

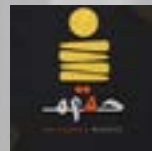


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**Article 55 Coalition Bulletin:
Violations Documented in Egypt's Prisons
and Detention Centers
(November 1-30, 2023)**



الشبكة المصرية
لحقوق الانسان
Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR)



Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution states: “Anyone who is apprehended, detained, or has their freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. Their detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated facilities that are suitable, both in terms of humane and health standards..”

Developments in November 2023:

As November 2023 unfolded, preparations for the presidential elections continued in Egypt, while the Israeli war on the neighboring Gaza Strip continued. Additionally, Egyptian authorities continued the arbitrary detention of Egyptians who demonstrated in support of the Palestinians in October 2023. The State Security Prosecution renewed the detention of 54 people in connection with two cases: 2468 and 2469 of 2023, both related to State Security. Those detained are from the governorates of Cairo and Alexandria. Moreover, members of the campaign of the former potential candidate, Ahmed Tantawy, remained in custody, with some of them being referred to trial, including Tantawy himself and his campaign coordinator.

The name of Tantawy and his campaign coordinator, Mohamed Abu al-Diyar, appeared on the list of defendants in case number 16336/2023 at the Mataria Misdemeanor Court, along with 21 other members of his campaign. Tantawy and Abu al-Diyar were charged with incitement and conspiring to provide electoral papers without permission, while the others were accused of printing and circulating electoral papers without the authorization of the competent authorities. The trial sessions are ongoing as of the time of writing this update, with the next session scheduled for 9 January. All the defendants remain in detention, and the power of attorney for Tantawy and Abu al-Diyar has been submitted.

On the UN level, the Committee Against Torture conducted its periodic review of Egypt regarding torture crimes. During the review, committee members addressed various practices, seeking responses from representatives of the Egyptian government. These practices included arbitrary detention, torture, forced disappearances, and recycling of cases, as well as mistreatment leading to suicide attempts, especially in the new Badr prison complex. The state promotes this complex as a false indicator of improvement in the Egyptian human rights record. However, representatives of the Egyptian government avoided answering these questions, even though Egypt has not participated in such a review for 20 years.

Summary of documented data:

The Article 55 Coalition documented the following violations within prisons and other detention centers in Egypt during October 2023:

- Two deaths within detention centers.
- An appeal arising from the poor conditions of detention that led to a hunger strike.
- Four appeals due to deliberate denial of healthcare.

Below is a list of the documented cases:

1. Death of the detainee Abdul Hai Ahmed Hussein inside his cell at Al-Ghorabaniyat prison in Borg El Arab area of Alexandria on November 6, 2023, one year after his arrest.
2. Mysterious death of Amir Adel Al-Qadi, a young man of Egyptian origin with Jordanian nationality, following severe torture by officers at the Flowers Department in Port Said Governorate.
3. Ahmed Ismail Thabet, a detainee, declared a hunger strike inside his cell at the New Valley Rehabilitation and Correction Center in Wadi El Natrun 2. This is a protest against the denial of necessary healthcare for his deteriorating condition, requiring urgent open-heart surgery.
4. Relatives of the detained student Mustafa Mohamed Mustafa Abdo appealed against his continued arbitrary detention despite his documented struggles with mental illness, as confirmed by a medical examination conducted by the Psychiatry Department at Zagazig University in Sharkia.
5. Relatives of Abdullah Al-Tabakh, detained in Badr 1 prison, appeal for his right to receive necessary healthcare, as he suffers from leukemia. He has been in pretrial detention since November 2021, and the Badr prison administration refuses to allow him to receive treatment at any specialized cancer hospital.
6. Journalist Mohamed Saad Khatib, who is detained, demanded his release before the Supreme State Security Prosecution during the renewal of his detention through a video conference. This request is due to the deterioration of his health because of his old age and chronic diseases, including coronary artery insufficiency, and previous surgeries on his neck and back.
7. Asmaa Al-Naji, a detainee in the Tenth of Ramadan Police Department, suffers from a lack of healthcare despite the urgent need for surgical intervention, including a tendon separation operation. Additionally, she suffers a stomach ulcer, and medical neglect poses a danger to her life.

These violations can be further explored through the media outlets of the organizations that are members of the alliance.

Violations documented inside prisons and other detention centers in Egypt from the beginning of 2023 until the present time include:

- 36 cases of death.
- 60 cases of medical neglect for detainees in critical condition requiring medical intervention.
- 40 individual and collective appeals regarding the prevention of visits, including the complete closure of some prisons and other detention centers.

In light of all the aforementioned, the organizations in the Article 55 Coalition believe that the conditions within prisons and detention centers are not surprising. They do not deviate from the overall framework of how Egyptian authorities handle the file of detainees, especially political ones. This systematic approach is intentional and not merely isolated violations, as claimed by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior.

Moreover, the policy of impunity adopted by the Egyptian authorities towards human rights violators within detention centers has encouraged and fueled such practices. It has become a modus operandi within the Egyptian prison system. Despite documented and verified violations that may have exceeded acceptable limits, no leadership or official has been punished or even reprimanded.

Therefore, the undersigned organizations affirm that these practices within Egyptian prisons and detention centers raise serious concerns about the fate of detainees. This is especially true given the increasing number of deaths within detention centers recently and the deteriorating living conditions within them.

We call for an investigation into these violations, holding those responsible accountable in accordance with both Egyptian and international law. We urge adherence to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Egyptian Prison Regulations, and the cessation of violations, while ensuring living conditions that befit the humanity of the detainees.

The webpage of the coalition: <https://www.facebook.com/Article55egypt>



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,Committee for Justice (CFJ), El Shehab Center for Human Rights (SHR))
Egyptian Network for Human Rights, Their Right, We Record, Arab Foundation for
Civil and Political Rights-Nedal)

