

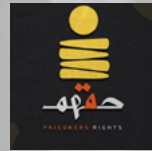


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Violations Documented in Egypt's Prisons and Detention Centers (January 1 – 31, 2024)



الشبكة المصرية
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Egyptian Network For Human Rights ENHR



Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution: “Anyone who is apprehended, detained or has his freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves his 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 January 2024

In January 2024, several updates emerged on the political landscapes, especially at the legal and judicial levels, the most serious of which was the [approval](#) by the House of Representatives of the amendment of the Military Justice Law No. 251966/, which gave more broad powers to the military judiciary, as the amendments granted the authority to the military judiciary to consider crimes committed against “public and vital installations and facilities, public property and what falls within its equivalent, including matters that harm the basic needs of society, including goods and products, supplies and other basic components of the state,” which means granting military personnel the authority to seize these crimes and expanding the base of civilians who can be tried before military courts.

Also during the month, the House of Representatives [approved](#) amendments to the law of Criminal Procedure, which introduced a new system for criminal courts with which both the accused or the Public Prosecution can appeal criminal judgments before criminal courts of “second degree” before resorting to the Court of Cassation, in implementation of the constitutional entitlement contained in Article 240 of the 2014 Constitution, which stipulates that “the state is obliged to provide material and human resources related to the appeal of judgments issued in felonies, within ten years from the date of entry into force of this Constitution, and the law regulates this.” January 17, 2024, was the constitutionally scheduled date, so the House of Representatives hastily passed these amendments ten years later after thousands of citizens were denied their right to a fair trial and their constitutional right to litigation at two levels after unfair sentences were handed down against them, including the death penalty.

In terms of judicial developments, during the month, the Nasr City Misdemeanor Court sentenced the founder of the Civil Democratic Movement, “Yahya Hussein Abdel Hadi,” to a suspended year on charges of possessing publications and spreading false news, and the Al-Ameryah Misdemeanor Court sentenced a “TikToker” to two months in prison and fined her 500 pounds, on charges of publishing a video criticizing the high prices of some goods.

At the political level, the former potential candidate, “Ahmed Tantawi,” announced his intention to launch a political party and thus collect the legally prescribed founding endorsements, where the Political Parties Law 122011/ requires the collection of 5,000 endorsements, while “Mohamed Abu Al-Diyar,” the party’s legal adviser, talked about the [exposure](#) of a number of those wishing to document endorsements to harassment inside the offices of notarization and registration authority, as well as security crackdowns on some supporters of “Tantawi,” the latest of which was the arrest of three members of the party and their referral to the Supreme State Security Prosecution, which ruled indeed by holding them in pretrial detention.

List of the Documented cases

During January 2024, the “Article 55” coalition organizations documented the following violations inside prisons and other detention facilities in Egypt:

The coalition organizations monitored four deaths inside prisons and detention facilities in January 2024, the first of which was the [death](#) of former MP “Adel Radwan Othman Mohamed” inside his imprisonment in the new Badr 3 prison after being deprived of health care, then the [death](#) of “Ibrahim Al-Ajiri” from Badr 3 as well, who died inside Kasr Al-Aini Hospital in Cairo, to which he was transferred due to the deterioration of his health condition inside Badr 3, in which he suffered from prolonged imprisonment and deprivation of due medical care for his condition as being a chronic patient with diabetes as well as his need for eye surgery, which took his life, and inside the prison complex hospital also lawyer “Mohamed El-Sherbiny Ali Al-Sayed” [died](#), who was transferred to it for an atomic survey due to several diseases inside his prison, including some tumors, amid the prevention of medicine for him by the prison administration in which he is detained. But following the denial of health care he suffered, he lost his life on 6 January, 2024.

In Badr 1, which is also a part of the Badr Prison Complex, the young man, “Taha Ahmed Haiba,” [died](#) of cancer, which he had in detention and did not receive the required specialized medical care. The Egyptian authorities did not respond to his family’s appeals to release him to obtain the necessary medical care, which led to his losing his life, so the new Badr Prison Complex was the center of 4 cases of death inside the detention facilities throughout January 2024.

In terms of deprivation of health care, we monitored the [deprivation of](#) “Mohamed Abdel Razek Ismail” from health care in the new Liman Minya prison, where he suffers from the intransigence of the prison administration in allowing him to perform an endoscopy on the bladder and urethra to find out the causes of narrowing of the urethra, which causes him severe pain for 4 years, as well as the wrong diagnosis by the prison doctor, which doubled the seriousness of his condition and also his pain, his family submitted many reports to the Public Prosecutor and his wife was summoned to testify to take her statements, but to no avail so far, we also monitored the [deterioration](#) of the health of the student “Abdul Hamid Younis Siam”, who suffers from Mediterranean fever, which needs severe care and special medical attention, and certain living conditions, as well as suffering from hemorrhoids, and a dislocation in his left shoulder, and his toenails are embedded in the flesh and need urgent surgical intervention.

The coalition organizations also monitored the [outbreak of skin diseases](#) inside the EL-Wadi Al-Gadid Prison as a result of the prison administration’s prevention of the entry of personal hygiene tools and their insufficient disbursement to prisoners, especially with the presence of severe overcrowding inside the wards and cells of the headquarters, as well as the lack of health care against prisoners who showed some symptoms of infectious skin diseases, which spread among a large number of prisoners, the most terrifying is the reason behind the deprivation of hygiene tools according to available information, which is the prison administration’s fear of suicide attempts using those tools because of the poor conditions inside this detention center.

We also [monitored many complaints from inside Borg El Arab prison as a result of](#) deliberate abuse responsible for it Colonel Imad Al-Shaili, head of prison investigations, officer Ahmed Al-Banna and a number of prison employees against detainees who complained about deprivation of health care, where the relatives of a detainee in Borg Al-Arab prison stated depriving prisoners of treatment and not allowing the entry of medicines except one antibiotic strip despite suffering from diseases due to imprisonment as a result of overcrowding and deprivation of health care, the abuse reached the assault by beating one Sick

inmates in the observation ward because of his demand for surgery, due to his suffering from severe pain, and the deterioration of his health condition without obtaining the necessary health and medical care, as well as the assault on a number of other inmates because of their demand to be seen by the specialist doctor, as well as the placement of a large number of prisoners in disciplinary rooms and sometimes alienation to prisons far from their families to far prisons.

The appeals of the families of inmates in the Al-Gography prison in the Borg El Arab prisons area in Alexandria were repeated from the difficulty of the procedures for visiting their families inside the detention center, where the families are forced to wait for hours since seven in the morning in a non-human place without a toilet for a visit that does not exceed ten minutes and sometimes five minutes. Because of the lack of dedicated waiting areas, they are forced to stay on the outer sidewalk of the presidential gate to enter, exposing themselves and their children to significant risks, especially with high temperatures in summer or from the cold and rain in winter, in addition to pollution caused by car dust, as well as stubbornness in letting all the contents of the visit, including clothes, blankets, food, and medicines.

And from inside Badr 3 within the new Badr prison complex, we monitored a message from inside the headquarters crying out for depriving them of their right to communicate with their families, whether through the legally prescribed visit or even through letters, as the detention center's administration prevents the entry or exit of correspondence between detainees and their families, as well as depriving them of exercise and exposure to sunlight and thus threatening escalation and a comprehensive strike until they can exercise their rights again, as well as Political detainee "Ahmed Orabi" announced open hunger strike in protest against the inhumane treatment he is subjected to inside his prison in the tenth of Ramadan prison in Sharkia Governorate, after pretrial detention for nearly 14 months, during which he was subjected to the most severe types of physical and psychological torture with his imprisonment inside the disciplinary rooms and assaulted in violation of the Egyptian prison regulations and international covenants.

We also monitored from press sources the distress of the mother of one of the students detained pending Case 24682023/ Supreme State Security, known as the "Support for Palestine" case, due to depriving her son of entering all the exams of the first semester at the Faculty of Sharia and Law, Al-Azhar University, despite the approval of the Prisons Authority, the University, and the Prosecution and allowing the entry of his textbooks. However, when she visited Badr 1 prison, she learned from him that he was not allowed to take the exams.

In light of all those above, 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 files of detainees, especially political ones. This systematic approach is intentional and not merely an isolated violation, as the Egyptian Ministry of Interior claims.

Moreover, the policy of impunity adopted by the Egyptian authorities towards human rights violators within detention facilities 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 reprimanded.

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

We call for an investigation into these violations, holding those responsible accountable following both Egyptian and international law; we urge adherence to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the

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Treatment of Prisoners, the Egyptian Prison Regulations, and the cessation of violations while ensuring living conditions that befit the humanity of detainees.

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