend a standing invitation to all UN special procedure mandate holders, allowing them to conduct independent assessments and strengthen Egypt's engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt taken steps toward extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders?
- How does Egypt ensure cooperation with international human rights mechanisms?

Conclusion

New Zealand's 2019 recommendations encouraged Egypt to enhance support for reproductive health, protect civil society and press freedoms, uphold humane treatment in prisons, and move towards abolishing the death penalty. Egypt's National Report shows limited progress in these areas, and significant reforms are needed. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize strengthening legal protections, ensuring transparency, and expanding international cooperation.

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