

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

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1. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ensure that a prompt, impartial, thorough, and transparent investigation is carried out by an independent body to clarify the cause of death of the late President Morsi.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report does not provide specific information on an independent investigation into the death of former President Mohamed Morsi. His death raised international concerns about conditions in detention facilities, including inadequate medical care and harsh treatment. Ensuring transparent and independent investigations would demonstrate Egypt's commitment to accountability and humane treatment of detainees.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 1: Egypt should establish an independent commission to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the death of former President Morsi and other cases of alleged mistreatment in detention facilities. Findings should be made public, and any responsible parties held accountable.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to conduct an independent investigation into the death of former President Morsi?
- How does Egypt ensure accountability for cases of alleged mistreatment in detention facilities?

2. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Guarantee the right to a fair trial and limit the jurisdiction of military courts to military cases.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report asserts adherence to fair trial standards, but the use of military courts to try civilians, especially in politically sensitive cases, remains a concern. Restricting military court jurisdiction to military personnel only would align with international fair trial standards and ensure civilian cases are handled in independent civilian courts.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 2: Egypt should amend its laws to restrict the jurisdiction of military courts to cases involving only military personnel. Independent oversight should be implemented to ensure civilians receive fair trials in civilian courts.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What legislative changes has Egypt considered to restrict military court jurisdiction to military personnel only?
- How does Egypt ensure that civilians receive fair trials in independent civilian courts?

3. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Consider a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition, and ensure that all death sentences are reviewed.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report defends the use of the death penalty, citing procedural safeguards. However, Egypt remains one of the countries with the highest execution rates, and there has been no indication of a moratorium or steps towards limiting its application. Establishing a moratorium would signal a commitment to gradually abolish capital punishment in line with global human rights standards.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 3: Egypt should establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step toward its eventual abolition. All death sentences should be reviewed to ensure compliance with fair trial standards, and cases of minors and political detainees should be given special consideration.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt considered implementing a moratorium on the death penalty?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure fair trial standards in all death penalty cases?

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4. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Promptly and effectively investigate any allegations of torture or ill-treatment in detention, and take effective legislative, administrative, judicial, or other measures to prevent such acts.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report emphasizes humane treatment in detention facilities, yet reports from human rights organizations indicate continued instances of torture and ill-treatment. Effective investigations and accountability measures are essential to address these issues and prevent further abuses.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 4: Egypt should establish independent mechanisms to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention, with transparent reporting and accountability for perpetrators. Legislative reforms should be enacted to prevent torture and to uphold detainees' rights.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What independent mechanisms has Egypt implemented to investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment?
- How does Egypt ensure accountability and transparency in cases of mistreatment within detention facilities?

5. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), cease the practice of pretrial detention, and ensure that detainees have access to medical care, their lawyers, and their relatives.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt has yet to ratify OPCAT, which would require it to establish a national preventive mechanism for independent monitoring of detention facilities. Additionally, pretrial detention is commonly used, with limited access to medical care, legal counsel, and family visits for detainees, raising concerns about fair treatment and access to justice.

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Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 5: Egypt should ratify OPCAT, limit the use of pretrial detention, and guarantee detainees access to medical care, legal counsel, and family members. Independent oversight mechanisms should be created to ensure compliance with detainees' rights.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- Has Egypt made progress toward ratifying OPCAT and establishing independent oversight for detention facilities?
- What steps has Egypt taken to ensure fair treatment and access to care for detainees?

6. Recommendation in 2019 UPR: Take immediate measures to assume its obligations under international law to respect and protect human rights.

Egypt's Response Since 2019:

Egypt's National Report reiterates a commitment to human rights, but reports from independent organizations suggest gaps in meeting international obligations, particularly regarding freedoms of expression, assembly, and protection from torture. Strengthening compliance with international law would demonstrate Egypt's dedication to human rights standards.

Proposed New Recommendation for 2025:

Recommendation 6: Egypt should align its domestic laws and practices with its international human rights obligations, including those related to freedom of expression, assembly, and prevention of torture. Transparent monitoring and reporting mechanisms should be established to assess compliance with international standards.

Proposed Questions in Advance for 2025 UPR:

- What steps has Egypt taken to strengthen its compliance with international human rights obligations?
- How does Egypt monitor and report on its adherence to international human rights standards?

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Conclusion

Türkiye's 2019 recommendations highlighted the need for Egypt to improve its legal and human rights framework, with an emphasis on fair trials, prevention of torture, and international compliance. Egypt's National Report outlines general commitments, but further reforms are essential to ensure accountability and protection for all citizens. The proposed recommendations for 2025 underscore the need for transparency, legal protections, and alignment with international human rights obligations.

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