



National Council for Human Rights

## **Report on fact-finding visits to juvenile institutions and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations**

**2023-2025**

As part of the National Council for Human Rights' commitment to promoting child-friendly justice and protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law, the Council has conducted a series of field visits to juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities, in cooperation with relevant authorities, to monitor the conditions of children within these facilities and assess their compliance with national and international human rights standards, particularly the Paris Principles and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **Field visits:**

The first visit was to **the Giza Juvenile Observation Home on October 16, 2023**, an institution that accommodates children at risk and in conflict with the law. The visit revealed inadequate conditions, including poor infrastructure, a lack of regular healthcare, a shortage of qualified social and psychological personnel, and limited educational and rehabilitation programs for residents.

On **October 23, 2023, a visit was conducted to the El-Marg Juvenile Institution**, the only institution that accommodates children aged 15 to 18 and is under the supervision of the Ministries of Social Solidarity and Interior. The visit revealed problems with education and healthcare programs, weak vocational and training facilities, poor living conditions and the surrounding environment, and limited opportunities for family communication.

### **Interactive workshop:**

An **expanded workshop was held on October 25, 2023**, as part of a project funded by the European Union. It brought together representatives from the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Ministry of Justice, and several representatives of civil society and executive bodies. The workshop discussed the results of field visits and recommendations to improve the situation of children in conflict with the law. The importance of implementing alternative measures to detention and applying restorative justice



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concepts, such as community mediation and harm redress, as a means of resolving conflict was emphasized. The workshop also called for limiting the application of restrictive measures to extreme cases, and for removing legal and procedural obstacles that hinder the development of the child justice system. It also recommended strengthening institutional coordination among relevant stakeholders to achieve comprehensive and sustainable protection.

### **Follow-up visit – May 8, 2025:**

In continuation of its follow-up efforts, the National Council for Human Rights conducted a new field visit to **the Marg Juvenile Institution on May 8, 2025**. The mission observed a relative improvement in the level of services provided and infrastructure compared to the previous visit. These improvements include the provision of occupational safety and security requirements in workshops, facilitating communication between children and their families, improving school re-enrollment rates, increasing the number of psychologists and supervisors, and providing the necessary medical tests upon admission for infectious diseases such as hepatitis and AIDS, and recording them in the medical file. These developments were consistent with the recommendations made by the mission after the previous visit. However, a number of challenges remain, which necessitate continued intervention.

It was noted that the infrastructure still suffers from problems, including the spread of groundwater. Furthermore, the internal buildings, wards, and bathrooms need to be renovated and repainted. Despite the availability of occupational safety equipment in technical training workshops, work inside them is still carried out using primitive tools and equipment that do not meet modern standards.

On the educational front, re-enrollment procedures for school dropouts remain incomplete for all children, as some are illiterate. The mission members proposed enrolling them in the literacy programs of the General Authority for Adult Education as an exception, as the authority's regulations do not permit the admission of school dropouts. The institution also lacks technological training programs specifically for computer use.

In light of what has been observed, the mission recommends the need to develop technical education within the institution, linking it to labor market requirements and raising awareness among inmates of the importance of acquiring vocational skills that will help them begin



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independent lives after release. It also emphasizes the need for the National Council for Human Rights to be represented on the Criminal Justice Coordination Committee of the Ministry of Social Solidarity , to ensure direct monitoring of human rights issues. The mission calls for the conclusion of cooperation protocols with a number of major private and public companies , with the aim of integrating inmates into the technical education programs of these institutions and providing them with job opportunities within the framework of aftercare.

,The recommendations emphasize the need to increase the institution's financial allocations provide modern tools and equipment for technical education, and develop the medical clinic and . equip it with the necessary medicines and equipment

The results of these visits confirm that developing Egypt's juvenile justice system requires structural reforms and collaborative efforts focused on prevention and rehabilitation, rather than punishment. This will enhance respect for children's rights and support their future integration into society. The National Council for Human Rights reiterates its full commitment to continuing monitoring and coordination to achieve the desired transformation in child care and rehabilitation .institutions in conflict with the law, based on solid human rights and legal foundations