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ACHPR Country Briefing Report	
Country	EGYPT
Date	October 2025 – April 2026

# **EGYPT:**

## **ACHPR COUNTRY BRIEFING REPORT:**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND VIOLATIONS**

### **OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER**

### **(OCTOBER 2025 – APRIL 2026)**

**COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE**  
**(CFJ)**

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## 1. Introduction

The present report is submitted with the objective of monitoring, documenting, and assessing patterns of human rights violations observed in Egypt over the period extending from October 2025 to April 2026. It aims to provide a comprehensive and evidence-based overview of the legal, institutional, and practical developments affecting civil, political, and socio-economic rights in the country during this timeframe.

This report is prepared by the Committee for Justice as part of its ongoing engagement with regional and international human rights mechanisms, the report focuses on key thematic areas of concern, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, denial of fair trial guarantees, torture and ill-treatment, reprisals against human rights defenders, and violations of labor and migrant rights. The report draws on CFJ's primary documentation and monitoring work—including verified testimonies, legal records, and collected data—as well as on official reports, international communications, and relevant legislative developments. The analysis is structured to reflect both Egypt's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its recent interactions with regional and UN human rights mechanisms. Particular attention is given to the gap between Egypt's formal legal commitments and the reality on the ground, highlighting the systemic nature of violations and the institutional practices that sustain them.

This report is prepared and submitted in the spirit of constructive engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with the hope of contributing to increased accountability, informed advocacy, and strengthened protection for victims of human rights violations in Egypt.

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## 2. Legal and Institutional Framework

### a. Reporting Obligations under the African Charter:

Egypt has been a signatory to the African Charter since 16 November 1981 and ratified the Charter on 20 March 1984. Since Egypt's date of ratification of the African Charter, it has sent only 5 Periodic Reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; namely: 1992 – 2001, 2005, 2019, and 2025. The last report in 2025, Egypt combined reports covering the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> reporting periods. The African Commission acknowledged Egypt's efforts in fulfilling its reporting obligations in the preparation of the report. As of the latest reporting cycle, Egypt has no overdue reports pending submission to the Commission.

As a State Party to the African Charter, Egypt is under a legal obligation to "undertake to submit every two years, a report on the legislative or other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed by the present Charter".<sup>1</sup> These reports are to be submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "African Commission"), based in Banjul, The Gambia. The African Commission, through Articles 45 and 62 of the African Charter is mandated with the powers to promote human rights in African Member States, through amongst others, the receipt and examination of States' reports in fulfilment of their human rights obligations under the African Charter.

State Reports represent a crucial benchmark through which the African Commission can fulfill its mandate to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. Consequently, this places an unwavering obligation on Egypt "to adopt legislative and other measures to give effect" to the "rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the African Charter"<sup>2</sup> and report on such measures in a periodic manner to the African Commission. Contrary to misconceived impressions – often propagated by State officials, State Reports are not a witch-hunt exercise designed to serve as an opportunity for shame or ridicule of any State, rather, they serve as a viable opportunity for States' accountability and strengthened cooperation and partnership with the African Commission. Hence, these reports represent "the urgent desire [...] to create a channel for constructive dialogue"<sup>3</sup> on the measures that a State Party, in this case – Egypt – has adopted in compliance with the provisions of the African Charter.

<sup>1</sup> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Adopted 27 June 1981, OAU Doc. CAB/LEG/67/3 rev. 5, 21 I.L.M. 58 (1982), entered into force 21 October 1986, Article 62.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Article 1.

<sup>3</sup> National State Reporting Guidelines 1988, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

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## **b. National Legal Provisions Related to Detention, Fair Trial, Freedom from Torture, Migrants' Rights, and Workers' Rights**

The Egyptian Constitution enacted in 2014, and other key national legislation provide formal recognition of several fundamental rights relevant to detention, fair trial, the prohibition of torture, the protection of migrants, and workers' rights. However, the gaps between these guarantees and actual practice, as well as inconsistencies with Egypt's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international treaties, remain stark.

Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that "all those who are arrested or whose freedom is restricted shall be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity, and they may not be tortured, terrorized, or coerced." Article 54 guarantees personal freedom and sets forth protections against arbitrary arrest and detention, requiring that detention be judicially reviewed. However, we documented several cases in the past few months of gross violations of these constitutional rights.

In principle, Egypt's legal framework also recognizes rights for migrants and asylum seekers. Egypt ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. However, the recently adopted Asylum Law introduces serious concerns<sup>4</sup>. The law grants broad discretionary powers to the national Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs, imposes arbitrary deadlines for asylum applications based on mode of entry, restricts access to appeals, and limits refugee rights in ways that are inconsistent with Egypt's international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the African Charter.

Additionally, national legislation such as the Emergency Law, the Counterterrorism Law (Law No. 94 of 2015), and amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code have systematically weakened the guarantees of liberty, due process, and protection from torture, often in the name of national security. Despite the constitutional prohibition of torture and assurances of fair trial rights, domestic criminal procedure laws—particularly the extensive use of pre-trial detention, rotation ("tadweer") of cases, incommunicado detention, and State Security Emergency Prosecution have undermined the effective protection of these rights. For instance, from January 2025 until April 2025 we monitored 621 cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, trials, and administrative detention. Most of them were investigated by the Supreme State Security Prosecution under the pretext of national security using counterterrorism law No.94 of 2015, and similar charges were used in most cases, such as spreading false news or joining a banned group.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cfjustice.org/egypt-cfj-and-the-global-detention-project-gdp-submit-urgent-appeal-to-un-mechanisms-regarding-the-risks-of-the-new-asylum-law/>

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Egypt's formal institutional architecture for the protection of human rights includes the judiciary, the Public Prosecution, and the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), established under Law No. 94 of 2003, and amended by Law No. 197 of 2017. The Judiciary is constitutionally recognized as independent, yet in practice, the judiciary in Egypt has faced significant criticisms for lack of independence, especially in politically sensitive cases. State Security Emergency Prosecution and terrorism courts continue to operate, often depriving defendants of due process guarantees. The Public Prosecution: Instead of acting as an impartial body upholding the rights of detainees, the Public Prosecution has frequently been implicated in facilitating extended pretrial detention, disregarding allegations of torture, and legitimizing enforced disappearances.

National Council for Human Rights (NCHR): While it remains the country's main human rights body, the NCHR suffers from structural weaknesses, lack of full independence, and limited ability to investigate serious violations. Its periodic reports rarely address the most egregious violations, and it often operates within parameters set by the executive authorities.

The right to work under equitable and satisfactory conditions is enshrined in Article 15 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, to which Egypt is a State Party. Nationally, the Egyptian Constitution of 2014 guarantees several labor rights, including fair wages, safe working conditions, the right to form unions, and protection against arbitrary dismissal (Articles 12, 13, and 14). However, the domestic legislative and institutional frameworks, as well as the actual practices on the ground, continue to fall short of these constitutional and international guarantees.

### c. Contradictions Between National Laws and Charter Obligations

Despite the presence of constitutional and legislative protections, profound inconsistencies persist between Egypt's domestic legal framework and its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly Articles 5, 6, and 7. Although torture is explicitly prohibited by the Constitution, legislative instruments such as the Criminal Procedure Code and the Counterterrorism Law permit practices—such as prolonged incommunicado detention and the denial of prompt judicial review—that create conditions conducive to torture and ill-treatment. Similarly, the use of vague legal provisions criminalizing activities like “spreading false news” or “belonging to banned groups” has facilitated the widespread practice of arbitrary arrests and detentions, in violation of the right to liberty and security of person enshrined in Article 6 of the African Charter. The guarantees of fair trial under Article 7 are equally undermined by the extensive recourse to exceptional courts, such as the Terrorism Circuits of the Criminal Court, and by the practice of “case recycling” to prolong pretrial detention beyond legal limits without proper judicial oversight.

Furthermore, the adoption of the 2024 Asylum Law has severely restricted access to asylum procedures, imposed discriminatory timelines based on the mode of entry, and failed to establish effective mechanisms for appeal, thereby

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contravening Egypt's obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and Article 12 of the African Charter. In conclusion, although Egypt's legal texts articulate important rights protections, the gap between law and practice remains wide. Systemic shortcomings in implementation, coupled with the enactment of new restrictive laws, continue to undermine the effective enjoyment of fundamental rights by detainees, migrants, asylum seekers, and victims of torture and ill-treatment.

Egypt's review before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during its 85th Ordinary Session in October 2025 provides important context for the present report. However, rather than marking a meaningful turning point, that review was followed by continued documentation of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, deaths in custody, and reprisals against defenders and lawyers. Both the Egyptian government's presentation and the country rapporteur's report excluded or minimized key violations and failed to reflect the gravity of the human rights crisis in the country.

### 3. Main Violations Identified

During the reporting period from October 2025 to mid-April 2026, the human rights situation in Egypt remained marked by systematic patterns of repression, particularly against political detainees, prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, workers, and migrants and refugees. These violations were neither isolated nor exceptional. Rather, they reflected the continued misuse of counter-terrorism legislation, the normalization of prolonged deprivation of liberty, the erosion of fair trial guarantees, and the persistence of impunity for torture, deaths in custody, and detention-related abuse. Between October 2025 and mid-April 2026, CFJ monitored 922 violations, including 808 violations involving deprivation of liberty, 653 cases of arbitrary detention, 155 cases involving repeated arrest or recycling into new cases with similar charges, 144 cases of enforced disappearance, 31 cases of torture, 42 cases of denial of medical care, 32 cases of poor detention conditions, 3 cases of arbitrary solitary confinement, 10 campaigns involving the confiscation of detainees' basic belongings, and 35 cases of extrajudicial killings. Of the latter, 29 deaths resulted from denied medical care or medical negligence, while six followed torture. Geographically, the highest number of documented violations was recorded in Al-Sharqia Governorate with 482 violations, followed by 80 violations in Cairo.

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## A. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention

Arbitrary arrest and detention remained one of the Egyptian authorities' primary tools of repression during the reporting period, in violation of Article 6 of the African Charter. Throughout this period, security bodies and prosecutorial authorities continued to rely on vague accusations such as "joining a terrorist group," "spreading false news," and "misusing social media" to criminalize peaceful expression, legal work, labor activism, and criticism of state policies. These accusations were frequently processed through the Supreme State Security Prosecution under the umbrella of counter-terrorism legislation, particularly Law No. 94 of 2015, in a manner that has transformed exceptional security laws into a permanent mechanism for suppressing civic space.

This pattern was evident in the continued detention of journalist [Safaa El-Korbeigy](#), whose detention was renewed over a Facebook post, and in the case of political detainee and lawyer [Ahmed Nazier El-Helou](#), whose case illustrates the intersection between prolonged pretrial detention and medical neglect after more than three years behind bars. The same pattern extended to lawyers and human rights defenders. During the reporting period, CFJ documented the arbitrary arrest of lawyer [Ahmed Abu Al-Nasr](#) in El-Mahalla El-Kubra and called for his immediate release. It also denounced the detention of lawyer [Osama El-Sheshtawy](#) as part of a broader escalation targeting lawyers in politically sensitive cases.

The authorities also continued to use detention and prosecution to punish those who had already benefited from release or pardon measures. In this regard, CFJ and many other international organizations condemned the re-arrest of activist [Ahmed Douma](#) despite his earlier presidential pardon, reflecting the persistence of informal security harassment even after formal release. We also documented the [continued detention of dozens of Al Ahly fans](#) despite previously announced promises of release. Such practices show that formal announcements of release often remain subject to arbitrary security interference, thereby undermining legal certainty and the right to liberty. A particularly serious feature of the reporting period was the continued use of repeated arrest and recycling into new cases with similar charges. CFJ monitored 155 such cases between October 2025 and mid-April 2026 alone. This pattern, widely referred to as "rotation" or "case recycling," allows the authorities to keep individuals detained beyond the maximum legal periods or after release decisions by placing them into new cases on nearly identical allegations. This practice has already been recognized by UN mechanisms as a form of prolonged arbitrary detention and remains one of the clearest indications that the criminal justice system, particularly in state security cases, is being used to perpetuate detention rather than administer justice.

These violations contravene Egypt's obligations under Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which guarantees the right to liberty and security of person, and further infringe upon the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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## B. Enforced Disappearance

The practice of enforced disappearance has become a hallmark of Egypt's security apparatus, used to instill fear and eliminate opposition. Security forces – particularly the National Security Agency (NSA) of the Ministry of Interior – routinely abduct and hold individuals in secret detention, refusing to acknowledge their custody or reveal the person's fate or whereabouts. Such disappearances often last weeks or months, during which detainees are cut off from the outside world and vulnerable to torture or extrajudicial killing.

Enforced disappearance remained a systematic and deeply entrenched practice during the reporting period, in violation of Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the African Charter. CFJ documented 144 enforced disappearance violations between October 2025 and mid-April 2026. The recurring pattern in such cases involved the arrest of individuals without judicial warrants, their transfer to undisclosed locations, and the denial of all contact with lawyers and family members for days, weeks, months, and in some cases years, before they were later brought before the prosecution with fabricated arrest dates or routine state security charges.

This pattern is not incidental; enforced disappearance in Egypt has become institutionalized through the interaction of the police, National Security Agency, the Supreme State Security Prosecution, and terrorism circuits. In one alarming development, 18 individuals appeared in November 2025 before the State Security Prosecution after having been forcibly disappeared for six years, all reporting torture and serious physical and psychological deterioration during their disappearance. Despite the gravity of these allegations, the prosecution ignored their accounts and proceeded to renew their detention for 15 days pending investigations.

The reporting period also saw the continued targeting of women linked to political detainees. On 7 April 2025, [Marwa Sami Abu Zeid](#) was arrested at Cairo International Airport while preparing to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. She was then subjected to enforced disappearance for two days before being brought before the Supreme State Security Prosecution, which ordered her detention pending investigation on terrorism-related charges. Her case reflects a broader pattern in which women are targeted not for any identifiable criminal conduct, but because of their family ties to detained or persecuted individuals, thereby turning enforced disappearance into a retaliatory tool against entire families of perceived dissidents.

The case of [Mostafa El-Naggar](#) also remained emblematic during the reporting period, as his fate and whereabouts remain unknown years after his disappearance. In the same context, a [complaint was filed with the Public Prosecutor over the seizure of the online account of a man forcibly disappeared since 2019](#), illustrating the continued legal, personal, and social consequences of enforced disappearance, not only for the victims themselves but also for their families, who remain exposed to ongoing uncertainty, intimidation, and violations long after the initial disappearance.

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The human impact of enforced disappearance in Egypt is devastating. Families are left in anguish, often for years, not knowing whether their loved ones are alive or dead. Far from one-off occurrences, cases number in the hundreds – if not more – each year. Egyptian human rights organizations have documented a steady stream of disappearances; for instance, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms recorded hundreds of cases annually during the peak of the crackdown (2015–2019), and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has transmitted numerous cases to the Egyptian government, many of which remain unresolved. In their annual report of 2024, the UN WGEID expressed concerns at the reported patterns of use of the Anti-Terrorism Law and national security legislation to perpetrate enforced disappearances<sup>5</sup>.

### C. Denial of Fair Trial

Fair trial guarantees in Egypt have been effectively hollowed out, especially in cases deemed politically sensitive. Individuals who are arrested (often arbitrarily, as detailed above) and eventually brought before a court face judicial proceedings that flagrantly violate basic due process rights. The right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent, and impartial tribunal – as enshrined in Article 7 of the African Charter – is routinely disregarded. Egyptian courts and prosecutors, particularly in State Security and military tribunals, operate in tandem with executive authorities to engineer convictions or prolong detention rather than deliver justice. As a result, in contemporary Egypt, the right to a fair trial is essentially absent for those whom the regime perceives as opponents or critical of the government. This is especially true for cases involving allegations of “national security” or terrorism, which often simply means the accused is a journalist, activist, human rights defender, member of the political opposition, or even an ordinary citizen who expressed his views on social media. The judicial process in such cases is bent to serve the aims of the authorities, not to ascertain the truth or uphold the law.

Denial of fair trial guarantees remained a structural element of repression during the reporting period, in clear violation of Article 7 of the African Charter. In cases involving political detainees, human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers, the criminal process continued to be shaped by secret evidence, vague accusations, repeated detention renewals, and the absence of effective judicial scrutiny. Courts and prosecutorial bodies routinely failed to investigate allegations of enforced disappearance and torture, refused meaningful access to case files, and relied heavily on confidential National Security reports that were never disclosed to the defense team. This pattern was reflected in the case of lawyer [El-Sayed Saeed Khalaf](#), whose trial was adjourned amid concerns regarding his right to defense and fair trial guarantees. It was also reflected in the continued targeting of prominent defenders such as [Hoda Abdel Moneim](#), a lawyer and human rights defender who, after seven years behind bars,

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations. Human Rights Council. 26 July 2024. Annual Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5754-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearance-report-working-group>

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was referred to a third trial on the same charges. Her case illustrates how repeated prosecution on similar facts is used to neutralize release prospects and perpetuate punishment through process rather than judgment.

The authorities' reliance on mass and politically charged proceedings also remained a serious concern. During the reporting period, CFJ documented the issuance of [life and lengthy prison sentences against 81 defendants in the so-called "Espionage with Turkey" case](#), underscoring the continued use of broad national security narratives in proceedings that raise profound concerns regarding due process and judicial independence. At the same time, prosecutors and judges continued to erase torture allegations from case files, deny forensic examination requests or allow them and deny defense lawyers to check their results, and treat courts not as safeguards but as mechanisms that regularize abuse.

#### **D. Torture, Ill-Treatment, and Prison Conditions**

Torture and ill-treatment remained widespread during the reporting period, both in police stations and in prisons, in violation of Article 5 of the African Charter. We documented 31 torture cases from October 2025 to mid-April 2026, while the wider detention environment continued to be characterized by beatings, punitive measures, denial of contact with families, arbitrary solitary confinement, confiscation of personal belongings, and severe psychological abuse. These practices were compounded by detention conditions that themselves often amounted to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Badr Prison 3 remained one of the clearest examples of this pattern. During the reporting period, we documented escalating tensions and [collective protests at Badr Prison 3](#), as well as [severe health deterioration](#) and collective punitive measures against detainees in the same facility. We also documented grave violations against political detainee students in [Badr Prison 3](#), including the banning of exams and the outbreak of collective hunger strikes.

In [New Valley Prison](#), we documented harsh humanitarian conditions, assaults and [suicide attempts](#) by political detainees amid an ongoing hunger strike, and subsequently [seven suicide attempts](#) by political detainees. In [Wadi Al-Natrun Prison 440](#), we documented assaults against detainees, while at the [old Wadi Al-Natrun Prison](#) we documented systematic violations affecting both detainees and their families. We also documented severe violations against political detainees in Reform and Rehabilitation Center 9 at [Prison 440](#).

Police stations also remained sites of torture and custodial abuse. During the reporting period, CFJ documented escalating torture and ill-treatment inside [Al-Dekheila Police Station](#) in Alexandria and collective torture inside [AL-Laban Police Station in Alexandria](#). The recurrence of torture allegations across different places of detention and

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different governorates demonstrates that such abuses cannot be understood as isolated misconduct by individual officers, but rather as part of a broader system sustained by impunity and judicial inaction.

### E. Denial of Medical Care and Deaths in Custody

Denial of medical care remained one of the most lethal aspects of detention in Egypt during the reporting period, implicating both Articles 4 and 5 of the African Charter. CFJ documented 20 cases of denial of medical care between January and mid-April 2026 and recorded 19 extrajudicial killings during the same period, including 14 deaths due to denied healthcare or medical negligence. The persistence of these deaths, despite repeated documentation and public calls for intervention, reflects a pattern of deliberate indifference and systemic neglect.

The reporting period was marked by a succession of deaths in custody linked to medical neglect. We documented the death of a political detainee in [Minya Prison](#) due to medical negligence, and later the death of another political detainee in [Minya Prison due to medical negligence](#). We also documented the death of a political detainee in [Giza Public Prison](#) due to medical negligence, the death of a political detainee in [Gamasa Prison due to medical negligence](#), the death of a political detainee in [Borg Al-Arab Prison](#) due to medical negligence, and the death of a prisoner [Mohamed Gaber Saad Masoud Ali](#) shortly before his release.

In Badr Prison 3, CFJ documented the death of university professor [Atta Youssef](#) due to medical negligence and later the death of political detainee [Sameh Amer](#), which occurred amid protests and a collective hunger strike. CFJ also documented the death of political detainee [Hesham Makki](#) in Wadi Al-Natrun Prison following severe health deterioration, the death of lawyer [Shams El-Din Attallah](#) inside 10th of Ramadan Prison, the death of political detainee [Ibrahim El-Sayed](#) in Minya Maximum Security Prison, and the death of Professor [Galal El-Sahlab](#) in Minya Maximum Security Prison. These deaths, spread across multiple facilities, show that medical neglect is not confined to one prison but forms part of a broader detention policy that disregards the lives and dignity of detainees.

CFJ also documented the severe deterioration of the health of living detainees, including [Walid Al-Zendahi in New Valley Prison](#) and the case of [Ahmed Nazeer El-Helw](#) after over three years of detention without medical care. The persistence of such cases reflects not mere negligence, but a detention settings in which denial of healthcare has become an instrument of punishment.

On the Justice Watch Archive CFJ Documented [8 death in custody](#) during November and December 2025. From January to April 2026 CFJ documented [19 deaths in custody](#).

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## F. Extrajudicial Killings and Deaths Following Torture

In addition to deaths resulting from medical negligence, the reporting period was marked by a number of deaths occurring in custody shortly after arrest or under circumstances indicating torture and ill-treatment, engaging the right to life under Article 4 of the African Charter. CFJ documented five deaths linked directly to torture between January and mid-April 2026, alongside multiple cases where individuals died in police custody amid credible allegations of abuse and without any effective investigation.

During this period, a young man died inside [Imbaba](#) Police Station shortly after his arrest, prompting calls for a transparent investigation into the circumstances of his death. Similar patterns were documented in the deaths of detainees inside [Al-Haram](#) and [Oseem](#) police stations, where allegations of torture and ill-treatment were raised by families and observers but were not met with independent or effective inquiry. In another case, an accountant died in Cairo's [15 May Police Station](#) only hours after his arrest, further illustrating the recurring pattern of custodial deaths linked to abuse.

These incidents were not limited to police stations. CFJ also documented the death of a detainee inside a punishment cell in [Abu Zaabal](#) Prison under circumstances suggesting systematic torture. A particularly grave case involved the death of a political detainee in Al-Sharqia while he remained forcibly disappeared, despite the existence of a court order for his release, as documented [here](#). This case illustrates the convergence of enforced disappearance, disregard for judicial decisions, and custodial death, demonstrating how violations compound in an environment where security agencies operate without oversight.

Across these cases, the consistent failure to conduct prompt, independent, and transparent investigations reinforces a climate of impunity and signals tolerance for lethal abuse within detention settings.

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## G. Reprisals Against Human Rights Defenders, Lawyers, and Journalists

The reporting period was marked by the continued targeting of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and independent public voices through arrest, prosecution, summons, excessive bail, and restrictions that persisted even after release. These practices form part of a broader pattern of reprisals aimed at silencing criticism, restricting civic space, and discouraging engagement in human rights work, in violation of Articles 9 and 10 of the African Charter.

Among the most emblematic cases during this period was that of lawyer and human rights defender [Hoda Abdel Moneim](#), whose continued detention remained a striking example of the use of prolonged deprivation of liberty and repeated prosecution against defenders. Her case was further aggravated when she was referred to a third trial on substantially the same allegations, as documented in [Hoda's case](#). The continued detention of [Marwa Arafa](#) similarly reflected the punitive use of detention against women human rights defenders, particularly where prolonged imprisonment is accompanied by health deterioration and medical neglect.

Lawyers remained particularly exposed to retaliatory measures during the reporting period. CFJ documented the targeting of lawyer [Rofaida Mohamed El-Sayed](#) and raised concerns regarding her safety, while also denouncing the arrest of lawyer [Osama El-Sheshtawy](#). The arbitrary arrest of lawyer [Ahmed Abu Al-Nasr](#) in El-Mahalla El-Kubra further confirmed that legal professionals continue to be punished for their work or perceived positions. In the same context, the adjournment of the trial of lawyer [El-Sayed Khalaf](#) raised renewed concerns regarding due process and the right to defense in politically sensitive proceedings.

The pressure exerted on defenders and independent voices was not limited to detention. It also took the form of intimidation through summons and prosecutorial harassment. During the reporting period, the summoning of [Aida Seif El-Dawla](#) constituted another example of how the authorities continue to use legal and administrative tools to intimidate prominent figures in the human rights movement. This pattern was further reflected in the escalating use of [summons](#) and excessive bail before the Supreme State Security Prosecution.

More broadly, CFJ monitored a continued escalation in tactics aimed at restricting the work of defenders and weakening the independence of the judiciary, as highlighted in [CFJ's warning](#). Even when defenders or activists were released, they often remained subject to informal restrictions, surveillance, or movement controls. The persistence of [restrictions](#) on released defenders shows that release from detention does not necessarily mark the end of reprisals, but often opens a new phase of administrative pressure.

Journalists were similarly affected during the reporting period, whether through detention, prosecution, or labor-related pressure. The renewal of detention of journalist [Safaa El-Korbeigy](#) over a Facebook post reflected the continued criminalization of expression. At the same time, the protest by [Al-Bawaba](#) journalists over unpaid salaries and minimum wage violations showed how economic pressure also intersects with broader restrictions on independent journalism and freedom of expression.

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## H. Violations Against Migrants and Refugees

The reporting period witnessed a serious escalation in violations against migrants and refugees, particularly Sudanese nationals, in violation of Articles 5, 6, and 12 of the African Charter. These violations included arbitrary arrest, detention in abusive conditions, denial of medical care, and deaths in custody, often taking place in the context of broader security campaigns targeting non-nationals.

CFJ documented growing concern regarding the treatment of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt, as reflected in [warnings](#) over the violations they face. This pattern intensified with the launch of [security campaigns](#) targeting Sudanese and Syrian refugees, accompanied by calls to end forced deportations and respect legal guarantees. These developments suggest that migrants and refugees increasingly face criminalization and arbitrary deprivation of liberty rather than protection.

The gravity of the situation was illustrated by several deaths in custody involving Sudanese nationals. CFJ documented the death of Sudanese child [Al-Nazeer Al-Sadiq](#) inside Badr Police Station, a case that raised urgent concerns regarding the treatment of children and refugees in detention. CFJ also documented the death of a Sudanese refugee in a Cairo police station due to [medical negligence](#), as well as the death of a Sudanese youth following police detention under [mysterious circumstances](#). These cases reveal that Sudanese refugees are exposed not only to arbitrary arrest and detention, but also to life-threatening neglect and abuse.

The pattern extended beyond Sudanese nationals. The death of Guinean student [Sawani](#) in detention demonstrated that migrants and foreign nationals more generally remain vulnerable to the same patterns of custodial violence, neglect, and lack of accountability that characterize the broader detention system in Egypt.

## I. Workers' Rights and Related Economic and Social Rights Violations

The reporting period also reflected continued violations of workers' rights, particularly where labor grievances intersected with broader restrictions on assembly, association, and expression. Workers seeking improved wages, fair conditions, or implementation of minimum wage standards faced pressure, marginalization, and, in some cases repression in a manner inconsistent with Articles 10, 11, and 15 of the African Charter.

Among the most visible developments were protests by [workers in the water and sanitation sector in Cairo](#) and Giza, where employees demanded the implementation of the minimum wage and increases in incentives. These protests reflected not only labor grievances, but also broader structural shortcomings in the protection of workers in essential public service sectors.

Similarly, workers at a ship mooring company launched a [strike](#) in protest against profit cuts, illustrating how labor unrest continued to grow amid economic strain and inadequate protections. The protest by [Al-Bawaba](#) journalists also fell within this broader pattern, showing that wage-related and labor-related rights violations affected not only industrial or service workers, but also media professionals.

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These developments should also be read in light of broader structural concerns relating to economic and social rights, including unequal access to water and sanitation services and unsafe conditions affecting workers in these sectors.

## J. Positive Developments

Despite the scale and seriousness of the violations documented during the reporting period, CFJ also monitored a number of limited developments that may be regarded as partial improvements, although they remain insufficient to indicate any real structural change.

Among these developments was the [release of 62 political detainees](#) over a short period. CFJ also welcomed the release of journalist [Mohamed Oxygen](#) after years of detention across multiple cases. In another instance, journalist [Saad Khattab](#) was allowed to attend his daughter's wedding, which represented a humanitarian measure in an otherwise punitive detention environment.

CFJ also welcomed an improvement in conditions in the [women's section of 10th of Ramadan Prison](#). The notable improvement has been documented in living conditions and treatment practices inside the Women's Prison, as observed during recent visits by political detainees and their families.

While these steps may be acknowledged as limited positive developments, they remain far from sufficient to alter the overall assessment of the situation. The continuation of the same structural patterns of abuse demonstrates that such measures have not translated into a genuine improvement in Egypt's compliance with its obligations under the African Charter.

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#### 4. Reactions by Regional and International Actors

During the reporting period, the human rights situation in Egypt continued to attract sustained scrutiny from both international and regional actors, particularly in relation to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, deteriorating detention conditions, reprisals against human rights defenders, and the misuse of counter-terrorism legislation. This scrutiny was reflected not only in public advocacy and civil society engagement, but also in a series of formal communications by United Nations Special Procedures, as well as in developments within the African regional human rights system.

At the international level, four formal allegation letters were transmitted by United Nations Special Procedures to the Egyptian Government between November and December 2025. On 13 November 2025, Special Procedures sent [AL EGY 7/2025](#), raising concerns regarding due process violations, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and the broader misuse of counter-terrorism-related frameworks. On 24 December 2025, [AL EGY 8/2025](#) addressed the arrest of individuals participating in peaceful expressions of solidarity and warned against the use of counter-terrorism and public order legislation to suppress peaceful dissent, restrict civic space, and facilitate prolonged pretrial detention, denial of legal access, and poor prison conditions. On 22 December 2025, [AL EGY 9/2025](#) focused on the continued detention of WHRD Hoda Abdel Moneim, including repeated prosecution on substantially similar charges, denial of timely and adequate medical care, and the apparent use of detention and successive proceedings as a form of punishment. On 31 December 2025, [AL EGY 10/2025](#) raised concern over restrictions imposed on released human rights defenders, including renewed terrorism watchlisting, travel bans, asset freezes, and pending charges, showing that release from detention did not end reprisals.

These communications were significant not only because of their number in such a short period of time (two months), but also because of the consistency of the issues identified across mandates in all communications. The Special Procedures repeatedly pointed to a pattern involving arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or ill-treatment, denial of medical care, restrictions on legal representation, and the use of vague terrorism-related accusations against persons engaged in peaceful expression, human rights work, legal defence, research, or public advocacy. In particular, the communications emphasized continuing alarm over “case recycling” or “rotation,” the use of confidential security reports not disclosed to the defence, and the broader incompatibility of Egypt’s counter-terrorism framework and practice with international human rights standards.

On 16 November 2025 [eight UN Special Procedures](#) raised serious concerns over Egypt’s counter-terrorism practices, identifying a recurring pattern of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, denial of fair trial guarantees, denial of medical care, and the use of vague security charges against at least fifteen individuals. The concerns highlighted by the mandates closely mirrored the patterns documented throughout the present reporting period and further confirmed that these violations are not isolated, but systemic.

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At the regional level, the African human rights system also reflected growing concern regarding the situation in Egypt. The [NGO Forum](#) held in the context of the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted a consolidated resolution on Egypt. The resolution expressed concern that, despite earlier recommendations, the situation had continued to deteriorate and highlighted ongoing torture, arbitrary detention, long-term enforced disappearance, reprisals against civil society, and the continued use of the death penalty. It also drew attention to "case rotation," worsening conditions in Badr and Wadi al-Natrun prisons, barriers to legal and family access, hunger strikes, and repeated suicide attempts by detainees. The resolution further urged stronger engagement by the African Commission in relation to detention conditions, healthcare, solitary confinement, and the misuse of counter-terrorism laws.

Taken together, these reactions demonstrate that Egypt remained under sustained regional and international scrutiny throughout the reporting period. They also show a remarkable convergence between the concerns raised by [UN Special Procedures](#), civil society, and African regional actors, that the Egyptian authorities continue to rely on a repressive legal and security framework that facilitates arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, medical neglect, reprisals, and severe restrictions on civic space, while failing to ensure accountability or meaningful remedies for victims.

This regional and international scrutiny also came after Egypt's review before the African Commission during its 85th Ordinary Session in October 2025. Following that session, [Egyptian, regional and international organizations warned](#) that the government's report and the Country Rapporteur's intervention during the review had excluded widespread violations, including arbitrary detention, repression of civic space, and misuse of counter-terrorism legislation, and urged the Commission to take more robust action, including through a new resolution and follow-up measures.

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## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The violations documented in the present report demonstrate that the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period remained characterized by continuity rather than change. Despite limited measures that may be viewed as partial improvements, including several releases and isolated improvements in conditions in certain detention facilities, the overall pattern remained one of systematic repression, prolonged arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, medical neglect, reprisals against human rights defenders and lawyers, and growing violations against migrants and refugees, particularly Sudanese nationals. These patterns continued to be enabled by a legal and institutional framework that facilitates abuse, particularly through the misuse of counter-terrorism legislation, the role of the Supreme State Security Prosecution, and the absence of effective judicial oversight and accountability.

The reporting period from October 2025 to April 2026 further showed that violations are not confined to one category of victims or one set of institutions. Political detainees, prisoners of conscience, lawyers, journalists, workers, migrants, and refugees all remained exposed to overlapping forms of abuse. Deaths in custody continued to occur in prisons and police stations alike. Enforced disappearance remained an entrenched practice. Medical care continued to be withheld as a form of neglect and punishment against prisoners. Even where releases occurred, they did not alter the structural reality in which detention remains arbitrary, release decisions can be undermined by recycling into new cases, and repression continues after release through restrictions, surveillance, and legal harassment.

These violations constitute serious breaches of Egypt's obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15. They also reflect the continued gap between Egypt's formal legal commitments and the lived reality of those subjected to repression. The period following the review before the African Commission in October 2025 did not witness meaningful compliance or improvement. On the contrary, the violations documented in the months that followed confirm the persistence of the same patterns and the urgent need for stronger accountability and follow-up by regional and international mechanisms.

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In light of the above, the Committee for Justice recommends the following:

### To the Egyptian Government

1. End the practices of arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, torture, ill-treatment, and prolonged pretrial detention, including the continued practice of recycling detainees into new cases on similar charges in order to circumvent release orders or legal detention limits.
2. Immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained for the peaceful exercise of their rights, including human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, political detainees, prisoners of conscience, and all others detained solely for expression, association, assembly, legal advocacy, or public criticism.
3. Ensure that all allegations of torture, custodial death, enforced disappearance, medical neglect, and ill-treatment are subject to prompt, independent, impartial, and effective investigation, and that all those responsible are held accountable.
4. Cease the use of enforced disappearance and ensure that all persons deprived of liberty are held only in officially recognized places of detention, promptly registered, brought before a competent judicial authority without delay, and granted immediate access to lawyers, families, and medical care.
5. End the use of torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in police stations, prisons, and all other places of detention, and exclude from all proceedings any confession or statement obtained under torture, coercion, or enforced disappearance.
6. Guarantee adequate and timely healthcare to all detainees and prisoners, including transfer to specialized medical facilities where needed, and end the use of medical neglect as a punitive or coercive practice.
7. Improve detention conditions in line with the African Charter and the Mandela Rules, including by ending prolonged solitary confinement, collective punishment, confiscation of basic belongings, restrictions on family visits, and all practices that amount to psychological abuse or degrading treatment.
8. Cease the targeting of human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and independent public voices through arrest, prosecution, travel bans, asset freezes, summons, excessive bail, surveillance, and post-release restrictions, and guarantee a safe and enabling environment for civil society and legal advocacy.
9. End the arbitrary arrest, detention, and deportation of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, particularly Sudanese nationals, and ensure that all such persons are protected from abuse, collective punishment, forced return, and detention-related violations.
10. Respect workers' rights to organize, protest peacefully, and demand fair wages and conditions without retaliation, and ensure that workers in essential sectors, including water and sanitation, are protected from abusive labor practices and unsafe conditions.

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11. Bring domestic law and practice into conformity with the African Charter, including by amending or repealing legal provisions and procedures that facilitate arbitrary detention, exceptional prosecution, vague terrorism-related accusations, suppression of civic space, and impunity for serious violations.

### To the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

1. Maintain close and public scrutiny of the human rights situation in Egypt and ensure robust follow-up to Egypt's review before the Commission, including through stronger engagement with the patterns of violations documented by independent civil society organizations.
2. Adopt a clear and public position on the continued patterns of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, deaths in custody, reprisals against defenders and lawyers, and violations against migrants and refugees, including through a dedicated resolution or other appropriate follow-up action.
3. Urge the Egyptian authorities to implement immediate measures to end arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance, medical neglect, and reprisals, and to release all persons detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights.
4. Strengthen its engagement with civil society actors working on Egypt and ensure that defenders, lawyers, victims, and relatives of victims can cooperate with the African system without fear of reprisals.
5. Continue to raise concerns regarding detention conditions, denial of healthcare, prolonged solitary confinement, and deaths in custody, and press for independent monitoring of places of detention.
6. Give increased attention to violations affecting migrants, refugees, and marginalized communities in Egypt, including the treatment of Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers, and integrate these concerns into its protection and follow-up work.

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