

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Stop the practice of attacks on freedom of opinion and expression, especially those related to the arrest of journalists and the blocking of access to news websites and well-known sources of information.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report emphasizes constitutional protections for freedom of expression; however, restrictive laws and practices persist, with journalists facing arrests and independent news websites remaining blocked. These restrictions hinder access to information and stifle dissent, impacting Egypt's commitment to freedom of expression.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should remove restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression by unblocking news websites and releasing journalists detained for their work. Laws impacting media freedom should be revised to align with international human rights standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What measures has Egypt taken to unblock news websites and protect journalists' rights?
- How does Egypt ensure that freedom of expression, both online and offline, is protected?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Amend the anti-terrorism law to bring it into line with international human rights standards.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report highlights the importance of anti-terrorism efforts, yet Law No. 94/2015's broad definitions have been used to restrict civil liberties, particularly targeting activists, HRDs, and journalists. Aligning this law with international standards would prevent the misuse of counter-terrorism measures to limit fundamental rights.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should revise the anti-terrorism law to narrow its definitions and ensure it aligns with international human rights standards. Safeguards should be implemented to prevent the misuse of this law to target peaceful activists and journalists.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What actions has Egypt taken to amend the anti-terrorism law in line with international standards?
- How does Egypt prevent the misuse of anti-terrorism laws to restrict fundamental freedoms?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Release all those detained because of their political views, stop acts of torture and cruel treatment to obtain confessions or to punish them, investigate these practices, and prosecute those responsible.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report claims adherence to fair treatment standards; however, reports indicate that political detainees continue to experience torture and mistreatment. Arbitrary detentions and forced confessions remain concerns. Addressing these issues requires stronger accountability and enforcement mechanisms to prevent and prosecute instances of abuse.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should release individuals detained solely for their political views and establish independent investigations into allegations of torture and mistreatment. Mechanisms for accountability and transparency should be strengthened to ensure fair treatment in detention facilities.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to release political detainees and ensure their fair treatment?
- How does Egypt investigate and prosecute cases of torture and mistreatment in detention facilities?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Provide training programs for police officers, military officers, National Security officers, prison guards, prosecutors, and judges, so they can adhere to human rights norms in performing their duties.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report does not provide specific details on human rights training for law enforcement and judicial officers. Implementing comprehensive training programs focused on human rights principles is essential to prevent abuse, protect detainees, and uphold the rule of law.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should implement mandatory human rights training for all law enforcement, security personnel, and judiciary members. These programs should be regularly updated to ensure adherence to international human rights standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What training programs does Egypt currently offer to law enforcement and judiciary members on human rights standards?
- How does Egypt ensure that training programs are effective in preventing abuse and upholding human rights?

5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Stop arbitrary deprivation of life and guarantee fair trial, particularly for those accused of crimes punishable by death.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report asserts compliance with fair trial standards, yet reports of arbitrary detentions, mass trials, and death sentences raise concerns about the protection of due process. Strengthening fair trial standards, particularly in death penalty cases, is critical for upholding justice and preventing wrongful convictions.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 5: Egypt should guarantee fair trials for all detainees, with special emphasis on those facing the death penalty. Independent oversight should be established to monitor compliance with fair trial standards and prevent arbitrary detentions.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- How does Egypt ensure that all detainees, especially those facing the death penalty, receive fair trials?
- What oversight mechanisms are in place to prevent arbitrary detention and monitor adherence to fair trial standards?

6. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Adopt necessary measures to eliminate discrimination and foster access to education for vulnerable groups.**Egypt's Response Since 2019:**

Egypt's National Report mentions efforts in education reform, but vulnerable groups, including minorities and economically disadvantaged communities, continue to face barriers in accessing quality education. Addressing these inequalities requires targeted measures to ensure equal opportunities in educational resources and support.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 6: Egypt should implement targeted policies to eliminate discrimination in education and increase access for vulnerable groups, particularly in marginalized regions. Financial support, infrastructure development, and inclusive educational programs are essential to achieving equitable access.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to ensure equitable access to education for vulnerable and marginalized groups?
- How does Egypt address discrimination in educational institutions and ensure inclusivity?

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Conclusion

Qatar's 2019 recommendations encouraged Egypt to uphold freedom of expression, prevent abuses in detention, ensure fair trials, and enhance access to education for vulnerable groups. Egypt's National Report indicates limited progress, and more robust reforms are needed. The proposed recommendations for 2025 emphasize targeted legal protections, fair trials, and equitable education access to align with international human rights standards.

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