



National Council for Human Rights

Together to promote human rights

# National Council for Human Rights' 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

July 2023 – June 2024

# **The Report Preparation Team**

<b>General Supervision and Presentation</b> <b>Ambassador. Moushira Khattab</b> <b>President of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR)</b>		
<b>Head of the Report Preparation Committee</b> <b>Ambassador. Mahmoud Karem</b> <b>Vice President of the National Council for Human Rights</b>	<b>Senior Editor</b> <b>Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim</b> <b>Member of the National Council for Human Rights</b>	
<b>Editors</b>		
<b>Mr. Saeed Abdel Hafez</b> <b>Member of the National Council for Human Rights</b>	<b>Dr. Noha Bakr</b> <b>Member of the National Council for Human Rights</b>	
<b>Research team</b>		
<b>Asmaa Fawzy</b> <b>Zainab Safwat</b>	<b>Islam Rehan</b> <b>Ahmed Nasr</b>	<b>Karim Shalaby</b> <b>Sahar Rabie</b>

**Introduction**  
**For**  
**The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**  
**By: NCHR President**

It is my honor to present the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR)—the second report prepared by the Council in its current formation, which began its mandate in early 2022. The Council commenced its work amidst a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism, taking its first steps under the guidance of Egypt’s first constitution that adopts a comprehensive and well-founded human rights approach. This constitution was drafted by a 50-member committee comprising a distinguished group of Egyptian experts, both women and men, with a predominantly progressive outlook, including representatives of the Salafist movement, whose contributions were marked by civility and patriotism. Article 93 of the Constitution, among others, affirms Egypt’s

commitment to the international human rights standards it has adopted.

The Constitution instilled a sense of hope for a qualitative leap in human rights—a leap worthy of Egypt’s stature and the world’s expectations of a nation that has historically played a pivotal role in the global human rights movement. However, the years 2011 and 2012 witnessed a severe setback that undermined many prior achievements.

Despite the strenuous efforts made by the state to regain stability and resume regular reporting to treaty-based human rights mechanisms, the aspiration remains for the full realization of human rights for every Egyptian—without discrimination, and in fulfillment of constitutional entitlements. I recall that after the adoption of the 2014 Constitution, Marina Ottaway<sup>1</sup>, a noted expert on Egyptian affairs—whom I worked alongside in 2012 during my tenure

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<sup>1</sup> Her husband, David Ottaway, who served as a military correspondent in Egypt, authored a poignant article describing the situation in Egypt and predicting an impending revolution. The article was published in 2011 in the publications of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

as a Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.—authored an article describing the Constitution as a “wish list,” offering a rosy depiction of the Egyptian state. She noted that while the Constitution laid out power centers clearly, implementation would be the true test. At the time, I felt her assessment prematurely dismissed what was a monumental step forward and cast unwarranted doubt on the sincerity of the effort. From my office at the Center, I penned a rebuttal, published in Washington, in which I urged my colleague to reconsider her skepticism and wished that time would prove her prophecy wrong.

Now, ten years on, the reality remains that Egypt’s most inclusive Constitution continues to promise non-discriminatory rights to all Egyptians. It is not difficult to empathize with the ongoing calls for transforming these constitutional guarantees into tangible realities. We have grown accustomed to celebrating the signing of important documents, while too often neglecting the equally vital task

of monitoring their implementation and identifying barriers to their enforcement.

The purpose of this introduction is to address Egypt's endorsement of the UN General Assembly resolution of December 1993—known as the *Paris Principles*—which outlines the standards for establishing *independent national human rights institutions*, ensuring their financial and administrative autonomy and effectiveness. In accordance with these principles, institutions must submit their accreditation or reaccreditation requests every five years to the relevant committee. It was within this framework that Egypt established the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) in 2003/2004, as the sole independent national institution mandated to assist the state in protecting, promoting, and enforcing human rights for all individuals within its jurisdiction.

However, the Egyptian Constitution places the NCHR alongside other national councils, such as those for women, childhood and motherhood, and persons with disabilities.

These councils while crucial, were created following Egypt's adoption of specific UN conventions and do not require international accreditation, unlike the NCHR. This raises questions about whether the Constitution's drafters and those who approved it fully understood the distinct legal status of the NCHR and the critical importance of adhering to the Paris Principles.

Currently, the Council is working diligently to maintain its top-tier international accreditation under the Paris Principles, engaging in intense dialogue with the Sub-Committee on Accreditation to address concerns raised in third-party reports that, regrettably, lack objectivity. These reports allege insufficient compliance with international standards for independence and effectiveness of national human rights mechanisms.

The challenges are further compounded by a highly complex regional context that has bolstered the arguments of skeptics who question the value of upholding international human rights commitments at a time when our region is

witnessing significant violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The economic fallout from these crises, including the war in Ukraine, has deepened the risks of expanded conflict in a region already grappling with severe economic pressures.

Amid these regional and international challenges, domestic priorities have shifted towards alleviating the burden of structural financial and economic reforms, addressing fiscal imbalances, empowering the private sector, and rebalancing its role vis-à-vis the state. The state has managed to reduce foreign debt by approximately USD 16 billion, despite a 60% decline in Suez Canal revenues. Meanwhile, economic support for citizens continues, with a strategic shift towards targeted cash subsidise replacing in-kind subsidies, aimed at more effectively reaching those most in need.

The National Dialogue Board of Trustees annunced its intention to address the subsidy reform issue. Concurrently, efforts have been intensified to empower the private sector to boost production, create employment, and increase



competitiveness—essential steps towards accelerating economic reform. However, the continued devaluation of the Egyptian pound against the U.S. dollar remains a significant challenge, partially due to the country's reliance on imported food staples, primarily consumed by lower-income families. Alarming, many of these families involve their children in labor, depriving them of their constitutional right to free and compulsory basic education. Child labor exacerbates adult unemployment, undermining development and violating children's rights.

The new Minister of Education has taken steps to reduce classroom overcrowding—an initiative that, if successful, could enhance school appeal for low-income families and reduce dropout rates. Addressing this issue is essential to ensuring children's access to the social, emotional, and educational benefits of school.

"Among the issues faced by the National Council for Human Rights is the process of renewing its accreditation at the same status, which is not the first time but the third since its

establishment by the former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to whom the world owes the construction of the United Nations human rights system. He is credited with establishing an action plan to elevate that system and reform the United Nations. The plan also includes rationalizing the efforts of states to alleviate the burden of preparing their reports to the human rights treaty bodies. This has resulted in assisting countries in streamlining those efforts into what has come to be known as the Universal Periodic Review, which was assigned to the Human Rights Council in Geneva."

While some national human rights institutions in the Arab world have experienced declining official support, international interest in certain non-governmental actors operating abroad—often critical of their home countries—has surged. Reports from those actors are increasingly accepted without scrutiny, despite potential conflicts of interest and questionable accuracy. National institutions are left to confront these contradictions alone, often without

governmental backing, and suffer the consequences of political disputes between states and their critics.

Alarming, some institutions that have chosen to operate outside the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) framework now appear to enjoy greater independence and flexibility. This trend has not received sufficient attention from self-proclaimed human rights advocates, despite the risk it poses of replicating the fate of the League of Nations. Many national institutions now question the value of remaining within the Alliance's framework.

My motivation in writing these words stems not merely from the challenges facing our Council, but from a broader concern for the future of the global human rights movement—especially the status of independent national human rights institutions. The Sub-Committee on Accreditation of GANHRI recently issued a circular announcing its intention to prepare a General Observation on the Paris Principles and their relevance to national

institutions. It has requested input and suggestions from member institutions. The NCHR is focused on preparing its response, guided by the Egyptian experience, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining trust in this system from those it was created to serve, namely national institutions. The goal should be to "assist" rather than "punish" national human rights institutions, as they were established to help their countries protect, monitor, and enforce human rights for every citizen without any discrimination, regardless of their vulnerability.

"Despite the need for more support, the National Council for Human Rights has succeeded in maintaining the credibility of its performance and has managed to engage with key actors who are not necessarily supporters or advocates; rather, they are entities that often criticize, or consistently do so, the Egyptian performance in the field of human rights. These parties have become accustomed to a confrontational language rather than a language of constructive dialogue." The Council has decided to demonstrate its commitment to

dialogue with others. A prime example of this is the recent initiative by the Council's Civil and Political Rights Committee, which organized its first-ever panel discussion on the U.S. State Department's 2023–2024 International Religious Freedom Report (the section pertaining to Egypt). This dialogue brought together a distinguished group of independent human rights experts, with meaningful participation from both Al-Azhar and the Coptic Orthodox Church. The event was a model of open, substantive debate, reinforcing the Council's role as a free platform for diverse opinions. Opposition parties hailed it as a groundbreaking step, praising the Council's bold recommendations.

Since the launch of the National Dialogue, Council members have actively participated in numerous sessions, offering vital proposals. The Council's complaints system also cooperated with the Presidential Pardon Committee, and its collaboration with the Dialogue Secretariat has yielded significant contributions. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Council is

implementing a comprehensive program on reproductive rights, integrating them into secondary and university curricula, and reactivating existing school initiatives on human rights education. Students are actively participating in making these curricula more appealing to youth.

Intensive dialogues on human rights have continued with over 9,000 university students across ten Egyptian Universities, resulting in the formation of human rights experts and the establishment of human rights clubs in medical faculties. The first Youth and Human Rights Forum marked a strong start to a parallel path that empowers youth to lead a community-based movement for the implementation of human rights.

The Council also held a series of roundtable discussions on the right to a fair criminal trial. The 5<sup>th</sup> session took place on September 10, 2024, coinciding with parliamentary debates on the draft criminal procedures law. The sessions featured high-level participation from various stakeholders in the criminal justice system. The opinions expressed during this

series organized by the NCHR Legislative Committee represent the minimum demands that the NCHR insists should be included in the new criminal procedure law. The Council is actively involved in drafting this law through its membership in the relevant subcommittee. The law is of utmost importance, ranking second after the constitution as a stronghold of rights and freedoms. The council has also contributed to the significant achievements of the national Dialogue's landmark recommendations to abolish or reduce pretrial detention periods and promote alternative legal measures.

The NCHR's greatest achievement lies in its handling of citizen complaints, which serve as the most accurate lens through which it assesses the human rights situation in Egypt. Attached is a report on the NCHR's complaint-handling system.

After three years of direct engagement on the ground, I see no better path forward than to continue focusing on the implementation of human rights and making them a lived

reality for all Egyptians. Citizen complaints remain the NCHR's most honest indicator of the state of human rights and are the driving force behind many of the Council's initiatives. Indeed, they will always be central to our work. Our motto remains: *Together for the Realization of Human Rights*.

The European Union has emerged as a key partner, supporting many of the NCHR's programs and activities. We are now in the final phase of implementing this project, which is expected to be completed within two months. This follows the conclusion of a joint project with the Swiss Embassy in Cairo on expanding democratic horizons in Egypt, with a particular focus on youth engagement.

In conclusion, I present to you the NCHR 17th Annual Report, which coincides with the nearing end of the NCHR's 16<sup>th</sup> formation. It stands as testimony to the tireless efforts and diligent work undertaken to fulfill the mission entrusted to the NCHR—to realize the human rights enshrined in the Constitution.



**Moshira Khattab - NCHR President**

## **Introduction**

### **Ambassador Mahmoud Karem**

Vice -Presiden of the National Council for Human Rights and  
Supervisor of the Report Preparation Committee.

It is my honor to present this foreword to the second report issued by the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) in its current formation. At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Walaa Jad El-Karim, the principal editor of the report, and to the members of the Annual Report Preparation Committee, who dedicated themselves with commendable commitment and selflessness to producing this report. Covering the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, the report is the outcome of the active and diligent participation of researchers and staff across the NCHR's Technical Secretariat. Each contributed within their area of expertise to ensure that the report encompasses all relevant activities and topics with professionalism and independence.

Most importantly, the report adopts a constructive, critical approach that identifies challenges, proposes solutions and alternatives, and offers necessary legislative amendments. This methodology strengthens NCHR's ability to fulfill its duties and obligations in line with the Paris Principles, as clearly reflected in the "Recommendations" section of the report.

A particularly noteworthy development has been the serious engagement shown by the government with the NCHR's previous report. The Prime Minister approved the provision of a detailed government response to the 16th report in preparation for its presentation to the Presidency. In addition, all ministries issued formal responses to the contents of the report, demonstrating a high level of interaction and attention to the NCHR's observations, proposals, and legislative suggestions. This also affirms the NCHR's efforts in addressing complaints and promoting a culture of human rights, reinforcing its role as an independent national entity.

In conclusion, this annual report, which has been issued by NCHR since its establishment in 2004, is marked by a promising, innovative, and scientific methodology in its preparation. It offers comprehensive coverage of all relevant areas, including international engagements and participation in international treaty bodies in Geneva—such as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture—as well as meetings of the African Network of National Human Rights Institutions and surveys submitted to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in Geneva. Additionally, the Council successfully chaired the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions this year amidst significant challenges, most notably the brutal Israeli aggression against Gaza and the systematic violations of the

fundamental rights of the heroic Palestinian people. This was highlighted during the meeting of the network, chaired by Ambassador Moshira Khattab in Geneva on November 15, 2023, with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk.

## **Preface**

**Dr. Walaa Jad El-Karim**

Principal Editor of the Report

Continuing its role in supporting the enforcement of human rights standards in Egypt, and in commitment to its slogan "Together to Promote the Human Rights Path," the National Council for Human Rights issues its seventeenth periodic report, covering the period from July 2024 to June 2025. This period witnessed significant interactions at both the national and regional levels, which directly impacted the state of rights and freedoms.

In its 17<sup>th</sup> report, the NCHR has continued its participatory approach by gathering valuable input from all relevant specialized committees and units. A broad range of Council members and researchers were actively involved in every phase of data collection and report preparation, thereby reinforcing the methodology the Council has embraced since its inception.

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the President of NCHR, Ambassador Moushira Khattab, Vice President Ambassador Mahmoud Karem, and all NCHR members. I also sincerely thank the NCHR's General Secretariat, led by the Secretary-General, whose support was instrumental in meeting deadlines and ensuring the comprehensiveness of the report in reflecting all Council activities and its assessment of the human rights landscape across all categories.

This year's report is structured into four main chapters, in addition to a concluding section on recommendations. The first chapter provides an assessment of the human rights situation in Egypt during the reporting period and highlights the most significant national efforts in the development and implementation of relevant policies and legislation. The second chapter reviews the complaints received by the Council and the responses provided by the relevant authorities. The third chapter outlines the Council's most important activities related to the promotion of human

rights and the dissemination of human rights culture. The fourth chapter focuses on the Council's international engagements, including its interactions with United Nations and regional mechanisms, as well as other stakeholders concerned with human rights issues. It also presents the NCHR's position on the ongoing brutal Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, which began in October 2023. The final section of the annual report sets out the recommendations that the Council deems essential for the coming period, aiming to further enhance the level of commitment to human rights standards.

Additionally, the report includes several important annexes, such as financial and budgetary performance documents, reports submitted by the Council to international mechanisms, and selected examples of human rights complaints and allegations addressed during the reporting period.

**Cairo, August 2024**

Dr. Walaa Jad El-Karim

Principal Editor

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# **Chapter One**

## **The Human Rights Situation in Egypt**

### **(July 2023 - June 2024)**

#### **Introduction**

The period covered by this report is notably marked by the accelerated pace and the prominent outcomes of the National Dialogue mechanism initiated by the President in April 2022. The dialogue created the much-needed momentum during this critical juncture in Egypt's history and played a pivotal role in opening up numerous files closely related to public rights and freedoms. The NCHR looks forward to further progress in human rights issues in the upcoming period, particularly through the implementation of the National Dialogue's recommendations. These recommendations are expected to find their way onto the agenda of legislative reform and governmental policies, thereby reinforcing Egypt's commitment to international human rights standards.

The reporting period also witnessed ongoing regional turbulence, primarily driven by the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip— an assault marked by horrific war crimes that continues to cast a shadow over the region's political and economic landscape. Egypt has borne the brunt of supporting the legitimate Palestinian cause, making

considerable efforts throughout the conflict to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid and to ease the humanitarian catastrophe endured by the Palestinian people in Gaza.

In parallel, the impact of regional instability—coupled with the prolonged Russian-Ukrainian war and its global economic ramifications—triggered waves of inflation that affected Egypt's economy. These challenges led the government to adopt tighter fiscal policies and enter into a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The resulting measures had a marked impact on price levels and citizens' purchasing power, particularly in light of the necessary fuel price hikes and the restructuring of the food subsidy system.

This chapter of the annual report reviews the state of human rights in Egypt during the stated time frame. It is structured around two main pillars: the first examines constitutional safeguards and developments in national policies related to human rights, while the second offers an assessment of the state of rights and freedoms—whether civil, political, economic, social, or cultural—during the period from July 2023 to June 2024, including legislation enacted during this time as well as draft laws currently under consideration.

## **Constitutional Guarantees and the Evolution of National Human Rights Policies**

## **First: Constitutional Guarantees**

The Egyptian Constitution embodies the fundamental values upon which the nation is built. It stands as the supreme law of the land and the social contract between the state and its citizens. National experience played a pivotal role in shaping the provisions of the 2014 Constitution, which was drafted through a participatory approach rooted in the principles and values of human rights, in response to evolving political, economic, and social landscapes. The 2014 Constitution represents a significant milestone in the promotion and protection of rights and freedoms. Comprising 254 articles, it underscores respect for human rights and public liberties, and reinforces the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and social justice. In accordance with the Constitution, treaties acquire the force of law once ratified and published, including international human rights conventions to which Egypt is a party. All legislation and legal regulations are required to conform to the Constitution's provisions.

The Supreme Constitutional Court functions as the national mechanism tasked with safeguarding the alignment of laws and public policies with both the letter and spirit of the Constitution. To affirm this mandate, the Court issues binding rulings that reinforce constitutional principles. During the reporting period, the Court issued several

landmark rulings in support of rights and freedoms, most notably:

- In 2024, the Supreme Constitutional Court issued a ruling prohibiting the imposition of custodial sentences in defamation cases brought against public officials for published material. This decision represents a significant victory for the constitutional principles of rights and freedoms .
- "The unconstitutionality of a provision in the repealed Law on Associations and Civil Institutions No. 84 of 2022, specifically the third paragraph of Article (63), which grants the Minister of Social Affairs the authority to dismiss the boards of trustees of civil institutions, is established by the annulment of Article (141) of the executive regulations of the aforementioned law. The grounds for the ruling of the Constitutional Court indicate that citizens' right to establish civil institutions, along with their associated rights and other public liberties, are all established constitutional principles that individuals exercise collaboratively and are interconnected, supporting each other in an integrated framework that holds a prominent place in constitutional documents. For this reason, the Constitution, in Article (75), ensures the independence of civil institutions and their governing



bodies and prohibits administrative authorities from interfering in the affairs of these institutions or dissolving their boards of trustees except by a judicial ruling, which protects these institutions from administrative interference in their affairs by any means, regardless of the name used for such actions. Therefore, the provision granting the Minister of Social Affairs - currently the Minister of Social Solidarity - the power to dismiss the board of trustees of civil institutions falls within the prohibition established by the Constitution that prohibits the dissolution of these boards without a judicial ruling and is thus unconstitutional.

- In Case No. 95 of Judicial Year 43 (Constitutional), the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled the unconstitutionality the final paragraph of Article (243) of the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedure (Law No. 13 of 1968), as it pertained to item (6) of Article (241) of the same law. The case centered on the permissibility of having a retrial heard by the same judges—or some of them—who issued the original ruling under review, in cases involving internal contradictions in the ruling’s wording. The Court held that judicial proceedings must be free of any suspicion of bias or impropriety; as such doubts undermine public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary. The Court emphasized that judicial conduct

must remain beyond reproach and aligned with the high ethical standards of the judicial function.

- In Appeal No. 53 of Judicial Year 39, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled the unconstitutionality of paragraph (d) of Article (24) of the Statute of the Social and Health Care Fund for Employees of the Public Tax Authority. The Court held that the Fund's commitment to providing equivalent medical services to its members—whether inside or outside Egypt—is a constitutional obligation. Therefore, once a fund member fulfills their subscription duties, they, along with other members, share an equal legal standing. The challenged provision, however, introduced unjustified discrimination between members receiving treatment abroad and those treated domestically. Such a distinction contradicts the purpose for which the Fund was established and constitutes a violation of the principles of equality, justice, and social solidarity.
- In Case No. 100 of Judicial Year 43, the Court ruled the unconstitutionality of the first paragraph of Article (64) of the Civil Service Law (Law No. 81 of 2016), specifically its provision denying an employee held in pre-trial detention half of their salary during the detention period. This ruling applies in cases where the employee's criminal

responsibility is later dismissed by a final ruling or by an irrevocable judicial decision. The Court reasoned that Article (54) of the Constitution, which introduced the right to compensation for pretrial detention, implies that the state's obligation to compensate under such circumstances is now constitutionally binding. Therefore, any provision depriving the individual of their salary while ultimately exonerating them undermines this constitutional commitment and is therefore unconstitutional.

- In Constitutional Appeal No. 188 of Judicial Year 35, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled the unconstitutionality of the second paragraph of Article (20) of the Social Insurance Law (Law No. 79 of 1975, as amended by Law No. 130 of 2009), and accordingly invalidated Table No. (9) annexed to that law. The Court based its decision on the grounds that the challenged provision calculated pensions for those who resigned voluntarily (early retirement) using a lower actuarial factor, as specified in the aforementioned table. In contrast, pensions for employees whose service ended for other reasons were calculated based on one forty-fifth of the salary defined in Article (19) of the same law. This differentiation impaired the ability of the defined-benefit insurance system to fulfill its purpose of securing

social insurance services and created unjustified discrimination between early retirees and other retirees, despite their identical legal standing with respect to the insured risk. Acknowledging that applying the ruling retroactively would impose substantial financial burdens on the National Social Insurance Authority, the Court exercised its discretion under Article (49) of its governing law and determined that the effects of the ruling would take effect the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

## **Second: The Evolution of National Human Rights Policies**

### **The National Human Rights Strategy**

During the reporting period, the NCHR closely monitored developments in national human rights policies, most notably the implementation and follow-up of the National Human Rights Strategy, which was launched in September 2021. In its previous (16th) annual report, the Council provided detailed commentary on the strategy, offering recommendations based on its recognition of the strategy's importance and added value as the first official document reflecting the state's commitment to improving the human rights situation.

To date, the Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights has issued two follow-up reports on the implementation of the strategy's objectives. These reports provide comprehensive details on the key achievements and progress made toward the strategy's outlined goals. The NCHR encourages the Committee to continue its diligent efforts to oversee and support the implementation of the strategy. However, it also stresses the importance of adhering to the set timelines for releasing follow-up reports. Notably, the second report—covering the period from September 2022 to August 2023—was only published in August 2024, nearly a full year after its scheduled release date. Moreover, the Council continues to view the strategy as a living national document, capable of evolving to reflect both national and global developments. The Council also emphasizes the need for the strategy to include quantifiable and descriptive targets that can be measured, allowing for a clearer assessment of progress across relevant human rights areas.

## **The National Dialogue**

During the reporting period, the National Dialogue mechanism, initiated by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, began to yield important recommendations and outcomes. A positive phase of interaction emerged between the

dialogue's working bodies on one side, and both the legislative and executive branches of government on the other. One major outcome during this period was the Phase One Report issued by the dialogue's committees and Board of Trustees. This report contained a wide range of recommendations submitted to the President and referred to the government to be translated into legislative and executive actions. These recommendations were grouped under three primary pillars: political, economic, and social.

The most significant political and civil rights-related recommendations arising from the National Dialogue first phase included the activation of local popular councils, the swift issuance of their governing law, and the organization of their elections. They also included increasing the number of seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and reconsidering the constitutional ten-year limit on full judicial supervision of elections, which was set to expire in January 2024 (This recommendation was directly adopted by the President, resulting in an amendment to the law extending judicial oversight). Other key recommendations included amending certain provisions of the Law on the Exercise of Political Rights, utilizing modern technology throughout the electoral process (such as receiving candidacy applications, voting, and ballot counting), and reviewing the electoral system itself, including proposals related to mixed systems,

individual candidacy, proportional lists, and closed lists. Additionally, the recommendations called for the expedited establishment of an Anti-Discrimination Commission in line with constitutional entitlements, the activation of the role of trade unions and civil society, empowering labor unions and civil society organizations, including facilitating their operation, and the issuance of a unified law governing cooperative unions. Finally, the recommendations emphasized the need to enhance academic freedom and scientific research, encourage creative thinking, sign cooperation protocols with various foreign universities, and facilitate the exchange of experts to promote the implementation of best international practices.

Discussions during the dialogue also emphasized that political pluralism should reflect fundamental ideological currents and enjoy a minimum level of popular support, rather than being focused solely on the number of parties—highlighting that many well-established democracies do not have large numbers of political parties. The dialogue also supported the urgent need to enact a Freedom of Information Law.

As for social and economic rights-related recommendations, these included: Removing institutional barriers to increased investment, enhancing the investment and business climate,

boosting local production to support the economy. They also emphasized attracting investors to various geographical regions, reducing bureaucracy, accelerating the pace of economic activity, and facilitating the formal integration of small and medium enterprises into the national economy.

Additional recommendations focused on achieving food security, improving crop quality, and increasing agricultural productivity. This included providing production inputs at reasonable prices to lower costs for end consumers and ease burdens on farmers.

The recommendations further called for improving the legal and regulatory framework governing guardianship over financial affairs, to resolve longstanding issues affecting thousands of families and enabling Egyptian mothers to care for their children after the father's death.

A strong emphasis is also placed on expediting the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance System, and expanding access to primary healthcare services nationwide. The recommendations underscored the need to safeguard the rights of both doctors and patients, and to issue a Medical Liability Law aligned with international best practices.



In the field of education, the recommendations advocated for the development of educational programs that reinforce national identity, foster innovation and creativity, and align with labor market needs and economic demands. They also called for the advancement of technical and vocational education and securing suitable job opportunities for graduates, as well as improvements to pre-university education overall.

To enhance the quality of pre-university education, the recommendations included expanding international, regional, and local partnerships; scaling up public preschool programs; broadening the teaching of civic and moral education curricula; and involving civil society in the educational process in underserved geographic areas by facilitating land allocation, licensing, and incentives.

Finally, the recommendations emphasized the importance of maximizing the cultural institutions role in fostering national identity, strengthening frameworks that promote cultural awareness, establishing schools with art-focused tracks, utilizing public spaces for cultural and artistic events, and launching a national initiative to nurture and train young talents.

## **The National Population and Development Strategy (2023 – 2030)**

In September 2023, Egypt hosted the Global Conference on Health, Population, and Development in the New Administrative Capital, reaffirming the country's international commitments on population issues. The event also highlighted Egypt's ongoing efforts to maximize the benefits of its demographic dividend and provided a global platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and discussion of health, population, and development issues from a human rights perspective.

During the opening session of the conference, the National Population and Development Strategy (2023–2030) was officially launched. This strategy adopts the view that the population is one of the most vital components of the country's comprehensive strength. It reflects the state's commitment to implementing a population program aimed at achieving a balance between population growth rates and available resources, while maximizing investment in human capital and improving its quality within the broader framework of sustainable development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

The strategy was developed using a human rights-based approach, with the active participation of all relevant national stakeholders and in cooperation with international human rights bodies operating in Egypt. Its primary goal is to

reduce the total fertility rate to 2.1 children per woman, a target that would help curb unregulated population growth by 2 to 3 million individuals, resulting in a projected population of 117.8 million by 2032, compared to 120.9 million if current trends continue.

The NCHR considers the National Population and Development Strategy 2023–2030, along with its goals and thematic pillars, to be consistent with the objectives of human rights protection and sustainable development. The Council regards the strategy as a practical embodiment of rights-based planning. It actively participated in the consultations that shaped the strategy and its executive plan and continues to support and monitor the implementation of its components, strengthening cooperation with all relevant stakeholders.

## **Theme II: Assessment of the Human Rights Situation in Egypt**

### **First: Status of Civil and Political Rights (National Efforts and Evaluation)**

In parallel with the continued work of the National Dialogue mechanism—and the broad-based participation of all political currents and forces—civil and political rights have

witnessed notable progress, supported by a series of executive and legislative reforms. Nevertheless, several human rights issues persist and require intensified efforts and expedited action to overcome the associated challenges. The following provides an overview of the current status of civil and political rights, along with the relevant national efforts:

### **1) The Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security, and Protection from Torture or Degrading Treatment**

All international human rights instruments affirm that the right to life is the most fundamental of all rights—serving as the foundation upon which all other rights rest—and must be protected without discrimination. Similarly, no individual may be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

The Egyptian Constitution enshrines these principles. Article 54 stipulates that personal freedom is a natural right that is inviolable. Except in cases of *flagrante delicto* (caught in the act), no one may be arrested, searched, detained, or have their freedom restricted without a reasoned judicial order as required for investigation.

Anyone whose freedom is restricted must be immediately informed of the reasons, notified of their rights in writing, and allowed to contact both their family and lawyer without delay. They must be brought before the investigative authority within 24 hours of detention. No investigation may begin without their lawyer present, and if they do not have a lawyer, one must be appointed for them. Persons with disabilities must be provided with appropriate accommodations and support.

All individuals subject to detention have the right to challenge the legality of their detention before the judiciary, which must issue a ruling within one week; otherwise, the individual must be released immediately.

The termination of the state of emergency in Egypt and the ensuing absence of exceptional legal provisions, combined with the country's relative security stability, have had a positive impact on human rights standards in this area. Nonetheless, there remains an urgent need to accelerate legislative reforms aimed at reinforcing safeguards for the rights to life, liberty, personal security, and protection from torture and degrading treatment.

The NCHR continues to monitor Egypt's implementation of the Convention Against Torture, which the country ratified in 1986, particularly following the report issued in December

2023 by the Committee Against Torture in response to Egypt's periodic report. Key recommendations included ensuring compliance with laws governing pretrial detention, limiting its use to exceptional cases of short duration, and ensuring alignment with national legislation. The Committee further recommended that Egypt consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture at the earliest opportunity.

In this context, the NCHR submitted its own report to the Committee against Torture, which included several recommendations, notably: expanding the reform and modernization of prison facilities, improving living conditions and inmate care, coupled with enhancing cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Public Prosecution to intensify monitoring visits to prisons and detention centers.

The NCHR is closely following the new strategy of the Ministry of Interior concerning the management of rehabilitation and correctional centers, which signals a positive shift in the philosophy of correctional institutions—focusing on the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals deprived of their liberty.

The NCHR continues to serve as a key national mechanism for receiving complaints related to inmate conditions. It conducts regular monitoring visits to assess the overall

human rights environment and investigate alleged violations—including medical negligence, ill-treatment, overcrowding, denial of basic rights, and punitive measures. The Council has also documented a number of human rights concerns regarding conditions in specific facilities (e.g., Badr and New Valley correctional centers).

According to the Criminal Procedure Code, the Public Prosecution conducts regular inspection campaigns at prisons and police stations nationwide to assess inmate conditions and ensure services comply with the law and human rights standards.

The NCHR emphasizes the need for the Ministry of Interior to continue its efforts to implement the “Nelson Mandela Rules”. In this context, the Ministry—working in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)—organized six training sessions between July 2023 and June 2024 to build the capacity of correctional staff in line with these international norms.

Moreover, constitutional bodies are actively engaged in efforts to align Egypt’s national legislation with its international human rights obligations. This includes revising policies and procedures to ensure that pretrial detention is used strictly as an exceptional measure during criminal investigations. The NCHR has consistently called for the

accelerated adoption of a new Criminal Procedure Code, reflecting the outcomes of extensive public consultations held under the National Dialogue, as well as the legislative deliberations currently underway in Parliament—with the active participation of the Council.

On the death penalty, several human rights actors have called for restricting the scope of the death penalty, citing its status as a direct violation of the right to life. Despite existing legal safeguards and stringent conditions for issuing death sentences, there is a pressing need to review the list of crimes punishable by death. The NCHR encourages the Egyptian authorities to consider a voluntary moratorium on the implementation of death sentences pending a comprehensive review of relevant legislation.

To reinforce legal safeguards for the rights of the accused, Law No. 1 of 2024 was enacted to amend specific provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code pertaining to appeals in felony cases. This legislative development establishes comprehensive mechanisms for issuing death sentences in criminal courts at both the first instance and appellate levels and outlines the relevant procedural safeguards.

Under Article 381, all general procedures applicable to criminal courts remain in effect unless explicitly stated otherwise. Paragraph two of the Article stipulates that a



death sentence may not be imposed unless the decision is rendered unanimously by the presiding judges. Furthermore, the court is required to seek the advisory opinion of the Grand Mufti, who must receive the complete case file sufficiently in advance of the sentencing hearing. However, if the Mufti's opinion is not received by the designated session, the court may proceed with issuing the verdict. In the event of a vacancy, absence, or impediment affecting the Mufti, the Minister of Justice is authorized to appoint a replacement. Appeals against rulings by appellate criminal courts may only be made through cassation or retrial.

This legislative amendment is consistent with constitutional provisions—particularly Article 96, which mandates the regulation of appeals for felony convictions, and Article 240, which requires the State to provide the necessary human and institutional resources to support felony appeals within ten years of the Constitution's adoption. The law also fulfills commitments outlined in the National Human Rights Strategy, launched by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and reflects Egypt's adherence to relevant international obligations and standards.

During the reporting period, President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi issued several presidential decrees granting pardons to individuals serving custodial sentences, with notable rounds

of pardons occurring in July and October 2023, and January and April 2024. These pardons included a substantial number of individuals convicted under laws regulating political rights, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly.

The NCHR continues to view the presidential pardon mechanism, as outlined in Article 155 of the Constitution, as a vital instrument for addressing unresolved human rights cases. It is also seen as a key step in regularizing the legal status of individuals convicted during Egypt's efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

## **2) The Right to Political Participation:**

Article 87 of the Constitution stipulates that citizen participation in public life is a national duty, and that every citizen has the right to vote, run for office, and express opinions in referenda. The law regulates the exercise of these rights, and exemptions from this duty are permitted in specific cases defined by law. Law No. 45 of 2014 governs the exercise of political rights.

In line with constitutional and legal provisions, presidential elections were held in December 2023, with four candidates running for office. These included the current President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, as well as three leaders of political parties: Mr. Hazem Omar (Republican People's Party), Mr.

Abdel-Sanad Yamama (Wafd Party), and Mr. Farid Zahran (Egyptian Social Democratic Party).

The elections were overseen by the National Election Authority (NEA), an independent body composed entirely of judicial members, established under Article 208 of the Constitution and Law No. 198 of 2017. The NEA manages referenda and presidential, parliamentary, and local elections. Its responsibilities include maintaining and updating the voter database, proposing electoral district divisions, setting campaign regulations, overseeing campaign financing and spending, facilitating voting for Egyptians abroad, and announcing official election results.

Accordingly, the 2023 presidential elections were conducted under full judicial supervision, involving 15,000 judges from various judicial bodies. Additionally, 14 international organizations monitored the elections with a total of 220 observers, along with 62 local civil society organizations, totaling 22,340 local monitors. According to NEA statistics, voter turnout reached nearly two-thirds of registered voters. Neither the Council nor accredited observers reported any violations or irregularities that could affect the integrity and fairness of the electoral process.

The Council underscores the importance of building on the outcomes and recommendations of the National Dialogue

related to enhancing political participation. These include accelerating the issuance of the law governing local popular councils, expediting their elections and formation, considering increasing the number of seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and amending certain provisions of the Political Rights Law to enhance the use of modern technology in electoral processes.

### **3) Freedom of Expression and the Right to Access Information:**

Article 65 of the Egyptian Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and opinion, affirming every person's right to express their views—verbally, in writing, through imagery, or by any other means of publication. Egypt maintains a diverse media landscape, reflecting a range of ownership structures and editorial orientations. The Constitution and relevant legislation govern media and press institutions, granting them a considerable degree of independence while also setting ethical and legal standards.

Under Law No. 180 of 2018 on the Regulation of the Press, Media, and the Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR), journalists and media professionals are required to carry out their duties in accordance with constitutional values, the code of professional ethics, and the editorial

policy of their affiliated outlets. They must also respect the rights and freedoms of citizens and uphold the traditions of the profession.

During the reporting period, complaints continued to be documented concerning the blocking of various news websites and the arrest of journalists on charges of disseminating false information. Additional concerns were raised regarding the restrictive application of certain criminal laws in ways that undermine freedom of expression—particularly the press. The Journalists’ Syndicate has consistently advocated for the release of several of its members currently facing prosecution in connection with alleged violations of legal procedures regulating the exercise of free expression.

During this period, the Supreme Council for Media Regulation (SCMR) issued decisions regarding the regulation of digital platforms and encrypted satellite channels. The Council cited its legal authority to take measures to protect society—especially youth and minors—from harmful content and to improve content transparency. The SCMR notified all digital and encrypted platforms of their obligation to comply with content standards and licensing conditions for operations in Egypt. Following this decision, some platforms began the licensing process, while others failed to comply.

As a result, the SCMR, in coordination with the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), initiated technical measures to restrict access to unlicensed services.

The Council continues to advocate for the issuance of a Freedom of Information Law in implementation of Article 68 of the Constitution, which states that “information, data, statistics, and official documents are the property of the people,” and that access to such material is a right guaranteed by the state. The article further obliges the state to ensure transparency and availability of information. This priority is also reflected in Egypt’s National Human Rights Strategy, which calls for reviewing and amending legislation that may hinder the free flow of information.

The Journalists' Syndicate has called for amendments to press and media laws to reinforce the independence of press institutions, facilitate journalists’ professional duties, and remove restrictions imposed by some legal provisions on freedom of opinion and expression. The Syndicate has also urged the adoption of legislation abolishing custodial penalties for publishing-related offenses, in accordance with Article 71 of the Constitution, which stipulates that "No custodial penalties may be imposed for publication or publicity-related crimes, except for those involving incitement to violence, discrimination among citizens, or

attacks on personal dignity," for which the law shall determine penalties.

During the reporting period, multiple draft laws on freedom of information were proposed by government entities, civil society organizations, and members of the House of Representatives. This is in line with the National Human Rights Strategy's first pillar, which calls for the issuance of a law regulating the right to access and circulate official information, data, and statistics. In 2023, the draft law was discussed in the political track of the National Dialogue sessions. The SCMR also prepared a draft bill on freedom of information before submitting it to the House of Representatives. The draft aims to recognize the right to access information in accordance with international standards and to mandate proactive disclosure, provided that such transparency does not conflict with legitimate national security concerns.

#### **4) Freedom of Belief and the Practice of Religious Rituals**

The Egyptian Constitution guarantees absolute freedom of belief and affirms the right to practice religious rites and establish places of worship for adherents of the Abrahamic religions, as regulated by law. It criminalizes discrimination and incitement to hatred, underscoring that all citizens are equal before the law and enjoy equal rights, freedoms, and

public duties—without discrimination based on religion, belief, gender, origin, race, color, language, disability, social status, political or geographic affiliation, or any other reason.

Under the Penal Code, using religion to propagate extremist ideologies with the aim of inciting sectarian strife, showing contempt for or distorting religious beliefs, or undermining national unity is punishable by imprisonment or a fine. In line with these provisions, the Egyptian government continues to implement initiatives promoting religious tolerance, reinforcing the principles of inclusive citizenship, countering religious extremism, and enabling the free practice of religious rites, including the construction of places of worship. Preserving national identity and protecting historical and religious heritage sites—such as temples, monasteries, churches, and mosques—remain a key focus, recognizing these locations as long-standing symbols of religious coexistence, right to religious freedom and the practice of religious rites.

The NCHR has followed the implementation of the "Great Transfiguration" project in the area surrounding Mount Sinai and Saint Catherine in the Sinai Peninsula. Given its symbolic significance as a crossroads of faiths and civilizations, the project serves as a national message of peace, coexistence, and religious harmony.



The Ministry of Education regularly reviews school textbooks for various grades to remove any content that may conflict with human rights principles or discriminate against groups of different religions. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture organizes many activities to promote a culture of tolerance and acceptance of others. Religious institutions, in alignment with human rights values, continue to renew religious discourse and confront manifestations of extremism, particularly in countering misinformation and radical narratives—especially those proliferating on social media. Numerous interfaith and intercultural dialogue events have been held to foster values of peace, tolerance, and responsible citizenship.

During the reporting period, a draft personal status law for Christians was finalized in consultation with all Christian denominations in Egypt. The proposed law seeks to resolve longstanding issues related to marriage, divorce, and inheritance within Christian communities, while also simplifying associated legal procedures—particularly in light of the absence of civil marriage provisions in the current legal framework.

## **5) The Right to Formation of Civil Associations and Syndicates, and Peaceful Assembly**

In accordance with Article 75 of the Egyptian Constitution, all citizens have the right to establish associations and civil institutions on a democratic basis. These entities acquire legal personality upon notification and are entitled to operate freely. Administrative authorities may not interfere in their affairs or dissolve them—or their boards of directors or trustees—except by judicial ruling. The establishment or continuation of associations engaging in secret, military, or paramilitary activities is strictly prohibited by law.

Civil society remains a vital partner in promoting and safeguarding human rights and plays a central role in the country's efforts toward inclusive and sustainable development. Since its establishment, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) has prioritized collaboration, coordination, and knowledge-sharing with civil society organizations to advance human rights protection.

In fulfillment of constitutional mandates and Egypt's international human rights obligations, Law No. 149 of 2019 on the Regulation of Civil Work and its executive regulations were issued to empower associations and facilitate their community engagement. As part of its digital transformation efforts, the Ministry of Social Solidarity launched an integrated electronic platform to streamline civil work procedures. This platform contributes to building a

comprehensive national database that reflects the contributions, outcomes, and beneficiaries of civil society organizations across Egypt.

As of the reporting period, the number of associations and civil institutions registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity had reached nearly 52,000. Out of 35,770 organizations that applied for legal status regularization under the new law, 32,924 successfully completed both the paper-based and electronic processes.

Despite the progress made in enhancing the status of civil associations and increasing domestic funding, some organizations still face procedural challenges. A number of associations have not been able to regularize their status under Law No. 149 of 2019 and thus face the risk of dissolution unless a legal framework is provided to allow them to operate without such threats. Additionally, some organizations continue to face lengthy delays in obtaining approvals for grants and cooperation with foreign entities. Although the law stipulates that failure to receive a response from the administrative authority within 60 days of submitting a request constitutes approval, actual practice indicates a need for stronger enforcement of this legal provision. This includes comprehensive training for the

personnel of relevant administrative bodies to ensure adherence to the law.

Human rights organizations have called for amendments to the current law, particularly regarding the imposition of hefty fines—up to one million EGP—instead of custodial penalties for receiving or sending funds from a foreign or local entity or collecting donations in violation of the law. Many advocate for more proportional penalties and for expanding the role of the Civil Associations and Institutions Project Support Fund, established under Article 82 of the law, to provide continuous financial support to civil society activities and initiatives that operate legally.

During the reporting period, Law No. 171 of 2023 was enacted to establish the National Alliance for Civil and Development Work, with the objective of promoting volunteerism, fostering social and economic development, and mobilizing both individual and collective efforts. Presidential Decree No. 149 of 2024 further institutionalized the Alliance, bringing together civil society organizations and legal entities from the public and private sectors. The Alliance's General Assembly adopted its statute, internal regulations, and 2024–2030 strategic roadmap, and elected its executive bodies. While the Council recognizes the importance and value of such civic initiatives, it underscores

the need to ensure clear coordination and avoid overlap or conflicts with existing structures, such as the General Federation and regional or sectoral federations of civil associations.

In line with Article 74 of the Constitution, citizens have the right to form political parties by notification, as regulated by law. Political parties may not be based on religion, gender, ethnicity, sectarianism, or geographic considerations, nor may they oppose democratic principles, engage in secret or military-like activities. Political parties may not be dissolved except by court order.

Currently, Egypt is home to more than 100 political parties, varying widely in influence and ideological reach. Many face structural challenges due to limited financial resources, weak organizational capacity, and minimal representation in elected institutions (the House of Representatives and the Senate), which in turn limits their impact on public policy.

The Council believes that enabling political parties to play a larger role in political life requires reconsideration of the current electoral system and transitioning to a system more conducive to party growth and representation. The Council stresses the importance of considering the National Dialogue's recommendation to develop the electoral system

in a way that ensures greater political pluralism and broader representation of various political parties in elected bodies.

With regard to the right to peaceful assembly, the reporting period saw a number of small-scale protests, primarily held near the headquarters of the Egyptian Journalists' Syndicate. These demonstrations were organized to condemn Israeli practices in Gaza and the perceived global silence surrounding them. The Council monitored instances of arrests among demonstrators during this time. Notably, most individuals detained in relation to these events were subsequently released, reflecting the stable security environment and the state's continued success in countering terrorism and dismantling extremist organizations that had previously posed a significant threat.

## **6) The Right to Litigation and Strengthening Fair Trial Guarantees:**

On 16 January 2024, Law No. 1 of 2024 was issued, amending certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, particularly with regard to appeals against criminal court verdicts. This amendment comes within the framework of the constitutional obligation on the State to ensure the availability of the human and material resources necessary to allow for appeals in criminal cases by no later than 17 January 2024, marking ten years since the

Constitution's promulgation. Rather than constituting a standalone reform, the amendment complements broader legislative efforts adopted by Parliament to advance justice and due process.

The law introduced a new legal framework, set out in Chapter II of Part III of the Code, for proceedings before newly established appellate criminal courts. This includes procedures for notifying defendants of scheduled hearings, stipulations regarding the qualifications of lawyers eligible to plead before such courts, the lawyer's role and associated penalties for breaching it, compensation for court-appointed defence lawyers, and procedural steps for case submission and judicial decision-making on detention and release.

As a procedural criminal law, the Code of Criminal Procedure aims to implement the Penal Code while safeguarding the rights and freedoms of individuals. The new law represents a significant step toward strengthening human rights protections by streamlining litigation procedures and accelerating the resolution of cases, all without compromising the right to a fair trial or legal defense. It also reinforces the principle of dual-level litigation to ensure better access to justice and reduce the backlog at the Court of Cassation.

The newly established appellate criminal court circuits are distributed as follows: seven circuits at the South New Cairo Courts Complex, eight at the North Cairo Courts Complex in Abbassia, two at the Abdeen Courts Complex, six criminal circuits in Giza and the Zinhom Courts Complex, three appellate criminal circuits at the Rabi' El-Gizy Courts Complex, two at the Kilo 5.5 Courts Complex, and one at the Badr Courts Complex.

In line with this, the President of the Cairo Court of Appeals and Chair of the Council of Court of Appeal Presidents issued a decision to establish 29 new appellate criminal court circuits, thereby giving effect to the recent amendments approved by Parliament and ratified by the President, which now make criminal cases subject to two tiers of litigation.

During the reporting period, national efforts to strengthen the right to litigation and expedite the delivery of justice gained momentum. The NCHR monitored the automation of various judicial services and the rollout of remote litigation services in civil and economic courts. Efforts also addressed the challenges posed by the significant increase in the number of pending cases and the prolonged duration of issuing final verdicts.

As part of the digital transformation initiative, a pilot project was launched to use artificial intelligence in courtrooms. It



involves converting spoken proceedings into written transcripts, printed at the end of the session and signed by the presiding judge and court clerk. These transcripts are accurate, readable, error-free, and tamper-proof, thereby mitigating the shortcomings of traditional court records.

In parallel, Parliament has initiated deliberations on drafting a modern and comprehensive Code of Criminal Procedure, aligned with the objectives of the National Human Rights Strategy and relevant international treaties. Central to this legislative overhaul are key issues such as pretrial detention, precautionary measures, and procedural safeguards. The National Council for Human Rights is actively participating in consultations with the relevant parliamentary committees.

The main objectives of the proposed law include delivering expeditious justice, reducing the burden on the Court of Cassation, and introducing robust guarantees for litigants given the serious nature and consequences of criminal cases.

A parliamentary drafting committee—comprising members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, legal scholars, the Bar Association, and the National Council—finalized the draft in March 2024. This draft, intended to replace the current law in force for over 74 years, is scheduled for review during the first session of the upcoming

parliamentary term, as announced by Speaker Hanafy Gebaly in June 2024 during the House's plenary session.

Key features of the proposed amendments include:

- Introducing alternatives to pretrial detention, including setting clear limits on its duration and establishing mechanisms for compensation;
- Reforming procedures for contesting in absentia rulings to strike a balance between access to justice and the right to defence, while ensuring expeditious trials;
- Guaranteeing dual-tier litigation in misdemeanour and felony cases;
- Modernizing notification procedures in line with digital transformation, while preserving traditional service of process;
- Regulating remote investigation and trial procedures in line with modern technologies;
- Organizing international judicial cooperation in line with Egypt's treaty obligations and the principle of reciprocity;

- Enhancing constitutional guarantees for the rights of litigants, defendants, convicted individuals, and detainees;
- Providing effective legal protection for witnesses, whistleblowers, experts, and victims;
- Institutionalising the principle of “no trial without legal representation.”;
- Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities throughout investigation, trial, and execution of sentences by ensuring appropriate support services and accessibility tools.
- Repealing custodial coercion and replacing it with mandatory community service under clearly defined regulations.

The National Council for Human Rights pins high hopes on the enactment of this new law, which is expected to resolve many of the longstanding issues stemming from the outdated existing legislation and establish a sustainable legal framework that strengthens the guarantees of a fair, equitable, and expeditious trial. It also calls for wide-ranging

societal dialogue during the drafting process, especially in response to public feedback and legal critiques concerning some provisions of the draft. Finally, the Council reiterates the importance of enacting a comprehensive law on the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses to complete the legislative ecosystem.

### **7) Rights of Vulnerable Groups (Older Persons – Persons with Disabilities – Women – Children):**

On 4 April 2024, Law No. 19 of 2024 was enacted to establish the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons. This legislation aims to uphold and promote the rights of elderly individuals, ensuring their full access to social, political, health, economic, cultural, and recreational rights. It guarantees their entitlement to all rights under international treaties and conventions, promotes societal awareness, and facilitates accessibility. The law further empowers older persons to participate in public life and influence policies affecting them, and mandates dedicated service windows to access services without competition from others.

To support persons with disabilities, Law No. 161 of 2023 was issued on 6 August 2023, reinforcing the “Qaderoon Bekhtelaf” (Persons of Determination) Fund with the objective of providing sufficient financial support to enhance

various forms of social and economic protection for persons with disabilities. Article 1 of the law stipulates the transfer of financial surpluses from the accounts of several entities to the Fund, which was originally established by Law No. 200 of 2020. The total value of these funds amounted to EGP 1.1 billion. On 21 February 2024, a further amendment to the law introduced the appointment of an Executive Director to oversee and manage the fund's operations and ensure its effective functioning.

On 4 December 2023, Law No. 185 of 2023 was enacted, introducing amendments to the Penal Code to intensify penalties for newly emerging crimes, including harassment, sexual assault, and bullying. The amendments stipulate that any individual who harasses another in a public, private, or commonly frequented space—by engaging in sexually suggestive or indecent behavior, whether through gestures, words, actions, or by any means, including wired, wireless, or electronic communication, or other technological tools—shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not less than two years and not exceeding four years, and a fine ranging from EGP 100,000 to EGP 200,000, or either of the two penalties.

The law further stipulates that if the perpetrator falls under the categories outlined in the second paragraph of Article (267) of the Penal Code—such as holding a position of

professional, familial, or academic authority over the victim, or having exerted pressure enabled by such a position—or if the crime was committed in the workplace, on public transportation, by two or more individuals, or by someone carrying a weapon, the punishment shall be imprisonment for no less than seven years. If two or more of these aggravating circumstances apply, the penalty shall increase to a minimum of ten years' imprisonment.

On 16 November 2023, Law No. 182 of 2023 was issued to restructure the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, alongside amendments to the Child Law No. 12 of 1996.

Additionally, Law No. 183 of 2023—enacted on 4 December 2023—amended Law No. 204 of 2020 concerning the State Award for the Creative Child. The revisions ensure that no child may win the award more than once within the same age category, thus broadening opportunities for other young creative minds. It also replaced a clause disqualifying candidates with prior moral or dishonesty-related convictions (unless rehabilitated) with a general requirement of good conduct and reputation. The law provides for an annual award to honor children under 18 who produce original intellectual or artistic works.

On 10 December 2023, Law No. 186 of 2023 was issued, amending the Child Law No. 12 of 1996. The amendment grants courts greater discretion to replace custodial sentences with rehabilitation and training programs, for a period not exceeding six months. The programs are defined by a decree from the Minister of Social Solidarity in coordination with the National Councils for Women and for Childhood and Motherhood. The law also encourages child fostering by granting foster or custodial mothers of children under six months the same maternity leave rights as biological mothers. Additionally, it empowers courts to substitute custodial sentences for guardians who fail to supervise minors—after being warned by the Public Prosecution—with compulsory participation in rehabilitation programs, thus avoiding unnecessary separation of children from their parents.

Meanwhile, public debate continues around the proposed Personal Status Law, currently under review. The draft, which has drawn calls for amendments from numerous civil society organizations and large segments of the public, comprises 183 articles and is expected to replace six existing laws related to personal status. It is divided into three sections: guardianship of the person, guardianship of property, and litigation procedures. Its provisions aim to address many of the shortcomings in the current legislation.

## **Second: The Status of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (National Efforts and Evaluation):**

The current economic crisis has had a significant impact on the enjoyment of economic and social rights in Egypt. Inflation rates have risen, increasing the cost of accessing basic rights and services. Despite the national efforts made, Egyptian citizens continue to suffer from the rising costs of goods and services. Among the factors that have negatively affected the implementation of rolling power outages, adopted to ease the strain on the electricity grid in light of limited energy resources and soaring energy prices—this, in turn, adversely affected both economic and social activities.

As a result of the economic reform policies, including currency flotation and inflationary pressures, the costs of education (such as tuition fees and books) have doubled. Similarly, the prices of medications have surged while their availability declined due to rising costs of production inputs and raw materials. The purchasing power of Egyptians has been further weakened by the successive increases in fuel prices and the reduction of subsidies on staple goods, including subsidized bread.

These fiscal policies were largely driven by Egypt's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a structural economic reform program, which the country



adopted in response to successive global crises, particularly those arising from regional wars that have impacted much of the world. Additionally, the soaring public debt—especially external debt—has led to high debt service costs, which now consume a significant portion of the state's general budget.

During the reporting period, the state continued implementing the first phase of its ambitious "Decent Life" program aimed at developing all villages across rural Egypt. Phase one, which is nearing completion, covers 1,477 villages inhabited by 18 million Egyptians. Preparations are underway to launch phase two, targeting 1,677 villages home to approximately 21 million people.

This program represents a qualitative shift in Egypt's strategy to address marginalized areas and achieve geographic and social justice. For decades, rural areas in Egypt have suffered from deprivation and developmental neglect. The Decent Life initiative reflects the state's intent to transform rural areas from zones of population outflow into areas of attraction. It establishes a comprehensive foundation to enhance a wide array of economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights for rural citizens.

Program interventions address critical development gaps, including the right to adequate housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, reliable clean energy supply, and safe road

networks. They also promote digital inclusion by upgrading communications infrastructure to high-speed networks. Furthermore, the initiative enhances access to quality education, healthcare, youth and sports services, and cultural engagement through the construction and modernization of local facilities.

Indirectly, the initiative contributes to enhancing civil and political rights in rural communities by establishing service facilities that promote access to civil rights—such as registration, notarization, civil status documents, and requirements for receiving support and benefiting from the social protection network. It also supports political rights by eliminating a longstanding form of pressure in rural areas, where lack of services was historically exploited to influence electoral choices. By ensuring access to essential services, the program helps enable political participation based on informed decisions and genuine evaluation of parliamentary and political performance, rather than service-based vote inducement.

### ✓ **The Right to Housing:**

On December 17, 2023, Law No. 187 of 2023 was issued concerning the reconciliation of certain building violations and the regularization of their status. The law aims to encourage applications for legalizing violations while

ensuring structural safety. It allows for reconciliation of previously non-reconcilable violations under specific conditions, and it sets minimum and maximum rates for reconciliation per square meter. The law also permits installment payments over five years, including an interest-free grace period of three years, and offers a 25% discount for immediate full payment. The executive regulations were issued on April 4, 2024, by Prime Ministerial Decree No. 1121 of 2024.

The housing sector has been impacted by inflation and rising construction material costs, leading to increased housing and utility prices, as well as higher rents for some units. Nevertheless, the government continues to offer affordable housing projects. In 2024, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities launched the "Housing for All Egyptians" initiative, offering approximately 70,000 housing units in 17 new cities, with an affordable down payment and long-term mortgage options extending up to 30 years.

Meanwhile, the demand for real estate as a safe investment amid economic uncertainty has led to a growing number of uninhabited residential units, estimated at around 12 million. This trend exacerbates the housing crisis. The long-standing debate over the “old rent” law continues between landlords and tenants—landlords seek reform of the

decades-old law, while tenants insist on their right to remain in homes occupied for many years, asserting that the lease agreements were entered into by mutual consent. A balanced solution is needed to resolve this issue fairly.

The state continues to implement its ambitious plans to develop road networks, infrastructure corridors, and electric-based transport systems, which have positively transformed various areas into investment hubs. However, some of these projects have involved increased property expropriations for public benefit. The Council has received complaints about delays in compensation payments and dissatisfaction with the compensation amounts—issues that call for a reassessment of valuation methods and disbursement procedures. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the removal of architecturally significant historical sites, which sparked widespread public debate.

One notable positive outcome of improved roads and transportation services has been a significant reduction in road traffic fatalities by 24.5%. According to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the number of road accident fatalities dropped from 7,762 in 2022 to 5,861 in 2023.

#### ✓ **The Right to Health:**

On February 24, 2024, Law No. 14 of 2024 was issued amending certain provisions of the Law Regulating Medical Professions in Entities Affiliated with the Ministry of Health (Law No. 14 of 2014). The amendment integrates specialists in applied health sciences technology into the law's scope, granting them entitlements similar to other medical professionals, including remote area incentives, overnight shift bonuses, and medical risk allowances. The amendment also increases the rates of allowances and incentives for all professionals covered under the law, aligning them with the entitlements of their peers in the medical field. The law aligns with Egypt's Sustainable Development Plan 2023 and the World Health Organization's call to accelerate action on genetic disease prevention.

On February 20, 2024, Law No. 5 of 2023 was enacted to amend Law No. 139 of 2021 establishing the Medical Emergencies Fund. The amendment changed the fund's name from "The Fund for Medical Emergencies and Rare Genetic Diseases" to simply "The Fund for Medical Emergencies," and updated terminology throughout the law to reflect this change. The wording was also revised to replace "contributing to costs" with "covering costs."

Further legislative developments included the issuance of Law No. 87 of 2024 on June 23, 2024, which regulates the

granting of public utility concessions for the establishment, management, operation, and development of healthcare facilities. The law applies to primary healthcare centers, family health units, and blood and plasma collection activities as governed by Law No. 8 of 2021 (excluding supportive blood services). While the law has sparked considerable debate among healthcare professionals and civil society actors—many of whom have expressed concerns about its potential impact on equitable access to affordable healthcare—the government has offered reassurances on maintaining accessibility. The Council underscores that the ultimate test of this legislation will lie in its implementation, particularly its success in safeguarding the right to health for underserved and vulnerable populations.

According to CAPMAS data, public spending on health for the fiscal year 2023–2024 reached EGP 147.8 billion, up from EGP 128.1 billion the previous year. Nevertheless, challenges persist, particularly regarding medical negligence in healthcare facilities and the high cost of treatment in private hospitals. The Council continues to receive public complaints and petitions for state-funded treatment and calls to expedite the expansion of universal health insurance coverage—especially given the rising costs of healthcare, medications, and treatment amid the ongoing economic crisis and inflation.

Regarding the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance System, the second phase is set to begin in 2024 in the governorates of Kafr El-Sheikh, Damietta, Minya, Matrouh, and North Sinai, following the successful rollout of the first phase in Port Said, Luxor, Ismailia, South Sinai, and Aswan. According to the General Authority for Healthcare, beneficiary satisfaction with the services provided under the system reached 91%.

✓ **Right to Work, Social Protection, and Social Security:**

On February 21, 2024, Law No. 9 of 2024 was enacted to accelerate the eligibility date for periodic bonuses, provide a special bonus to employees not covered by the Civil Service Law, increase the additional incentive granted to public employees, and extend special bonuses to workers in public sector and public business sector companies. The law also mandated an increase in civil and military pensions. These measures form part of the state's broader efforts to strengthen the social protection framework, particularly for low-income and vulnerable groups, as they continue to face mounting living expenses.

On the same date, Law No. (8) of 2024 was issued to amend certain provisions of the Social Insurance and Pensions Law No. 148 of 2019. The amendment replaced the phrase

“every fifteen years” with “every twenty years” in Article (112) of the same law.

Earlier, on October 25, 2023, Law No. 172 of 2023 was issued to increase the exceptional cost-of-living allowance for employees subject to the Civil Service Law, as well as those outside its scope. It also enhanced the exceptional grant for workers in public sector and public business sector companies under Law No. 166 of 2022, and granted an exceptional bonus to pensioners and their beneficiaries. Additionally, this law introduced further amendments to the Social Insurance and Pensions Law No. 148 of 2019.

The Egyptian labor market has witnessed several developments, most notably the increase in labor-intensive projects implemented by the state to absorb large numbers of low-skilled labor in an effort to reduce unemployment rates. According to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), the unemployment rate decreased in the first quarter of 2024 to 6.7%, a decline of 0.2% from the previous quarter. The labor force reached 31.397 million individuals, up from 31.101 million in the previous quarter, representing a 1.0% increase.

As of May 2024, the National Wages Council raised the minimum wage for private sector workers in Egypt to EGP 6,000 in response to economic pressures and current



challenges. The move aims to protect workers' rights, ensure a decent standard of living, strike a balance between the interests of employers and employees, stabilize businesses, and maximize productivity to support the country's development efforts.

However, the informal sector continues to face numerous issues such as employment without contracts, health or social insurance, and unsafe working conditions. This sector also includes certain types of indecent work and exposes workers to various risks and violations. There is a pressing need to re-evaluate and formalize the informal economy, provide necessary guarantees and mechanisms to protect the rights of its workers, eliminate child labor, reduce bureaucracy, and support the transition of small and medium enterprises into the formal economy. The informal economy accounts for nearly 50% of Egypt's GDP, according to the Ministry of Planning.

Structural imbalances persist in the labor market, including a mismatch between educational outcomes and labor market demands, high proportions of uninsured and seasonal workers, and widespread employment that lacks basic legal and social protections. Notably, child labor remains a pressing concern, frequently in violation of national laws.

The government has continued implementing the "Takaful and Karama" cash support program, which now benefits nearly 5 million families—equivalent to 22 million citizens. The annual budget allocated to the program has increased to approximately EGP 41 billion.

### ✓ **Right to Education:**

According to the Constitution, education is compulsory until the end of the secondary stage or its equivalent, and the state guarantees free education at all stages in state educational institutions as per the law. The state is also obligated to allocate no less than 4% of gross national product (GNP) to education, with this percentage increasing gradually to align with international standards. For the fiscal year 2023–2024, the total allocation for education amounted to EGP 392 billion—less than the constitutionally mandated percentage.

According to CAPMAS statistics on pre-university education, the total number of school students in Egypt in 2024 reached approximately 25.449 million. The number of teachers was 958,753, and there were 60,254 public and private schools across the country.

Regarding educational spending in Egypt, wages account for the largest share of the education budget, amounting to

70.5% in the 2023/2024 budget. In contrast, investments represent only 19.1% of the total education budget, which affects the pace of constructing new government schools and classrooms needed to accommodate the increasing student density.

CAPMAS also revealed alarming statistics about school dropouts at the primary and preparatory stages. In 2023, approximately 150,000 students dropped out—28,000 at the primary level and 121,000 at the preparatory level—leading to higher illiteracy and unemployment rates. The illiteracy rate in Egypt remains at 23%, totaling around 15.9 million individuals. The state continues to work towards eradicating illiteracy and increasing the number of volunteers in cooperation with civil society organizations.

There have also been renewed calls to update Law No. 8 of 1991 concerning the establishment of the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education, enabling it to fulfill its role effectively in light of societal developments and aiming to eliminate illiteracy by 2030.

### ✓ **Cultural Rights:**

On August 6, Law No. 163 of 2023 was issued to establish the Egyptian Central Authority for Intellectual Property. The law aims to create a national authority responsible for protecting

and upholding intellectual property rights. It was introduced to address the fragmentation caused by multiple administrative bodies managing intellectual property—each under different ministries, such as the Patent Office and the Office for the Protection of Plant Varieties—according to their respective legal frameworks. The authority’s mandate is to support the utilization of intellectual property rights in a way that balances protection with economic, social, and cultural development, and contributes to building a knowledge-based economy.

During the reporting period, the Cairo Economic Court issued a ruling in Case No. (69) of 2024—brought by Russian artist Georgy Korsov against Egyptian designer Ghada Wali—widely known in the media as the "Koliet El-Banat Metro Art Theft Case." The defendant was sentenced to six months in prison, a bail of EGP 10,000 to suspend execution temporarily, and a fine of EGP 10,000 for each of the four infringed works. Additionally, she was ordered to pay the plaintiff EGP 100,000 in provisional civil compensation.

The Ministry of Culture carried out various cultural activities and initiatives during the reporting period, including the “Ahl Misr for Border Governorates Residents” project. This initiative included three programs: “Cultural Integration for Border Area Youth,” “Border Youth Forums,” and “Border

Women Forums.” These programs aim to promote cultural participation and support the cultural rights of citizens from border governorates, empowering them to participate in public life.

The Ministry also succeeded in registering six new elements of intangible heritage on UNESCO’s list, including: Tahteeb (stick dancing), Aragoz (traditional puppetry), handweaving in Upper Egypt, Arabic calligraphy, and celebrations associated with the Holy Family’s journey.

In line with technological advancements in the field of digital transformation, the Ministry of Culture has undertaken comprehensive digitization initiatives. A fully digitized archive of cultural content has been delivered to the General Egyptian Book Organization. Similarly, the content of the Academy of Arts has been digitized, with a complete digital archive officially submitted to the institution. Furthermore, efforts are actively underway to digitize the vast archive of the Egyptian Opera House, including audio and video recordings of past performances, as well as related photographic materials stored at the Opera Library. To date, over 8,000 hours of audio content have already been successfully digitized.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain in the full realization of cultural rights in Egypt. These include

disparities in cultural service availability across governorates, insufficient financial resources, limited support for cultural and creative activities, and a lack of sustainable funding mechanisms for cultural and artistic production.

To ensure the effective enjoyment of the right to participate in cultural life for all Egyptians, a more robust and inclusive approach is needed. This entails greater commitment from the State, alongside enhanced engagement from the private sector and civil society. Key priorities include allocating adequate financial and human resources, establishing long-term funding schemes for cultural and creative industries, and substantially increasing investment in research and development to remain aligned with global trends.

In parallel, technological advancements and digital transformation necessitate addressing digital rights, such as the right to privacy, freedom of access to online services, access to technology (especially educational technologies), digital safety, digital consumer rights, and electronic intellectual property rights. This calls for updating the Cybercrime Law No. 175 of 2018 and the Personal Data Protection Law No. 151 of 2020.

## **Government Response to the NCHR's 16th Annual Report**

The National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) submitted its 16th Annual Report to the government and received a valued response from the Standing Supreme Committee for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Committee coordinated closely and consulted with relevant executive agencies before providing its feedback to the Council. A constructive dialogue session was also held between the Council and senior officials from the Committee to review the government's observations and reinforce cooperation aimed at accelerating the implementation of human rights commitments.

The Committee's response, spanning 40 large-format pages, addressed 18 key issues raised in the NCHR's 16th Report. These issues encompassed a broad spectrum of civil, political, economic, and social rights, along with a number of general observations.

The Council expresses its deep appreciation for the engagement demonstrated by the Supreme Committee and executive bodies in response to the annual report. It affirms that such engagement helps foster a shared vision that reinforces Egypt's commitment to upholding and implementing human rights. The Council also acknowledges the significant role played by the coordination mechanism

established by executive authorities, represented by the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has significantly contributed to enhancing compliance with human rights standards and fostering meaningful interaction with the Council's recommendations.



## Chapter Two

# **The NCHR's Handling of Complaints of Human Rights Violations**

### **Introduction**

The complaints mechanism is one of the NCHR's primary tools for monitoring allegations of human rights violations and communicating with concerned authorities. The complaints mechanism also enables the NCHR to provide a general overview of the human rights situation in Egypt. As such, the NCHR further receives citizen complaints through various channels, addresses the concerned authorities about these complaints, follows up on their investigations and support complainants' redress and reparation.

During the reporting period, the Council continued to develop its complaints system by providing various platforms that enhance complainants' access to the system. The NCHR allows complaints to be submitted through its website and a recently launched smartphone application, in addition to traditional channels such as in-person attendance to the NCHR's headquarters in

New Cairo, the complaints system office in Giza and branches across 11 governorates. It also receives complaints by mail, fax, and email.

To develop the complaints system and ensure responding to citizens' complaints, officials of the NCHR's Complaints Committee met with Administrative Prosecution Authority's counsellors, and with those responsible for complaints and digital transformation and technical support at the Authority's headquarters. The meeting discussed avenues for cooperation between the Council and the Authority within the framework of the protocol signed between them on cooperation and electronic linkage between the NCHR's complaints system and that of the Administrative Prosecution Authority's complaints system. Until the electronic linkage is completed, 250 complaints were referred to the Authority during May 2024, in implementation of the provisions of the cooperation protocol to respond to citizens' requests to exercise legal jurisdiction over government agencies to

investigate those agencies' failure to respond to the NCHR to seek redress for complainants. The Administrative Prosecution Authority responded with the results of its examination, including responses to 169 of the complaints referred. These were examined judicially, and it was determined that it had jurisdiction over 129 of the complaints referred to the competent administrative prosecution offices, each within its geographical scope for the subject of the complaint and report. Forty complaints were archived due to lack of jurisdiction and prior examination by the Authority.

Furthermore, to facilitate citizens' submission of their complaints to the Council, the Council continued its journey of mobile units, which began more than fifteen years ago. During the reporting period, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the Council visited nine governorates, where it held meetings with governors and executive officials in each governorate and those responsible for handling citizens' complaints and assessing the quality of services provided to them in

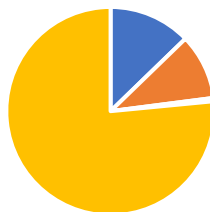
each governorate. Moreover, the NCHR held meetings with city councils, districts (marakez), neighborhoods, village councils, and other service providers, such as hospitals, social affairs offices, foster homes and educational administrations among others. The meetings also introduced the role and working mechanisms of the Council's Complaints Committee and exchanged experiences with them.

During the reporting period, the Complaints Committee played a tangible role in addressing a range of violations whose victims or their families contacted the Council. Through coordination and communication with relevant authorities, the Committee succeeded in playing a major role in achieving a tangible breakthrough in some human rights issues that posed fundamental challenges to improving the human rights situation in Egypt during previous periods, particularly with regard to cases related to inmates of Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers.

## **First: Complaints Received by the NCHR**

During the reporting period, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the NCHR received 2,684 complaints and requests. These included 1,939 civil and political rights complaints, 513 presidential pardon requests and 410 economic and social rights complaints. The Council also received 8 complaints concerning Egyptians abroad, while 16 complaints and requests concerning priority groups (special needs) were received. The complaints were referred to the relevant authorities, and the status of their cases was followed up. 311 complaints and requests outside the NCHR's jurisdiction were archived. Legal advice, procedures, and redirection were provided to approximately 500 citizens who contacted the NCHR. Figure (1) shows the classification of complaints received by the Council according to the type of relevant rights.

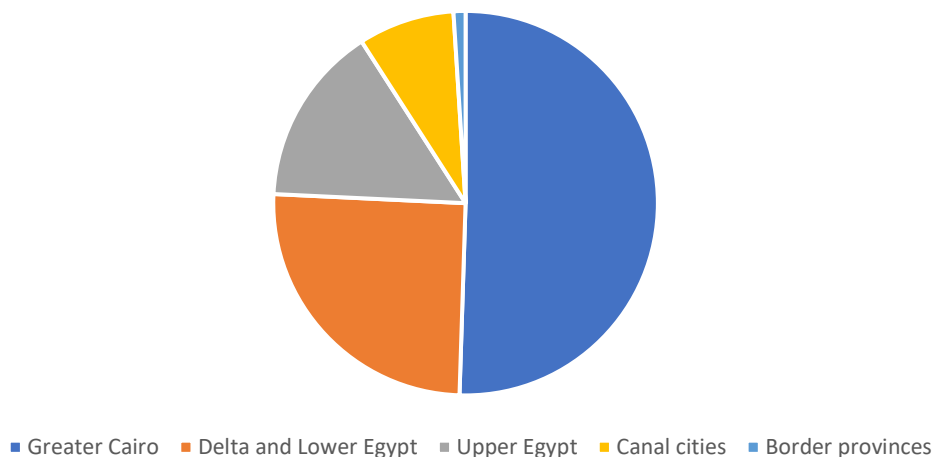
### Distribution of complaints according to the type of rights



- Complaints of special groups
- Complaints outside the Council's jurisdiction
- Complaints of Egyptians abroad
- Civil and Political Rights Complaints
- Economic, social and cultural rights complaints

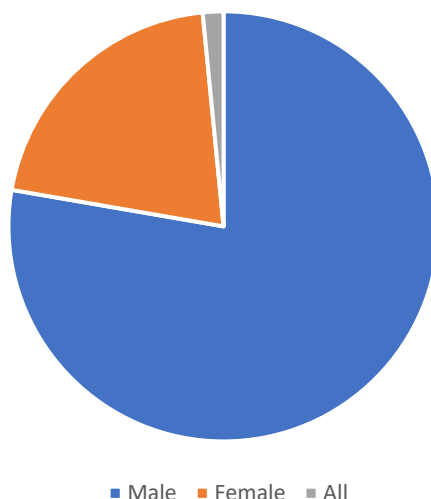
As for the geographical distribution of the areas from which complaints were received, the Greater Cairo governorates (Cairo, Giza and Qalyubia) accounted for 48% of the total complaints received by the NCHR, while the Delta and Lower Egypt governorates accounted for 25.4%, Upper Egypt governorates for approximately 18% of the complaints, border governorates for 1.4%, and Canal cities for 7.2%.

Distribution of complaints according to geographical areas



As for the gender classification of complaints and requests received by the Council during the reporting period, the total number of complaints submitted by males reached 2,080, while the number of complaints submitted by females reached 566. The number of complaints pertaining to groups of citizens, known as consolidated complaints, reached 40.

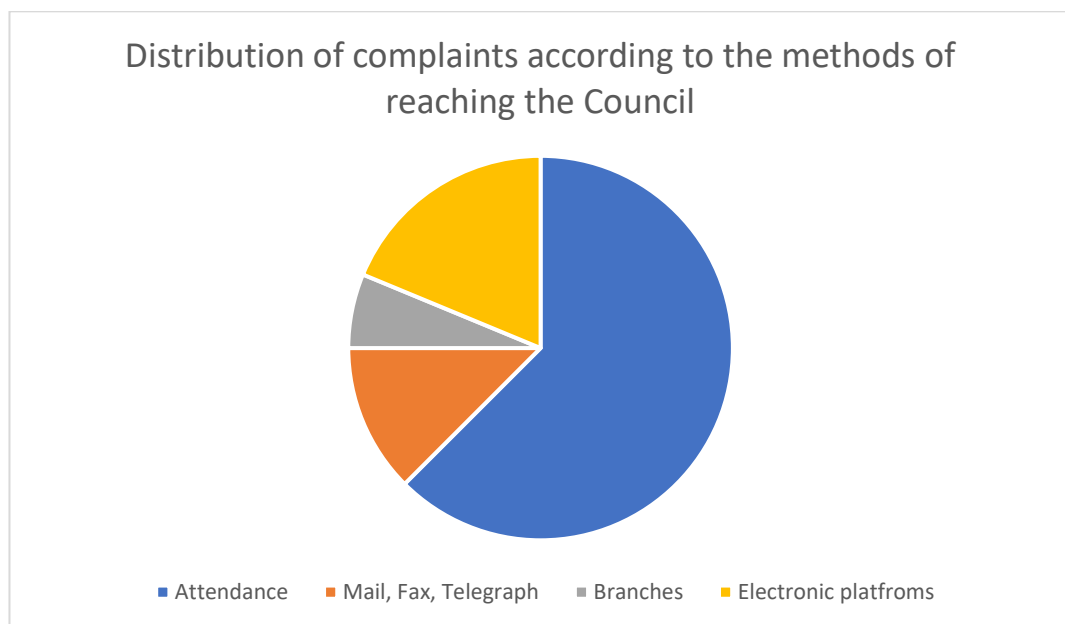
Distribution of complaints by gender



Regarding the ways of submitting complaints to the NCHR, complaints of in-person attendance at the council headquarters in Giza and the Fifth Settlement amounted to 1,745 complaints (direct interview), and complaints via electronic platforms came second with a total of 323 complaints, while complaints via regular mail came third with 196 complaints, and complaints received via the council branches in the governorates came fourth with 146 complaints, and complaints via WhatsApp came in fifth place with a total of 137 complaints, while complaints via fax came in sixth place



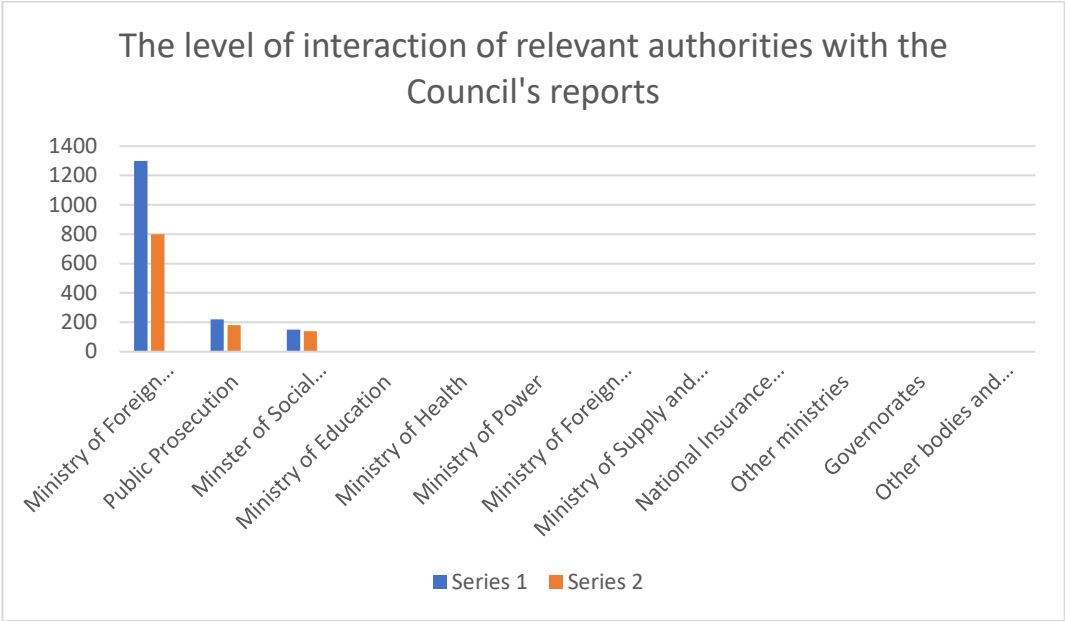
with 130 complaints, and the rest of the complaints were received via telegraph and email.



## **Second: Relevant Authorities' Response to the NCHR's Reports**

Regarding the level of response of relevant authorities to reports submitted by the NCHR with regard to citizens' complaints and requests, during the reporting period, the NCHR submitted 1,894 reports to relevant authorities. 1,185 responses were received, representing a response rate of 62.5% of the total number of reports referred. Furthermore, 513

presidential pardon requests were referred to the Presidential Pardon Committee for review of their release, taking into consideration that some complaints required reporting to more than one entity (for example: the Public Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior). Some reports also included more than one request. The following table shows the distribution of correspondence and responses received by the Council from relevant authorities during the reporting period.



This data indicates that the entities most interested in responding to the NCHR's reports during the reporting period were the Ministry of Interior, the Public

Prosecution, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, and the National Authority for Social Insurance. Response rates for these entities ranged between 60% and 87%. The Ministry of Health and Population and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education were the least responsive to the NCHR's reports (less than 5%), while the governorates, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other entities showed limited response (less than a third).

In terms of the content of the responses received, we find that the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution demonstrated significant concern in complaints involving grave violations of human rights, such as those related to torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance. These complaints were investigated, and the vast majority received responses. In addition, other requests from inmates in correctional and rehabilitation centers were addressed as much as possible, in accordance with relevant laws and

regulations. These included requests for transfer to the closest rehabilitation center to the inmate's family, release requests—whether conditional, through pardon, or for health reasons—as well as the provision of healthcare for inmates.

### **Third: Handling Complaints and Requests for Civil and Political Rights**

#### **Presidential Pardons:**

As part of the NCHR's participation in making better use of the presidential initiative for pardoning prisoners and releasing pretrial detainees involved in certain cases, particularly those who found themselves in conflict with existing legal arrangements related to the exercise of certain political and civil rights—the NCHR received a total of 513 requests for inclusion on pardon and release lists during the reporting period. Following review and assessment to determine whether the requests met the criteria of the initiative, they were shared with the relevant judicial and law enforcement authorities, as well as the Presidential Pardon

Committee, to be addressed within the scope of the legal powers granted to each entity. The following table shows the statistical distribution of pardon requests that the NCHR shared with the Presidential Pardon Committee:

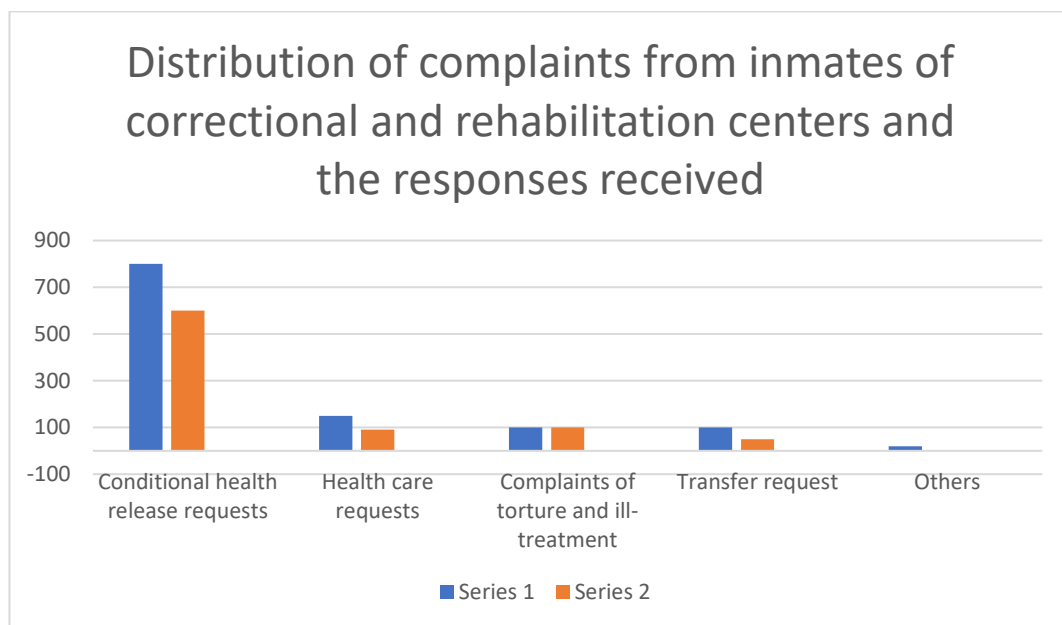
**Table showing the statistical and qualitative distribution of presidential pardon requests**

Category	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Pretrial detainees	327	%97	10	%3	337	%65.7
Convicted	176	%100	-	-	176	%34.3

## **Complaints and Requests from Inmates of Reform and Rehabilitation Centers**

The number of complaints and requests related to inmates of Reform and rehabilitation centers, not including requests for presidential pardons, amounted to 1,205. The NCHR received responses to 882 ones,

representing 73%. The complaints and requests included 796 requests for medical and release on parole, 160 requests for healthcare, 106 transfer requests, 113 complaints of abuse, and 30 other complaints and requests, including requests related to inmates' connection to the outside world or their living and social conditions within the prison.



### **The Council's handling of alleged cases of enforced disappearance:**

During the reporting period, NCHR received 19 cases of alleged enforced disappearance. It is noted that

reporting of enforced disappearance cases has significantly decreased during this period compared to previous years. Comparing the number of these cases with the number reported in the NCHR's previous report, issued in 2023, we find that this percentage represents approximately 10% of the cases reported in the previous report. In addition, NCHR received an increase in the number of responses from the Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution, which interacted effectively with the NCHR to clarify the fate of these cases, as shown in the following table:

**Table showing a summary of the responses received by the Council related to cases in which reports of allegations of enforced disappearance were submitted.**

Response category	Number of cases	Percentage
Individual reported an inmate of a prison or detention center pending a case	6	%31.5
Individual reported never been	7	%36.8

arrested or accused		
Individual reported a suspect in a case and is on the run	1	%5.2
Individuals reported to be released and not been re-arrested	1	%5.2
No response received regarding the individual concerned	4	%21
Total	19	%100

### **The Council's Handling of Cases of Torture and Ill-Treatment:**

NCHR pays special attention to complaints related to allegations of torture and ill-treatment. NCHR received 119 complaints alleging torture and ill-treatment. Six of such cases occurred within police stations and central prisons, involving citizens during their interactions with law enforcement officers or detainees in connection with cases at these facilities. As for the remaining cases, they took place within the correctional and rehabilitation centers under the Prison Authority. The Ministry of Interior and the Public Prosecution were contacted, and



investigations into these complaints were carried out. The council was provided with the results of these investigations. The response rate to the council exceeded 96% of the total complaints regarding allegations of torture and ill-treatment, according to the following table:

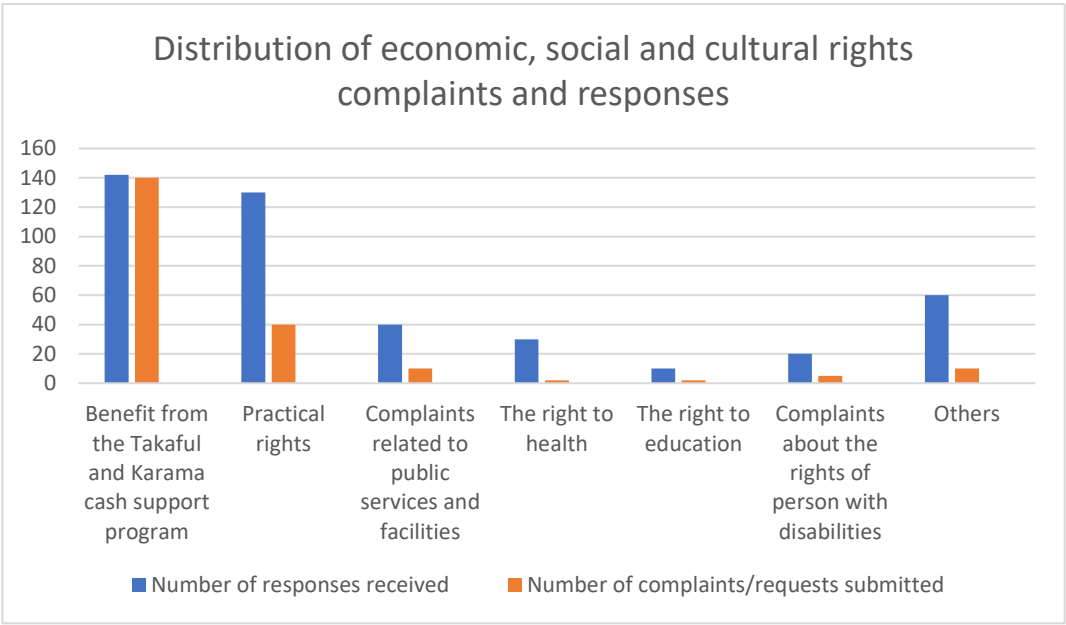
**Table showing complaints related to torture and ill-treatment and the responses received**

<b>Location of the violation</b>	<b>Number of complaints</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
<b>Correctional and Rehabilitation centers (prisons)</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Police stations (police departments and central prisons)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

### **Other Civil and Political Rights Complaints**

The complaints and requests related to civil and political rights included other issues as well. NCHR received 202 complaints, of which 73 were related to the failure to implement rulings issued in favor of the complainants, 34 complaints concerned the abuse of power and influence, 28 complaints were related to the failure of law enforcement entities to take necessary

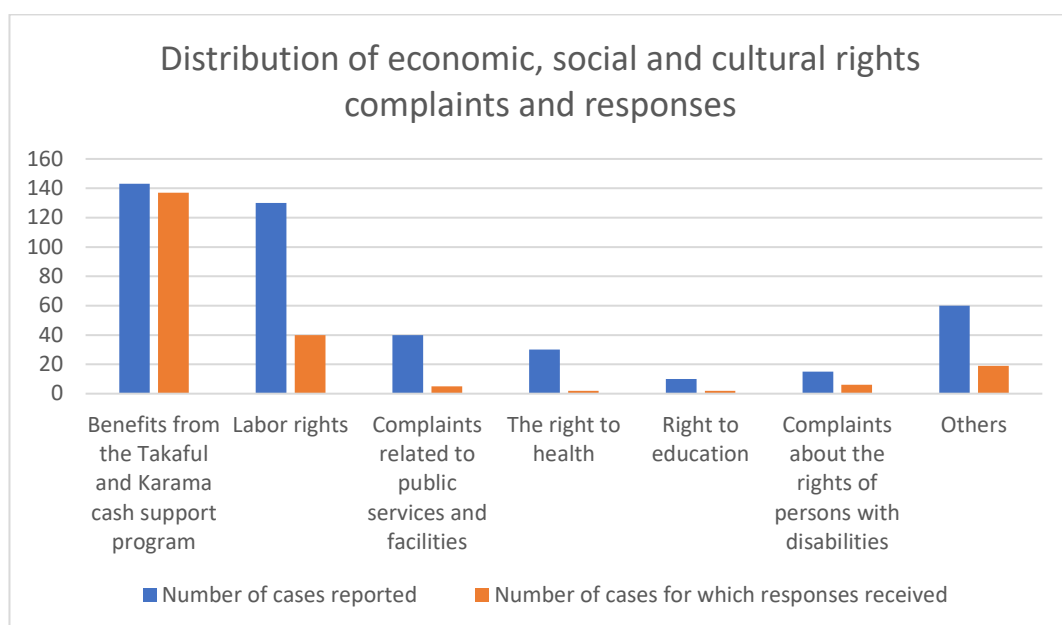
actions, and 19 complaints dealt with the arbitrary use of authority, in addition to several other complaints. NCHR communicated with the relevant authorities and received responses to approximately 35% of these complaints. The following table outlines the classification of the complaints and requests received by NCHR in relation to other civil and political rights issues and the responses provided:



**Fourth: Complaints on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**

During the reporting period, NCHR received 426 complaints related to economic and social rights. Complaints related to obtaining cash support packages ranked first, accounting for 144 complaints (41.5%) of the total. Labor complaints ranked second, with a total of 143 complaints (33.6%). Complaints related to social rights (health, education and public services) ranked third, with 90 complaints (21.2%). Complaints related to special groups ranked last, with 16 complaints (3.7%). The Council communicated with relevant authorities regarding these complaints and received responses for approximately 50% of them.

NCHR noted a decrease in response rates to complaints related to labor rights, public services, the right to health and education, and the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs), compared to a higher response rate for complaints related to benefiting from the Takaful and Karama cash support program.



## **Fifth: Complaints on the Rights of Egyptian Expatriates**

With regard to complaints related to the rights of Egyptian expatriates, the NCHR received only (8) complaints. In general, the file related to the rights of Egyptian expatriates is one of the areas where the NCHR typically receives very few complaints compared to other areas. This may be due to the existence of other avenues where such complaints can be submitted, which might be more relevant than the NCHR, or it could be because this group of people is unaware of the NCHR's jurisdiction over this type of

complaint. As for the complaints received by NCHR during the reporting period, they are divided into two main categories. The first category concerns requests from the families of Egyptians abroad who wish to bring their kins back or know their fate due to a lack of communication caused by dire circumstances in the countries where they are located. For example, the council received two complaints from citizens who, by fate, found themselves in the Gaza Strip during the war and were unable to leave the area due to the conflict. There was also a collective complaint from the families of 19 Egyptians who were in Libya during the cyclone that struck the city of Derna, which resulted in thousands of casualties. These families were unable to communicate with their loved ones since the cyclone and wish to ascertain their fate. NCHR contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the fate of the missing citizens in Libya due to the cyclone. The response indicated that "the General Consulate in Benghazi had been approached, which reported that upon reviewing the mission's database containing the

names of those who died due to the cyclone; it was found that the names of the mentioned citizens were not listed. Moreover, the mission did not have any information about them, either official or informal reports of their deaths. It is worth noting that there are still hundreds of missing foreigners.

"The second category of complaints relates to legal issues faced by Egyptian expatriates, which result in their detention or deportation, and they seek legal assistance to obtain their rights. NCHR communicated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding these complaints and received two responses to them.

### **Sixth: Mobile Complaints Units**

"In alignment with the action plan of the Complaints Committee of the NCHR to reach all governorates of the Republic, and as part of efforts to enhance and protect human rights principles, this initiative corresponds with the action plan aimed at developing the complaints mechanism within the NCHR. It reflects the NCHR's new policy framework, which seeks to give executives

the opportunity to express their perspectives, the challenges they encounter, as well as their achievements and plans to address the challenges related to citizen complaints. This encompasses understanding the extent of citizen engagement with the government complaints system in each governorate, as well as visits to several local units in various centers to assess their handling of citizen complaints, in addition to visits to the most underserved villages based on received complaints.

The visits undertaken by the working teams of the Complaints Committee aimed not only to alter the approach to handling citizen complaints, requests, and appeals but also to expand beyond merely receiving those complaints. The new direction includes field visits to service institutions within those governorates to evaluate their situations and the mechanisms they employ in providing services to citizens. Furthermore, it seeks to raise awareness and inform the public about

the role of the Council and its objectives concerning the mechanisms for receiving and addressing complaints."

The complaint committee's team carried out nine field visits across Egyptian governorates, targeting 12 governorates during the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Each visit involved meetings with governors, executive officials within each governorate, and those responsible for handling citizens' complaints. The visits aimed at assessing the quality of services provided to citizens in each governorate, as well as meetings with city councils, local centers, districts (marakez), village councils and other service providers, such as hospitals, social affairs offices, foster homes and educational directorates among others. Additionally, the visits served to introduce the role and operational mechanisms of the council's complaints committee and exchange experiences with these officials. The team also visited several foster homes to identify key issues and challenges they face.



<b>No.</b>	<b>Governorate</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Aswan</b>	<b>From May 21-25, 2023</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Alexandria and Beheira</b>	<b>From August 15-21, 2023</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sharqia and Dakahlia</b>	<b>From October 30 to November 2, 2023</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Qena and Luxor</b>	<b>From November 25-30, 2023</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Fayoum</b>	<b>From February 12, 2024 to February 15, 2024</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Minya</b>	<b>From March 1, 2024 to March 7, 2024</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Port Said</b>	<b>From March 19, 2024 to March 23, 2024</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Beni Suef</b>	<b>From April 30, 2024 to May 2, 2024</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>New Valley</b>	<b>From May 18, 2024 to May 23, 2024</b>

The visits and field trips conducted by the council resulted in several observations and recommendations that were presented to the relevant authorities, the most notable of which are as follows:

- Leveraging the experience of certain governorates, such as Aswan, in digital transformation and expanding the model of the Information Systems and Digital Transformation Center in Aswan to other governorates.
- An urgent need to expand the training and capacity building of personnel responsible for receiving

citizens' complaints, Human Rights Units, and Equal Opportunity Units.

- The importance of addressing certain forms of unregistered marriages that are common in some rural and tribal communities, particularly in Upper Egypt.
- Adopting a comprehensive program to develop foster homes for boys and girls in a number of governorates.
- Expediting the construction, development, and operation of hospitals and medical centers in a number of governorates, especially Beni Suef and the New Valley.

## Chapter Three

# **Promoting the Culture of Human Rights and Related Activities of the Council**

### **Introduction:**

This chapter discusses the role of the National Council for Human Rights in promoting human rights culture and raising awareness during the period covered by the report. It includes activities and events organized by all the NCHR's committees and units, the relevant efforts made, and the key recommendations resulting from these activities.

This chapter consists of eight main sections that address the meetings held by the council with the Parliament, both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and presents the activities and events conducted with youth and university students in collaboration with various partners. It outlines the council's efforts during field visits across different governorates in Egypt, as well as the training programs it provided aimed at capacity building, skill

development, and technical support for various governmental and non-governmental entities.

It also highlights the council's efforts in the field of cultural rights, especially the role of drama in embodying the values and principles of human rights. Additionally, it details the activities and events organized by the council to promote other rights, such as the rule of law, guarantees of fair and just trials, economic empowerment, and the frameworks and mechanisms for cooperation with national entities, civil society organizations, and donors in the field of supporting, promoting, and protecting human rights, including the cooperation protocols signed by the council with several organizations. Finally, it addresses the council's role in monitoring the 2024 presidential elections.

### **First: Cooperation between the Council and the Two Houses of Parliament**

Between October 2023 and May 2024, the National Council for Human Rights participated in 6 meetings

with the Parliament's Human Rights Committee. These meetings addressed several key issues, including the documentation of crimes committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, the discussion of the Council's 16th Annual Report and the review of accessibility codes to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. Other topics included the importance of youth participation in reshaping human rights curricula in Egypt, the provision of national newspaper content in audio format to enhance access to information for visually impaired individuals, and the NCHR's involvement—alongside the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee—in discussions on a draft law proposed by the government to amend certain provisions of the Penal Code.

## **Second: Engagement with Youth and University Students to Promote Human Rights Awareness**

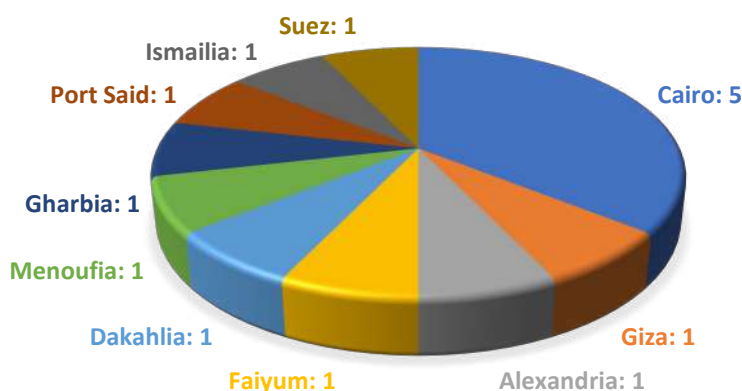
In the context of the National Council for Human Rights undertaking its mandated role according to its

establishment law regarding the promotion of a culture of human rights and raising awareness among youth about their rights and duties, as well as enhancing their capabilities in understanding the principles and values of human rights, including health and reproductive rights, and addressing the challenges faced in their practical application, NCHR held 14 events from July 2023 to June 2024 through a project in cooperation with the Swiss Embassy. These events targeted approximately 800 participants across 10 governorates (Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Fayoum, Dakahlia, Menoufia, Gharbia, Port Said, Ismailia, and Suez) and included a variety of activities such as awareness meetings, discussion forums, consultative sessions, and simulation models aimed at engaging youth, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, several Egyptian universities, and civil society organizations. Most of these activities resulted in the formation of joint committees among all stakeholders to develop action plans for implementing activities and

events to ensure the optimal achievement of their objectives, which concluded with:

- Emphasizing the importance of political participation for youth and intensifying efforts in the field of community awareness.
- The Council reviews the human rights component in universities and classify it under the Human Rights Code, from the perspective of Rights-Based Education, and propose a mechanism for incorporating human rights as a component in university education in Egypt, with the approval of the National Council for Human Rights.

## ILLUSTRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES IN THE GOVERNORATES



### Third: Missions and Field Visits

In continuation of the National Council for Human Rights' Strategy to visit governorates, penal institutions, and public service institutions, within the framework of promoting and protecting human rights principles, the Council continued its significant activities in this area, which included the following:

#### Governorate Visits

The Council dispatched 25 field missions between July 2023 and May 2024 to 16 different governorates (Cairo,



Giza, Alexandria, Fayoum, Beni Suef, Port Said, South Sinai, Ismailia, Luxor, Minya, Kafr El-Sheikh, Sharqia, New Valley, Beheira, Qena, and Dakahlia). Several Council members and researchers from the Technical Secretariat took part in the mission.

These visits aim to monitor human rights conditions, receive citizens' complaints, hold coordination meetings with executive bodies, spread awareness of human rights principles and values, and prepare and qualify cadres on various human rights topics to address the challenges that may face their implementation. Thus, it contributes to the advancement of the system, especially national and international protection mechanisms, combating illegal immigration and human trafficking, while clarifying their causes and repercussions, and the state's efforts to eradicate them, in accordance with the following:

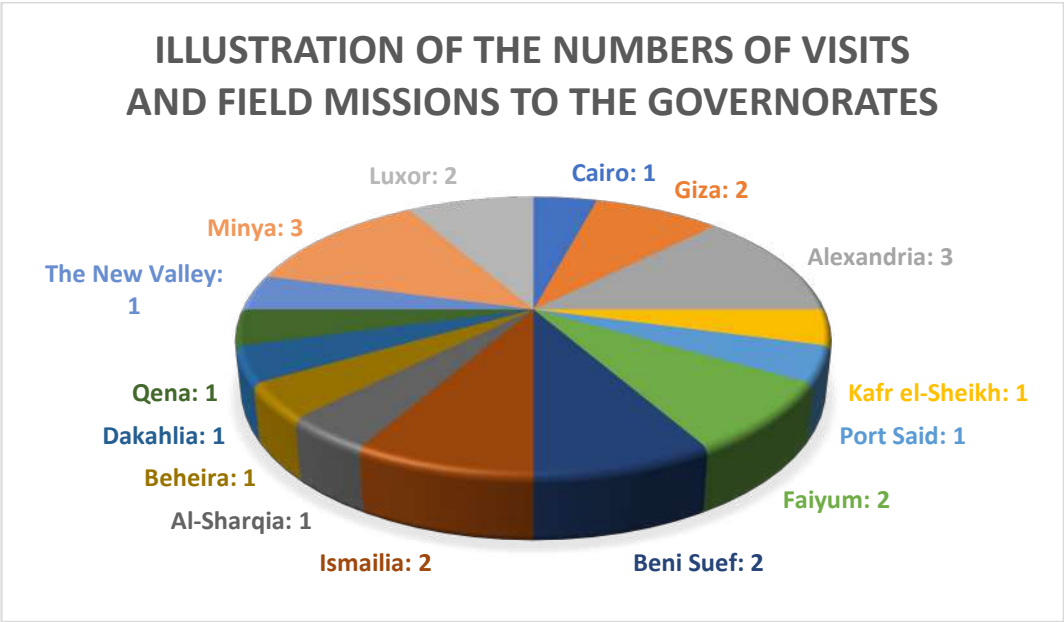
## **Awareness Visits to Promote the Culture of Human Rights**

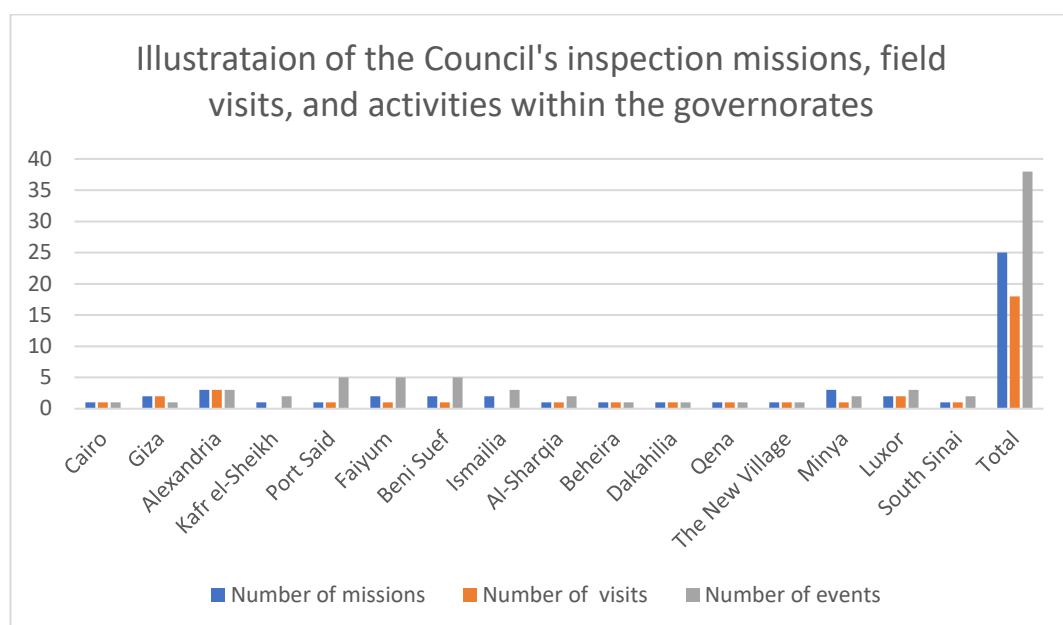
The Council organized a total of 38 activities and events aimed at raising awareness and promoting human rights culture. These initiatives engaged approximately 1,169 participants from various key stakeholders, including executive leaders, representatives of governmental entities, regional associations of civil society organizations, heads of cities and districts, as well as members of local councils.

## **Field Visits for Monitoring Human Rights Conditions and Receiving Complaints**

The Council also dispatched several missions to conduct 18 field visits aiming at monitoring human rights conditions and receiving public complaints in selected governorates. These visits involved inspections of healthcare, educational, and public service facilities, direct engagement with citizens to receive human rights-related complaints, and meetings with local executive authorities to present key issues. The

purpose of these engagements was to strengthen the Council’s role in supporting the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and to produce reports outlining the outcomes of each visit.





## Visits to Reform Institutions and Foster Homes

- The Council conducted a field visit to the Giza Foster Home on October 16, 2023, under the supervision of the Council's Social Rights Committee, to examine the conditions of children and foster facilities. The visit included meetings with the institution's management, an inspection of the infrastructure, and a discussion of the children's living conditions. The Council recommended promoting coordination with the Ministry of Education and Technical Education to

integrate children into schools, providing them with legal support, increasing the number of social and psychological specialists, improving infrastructure, and conducting workshops. The Giza Foster Home is a social defense institution that receives children at risk or in conflict with the law for protection and guidance. The home currently accommodates 150 children and has a total capacity of 800, including 10 girls under observation and 6 boys in pretrial detention.

- On October 23, 2023, the Council conducted a field visit to the Juvenile Correctional Institution in Marg to assess the institution's compliance with legal and international standards related to the treatment of juvenile inmates. This institution is the only one in the Republic that receives children convicted of criminal offenses. The facility has a capacity of 800 residents, while the actual number of child detainees currently housed there is 186. During the visit, several shortcomings were identified, including deficiencies in infrastructure

and vocational training workshops, as well as inadequate healthcare provision for the detainees. The delegation also observed weak occupational health and safety measures within the workshops and the absence of mechanisms to market products made by the trained children. Additionally, there was a noticeable shortage of social workers and psychologists. Further concern also included a lack of communication between inmates and their families, as well as challenges in continuing the children's education. The visit concluded with several key recommendations: upgrading the training workshops to align with labor market demands, conducting necessary medical examinations upon the children's arrival to ensure they are free from infectious diseases, and improving communication channels with their families. The recommendations also emphasized the need to enhance the quality of newly constructed buildings, recruit an adequate number of qualified social workers and psychologists, and

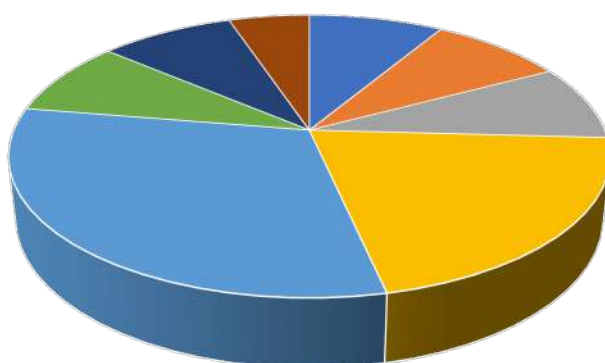
expand the scope of support provided by civil society organizations for post-release care of the children.

#### **Fourth: Training and Capacity Building**

In line with the Council's mandate to provide technical support and in accordance with its legal role in capacity building and the preparation and empowerment of youth and children, the National Council for Human Rights organized 13 training courses targeting a total of 441 participants from various sectors. These included civil servants from the state's administrative apparatus, university students, schoolchildren, and members of civil society organizations working in different fields (such as development, women's and children's issues). The training sessions focused on raising awareness of the fundamental concepts of human rights, the international conventions and treaties ratified by Egypt, national and international protection mechanisms, procedures for handling individual complaints, and the

role of the National Council for Human Rights as defined by Law No. 94 of 2003.

Illustration of training and capacity building activities beneficiaries and numbers of participants



- District heads in Cairo Governorate: 30 participant
- Solidarity Directorates in Alexandria: 24 participant
- Solidarity Directorates in Beheria: 27 participant
- Solidarity Directorates in Faiyum: 132 participant
- Ministry of Education and Technical Education: 154 participant
- Youth and Sports Directorates in Port Said Governorate: 33 participant
- General Union of Students of the Republic's Schools in Alexandria: 26 participant
- Council Complaints Committee: 15 participant

## Fifth: The Role of Drama in Enforcing Human Rights Principles

In fulfillment of the National Council for Human Rights' mandate in promoting a culture of human rights in Egyptian society and raising awareness of human rights



violations, and in line with the belief in the important role of television drama in shaping awareness and influencing this culture, both positively and negatively and in accordance with the work undertaken since 2011, during the month of Ramadan of each year, a Drama Committee is formed, emanating from the Cultural Rights Committee, headed by the Secretary of the Cultural Rights Committee and including members of the National Council responsible for the Cultural Rights Committee, as well as a number of prominent artists and experienced critics. The committee's objectives serve the goal of raising awareness of human rights. The committee monitors and evaluates the dramas displayed during Ramadan and then selects the five best works based on the unanimous opinions of all committee members. During the reporting period, the Drama Committee was formed for two consecutive sessions, 2023 and 2024.

- **Distribution of the 2023 Outstanding Drama Production Awards in the Field of Human Rights 2023**

The public unanimously agreed to select five works to win the 2023 Outstanding Drama Production Award in the Field of Human Rights. These works addressed the issues of financial guardianship of minor children, women's and children's rights, the issue of female inheritance as a matter related to customs and traditions, changing social context and the surrounding environment, and existing loopholes in the Personal Status Law that prevent women from inheriting, condemning extremist discourse and religious extremism, and promoting the values of citizenship.

- **Distribution of the 2024 Outstanding Drama Production Awards in the Field of Human Rights**

The consensus was unanimous in selecting five works to win the Outstanding Drama Production Award in the field of Human Rights for the year 2024. These works

addressed crucial issues, such as the best interest of the child, surrogacy, the rule of law, integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption. All of which are fundamental pillars of the democratic system, which is closely linked to the human rights framework. The works also highlighted the value of the right to life, which is the highest human right, as well as the value of equality in human dignity, regardless of social class or background. Additionally, they explored the widespread impact of social media platforms and the fragility of the virtual world.

**The second session of the "Isis International Women's Theater Festival" held from May 16 to 22, 2024.**

Building on the Council's role in promoting the culture of human rights through art, financial support and participation were provided for the activities of the Isis International Women's Theater Festival, organized by the non-profit cultural institution "Jarat Al-Qamar Foundation".

The festival was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, with support from many partners, including the National Council for Women, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Cairo Opera House among others. The Council hosted members of the festival's Board of Trustees in April 2024 to discuss possible areas of cooperation, including human rights content and financial support. The Council also participated in the press conference held in May 2024 at the Supreme Council of Culture headquarters to launch the second edition of the festival until its closing ceremony.

### **Sixth: The Council's Activities in Promoting Various Rights**

- In the area of the rule of law and guarantees of fair and equitable trials, the Council held four workshops between January and June 2024, addressing the relationship between culture, media, and the law from the perspective of human rights and citizenship; legal provisions and

proposed legislation to combat violence against women and follow-up on the implementation of national and international obligations; mechanisms necessary to combat the crime of torture in Egypt; human rights during criminal trials; and the protection of witnesses and whistleblowers.

- As part of the implementation of the cooperation protocol signed between the Council and the Ministry of Justice, under the work plan of the project supporting the National Council for Human Rights in cooperation with the European Union, the Council organized six workshops in the governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Dakahlia, Beni Suef, Ismailia, and Gharbia. These workshops were held under the theme "Protecting Human Rights in the Context of Criminal Justice", in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice (human rights, women, and children sector) and the Public Prosecution. The workshops addressed human rights issues under national criminal legislation and the role of the Public Prosecution Office in

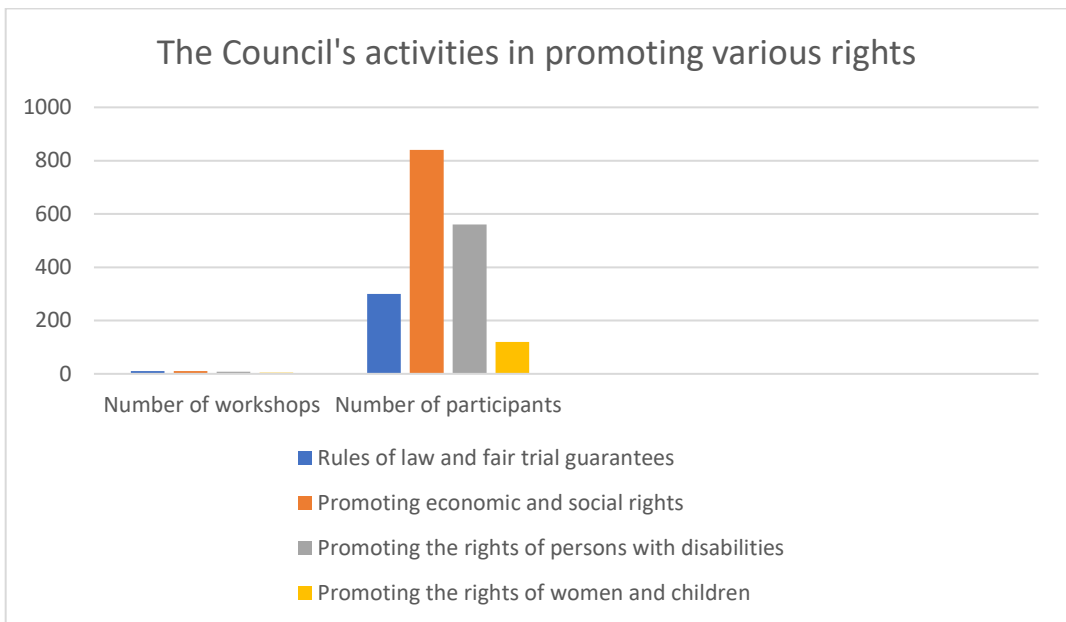
protecting these rights in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution.

- In the area of promoting economic and social rights, the Council organized seven activities attended by approximately 700 participants, focusing on a range of key issues. These included economic empowerment of women and youth, the promotion of farmers' and workers' rights, strengthening the participation of female lawyers in public affairs to raise awareness of their rights, and the importance of gender equality in the workplace. The events also addressed the need to enhance syndicate support for defending the rights of women in the legal profession.
- The Council also organized the 16th Annual Forum of Civil Society Organizations, titled "Civil Society Institutions and Addressing the Population Problem," with the participation of 50 representatives from relevant civil society organizations.

- The Council also held three coordination meetings on the achievements of the cooperation project with the Swiss Embassy, the cooperation between the UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Population, discussion of the draft mental health law, raising awareness over the dangers of bullying in Egyptian schools, and the role of psychologists with the Fahim Foundation for Psychological Support.
- To promote the rights of persons with disabilities, the Council, in cooperation with the Egyptian Youth Council, held eight workshops during December 2023 in the governorates of Cairo, Ismailia, and Qalyubia. These workshops aimed at enhancing financial inclusion and supporting the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. Approximately 530 participants with disabilities benefited from the activities, including individuals with mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

- The Council also held a coordination meeting with the Central Bank, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, with the attendance of 30 participants, to discuss mechanisms for promoting the economic rights of persons with disabilities in the banking sector.
- To promote women's and children's rights, the Council, in cooperation with the European Union project and with the participation of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, held 4 events between October 2023 and March 2024, including workshops and discussion panels that addressed the psychological rights of children and adolescents, supporting women's economic empowerment, and promoting financial inclusion as well as alternative measures to child imprisonment.





## **Seventh: Cooperation Protocols and Coordination with Relevant Entities**

- Cooperation Protocol between the Council and New Giza University: This protocol was signed for a period of three years, with the aim of fostering joint cooperation to contribute to the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy. It focuses on building a new generation of university graduates who are equipped with a

culture of promoting and respecting human rights, raising awareness of these rights, and addressing issues related to vulnerable and marginalized groups. The collaboration will be implemented through various mechanisms, including workshops, seminars, conferences, discussion sessions, and knowledge exchange meetings. Additionally, the protocol includes field visits for university students, contributing to the achievement of the aforementioned goals. Both parties agreed to form a joint coordinating committee for each activity planned under this protocol, to develop an implementation plan and define the commitments of each party.

- Cooperation Protocol between the Council and the Administrative Prosecution Authority: This protocol was signed for a period of three years, with the aim of fostering joint cooperation in the area of community awareness regarding human rights and public freedoms, particularly in the field of disciplinary investigations. It also aims

to establish a dedicated digital platform for human rights violation complaints, with the Administrative Prosecution Authority responsible for reviewing, auditing, and referring such complaints under its authority. Additionally, the protocol includes cooperation in the application and enforcement of the law through the exchange of legal and technical perspectives on aligning domestic legislation and laws. The protocol also involves incorporating awareness and educational campaigns, seminars, workshops, and public meetings organized by the Council, to highlight the leading and effective role played by the Administrative Prosecution Authority in the protection of human rights and disciplinary matters. Both parties agreed to form a joint coordinating committee tasked with developing an implementation plan to activate the provisions of this protocol, identifying obstacles and challenges to implementation, proposing solutions to

overcome them, and making necessary decisions to facilitate the process.

- Cooperation Protocol between the Council and Mansoura University:

This protocol was signed for a period of one year, with the aim of fostering cooperation and exchanging expertise with the university in the areas of raising awareness and promoting a culture of human rights, as well as building capacities to address challenges related to human rights. The collaboration also includes reviewing human rights curricula, preparing joint research, and organizing seminars, workshops, and conferences on the various aspects of these rights and public freedoms. Additionally, the protocol calls for conducting field visits and cultural activities for university students to achieve the goals outlined in the protocol. Both parties agreed to establish a joint coordinating committee tasked with developing an implementation plan for the provisions of this protocol, including discussing the

terms of cooperation for each activity prior to its implementation.

- Cooperation Protocol between the Council and the Ministry of Finance:  
This protocol was signed for a period of one year, with the aim of collaborating with the Ministry through its Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Unit to deliver and implement workshops, seminars, comprehensive training programs, and discussion sessions for ministry employees and its affiliated entities. The focus will be on achieving the goals of the National Human Rights Strategy, highlighting national efforts in the field of human rights, and contributing to the realization of sustainable development goals. Additionally, the Council will provide studies and proposals to assist the Ministry and its entities in all matters related to the protection, support, and advancement of human rights. Each party will bear the costs of activities and events held at its premises to achieve the objectives of this protocol, with the

Council committed to providing experts, specialists, and relevant educational materials. Both parties agreed to form a joint committee, chaired by a senior official from the Ministry and with representatives from both parties, to coordinate the implementation procedures for this protocol.

- Participation in Meetings of the National Population Council to develop the National Population and Development Strategy, including contributing to the launch of the strategy and preparing its implementation plan in October 2023.
- Participation in (quarterly) meetings of the National Council for Mental Health and monthly meetings of the Regional Council for Mental Health in Cairo.
- Participation in the National Committee for Children and Adolescents' Mental Health which aims to enhance mental health services, improve care systems across all sectors, and provide a

platform for dialogue, consultation, and coordination among the relevant entities.

### **Eighth: The Role of the Council in Monitoring the Presidential Elections (December 2023)**

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the integrity of electoral processes in Egypt, the Council monitored the Egyptian presidential elections held in December 2023. A central operations room was established to oversee the elections, starting its work in September 2023 (following the announcement of the electoral timeline by the National Election Authority for the 2024 presidential elections). The central operations room included 11 sub-rooms located in different governorates. These rooms were staffed with a distinguished group of council members, researchers, and experts in electoral systems and law, who worked on monitoring the legislative and organizational environment surrounding the electoral process. They followed up on the procedures related to all phases of the election process, documented and recorded all observations, and prepared relevant

reports. The Council also focused on evaluating the media performance during the election period, in addition to conducting training activities for civil society organizations on election monitoring skills in cooperation with the League of Arab States.

The monitoring process conducted by the Council concluded that the election procedures proceeded smoothly in accordance with the established rules and decisions of the National Election Authority. Additionally, all necessary provisions were made to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly. The presidential elections witnessed a high voter turnout at polling stations across all governorates. The Council observed instances of group transportation of citizens to polling stations; however, these did not lead to practices of group voting that would breach the secrecy of the ballot. The Council also noted violations of the electoral silence, with campaign materials and images of candidates being displayed in various locations. Furthermore, the Council observed that some



polling stations were located on higher floors, which posed difficulties for the elderly and persons with mobility impairments. This issue was promptly addressed through instructions from the National Election Authority.

The Council recommends considering the possibility of incorporating digital transformation and automation systems into the voting procedures. This would help reduce costs and streamline the process. Additionally, the Council suggests leveraging the experience of voting through devices such as tablets, which has been successfully implemented in some countries abroad, including the Egyptian Consulate in the United Arab Emirates. This system proved to be highly effective in facilitating the voting process for citizens.

## **Chapter Four**

### **The Council's Cooperation with International and Regional Mechanisms**

#### **For Human Rights and Its External Activities**

#### **Introduction**

During the reporting period, the Council continued to strengthen its relationships with international and regional human rights institutions, contributing to the implementation of joint activities aimed at protecting human rights at the regional and international levels. The period under review saw the Council making considerable efforts in its capacity after assuming the presidency of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI). These efforts included lobbying and advocacy to support the resilient Palestinian people in the face of genocide, crimes against humanity, human rights violations, and breaches of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by Israeli occupation forces. The Council also intensified its external communications and meetings with representatives of

the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and his office, demanding that the United Nations bodies and international organizations take responsibility for the Palestinian cause and work to stop the crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces. The Council continued to emphasize in all international forums in which it participated the need for the international community to address the Palestinian cause without discrimination, ensuring equal protection and the right to live in dignity, on par with other nations. In the same context, the Council, in its capacity by taking over the Presidency of the ANNHRI, praised the various legal steps taken internationally in favor of the Palestinian people, including the International Court of Justice's decision requiring Israel, as an occupation force, to take measures to prevent acts of genocide. The Council also welcomed the request by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court for arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli Chief of Staff for committing genocide. Moreover, the Council

commended the General Assembly's decision to consider Palestine's request for full membership.

The Council took the opportunity of its meetings with foreign missions and delegations during their visits to the Council's headquarters, as well as during its own external visits, to discuss the state of human rights and the efforts and developments made in this regard at the national level. It also addressed the Palestinian situation, emphasizing its negative repercussions on the security and stability of the region. One of the Council's key international engagements related to its international obligations was the submission of its report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, and its participation in discussions on Egypt's reports before the Committee Against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This chapter covers the Council's efforts at the international level, in its capacity by assuming the presidency of the ANNHRI, as follows:

### **First: Cooperation and Consultation with Partners**

## **Cooperation with UN Bodies and Relevant International Organizations:**

One of the Council's key engagements in the context of cooperation with UN bodies was its participation in Egypt's periodic reporting mechanisms arising from international human rights treaties, as well as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. Based on an invitation from the UN Committee Against Torture, the Council participated in a closed session to discuss the submission of Egypt's fifth periodic report to the Committee.

- The Council submitted its five-year periodic report for the UPR mechanism. The Council's reporting period witnessed various meetings with UN representatives, including a prominent meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In addition, there was institutional cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in implementing capacity-building activities for Council staff.

- On Egypt's upcoming submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism scheduled for January 2025, the NCHR presented its fourth report within this framework. The report addressed the current state of human rights, highlighting the progress made by the state in view of its international commitments under the review mechanism. It also outlined the Council's observations on current shortcomings, challenges, and recommendations in this regard. The Council's report was based on several sources, including a study of official reports from government bodies, recent developments in legislation and laws, as well as meetings with both houses of legislative authority and their specialized committees, the Permanent Higher Committee for Human Rights (PHCHR), and field visits conducted by Council members. Additionally, consultations were held with civil society organizations through three specialized consultative meetings at the Council's headquarters. These meetings included

organizations from Greater Cairo, the Delta region, Upper Egypt, as well as organizations holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- In response to an invitation from the United Nations Committee against Torture, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) discussed its perspective on efforts to combat torture. This discussion was held in light of Egypt's submission of its fifth periodic report under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ahead of the session where State parties to the treaty were to be reviewed. In November 2023, the Council's delegation reviewed its efforts to enhance awareness on protection against torture and inhuman treatment during a session at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. The delegation also responded to inquiries from the Committee of Experts, which included questions about the incorporation of the Convention Against Torture into Egypt's legislative system, the

complaints the Council handles and the government's response to them, visits to detention centers, restrictions imposed on family visits since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the issue of the death penalty.

- The Council, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Union and the Dutch Embassy, organized a capacity-building program for lawyers working in the Council's Complaints Office. This training, which focused on handling individual complaints, was held at the Council's headquarters from June 25 to 27, 2024. The opening of the training program was attended by Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, Chairperson of the NCHR, and Mr. Christian Berger, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt.
- The Council is implementing a collaborative program with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) aimed at strengthening the human rights approach in fulfilling Egypt's national commitments



related to gender-based violence against women and girls and reproductive health rights. The program, funded by the UNFPA with a grant of 1.2 million pounds, includes organizing various activities to promote reproductive health and sexual rights. These activities include age-appropriate sexual education workshops, which will be conducted in stages for students in schools and universities, with the goal of producing youth-friendly training materials and recommendations for curriculum development. Additionally, expert meetings are planned to prepare a policy paper on the necessary legislative amendments to protect women's rights and reproductive health. The program also includes capacity-building training for national partners to enhance the human rights approach in health programs. Furthermore, a discussion forum will be organized to support women's rights in vulnerable environments, such as women living with HIV/AIDS and those recovering from drug addiction. At the final phase

of the program, a comprehensive study on reproductive rights in Egypt will be prepared to assess the current situation, identify obstacles, and provide recommendations.

## **Cooperation with African Mechanisms**

- Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab participated in the 79th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), focusing on "The State of Human Rights in Africa," held from May 14 to June 3, 2024, via video conference. The meeting sessions included participation from the EU Special Representative for Human Rights (EUSR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Parliament, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, representatives of States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Chairperson of the African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights, Mr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Gambia, representing the host government. In her speech, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights, highlighted Egypt's commitment to human rights and its efforts to address regional challenges, as well as constitutional guarantees for human rights. She also expressed the Council's concern about Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, describing them as "a disgrace to humanity," and reaffirmed Egypt's steadfast support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. She also reviewed Egypt's efforts, including hosting displaced Palestinians, providing humanitarian aid, and negotiating the release of hostages. The Ambassador acknowledged the challenges faced by the human rights movement in the Arab world and Africa, particularly in the face of ongoing conflicts and political instability. She underscored

the need to continue dialogue and cooperation to promote human rights in the region.

- In November 2024, the Council, represented by Dr. Walaa Gad El-Karim, a council member, participated in the General Assembly of the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA) held in Kigali, Rwanda. During this meeting, the mechanisms responsible for the association were elected, and the Council's representative engaged in multiple consultations with participating parties to explore and strengthen cooperation and coordination opportunities between the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt and African institutions concerned with grievances and human rights issues.

### **Consultation and Dialogue with Foreign and Arab Missions and Parties**

- On Sunday, December 3, 2023, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights, received the U.S. Ambassador

to Cairo, who was leading a delegation from the U.S. Embassy. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karam, Vice President of the Council, and Ambassador Fahmy Fayad, the Secretary-General. The meeting focused on several key topics, including the situation in Gaza and the efforts made by the Council in this regard at both the regional and international levels. The meeting also addressed the Council's efforts in promoting a culture of human rights and collaborating with various state institutions.

- In support of the cooperation project with the Swiss Embassy and the efforts exerted by the National Council for Human Rights in this context, Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karam, Vice President of the Council, met with the Deputy Head of the Swiss Mission to the United Nations at the Swiss Mission's headquarters. During the meeting, he presented a series of papers outlining the successful activities of the cooperation project with the Swiss Embassy in Cairo and the completion of

its first phase, commending the support the Council received and praising the important and pioneering role played by the Swiss Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, accompanied by Ambassador Mahmoud Karam, Vice President of the Council, and Ambassador Fahmy Fayad, Secretary-General, received a delegation from the Egyptian-German Friendship association from the German Bundestag, along with the German Ambassador to Cairo, at the Council's headquarters. The meeting focused on strengthening the friendly relations between Egypt and Germany and discussed the situation in Gaza.
- On March 27, 2024, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, president of the National Council for Human Rights, received the Ambassador of Ukraine, Mr. Yevhen Mykytenko, at the Council's headquarters. The visit was aimed at inviting the President of the National Council for Human Rights to participate in a seminar on the situation of

Ukrainian children in Russia. The meeting covered the situation in Ukraine and the human rights impact of the Russian war, as well as the Israeli war on Palestine.

- Following an invitation from the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, a delegation from the National Council for Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee of the Egyptian Parliament visited Austria to exchange expertise. The delegation visited several ministries and institutions in Austria from June 2 to 6, 2024. The program included meetings with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, civil society organizations, the Austrian Ombudsman Board (AOB), the Neustart Organization, which focuses on the monitoring system in Austria, the United Nations Office in Austria, and the leaders of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.
- On June 12, 2024, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab received the delegation of the Belgian

Student Association "Conference Olivant" at the Council's headquarters. The delegation, including 27 students and supervisors, was visiting Egypt for a week-long study visit to learn about the overall situation, including the human rights situation.

- Ambassador Moshira Khattab, President of the Council and Chair of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, participated in the opening of the international conference organized by the National Institution for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain on "The Impact of Human Activity on the Right to a Healthy and Adequate Environment: Practices, Challenges, and Solutions" on September 9, 2024.

### **Collaboration with International and Regional Networks of National Human Rights Institutions and their Members:**

- A delegation from the Council participated in the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) held from



May 6 to 8, 2024. This event provided a platform for national human rights institutions worldwide to engage, interact, and exchange experiences, benefiting from both accumulated and new insights. It also offered an opportunity to review working models in line with the strategy developed by the Alliance's office, and to agree on available approaches and necessary steps for future action. This year's meeting focused on the relationship between business and human rights, and the role of national institutions in this regard. Additionally, the conference prioritized recommendations from the 14th International Conference held in Copenhagen, as well as the statement issued on torture, ill-treatment, and the role of national institutions in providing redress and protecting the rights of displaced persons. During the annual meeting, the Council's delegation also participated in several important side events, including a session on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from

Enforced Disappearance, a discussion on technology and human rights, a session on digital rights and their impact on human rights, and a side event chaired by Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, focusing on the implementation of International Court of Justice rulings and state responsibilities in preventing genocide in Gaza.

- On the sidelines of the GANHRI meeting in Geneva on May 6, 2024, the Executive Committee of the ANHRI convened, chaired by Ambassador Moshira Khattab, President of the ANHRI. The meeting was extended to review the outcomes of recent Executive Committee meetings, the General Assembly, and to update the ANHRI program for the coming years. The session also addressed efforts and updates regarding the Palestinian cause, providing the Executive Committee with the latest developments concerning national institutions in Iraq, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, and

Lebanon. Additionally, the committee discussed the challenges facing its members and the necessary steps to overcome these challenges, along with some proposals for addressing these issues.

- The National Council for Human Rights, in collaboration with the ANHRI, organized a meeting for the working group on child rights, which is part of the General Assembly of ANHRI. The meeting took place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, via Zoom video conference. Representatives from the national institutions that are members of the working group on child rights attended the meeting, during which participants agreed on the governing framework and reference basis for the working group.
- On April 24, 2024, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab participated in the meeting of the heads of the Francophone Association of National Human Rights Commissions, which aimed to discuss preparations for the network's activities in light of

the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The meeting also addressed ways to support the position of national institutions in obtaining accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for National Human Rights Institutions.

- On June 27, 2024, Ambassador Dr. Moshira Khattab, President of the National Council for Human Rights, along with Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karem, Vice President, and Ambassador Fahmy Fayed, Secretary General, received a Palestinian delegation led by Mr. Ammar Dwaik, the Director General of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) in Palestine, at the Council's headquarters. The meeting focused on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the violations and crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people, and ways to address these attacks and violations, particularly in light of decisions issued by the International

Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, and resolutions from the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council in this regard. The meeting also addressed ways to enhance cooperation between the Council and the ICHR within the framework of the action plan and efforts of the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), which is currently chaired by the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt. The Palestinian delegation expressed appreciation for the support provided by the political leadership of Egypt and the efforts to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, as well as the regional and international efforts aimed at achieving the aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

- The Council visited Denmark as part of international cooperation and experience exchange at the invitation of the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), the counterpart to the

National Council for Human Rights in Egypt. The visit took place from June 10 to 14, 2024, and focused on learning about the Institute's priorities in gender equality, justice, and human rights. The Council's delegation also visited the office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman for Human Rights in Denmark. A discussion session was held to determine the challenges faced by national human rights institutions in fulfilling their mandated roles and expectations, identifying key areas for cooperation, and developing an action plan.

- The National Council for Human Rights received a delegation from the UAE National Human Right Institution. Both sides expressed their desire to explore the possibility of establishing a joint cooperation protocol, which will be signed soon after reviewing all its provisions. The protocol will highlight key areas of collaboration, including training of trainers (ToT) and enhancing their expertise in building and developing skills in all areas related to the promotion of human rights.

Joint workshops will also be held to promote and disseminate human rights culture for the new generation, ensuring they grow up with the principles of human rights from all perspectives.

- Participation in a regional workshop for strategic thinking on "Promoting Health and Reproductive Rights for Girls and Women through Human Rights Mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review" – Jordan, September 20-21, 2023, at the invitation of the UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO), in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, in Amman. This workshop was part of the implementation of the UNFPA Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025.
- Participation in the meetings of the Working Group on Ageing held via Zoom, at the invitation of GANHRI. The goal of the meetings was to share the activities of members of the Human Rights and Older People Working Group (HROP) and to discuss ongoing international activities regarding the rights of the elderly.

## **Second: The Council's Position on Israeli War Crimes in Gaza**

The state of human rights at the international and regional levels is currently facing a severe crisis, exacerbated by Israel's violations of all principles of international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law in its unjustified and illegal war on the Gaza Strip. This war, which has been ongoing since October 7, 2024, is described by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as "an indelible mark on our humanity and a stain on our collective conscience" after 120 days of war. The severity of these crimes continues unabated to the date of this report, with official statistics indicating that approximately 40,000 people have been killed, most of them women and children, and tens of thousands injured. There has been a systematic and complete destruction of Gaza's infrastructure and vital life components, along with targeted attacks on journalists, media representatives, and humanitarian organizations. UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe



Lazzarini has described the situation as "a war against children... a war against their childhood and their future." Despite calls from the United Nations and the international community, as well as rulings from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court condemning Israel, and despite resolutions from the UN General Assembly, its agencies, and the UN Security Council, Israel persists in violating international law and continues to commit acts of genocide.

The National Council for Human Rights has been monitoring the developments of Israel's brutal war on Gaza since October 2023 to the preparation of this report in June 2024. The Council has taken actions and stances consistent with human conscience and its commitment to human rights, adhering to the principle of the universality of human rights. The Council is also aware of the direct impacts and implications of Israeli crimes in Gaza on the broader situation in the region, particularly on Egypt's economic, social, and security

conditions. The Council's key actions in this regard are as follows:

- The Council, through its president Ambassador Moushira Khattab, praised the lawsuit filed by South Africa, emphasizing that Israel is accused of grave human rights violations before the International Court of Justice. This lawsuit represents an important step toward restoring Palestinian rights, as the serious human rights violations brought forth bring the Palestinian cause back to the forefront of the international agenda, aiming to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.
- The Council expressed its support for Egypt's pivotal role, both in mediating efforts to end the war and in ensuring the flow of humanitarian aid and relief. These efforts have been reinforced by contributions from various Egyptian state institutions and civil society organizations, which have worked tirelessly to provide and deliver

humanitarian assistance under extremely difficult circumstances.

- At the level of communication with the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Moushira Khattab, President of the Council, led a delegation of Arab national institutions' heads to meet with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk, in Geneva on November 15. The delegation included Dr. Mahmoud Karam, Vice President of the National Council for Human Rights, and Mr. Sultan Al-Jamali, Secretary-General of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and Secretary-General of the National Human Rights Committee in Qatar. They discussed the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories and called for effective actions from the UN system to ensure the unrestricted delivery of aid to affected areas.
- On November 29, 2023, Ambassador Dr. Mahmoud Karam, Vice President of the Council, participated in a seminar on the International Day

of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. During his speech, he held the occupation forces responsible for crimes of genocide, forcible displacement, and violations of international humanitarian law principles.

- On January 7, 2024, the Council, in its capacity by assuming the presidency of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, called upon all state parties to the Genocide Convention to fulfill their obligations under the Convention by taking necessary measures to prevent ongoing crimes in Gaza, including joining the steps taken by South Africa to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice. The network, under Egypt's leadership, also urged the UN Special Adviser to take a clear position regarding the prevention of genocide in Gaza Strip.
- On March 26, 2024, the National Council for Human Rights issued a statement expressing its full support for the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the

occupied Palestinian territories in 1967, which was reviewed during the current 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, titled "Anatomy of Genocide." This report sheds light on irrefutable facts that prove Israel's commission of genocide against the people of Gaza.

- On May 29, 2024, the presidency of the ANNHRI issued a statement regarding the recognition by Spain, Ireland, and Norway. The statement highlighted this recognition as an important step toward the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the two-state solution, as enshrined in international human rights standards. The statement also praised the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, presented by the Arab Group in New York, as an effort to rescue the UN from its paralysis due to the Security Council's inability to fulfill its role, especially after the use of the veto to block a decision granting Palestine full membership in the UN, on par with the 193 member states.

The Council continues to rely on international human rights mechanisms to document Israeli crimes in Gaza and emphasizes the importance of maintaining the human rights momentum to awaken the world's conscience. The Council also holds great respect for Egypt's ongoing and growing role since the start of the aggression, supporting the legitimate rights of the people of Gaza and shouldering the burden of providing humanitarian and medical aid to the people of the enclave. Furthermore, Egypt plays a pivotal diplomatic role in efforts to end the war and establish peace.

## **Recommendations**

Out of its constitutional and legal role as an independent national institution, the National Council for Human Rights provides a set of important recommendations. These are intended to encourage relevant stakeholders to implement them in the coming period to further strengthen national efforts in the enforcement and respect of human rights, building on the significant steps Egypt has taken since the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy.

### **First: Recommendations related to national policies to respect human rights**

- ❖ Expedite the adoption of the outcomes of the National Dialogue, while continuing the dialogue mechanism during the next phase as an effective tool for addressing national issues and challenges using a comprehensive, transparent, and open participatory approach, and expand the scope of dialogue to include active societal forces at the national and local levels.

- ❖ Review and update the National Human Rights Strategy to enhance the ability to track its results and progress by developing a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators appropriate to the context and nature of the strategy.
- ❖ Work on localizing national strategies in the areas of human rights, climate change, and population to contribute to integrating each of them into practices, procedures, and action plans at the national and governorate levels as well as at the local administrative units level.

## **Second: Recommendations related to promoting civil and political rights**

- ❖ Expedite the issuance of the updated Criminal Procedure Code by continuing the participatory approach throughout the stages of issuing the law, taking into consideration relevant technological and institutional developments.
- ❖ Work on the implementation of the recommendations put forward during the national



dialogue regarding pretrial detention and precautionary measures, particularly with regard to legal restrictions on the duration of pretrial detention, and to only resort to it in exceptional circumstances, for limited periods, and in accordance with the law.

- ❖ Expand the President's exercise of his constitutional authority to grant pardons, with a focus on prisoners and those convicted in cases related to violations of laws regulating political practice and freedom of opinion and expression.
- ❖ Complete the plan of renovating and developing prison facilities, living conditions, and inmate care, and adopt planned training programs for officials in charge of the developed rehabilitation centers.
- ❖ Promote coordination between the National Council for Human Rights, the Ministry of Interior, and the Public Prosecution Office to increase visits to prisons and detention centers.
- ❖ Continue to develop detention centers attached to security directorates and police stations that house

those serving short sentences whose transfer to public prisons and jails is prohibited by law and ensure enhanced judicial oversight of these facilities.

- ❖ Work on the issuance of a law to protect whistleblowers and witnesses.
- ❖ Review crimes punishable by the death penalty and limit its application to the most serious offenses only
- ❖ The Council encourages the Egyptian authorities to adopt a voluntary moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty pending a comprehensive review of the laws regulating this penalty.
- ❖ Expedite the establishment of the Anti-Discrimination Commission as a constitutional obligation.
- ❖ The Council underscores the importance of adopting the outcomes and recommendations of the National Dialogue regarding the development of legislation, systems, and institutions through

which citizens exercise their political rights. This includes the urgent need to issue the law regulating local popular councils, expedite their elections and formation, and amend certain provisions of the Law on the Exercise of Political Rights to promote the use of modern technology in the election process.

- ❖ Review the current electoral system and shift to electoral systems that are more supportive of and encouraging of political parties. In this regard, the Council emphasizes the importance of considering the National Dialogue's recommendation regarding developing the electoral system and adopting an electoral system that ensures greater political pluralism and greater representation of various political parties in elected institutions.
- ❖ Review the laws regulating the operation of electronic press platforms and work to open the door to these platforms adjusting their conditions and limiting the use of the blocking mechanism,

which has been the subject of complaints by many websites and platforms.

- ❖ The need to expedite the issuance of the Freedom of Information Law, in implementation of Article 68 of the Constitution, which stipulates that "information, data, statistics and official documents are the property of the People and the disclosure thereof from their various sources is a right guaranteed by the State for all citizens." This should also ensure adherence to a comprehensive, participatory approach during the law's preparation stages.
- ❖ Support civil society organizations that have been unable to regularize their status in accordance with Law 149 of 2019, enabling them to carry out their work without the threat of dissolution, and address issues related to the actual implementation of the provisions regulating grant approvals and forms of cooperation with foreign organizations should be addressed.

### **Third: Recommendations related to promoting economic, social, and cultural rights**

- ❖ Expedite the issuance of the new labor law, expand community consultation with stakeholders, and develop effective legislative solutions to ensure social security coverage for irregular workers and those in the informal sector.
- ❖ Adopt a program based on the best international practices in poverty alleviation and apply it to beneficiaries of the Takaful and Karama cash support programs.
- ❖ Increase allocations for health, education, and scientific research in the state budget to align with the percentages stipulated in the constitution.
- ❖ Adopt the outcomes of the national dialogue regarding deepening industry, increasing its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), while absorbing a larger workforce.
- ❖ Continue the implementation of the National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Rural

Areas, 'Decent Life', address the challenges that led to the extension of the first phase, and learn from these lessons when implementing the second and third phases.

- ❖ Narrow the scope of recourse to expropriation procedures for public interest, increase the value of compensation, facilitate the mechanism for obtaining it, and implement effective resettlement plans in accordance with relevant international standards.

#### **Fourth: Recommendations related to the rights of specific groups**

- ❖ Expedite the issuance of regulations and decisions governing the implementation of the Elderly Rights Law and ensuring that they benefit from the new legislative framework approved during the reporting period.
- ❖ Adopt comprehensive legislation to identify and combat all forms of violence against women.

- ❖ Develop and implement effective measures to prevent illegal child labor.
- ❖ Adopt a comprehensive program to develop foster homes for boys and girls and related penal institutions while adhering to international standards in this regard.

### **Fifth: Promoting the role of the National Council for Human Rights**

- ❖ Increase the Council's financial allocations in the state's budget, implement the constitutional obligation to include the Council's budget as a distinct line item in the overall state budget, and allow for the transfer of any surplus funds from the Council's budget from one fiscal year to the next.
- ❖ Study the implementation of an effective, swift, and flexible coordination mechanism within the National Council for Human Rights, the Public Prosecution, and the Ministry of Interior to ensure prompt intervention in addressing complaints and investigating allegations of human rights violations,

especially in view of the high percentage of complaints received by the Council, which require adequate intervention and responses from the Public Prosecution and the Ministry of Interior.

- ❖ Study the implementation of an effective and sustainable coordination mechanism within the National Council for Human Rights and the key ministries concerned with addressing the largest percentage of complaints and allegations of violations of economic and social rights received by the Council, namely complaints related to the right to work, the right to social security, the right to health, and the rights of Egyptians abroad.



## **Annexes**

- ✓ The Council's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025
- ✓ The Report Submitted by the Council to the Committee Against Torture (CAT)
- ✓ The Report Submitted by the Council to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Mechanism
- ✓ Samples of Complaints Received by the Council and Actions Taken

Arab Republic of Egypt



Security and Justice Budget Sector  
Public Services and Social Protection  
Central Administration for Financial Affairs,  
Public Services and Social Protection

Detailed Tables  
National Council for Human Rights  
For the Fiscal Year 2024-2025  
)Administrative Appartus(

**Cairo 2024**

**Overall Budget View**

# National Council for Human Rights 2025/2024 Budget

(EGP)

Economic Classification	2024/2025 Budget						Amended Budget 2023/2024
	Public Treasury	Loans	Grants	Special Funds and Accounts	Other Self-Granted Resources	Total	
<b>Resources</b>							
#Revenue							
-Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-Other Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
Borrowing Proceeds from Sales of Financial and Other Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-Borrowing and Issuance of Local and Foreign Securities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Resources with No Deficit Financed from the Treasury	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
Deficit Financed from the Treasury	53.078.000	0	0	0	0	0	48.667.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.078.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48.670.000</b>

<b>Uses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
# Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-Salaries and employee compensation	36.308.000	0	0	0	0	36.308.000	32.000.000
Procurement of goods and services	15.300.000	0	0	0	0	15.300.000	15.300.000
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subsidies, grants, and social benefits	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	700.000
Other expenses	70.000	0	0	0	0	70.000	770.000
Purchase of non-financial assets (investments)	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	60.000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>53.078.000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53.078.000</b>	<b>48.670.000</b>
Acquisition of Domestic and Foreign Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repayment of Domestic and Foreign Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Uses (without Surplus to the Treasury)	53.078.000	0	0	0	0	53.078.000	48.670.000
Surplus to the Treasury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>53.078.000</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>53.078.000</b>	<b>48.670.000</b>

**Items**  
**(Revenues - Proceeds from Holding - Sources of Funding)**  
**National Council for Human Rights**

(EGP)

Economic Classification	Description	2024/2025 Budget						Amended Budget 2023/2024
		Public Treasury	Loans	Grants	Special Funds and Accounts	Other Self-Granted Resources	Total	
10000000	<b>Resources</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
11000000	#Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
11300000	Other Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.000
11320000	Proceeds from the sale of goods and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.000
<b>11320100</b>	* Service Revenue	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.000</b>
<b>11320119</b>	* Sales of goods	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.000</b>
<b>11350000</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2.000</b>
<b>11350100</b>	* - Current	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2.000</b>
<b>11350101</b>	× Amounts above credited past due	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2.000</b>

**Uses**  
**(Expenditures - Holdings - Loan Repayment)**  
**National Council for Human Rights**  
**(EGP)**

Economic Classification	Description	2025/2024Budget						Amended 2023/2024
		Public Treasury	Loans	Grants	Special Funds and Accounts	Other Self-Granted Resources	Total	
<b>20000000</b>	<b>Uses</b>	53.078.000	0	0	0	0	53.078.000	48.670.00
21000000	# Expenses	53.078.000	0	0	0	0	53.078.000	48.670.00
21100000	- Wages and Employee C	36.308.000	0	0	0	0	36.308.000	32.000.00
21130000	Gross Wages and Genera	36.308.000	0	0	0	0	36.308.000	32.000.00
21130100	*Gross Wages	36.308.000	0	0	0	0	36.308.000	32.000.00
<b>21130101</b>	<b>*Gross Wages Included Budgets of the Entities</b>	36.308.000	0	0	0	0	36.308.000	32.000.00
<b>21200000</b>	Procurement of Goods and	15.300.000	0	0	0	0	15.300.000	15.300.00
<b>21230000</b>	Procurement of Total Goods and General Res	15.300.000	0	0	0	0	15.300.000	15.300.00
<b>21230100</b>	*Procurement of Total Goods and Services	15.300.000	0	0	0	0	15.300.000	15.300.00
<b>21230101</b>	*Procurement of Total Goods and Services Included in the Budgets of the Authorities	15.300.000	0	0	0	0	15.300.000	15.300.00
<b>21400000</b>	- Support, Grants, and So	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	700.000
<b>21440000</b>	Support, Total Grants, and Reserves	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	700.000
<b>21440100</b>	Total Support and Grants	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	700.000
<b>21440101</b>	× Total Support and Grants Included in the Budgets of the Authorities	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	700.000
<b>21500000</b>	Other Expenditure	70.000	0	0	0	0	70.000	70.000
<b>21520000</b>	Other Total Expenditure and Reserves	70.000	0	0	0	0	70.000	70.000
<b>21520100</b>	* Other Total Expenditure	70.000	0	0	0	0	70.000	70.000
<b>21520102</b>	× Other Total Expenditure Included in the Budgets of the Authorities	70.000	0	0	0	0	70.000	70.000
<b>21600000</b>	- Purchase of Non-Financial Investments	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	600.000
<b>21610000</b>	Fixed Assets	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	600.000
<b>21610100</b>	Direct Investment (Including Duties)	700.000	0	0	0	0	700.000	600.000

21610105	× Means of Transportation	500.000	0	0	0	0	500.000	10.000
21610108	× Equipment	200.000	0	0	0	0	200.000	590.000

# National Council for Human Rights

## Special Annotations on the Uses of the Fiscal Year

### 2024/2025 Budget

Type	Item	Group	Chapter	Description	Amount in EGP	Annotation
1	1	3	1	Total wages included in the budgets of the agencies	36.308.000	Total wages included in the budgets of entities are distributed based on the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration and the Ministry of Finance.
1	1	3	2	Total procurement of goods and services included in the budgets of the agencies	15.300.000	Total Procurement of goods and services included in the budgets of entities are distributed based on the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Ministry of Finance.



1	1	4	4	Total support and grants included in the budgets of the agencies	700.000	Total support and grants included in the budgets of entities are distributed based on the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Ministry of Finance.
2	1	2	5	Other total expenditure included in the budgets of the agencies	70.000	Other total expenditures included in the budgets of entities are distributed based on the proposal of the Council and the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

The National Council for Human Rights' assessment of the state of civil and political rights in Egypt during the period from November 2020 to September 2022.

Report submitted to the Human Rights Committee (CCPR)

on the Committee's discussion of the fifth periodic report of the Arab Republic of Egypt

at its 137th session (Geneva: February 27 – March 24, 2023)

## **Introduction:**

The National Council for Human Rights is the independent national institution entrusted with promoting and protecting human rights in Egypt. The Council was established in accordance with the Paris Standards and has enjoyed a Status A rating since its establishment in 2004.

The delay of more than two decades by the Egyptian government in submitting the periodic report on civil and political rights in Egypt is indicative of a long-standing crisis, where Egypt viewed human rights as a Western agenda incompatible with Egyptian values. The significant obstacles encountered in attempts to criminalize female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage serve as further proof. These attempts even led to lawsuits being filed against those advocating for the victims of such crimes, accusing them of promoting a Western agenda contrary to Islamic Sharia law and Egyptian customs and traditions. There was also strong resistance to efforts to protect witnesses and victims of crime. Women have suffered from blatant discrimination, such as being denied the ability to register their newborn child if the man denies paternity, while men had the right to obtain a birth certificate for their child without any documents. While men enjoyed the absolute right to divorce their wives without their

consent or even knowledge, women spent decades in court attempting to divorce a man they could not live with, who even subjected them to torture. The punishment for a rapist was that he had to marry his victim, reflecting a contempt for women's humanity and a societal and legal complicity with the perpetrator, as well as a flagrant violation of the victim's right to dignity and her freedom to make crucial decisions affecting her life. These are just a few examples, and they do not even include the deprivation of girls' right to education or the forced labor of children, denying them their right to education.

Political parties have also faced significant repression, culminating in their complete dissolution after the 1952 revolution. Since then, political parties have struggled to regain their strength, and the only surviving party from that era is Wafd Party. While the state has made some recent efforts to encourage youth participation in politics and to join political parties, these efforts remain in their early stages.

Against this backdrop, the launch of the National Human Rights Strategy on September 11, 2021, which is the first and only such strategy in Egyptian history, represents a significant and appreciated milestone. It reflects a fundamental shift in the perception of human rights in a country that has contributed to the drafting of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since the 1940s, was at the forefront of the countries that embraced it and has ratified ten human rights treaties and conventions.

Moreover, the strategy was developed by the Permanent Higher Committee for Human Rights (PHCHR), which includes representatives from ministries and executive bodies, in consultation with civil society organizations and the National Council for Human Rights. This process highlights the commitment of those responsible for fulfilling citizens' rights. The strategy was launched in the presence of the President of the Republic, signaling a stronger commitment to implementation and adherence to international human rights standards.

However, a critique of the National Human Rights Strategy is that it is divided into four pillars: the first focusing on civil and political rights, the second addressing economic, social, and cultural rights, the third covering human rights for women, children, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly, and the fourth dealing with human rights education and capacity-building. The National Council for Human Rights believes that it would have been more appropriate to adhere to international human rights standards by limiting the strategy to the first two pillars,

while stating that all human rights should be implemented without any discrimination based on gender, religion, race, disability, age, or any other reason. This inclusion would have avoided overlooking any potential discrimination in the enjoyment of rights<sup>2</sup>, as stipulated in all human rights treaties. Furthermore, the strategy includes a specific fourth pillar dedicated to education and capacity-building in human rights.

The announcement on October 25, 2021, regarding the President's decision not to extend the state of emergency, reinforced this direction towards supporting human rights. This was followed by his call in April 2021 for an inclusive national dialogue, without discrimination or exclusion. The call coincided with the revival of the Presidential Pardon Committee, in accordance with Article 155 of the 2014 Constitution, which grants the President the right to issue pardons or reduce sentences for prisoners.

At the time of preparing this report, over 1,500 detainees had been released since the Presidential Pardon Committee was restructured, with significant numbers of these releases being based on efforts and requests from the National Council for Human Rights. On January 20, the National Council for Human Rights

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<sup>2</sup> Such as refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers

also called for closing the file on detainees held in relation to the President's invitation for dialogue and respecting differences of opinion. Preparation for the dialogue took a year, and everyone awaited its launch.

In line with these measures, the Presidential Pardon Committee launched an electronic platform on May 3, 2022, through the National Youth Conference website to facilitate the submission of requests for presidential pardons electronically. According to the platform, the request form requires information including the full name of the convicted person, their national ID number, case number, and their governorate.

Based on this mechanism, the decisions of pardon issued during the period from May to October 2022 amounted to a total of 13 decisions for the release of detainees. Additionally, the committee issued a statement on September 18, 2022, confirming its readiness, in coordination with the relevant state authorities and in accordance with the directives of the President, to receive all requests from those released. The committee expressed its commitment to meeting any needs or requirements that would help reintegrate them into normal life, particularly addressing any issues related to employment or removing the consequences resulting from their period of detention.

## **First: The Right to Life, Bodily Integrity, and the Fight Against Torture**

The National Human Rights Strategy aims to establish a framework for reviewing the most serious crimes that result in the death penalty, considering societal circumstances and specialized studies, in alignment with the international and regional human rights treaties to which Egypt is a signatory. As of the date of this report, the government has not yet announced progress in achieving this objective. It is noteworthy that the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) has a strong position on this matter, advocating for the application of the death penalty only for the most serious crimes, in accordance with the provisions of international covenants.

The strategy also aims to combat all forms and instances of torture, investigate related allegations, and protect the rights of victims. One of the most significant positive measures taken by the state to combat violence and torture is the toughening of penalties for sexual harassment and the criminalization of female genital mutilation (FGM). Legal awareness campaigns have been launched to address practices that constitute cruel, degrading, or inhuman treatment, alongside efforts to raise awareness and enhance the capabilities of state employees in this field. The NCHR has also

played a pivotal role in combating torture through committees it formed, studies it conducted, and initiatives it launched to demand the prosecution of those who exceeded the limits of their duties. Our efforts have led to the condemnation and sentencing of some individuals.

To further bolster the right to life and bodily integrity and autonomy, Law No. 214 of 2020 was issued in December 2020, regulating clinical medical research. This law represents a legislative milestone in establishing the necessary foundations, criteria, and controls for conducting clinical medical research and safeguarding individuals undergoing such research, whether preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, non-therapeutic, invasive or non-invasive. The law is consistent with key international ethical principles governing the use of humans in research, including the Nuremberg Code on the limits of permissible medical experimentation and the Declaration of Helsinki, which outlines ethical principles related to human experimentation.

**In the area of capacity building and awareness raising,** the Human Rights Department of the Public Prosecutor's Office organized 31 training courses, benefiting 575 members of the Public Prosecution. Additionally, the National Council for Human Rights



(NCHR) prepared a training manual on Nelson Mandela Rules for protecting the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, such as prisoners and detainees in correctional and rehabilitation centers. An agreement is expected with Human Rights Sector of the Ministry of the Interior to initiate training courses in this regard. The Council also collaborates with several civil society organizations and political parties, such as the Coordination's Committee of Party's Youth Leaders and Politicians to implement a program aimed at supporting and reintegrating those released after serving their sentences. Furthermore, the police force continues to be trained in adherence to minimum standards and the values and principles of human rights, including advanced programs in areas such as women's rights, children's rights, disability rights, human trafficking, irregular migration, and incorporating codes of conduct prepared by the NCHR into the awareness and training programs for law enforcement.

## **Second: Treatment of Prisoners**

The Ministry of the Interior launched a new strategy for managing penal and correctional institutions, which involved renaming some of the sectors within it, including the renaming of the Prison Sector to the

Community Protection Sector. This strategy is based on modern penal philosophy, which aims to transform traditional prisons and detention centers into model places for rehabilitating and caring for inmates throughout their detention period. The rehabilitation plans include integrated programs that involve specialists in various fields such as social sciences and mental health, with a priority given to education, rehabilitation, reintegration, and correcting concepts and behaviors.

The establishment of the Correctional and Rehabilitation Center in Wadi El-Natroun, which will replace 12 prisons, accounting for 25% of the total number of public prisons in Egypt, is a nucleus for replacing all Egyptian prisons with similar centers that meet all the requirements consistent with human rights standards. Additionally, three public correctional and rehabilitation centers have been established in Wadi El-Natroun, Gamasa, and Badr City. The National Council for Human Rights conducts multiple inspection visits to these rehabilitation centers and records its observations after each visit.

The state has introduced advanced mechanisms to regulate prison visits, including the pre-scheduling of appointments for inmates' families via an electronic application, as well as the establishment of dedicated

phone lines for scheduling these visits. However, there has not yet been an evaluation conducted to assess the ability of inmates' families to take full advantage of these new services.

The Public Prosecution has taken into account the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic when issuing pretrial detention orders. It expanded the application of Article (201) of the Criminal Procedure Code, which mandates that defendants either remain at their residence or report to police stations at designated times, while prohibiting them from visiting certain places.

In 2020, the Department of International Cooperation, Execution of Sentences, and Prisoner Care of the Public Prosecution contacted the Community Protection Sector within the Ministry of the Interior regarding essential measures and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of prisoners during the pandemic. The Public Prosecution also fulfilled its mandate of overseeing and supervising prisons and detention centers in line with the legal framework.

Moreover, the same department urged the Community Protection Sector to expand the use of Article (64 bis) in the executive regulations of the Law on Prisons, which allows for telephone communication between prisoners

and their families during the COVID-19 outbreak. The department also contacted the Ministry of the Interior to ensure that prisoners were provided with the COVID-19 vaccine as part of the health measures implemented during the pandemic.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 10, 2020, all family visits were suspended in correctional and rehabilitation centers to preserve public health. However, visits were resumed on August 22, 2020, with the implementation of the following measures to ensure safe and organized visits:

- Visits were scheduled according to an alphabetical order of inmates' names and the capacity of the visit halls. Social distancing measures were enforced between inmates and their families. Each inmate was allowed one visitor for 20 minutes per visit, once a month.
- A dedicated phone number system (118 mobile phones) was set up for each correctional and rehabilitation center and published on the Ministry's website to allow families to inquire about visit schedules. Additionally, an online application was developed to allow families to book and confirm visit dates.

- Before each visit session, all visit halls were disinfected and equipped with wire barriers to maintain safe distances between inmates and visitors. Both inmates and visitors were provided with masks to be worn during visits.
- The council conducted several visits to the newly established correctional and rehabilitation centers, with the participation of the Council's president, Ambassador Moshira Khattab, Council members, and the technical secretariat. These visits provided an opportunity for the Council to listen to complaints from inmates' families and evaluate the level of services offered within the centers.

### **Third: Guarantees of Fair and Equitable Trials**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, alternative pretrial detention methods were applied, and the justice system was developed with a shift towards digital transformation. Pretrial detention renewals were conducted remotely (virtually), and electronic litigation was developed and applied in economic courts.

On May 13, 2020, the Egyptian Public Prosecutor, Mr. Hamada El-Sawy, chaired an emergency meeting of the Arab Association of Prosecutors via video conference. This meeting was part of a strategy developed by the Egyptian Public Prosecution to address the challenges

posed by the COVID-19 pandemic at the national and regional levels. The purpose was to exchange experiences, discuss best practices, and share the measures that public prosecutor offices across the Arab world had implemented to preserve public health and maintain the integrity of the justice system. This included ensuring the health and safety of citizens, prosecutors, judicial staff, detainees, and prisoners, while still adhering to the principles of criminal justice and due process.

In a significant move towards improving the legal framework for the protection of rights, the Egyptian Parliament discussed proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code. This amendment is a golden chance to remove significant obstacles to the full implementation of human rights in the legal process, something that the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) has long advocated for.

### **The Right to Form Associations:**

The executive regulation of Law No. 149 of 2019, which organizes the practice of civil work, was issued in January 2021. It is noteworthy that the council had previously objected to Law No. 70 of 2017, which was repealed and replaced by the current law. Additionally, Law No. 23 of 2022 was issued to amend the law

regulating civil work, extending the deadline for legalizing the status of civil society organizations by another year, starting from the end of the period set in Article 2 of the law's provisions, which ended on January 11, 2022. The National Council for Human Rights requested an extension for the adjustment period, and the request was granted, with the new deadline extended until April 11, 2023. This extension was provided to allow civil society organizations that were unable to hold their extraordinary general assemblies due to the precautionary measures imposed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, or to familiarize themselves with the related electronic system and fulfill all the required regulatory procedures, which prevented many of these entities from holding the extraordinary general assembly mandated by Article (7) of the executive regulations. This assembly was necessary to adjust their status and approve the amended bylaws, making them at risk of dissolution by judicial order. Therefore, a temporary additional period was granted to allow full opportunity for civil society organizations to enjoy all the benefits and facilitation provided by the law, without being deprived of these advantages. This request was followed by the endorsement of the President of the Republic.

The President of the Republic declared 2022 as the "Year of Civil Society" in recognition of its efforts in achieving sustainable development, raising awareness about the culture of human rights, and the importance of partnership with civil society. According to official data from the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the number of active civil society organizations in Egypt exceeds 52,000, with 32,000 of them submitting requests to legalize their status before the end of the legal deadline. 20,000 associations requested an extension, which was granted by the government.

The National Alliance for Civil Development Work was established on March 13, 2022, with the participation and membership of major civil and developmental organizations in Egypt. It included 24 associations, institutions, and service and developmental entities, including the General Union of Civil Societies, which has 30 specialized federations and 27 regional federations as members.

It is worth noting that the National Alliance for Civil Development Work began with several initiatives to provide support to the most vulnerable and deserving groups. The alliance's efforts have included offering financial aid, food support, and the provision of educational supplies.



### **Fifth: Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Right to Access Information:**

Article 65 of the 2014 Constitution stipulates that Freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed, and every person shall have the right to express his/her opinion verbally, in writing, through imagery, or by any other means of expression and publication. Accordingly, the National Human Rights Strategy aims to draft a law that regulates the right to access and circulate information. The Supreme Council for Media Regulation has begun holding meetings and discussion sessions to reach societal consensus on a draft law that governs the provision and circulation of information, in light of the issuance of the Personal Data Protection Law No. 151 of 2020, which was preceded by the issuance of the Anti-Cybercrime Law No. 175 of 2018.

In 2022, licenses and certificates of legal status were issued to 100 satellite channels, electronic websites, and newspapers, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 180 of 2018 and its executive regulations.

### **Sixth: Freedom of Belief and the Practice of Religious Rites:**

The National Council for Human Rights praises the issuance of Law No. 190 of 2020 concerning the establishment of the Endowments of the Catholic

Church and the Evangelical denomination. To implement this law, Presidential Decree No. 80 of 2021 was issued to form the Board of Directors of the Catholic Church Endowment Authority, with a term of four years, chaired by the Patriarch of the Coptic Catholics. Presidential Decree No. 81 of 2021 was also issued to form the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Endowment Authority, also for a term of four years, chaired by the head of the Evangelical denomination and the president of the General Evangelical Council. The National Council for Human Rights believes that these laws represent a qualitative leap in the rights of Coptic community in Egypt.

In the same context, Egypt has embarked on a plan worth 70 million dollars to restore Jewish temples in Cairo and Alexandria, with the latest being the Eliyahu Hanavi Synagogue, which was reopened on January 10, 2020, following its restoration. This project also includes the restoration of ancient Jewish cemeteries in the Fustat area of Cairo. In a step reflecting respect for the civil rights of Egypt's Jewish community, the government reviewed the construction plan for the ring road surrounding Cairo, to avoid passing through the Jewish cemeteries and violating their sanctity.

Additionally, the Ministry of Higher Education launched a strategy to counter extremism and Takfiri ideology in

Egyptian universities for the years 2019-2023. This strategy includes setting objectives, policies, programs, and plans to monitor the most prominent manifestations of Takfiri thought and to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the work system addressing this issue.

For the same purpose, the current educational system curriculum, which will remain in place until 2029, was reviewed to ensure that it contains no provisions that restrict religious freedoms, the principle of citizenship, peaceful coexistence, or acceptance of differences. The review also aimed to ensure that it includes values of respecting places of worship and not violating them. This review was conducted multiple times with the participation of scholars from Al-Azhar, the Egyptian Church, university professors, and representatives of public opinion in Egypt.

The curriculum for religious education, Arabic language, values, and respect for others was reviewed in preparation for printing for the 2021/2022 academic year. It was concluded that these curricula emphasize acceptance of others, respect for religious freedoms, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, and they contain nothing that explicitly or implicitly promotes violence, extremism, or rejection of others.

The Council followed up on the Ministry of Endowments' publication of more than 182 authored and translated works to spread enlightened moderate thought, including the "Vision" series. The Ministry also launched an electronic portal and expanded its electronic publication in more than 23 languages, with Friday sermons translated into over 18 languages, available in both audio and written formats. The Ministry works on reinforcing the concept of citizenship through fruitful cooperation with the Egyptian Church, particularly in the programs for female preachers and nuns.

In February 2020, the Ministry of Social Solidarity launched the "Waya" program to change negative societal behaviors that hinder economic and human development by providing citizens with legal and religious information on 12 social issues. Additionally, Prime Ministerial Decree No. 51 of 2022 was issued to form a task force led by a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the membership of several relevant parties, to implement the National Strategy for Effective Religious Communication with the Outside World, which was prepared by the Egyptian Fatwa House (Dar Al-Ifta).

## **Seventh: The challenges that impeded the progress of human rights, specifically with regard to civil and political rights.**

The culture of human rights remains emerging, if not absent, among broad sectors of the population, including among the executive officials responsible for protecting, promoting, and ensuring human rights. This includes individuals working in education, media, religious instruction, and public service. Additionally, there are still laws that require amendment in line with a human rights-based approach.

A considerable number of new political parties still require support and assistance, while many civil society organizations suffer from a lack of adherence to a human rights framework in their activities and internal management.

In general, progress is relatively slow, as achieving a qualitative shift in this area requires changing practices, laws, and regulations that have persisted for decades. NCHR hopes that the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Law will target the elimination of the challenges and obstacles posed by the current law. Specifically, the obstacles are as follows:

1. The need to review the most serious crimes punishable by the death penalty, taking into

account societal circumstances, specialized studies, and in accordance with international and regional human rights conventions ratified by Egypt.

2. Individual practices that constitute violations of bodily integrity, such as sexual harassment, violence against women, and female genital mutilation (FGM), whether occurring in public or private spaces.
3. Assault, physical abuse, or mistreatment of children in social care institutions, orphanages, mental health facilities, addiction treatment centers, and nursing homes.
4. The lack of a necessary framework for the controls, justifications, and durations of pretrial detention as outlined in national laws.
5. The absence of a provision in the Criminal Procedure Code for the use of electronic criminal monitoring for pretrial detention.
6. The lack of legal awareness within society regarding what constitutes cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment as defined by law, as well as the lack of awareness of victims' rights and how to address them.
7. The need to generalize a draft law that allows remote consideration of pretrial detention orders, enabling judges to communicate directly with

detained defendants in the presence of their lawyers via a secure closed-circuit television, ensuring that the defendant can present all aspects of their defense when considering their release or continued detention if they are unable to attend court.

8. The absence of provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code to prevent the expiration of criminal proceedings due to statutes of limitations in all crimes that violate personal liberty when the perpetrator is a public official or entrusted with public service, and has committed the crime due to, during, or by exploiting their position.
9. The significant increase in the number of cases heard by the courts, which leads to congestion and long delays in reaching final judgments, in addition to the limited cases in which a criminal order can be issued to alleviate the burden on misdemeanor courts.
10. The absence of provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code that regulate the right of direct prosecution by the victim in crimes against personal liberty, when committed by a public official or someone entrusted with public service due to, during, or by exploiting their position, despite being a constitutional entitlement.

11. The lack of a legal framework governing access to official information, data, and statistics, and their dissemination, despite this being a constitutional right.
12. The absence of a comprehensive code of conduct for all forms of media and journalism, whether visual, written, audio, or digital, which establishes the limits of freedom of expression while ensuring that this freedom is exercised without infringing on the rights of others.
13. The failure to update laws governing the operation of professional unions.
14. The lack of human and financial resources for the vast majority of political parties.
15. The continued presence of rigid religious discourse, making it necessary to renew religious discourse to promote values of tolerance, reject extremism, and refute extremist and misleading ideas.
16. The failure to enact a law for the protection of the personal data of victims, witnesses, defendants, and informants, which could constitute a violation of privacy.

### **Eighth: NCHR Efforts.**

In October 2021, the Egyptian Parliament held a vote on proposals from civil society organizations and



sectoral federations to select 27 individuals, including a woman, for the position of Chairperson of the Council for the first time in its history. Women occupied 44% of the membership, and civil society organizations made up 50%. This composition sparked a sense of optimism among circles concerned with human rights.

### **NCHR activities in the field of civil and political rights during the year 2022.**

NCHR adopts a policy that encourages and supports the state's efforts to integrate a human rights approach in all its services and decisions. This includes incorporating human rights values and concepts into legislation, educational curricula, religious discourse, media communication, and the daily life of the Egyptian people. This policy reflects the Council's understanding, both by its leadership and members, of the nature of the Council's role and the purpose of its establishment as an independent national mechanism aimed at promoting and protecting human rights in Egypt, as well as issuing periodic reports on the state of human rights in the country.

NCHR Civil and Political Rights Committee is composed of political activists, party leaders, and experts in development and human rights.

In 2022, the Civil and Political Rights Committee implemented a number of initiatives and activities directly related to the civil and political rights of citizens, including organizing a high-level workshop that brought together opposition parties and blocked online platforms to discuss their vision for advancing civil and political rights. The Committee also organized a workshop on freedom of creativity and academic freedoms, as well as a series of meetings involving individuals from various backgrounds, perspectives, and ideologies, including party members, civil society representatives, youth, trade unionists, media professionals, and diverse cultural and intellectual figures. In these meetings, participants exchanged differing and often opposing views compared to those of the state and its representatives involved in these activities, leading to the issuance of strong and independent recommendations by the Council.

In this context, the Council, through the efforts of the same committee (Civil and Political Rights), took a significant step toward implementing the National Human Rights Strategy. Additionally, the Council is executing a project in collaboration with the Swiss Cooperation Program and the Swiss Embassy in Cairo titled "Supporting Efforts to Enhance Political Participation and Democratic Mechanisms in Egypt."

The philosophy of this distinguished pilot project lies in providing a safe platform for various civil society components to engage in open dialogue under the umbrella of NCHR with state representatives, including legislative and executive bodies, on the National Human Rights Strategy and its potential for implementation. The project aims to offer and shape successful models for managing dialogue and disputes in a civilized manner, using democratic methods and tools that can be adopted and developed in the future at all levels.

**In the context of implementing this project, the following can be observed:**

- Spaces for political participation and freedom of expression were opened for representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, associations, unions, and student unions in universities.
- The success in attracting numerous representatives from civil society organizations, human rights figures, intellectuals, unionists, academics, and media professionals to engage in effective dialogues with government bodies, parliament, decision-makers, and executives, under the sponsorship and umbrella of the NCHR.

NCHR continued its efforts to align national legislation with international human rights conventions. The Council's Legislative Committee studied a proposed law criminalizing hate speech to prevent division and discrimination and to promote a culture of acceptance of others.

A cooperation protocol was signed between NCHR and the Ministry of Youth and Sports to enable the Council to raise awareness among young people about human rights issues, their role in promoting these rights, capacity-building, and the importance of political participation. The protocol also addressed the phenomenon of sports fanaticism as a tangible indicator of hate speech.

NCHR Ambassador, conducted a series of dialogues with 9 universities and youth organizations, discussing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the National Human Rights Strategy, and a comparison between them. These dialogues ensured that young people took the lead in initiating and managing the discussions, expressing their opinions freely. Over the course of the year, 4,500 young men and women participated. During these dialogues, the National Human Rights Strategy was simplified and adapted into a version suitable for young people, making it a tool accessible to university students and others. This initiative contributed to the

widespread dissemination of human rights culture, as the Council opened its doors to youth from various universities.

A cooperation protocol was signed with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, and work is currently underway to review the Childhood and Motherhood Strategic Plan from a human rights perspective.

A cooperation protocol was also signed between NCHR, the Ministry of Education, and Ain Shams University, aimed at promoting human rights culture, building the capacities of employees, and reviewing educational curricula. In collaboration with Ain Shams University, students will be involved in reviewing the human rights curriculum taught to university students, ensuring it is engaging and relevant to changing circumstances.

A cooperation protocol was signed between NCHR and the Ministry of Social Solidarity during the 15th Forum for Civil Society Organizations organized by NCHR.

In collaboration with the Medical Syndicate and the Human Rights Committee of the House of Representatives, a discussion session was organized on the draft law on medical responsibility and human rights, including the right to the highest attainable level

of health and dignity according to the World Health Organization's definition, the right to access the best possible healthcare services without discrimination, and the right to protection from undergoing any experiments or interventions without informed consent.

NCHR organized the 15th Annual Forum for Civil Society Organizations on January 17, 2023, with the participation of 150 civil society organizations, both in-person and via Zoom. During the forum, civil society's demands were heard, and joint efforts to support the human rights system were discussed.

NCHR issued its work strategy for the period (2021-2024), and the full text of the strategy is available on the Council's website.

### **Eighth: Observations and Challenges.**

- Weak culture of dialogue and differences, and a lack of ability to achieve societal, cultural, and political consensus.
- Weak human rights culture within the state's administrative apparatus and society.
- Lack of trust between civil society organizations and state institutions.
- Insufficient resources within civil society organizations.
- Despite some relative progress, the space for action for civil society organizations still requires further efforts

and expansion.

- The legislative and legal framework needs further amendments to align with the provisions of the National Human Rights Strategy, the Constitution, and international human rights conventions.
- Delay in announcing an executive plan for implementing the National Human Rights Strategy to date.
- The High Permanent Committee for Human Rights has not announced how it will carry out the monitoring and evaluation process.
- The National Human Rights Strategy stipulates that the High Permanent Committee for Human Rights work in cooperation and coordination with the human rights units and departments in ministries, but it does not clarify the implementation mechanisms for this.
- The National Human Rights Strategy outlines objectives for spreading human rights culture and identifies the entities that will be engaged in this regard, without specifying the communication mechanisms with these entities or how the procedures outlined in the strategy will be implemented.
- The goals of the National Human Rights Strategy overlap with the roles and responsibilities of other councils, such as the National Council for Women and the Council for People with Disabilities, and there are no

mechanisms for cooperation between them, which needs to be addressed.

### **Ninth: Proposed Interventions:**

- Emphasizing the success of creating a safe public space for discussion, dialogue, and consensus, and working on expanding it .
- Training and educating the administrative apparatus and state institutions on the principles and culture of human rights, and raising public awareness about the National Human Rights Strategy .
- Increasing the involvement of civil society organizations, encouraging them to work and play their role by supporting their efforts to implement the National Human Rights Strategy .
- Reconsidering policies and legislation that are contradictory to human rights .
- Bridging the gap between vision, policies, and laws on one hand, and the laws and those responsible for implementing them on the other .
- Calling for the announcement of the executive plan for the National Human Rights Strategy, including a timeline, identification of responsible



entities, activities, costs, and quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure the achievement of objectives and results .

- Calling for the preparation of training and educational programs on human rights culture for those in charge of human rights units and departments in ministries and governorates. It is important to note that the Council has 11 branches across 11 governorates. Specific plans with objectives, results, and activities should be developed, along with financial resources allocated for each unit or department according to the ministry's responsibilities. The implementation of the plan should be reviewed by the ministry and the High Permanent Committee for Human Rights, in cooperation and coordination with NCHR, which has established a specialized committee titled "Capacity Building and Training Committee ".
- The continued preparation of draft laws by NCHR to enhance and protect human rights and submitting them to Parliament .
- Requesting the High Permanent Committee for Human Rights to announce the executive plan for the fourth axis of spreading human rights culture within a clear timeline, with the plan to be

implemented in cooperation with NCHR, as this axis closely aligns with the Council's tasks .

- Encouraging an active role for media institutions in spreading the culture of human rights through programs, journalistic materials, and various media reports, which should be characterized by professionalism and adherence to ethical standards .
- Establishing a coordination and follow-up mechanism to enhance joint efforts and organize work among all parties involved.

**Tenth: Proposals for Supporting Human Rights, Including the Protection, Promotion, and Implementation of Civil and Political Rights :**

1. Expedite the study of allegations and claims of civil and political rights violations, provide necessary recommendations in this regard to the competent authorities, and work on resolving them.
2. Train and build the capacity of all personnel working in the field of human rights across various government and civil institutions, and prepare technical training to raise awareness and train youth in educational institutions, motivating them to participate in public affairs and exercise civil and political rights. This includes raising awareness

among citizens, in cooperation with institutions and bodies responsible for education, media, and cultural development, and assisting in the preparation of programs related to teaching human rights.

3. Organize educational and training courses and workshops for public employees, law enforcement personnel, and others in similar roles, such as police officers, on human rights, public freedoms, and all matters that promote democracy and transparency, ensuring respect for citizens' dignity and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution, law, and international human rights conventions ratified by Egypt.
4. Intensify visits to reform and rehabilitation centers, places of detention, and therapeutic, corrective, and psychiatric institutions, and listen to inmates' concerns about allegations of mistreatment and the extent to which they enjoy their rights. It is worth noting that the Council is a member of the Mental Health Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.
5. Call on political forces to focus on enriching the Egyptian political experience, building trained cadres by expanding participation, freedom of expression, and guaranteeing freedom of speech in a way that fosters political participation.

6. Expedite the issuance of amendments to the Criminal Procedure Law as the best means of finding alternatives to pretrial detention, ensuring swift justice, strengthening justice guarantees, facilitating conditional release procedures, and providing remedies for those affected. Specifically, amend Articles 63 and 210 of the Criminal Procedure Law to allow victims of crime to challenge the decision to dismiss a criminal case against a public employee for crimes committed during or because of their official duties.
7. The Criminal Procedure Law should include the use of alternatives to pretrial detention, such as the electronic criminal monitoring system, as an alternative to detention.
8. Ensure the provision of medical and psychological rehabilitation services for victims of violence crimes.
9. Enact a law for the protection of witnesses, whistleblowers, and victims.
10. Update the Penal Code, with attention to reviewing all provisions leading to the death penalty, and strengthening the criminalization and prohibition of torture and mistreatment.
11. Intensify penalties for the crime of using cruelty based on public office authority as stipulated in Article 129 of the Penal Code,

elevating it from a misdemeanor to a felony to ensure a deterrent penalty. This is essential to protect victims who are not considered defendants and to address the phenomenon of impunity.

12. Enact a law for the freedom of information exchange.
13. Increase public awareness of Article 161-bis of the Penal Code, which punishes those who discriminate between individuals or groups based on gender, origin, language, religion, or beliefs, and where such discrimination undermines the principle of equal opportunity, social justice, or disrupts public order.
14. Develop a human rights curriculum and ensure its inclusion at all educational levels and in public service employee training.
15. Promote a culture of tolerance and reduce all forms of violence in society.
16. Review all religious and non-religious educational curricula to incorporate human rights principles and international standards accepted by Egypt, removing any content that does not contribute to enhancing respect for diversity, pluralism, difference, tolerance, and combating violence, extremism, and hate, while promoting values that support dialogue, coexistence, and the fight against hatred and intolerance.

17. Expand the dissemination of human rights culture through educational curricula, media, and youth programs to foster constructive ideas in society, and provide clear, accurate media coverage of police services as an essential state institution crucial for ensuring security and preventing crime.
18. Repeal legal provisions that allow for the imprisonment of journalists in publishing cases.
19. Establish a specific law for freedom of opinion and expression and the free flow of information based on international conventions.
20. Establish a presidential committee, including members from NCHR, to review the release of individuals convicted in cases related to freedom of expression.
21. The Council should create an online platform on its website for community dialogue, ensuring the right to freedom of opinion and expression for all segments of society.
22. Organize training courses for human rights activists on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, balancing legal frameworks and practical implementation.
23. Host an annual forum organized by the Council on the state of freedom of opinion and expression, involving all segments of society.

NCHR Report on the Human Rights Situation in Egypt  
Submitted to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism  
(2024)

**The National Council for Human Rights of the Arab Republic of Egypt submits its report on the human rights situation in Egypt for the period from 2019 to 2024** to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. This report follows up on the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Egypt in November 2019, amounting to 270 fully accepted recommendations and 31 partially accepted recommendations, out of a total of 372 recommendations received from member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

**First: Methodology for Preparing the Report**

1- This report was prepared using a consultative methodology with stakeholders:

A. A total of 70 civil society organizations were invited, ensuring geographic representation and diversity in human rights activities. In this context, consultations were held with a large number of representatives from these organizations, as well as from specialized national councils and various sectors in the governorates of the country. Additionally, organizations with consultative status

with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (10 organizations) were invited.

B. Consultative meetings were held with both chambers of Parliament and their committees regarding the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.

- 2- Analysis of the complaints mechanism to monitor the situation and address allegations of human rights violations .
- 3- Analysis of the visits by mobile complaints units to various governorates and conducting field visits to different sectors in those governorates.
- 4- Analysis of the results of the surveys distributed by the Complaints Committee during its field visits.
- 5- The Council's database for the continuous updating of statistical data related to the government .
- 6- 14 field visits to reform and rehabilitation centers and detention facilities where inmates serve sentences, over the past three years, to monitor the development plan for these centers and address complaints.

## Second: The Legal Framework for Preparing the Report

### 1. **Egypt's International Treaty Obligations:**

- A. The national report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.



- B. The national report to the Human Rights Committee.
  - C. Egypt submitted its national report to the Committee Against Torture.
  - D. Egypt submitted its national report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
2. The National Human Rights Strategy in September 2021.
  3. The termination of the state of emergency on October 25, 2021.
  4. Cooperation with the Presidential Pardon Committee established by the President of the Republic, in collaboration with the National Council for Human Rights.
  5. The establishment of the Permanent High Committee for Human Rights by a decision of the Prime Minister issued on November 14, 2018.
  - 6. National legislation to promote human rights.**
    - A. Law No. 214 of 2020 regarding the regulation of clinical medical research in December 2020.
    - B. Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, Law No. 1 of 2024 concerning appellate levels.
    - C. Amendment to the Penal Code by Law No. 10 of 2021, increasing penalties for the mutilation of female genitalia.
    - D. Enhancement of the penalty for sexual harassment under Law No. 141 of 2021 (Penal Code).

- E. Amendment of certain provisions of the Law Establishing the Disability Support Fund by Law No. 200 of 2021.
- F. Issuance of the Law on Elderly Rights Care, Law No. 19 of 2024.
- G. The Attorney General's decision in 2020 regarding the establishment of the Child and Disability Protection Office, with the addition of a mandate to protect the elderly.
- H. Law No. 149 of 2021, amending certain provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015.
- I. Ministerial Decision No. 3805 of 2022, establishing the Judicial and Legal Committee for Family Cases and Courts, to prepare a draft personal status law (The draft law has yet to be finalized and submitted to Parliament for discussion. The Presidency has confirmed its commitment to swiftly issuing the legislation).

## **In This Context**

- A. NCHR appreciates Egypt's commitment to submitting its reports to the treaty bodies and developing the institutional and legislative framework for human rights in Egypt.**
- B. The Council calls for the urgent issuance of laws complementing the Constitution, as well as laws criminalizing violence against women and those that clarify the undefined concepts**

**in the Egyptian Constitution regarding counterterrorism, to prevent their misuse or exploitation in violation of certain rights and public freedoms.**

### Third: Civil and Political Rights

#### **1- Against Torture:**

A. In line with Egypt's reservation-free stance on any provisions of the Convention Against Torture, to which it acceded in 1986:

- The Egyptian Constitution and national law classify the crime of torture as one that is not subject to statutes of limitation, and the law restricts the filing of torture cases to the Public Prosecution.
- The National Human Rights Strategy aims to combat torture in all its forms and manifestations, investigate related allegations, and protect the rights of victims, in alignment with the Constitution and Egypt's international commitments. This also includes limiting any form of individual practices that represent violations of bodily integrity, whether in public or private spaces, and referring violators to the relevant investigative authorities.
- Law No. 214 of 2020 concerning the regulation of clinical medical research was issued in December 2020 to establish the necessary foundations, standards, and

controls for conducting clinical medical research. It ensures the protection of those undergoing trials, whether the research is preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, non-therapeutic, interventional, or non-interventional. The law is in accordance with international standards, including the Nuremberg Code for permissible medical experiments and the Helsinki Declaration.

## **2- Combating Discrimination:**

- A. Article 53 of the Constitution states: "Citizens are equal before the law. They are equal in rights, freedoms, and public duties, without discrimination based on religion, belief, gender, origin, race, color, language, disability, social status, political or geographical affiliation, or any other reason. Discrimination and incitement to hatred are crimes punishable by law. The state is obligated to take the necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, and the law shall regulate the establishment of an independent commission for this purpose."
- B. NCHR recommends the establishment of an independent commission to combat discrimination, in order to activate the provisions of Article 53 of the Constitution.

## **3- Guarantees of a Fair Trial:**

- A. NCHR organized three discussion sessions on the "Right to a Fair Criminal Trial," which were attended by representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, and independent experts. The goal was to develop the justice system, move towards digital transformation, and enhance electronic litigation and its implementation in courts.
- B. The Council calls for the discussions in the House of Representatives to result in amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, in order to eliminate significant obstacles to the enforcement of human rights.

**B. The Council recommends the following:**

- Accelerating the enhancement of the technological system, electronic linkage, and improving the capabilities and skills of those responsible for the system to achieve swift justice, preventing delays in trials or restricting the defendants' opportunities to communicate with the judicial body.
- Increasing the number of judges to ensure fast and effective justice.
- Raising public awareness about legal culture and citizens' rights during the litigation process.
- Enacting legislation to regulate the protection of witnesses and whistleblowers.

## **4- Public Freedom**

**- In the Field of Freedom of Opinion and Expression :**

- A. Article 65 of the 2014 Constitution stipulates that freedom of thought and opinion is guaranteed, and every individual has the right to express their opinion verbally, in writing, through images, or by other means of publication. The National Human Rights Strategy also aimed to issue a law regulating the right to access and circulate information. In addition, meetings have been held to reach a societal consensus on a draft law that regulates the availability and exchange of information, in light of the issuance of the Personal Data Protection Law No. 151 of 2020.
- B. NCHR recommends the swift issuance of a law that ensures the freedom of access to and circulation of information, to complete the institutional framework for protecting and promoting the culture of human rights and enforcing it. NCHR has also adopted a proposal to make the content of national newspapers available in audio format, enabling visually impaired individuals to access knowledge.

**- In the Field of the Right to Form Non-Governmental Associations and Engage in Civil Work:**

- A. The Executive Regulations of Law No. 149 of 2019, which regulates the practice of civil work, were issued in January 2021.
- B. Law No. 23 of 2022 was issued to amend the Law regulating civil work, with the aim of extending the deadline for the legalization of civil society organizations for an additional year.
- C. The President of the Republic declared 2022 as the Year of Civil Society, in recognition of its efforts in achieving sustainable development, raising awareness of human rights culture, and emphasizing the importance of partnership with civil society.
- D. The National Alliance for Civil and Developmental Work was established on March 13, 2022, with the participation and membership of major civil and developmental organizations in Egypt. It includes 24 associations, civil institutions, and service and developmental entities, including the General Federation of Associations and NGOs, which has 30 sectoral federations and 27 regional federations as members.
- E. NCHR monitors and participates in supporting the capacity of associations and civil work by providing training both independently and in collaboration with donor organizations.

**- Freedom of Belief and the Practice of Religious Rites :**

- A. Law No. 190 of 2020 was issued regarding the establishment of the Catholic Church Endowments Authority and the Evangelical Endowments Authority. To implement this law, Presidential Decree No. 80 of 2021 was issued to form the Board of Directors of the Catholic Church Endowments Authority. NCHR believes that the law has been successfully implemented, representing a significant shift in the civil and political rights of Christians.
- B. NCHR has followed up on the Ministry of Awqaf's issuance of more than 182 authored and translated works aimed at promoting enlightened, moderate thought that calls for the elimination of religion-based discrimination.
- C. NCHR recommends addressing extremist religious discourse positively, continuing to renew religious discourse to strengthen the values of tolerance, reject extremism, and refute extremist ideas.

**5- -Combating illegal immigration and human trafficking:**

- A. The state issued the National Strategy for Combating Irregular Migration (2016-2026), which



aims to protect the most vulnerable groups at risk of exploitation by smugglers, including youth, children, their families, and irregular migrants to Egypt.

- B. The National Coordinating Committee was established to cooperate with all relevant judicial and security agencies in developing and updating a database for these crimes, to enhance collaboration and find necessary solutions to combat and reduce the phenomenon.
- C. Law No. 22 of 2022 was issued to amend the provisions of the Law on Combating Irregular Migration and Migrant Smuggling, with penalties for those who commit these crimes being significantly increased.
- D. In September 2021, the Public Prosecution allocated specialized offices to combat human trafficking and irregular migration crimes, located at each Appeals Prosecution office across the country, specifically tasked with investigating these crimes.
- E. NCHR recommends intensifying awareness campaigns regarding the rights of groups at risk from irregular migration by addressing challenges, ensuring judicial accountability in cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and enforcing laws to combat human trafficking to ensure the

protection of all victims, especially women and children.

## **-6- Refugees and Immigrants Rights:**

- A. Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
- B. The number of refugees has significantly increased in recent times due to the rise in armed conflicts in many neighboring countries. According to international statistics and estimates, the number of refugees has reached 600,000, and the number of arrivals has exceeded 9 million individuals, including migrants and guests living in Egypt from approximately 133 countries. Of these, 50.4% are male, 49.6% are female, with an average age of 35 years, representing 8.7% of Egypt's population.
- C. NCHR recommends that the government carefully review the number of refugees in Egypt and avoid confusion between refugees and migrants. This will help assess the value of the services the state provides across various sectors to care for them. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior is responsible for registering and confirming their residence status.

Fourth: Economic, social and cultural rights

## **A. In the field of housing :**

- The right to housing has witnessed significant developmental efforts, an increase in government spending, and a rise in the number of beneficiaries of this right. The Egyptian government has implemented projects that inject investments into the development of infrastructure and execute initiatives that help solve the problems of informal areas and provide services such as sewage systems and natural gas.
- The government has also worked on implementing national development projects aimed at improving the standard of living, such as the "Decent Life" initiative, which focuses on developing the rural sector, where nearly 55% of the population lives.
- It has also carried out projects to provide suitable housing for low- and middle-income individuals. According to the annual report on the performance indicators of the Social Housing and Real Estate Finance Fund, more than 54,000 citizens have benefited from receiving subsidized housing units for low-income groups, with most of them residing in areas adjacent to Greater Cairo. The number of housing units implemented by the government,

classified as economic housing, amounted to approximately 104,700 units.

**B. Developing slums and relocating residents of unsafe areas to alternative housing, with 1.2 million beneficiaries.**

**C. In the health sector :**

- NCHR calls for the rapid implementation of the Comprehensive Health Insurance Law No. 2 of 2018 in its two phases, to provide healthcare to all indigent citizens, with implementation to be gradual.

**D. In the Education Field :**

Education remains the greatest challenge to the full realization of human rights for the most vulnerable families, due to the reluctance of some poor families to enroll their children in education and force them into the labor market. This has been demonstrated by the high number of births in the poorest families. Therefore, child labor remains a violation of the rights of children in the poorest families.

- NCHR recommends increasing the budget for education and scientific research, developing it to keep pace with modern requirements, increasing the number of schools, reducing overcrowding in classrooms, providing school

meals, and working to achieve a zero-illiteracy rate.

## **Fourth: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**

### **C. Women's Rights:**

- Egyptian women have achieved an unprecedented level of rights in the public sphere, with all public fields now open to women without discrimination. There has been a noticeable increase in women's participation in government employment. However, women's rights within the family context still require a new personal status law that ensures equality between men and women within the family. A societal dialogue is currently ongoing, with the participation of civil society organizations led by women, aiming to present a fairer draft law. Several proposed laws are currently under discussion — some submitted by the government, and others by Al-Azhar — with dialogue ongoing.
- The National Committee for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was established for the first time in Egypt's history in 2019.
- Women's Representation in Leadership Positions and Decision-Making Circles:

- On March 5, 2022, women were, for the first time, appointed to the State Council.
- Women's representation rates in various bodies include:
  - 28% in the House of Representatives
  - 14% in the Senate
  - 30% in the Council of Ministers
  - 44% in the National Council for Human Rights
  - 31% as Deputy Governors
  - 27% as Deputy Ministers
  - 65% in the diplomatic corps

Additionally, the number of female advisors to the President has increased.

- Women have assumed positions within the police force, including at the rank of Director-General. A woman was appointed with the rank of Major General as Director of the General Directorate for Human Rights. The role of women has been expanded to include tasks within the women's police unit, particularly in protecting women and children,

providing them with security services, supporting victims of domestic violence, and combating sexual harassment.

- The Ministry of Interior has involved women in international peacekeeping missions. Women have also participated in civil protection efforts, including the establishment of an all-female firefighting unit.
- NCHR recommends increasing the number of international educational scholarships granted to women, continuing efforts to combat the practice of female genital mutilation, and intensifying action against violence targeting women.

#### **D. Children's Rights:**

- NCHR recommends the implementation of the Child Law enacted in 1996 and amended by Law No. 126 of 2008, which aligns with the international standards set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **E. Rights of Persons with Disabilities:**

- NCHR Strategy includes provisions aimed at promoting the comprehensive human rights of all Egyptian citizens, including persons with disabilities.

- In this context, NCHR organized a roundtable for banking sector leaders titled “The Role of Banks in Promoting the Economic Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Banking Sector.” The event aimed to explore challenges impeding persons with disabilities from fully benefiting from banking services, and to develop a collaborative strategy ensuring access to all services provided by Egyptian banks, including the development of products and services tailored to their needs.
- NCHR recommends activating legislation and ensuring enforcement of rights, such as simplifying the process of obtaining the integrated services card required to access the entitlements under Law No. 10 of 2018. It also calls for improving physical and technological accessibility in all government buildings and public spaces, and guaranteeing the right of married women with disabilities to receive both a salary and a pension simultaneously.

#### **F. Youth Rights:**

- In the context of youth empowerment, NCHR commends the representation of young people in the 2019 governorate reshuffle, where 39 new



appointments were made—governors and deputy governors—with 60% being youth.

- The state has continued to host the annual World Youth Forum, with the third edition held in Sharm El-Sheikh from December 14 to 17, 2019, attended by more than 7,000 young participants.
- The government launched the “Pioneers 2030” project under the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring, and Administrative Reform, aiming to empower youth to establish their own businesses.
- NCHR recommends increasing youth representation across all sectors, particularly through adherence to constitutional provisions regarding youth representation in upcoming local council elections.

## **G. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

- Egypt faces a number of social and economic challenges, particularly financial ones, including public debt and budget deficits. These issues pose obstacles to mobilizing financial resources necessary to offer suitable stimulus packages and protect vulnerable segments of society amidst declining government revenues—placing additional pressure on Egypt’s fiscal position.

- In 2022, the Egyptian government hosted the 27th Climate Summit (COP27), aimed at raising awareness of the seriousness of climate change, which is among the most pressing challenges today.
- NCHR recommends further cooperation among various sectors to mitigate the effects of climate change and to achieve climate justice. NCHR also urges raising awareness throughout all segments of society regarding the dangers of climate change, and calls for identifying environmentally friendly alternatives to reduce pollution.

#### **H. Culture:**

- In September 2022, Egypt launched the National Intellectual Property Strategy to improve the legislative and institutional environment for intellectual property rights.
- NCHR recommends addressing the challenges that hinder the promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights as stipulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Among the most prominent of these is the prevailing societal culture, including the emergence of intolerant religious discourse that undermines certain intellectual efforts

and cultural and scientific achievements. This requires prompt state intervention in collaboration with civil society. The Council also recommends consideration of the proposed law criminalizing hate speech, which was jointly submitted by NCHR and a number of civil society organizations.

## **Examples of Complaints Received by the Council**

### **During the Reporting Period**

#### **1) Prisoner A.S.H.:**

The Council intervened regarding claims that the prisoner was subjected to ill-treatment and torture by the investigation officer and others at Wadi El-Natrun Prison (440). The complaint alleged repeated verbal and physical abuse, unjustified solitary confinement, and the confiscation of his personal belongings and visit-related items.

#### **• Public Prosecution Response (March 2024):**

Upon reviewing the prisoner's file, it was found that he had a history of repeated violations, with five recorded infractions. He was also found to be implicated in two criminal cases. His visitation record showed consistent visitation, the latest being on 28 January 2024. When questioned, the prisoner denied the allegations of persecution or abuse, attributing his mother's complaint to his deteriorating psychological

state due to the length of his sentence. A medical examination confirmed stable vital signs and a generally stable condition.

- **Ministry of Interior Response (June 2024):**

The medical examination indicated that the prisoner suffers from chronic chest allergies and has a sebaceous cyst in his left eye. He is receiving treatment, with vital signs within normal ranges and a stable general condition.

2)

**M.A.S.M.:**

The Council intervened regarding claims that the prisoner had been verbally and physically assaulted by the Head of Investigations and others at Wadi El-Natrun Prison (440). His wife reported seeing signs of physical abuse on his face during a visit. She stated that her husband informed her of being subjected to abuse, solitary confinement for 1.5 months, the confiscation of personal belongings, and denial of visit privileges.

- **Public Prosecution Response (September 2023):**

Review of the prisoner's file revealed two prior disciplinary actions. His visitation records were consistent, with the last visit recorded on 27 July 2023. The prisoner denied any torture or abuse and stated that he had not instructed his wife to file the complaint. He confirmed possession of his

personal belongings. A medical check showed no visible injuries, normal vital signs, and a stable condition.

- **Ministry of Interior Response (June 2024):**

The prisoner denied the allegations and confirmed that he was being treated well and in possession of his personal belongings. Medical examination revealed normal vital signs and no physical injuries.

**3)**

**M.N.M.H.:**

The Council intervened regarding allegations of abuse and torture by the Head of Investigations and others at Wadi El-Natrun Prison (430). The complaint stated the prisoner was severely beaten, resulting in broken front teeth. His mother confirmed witnessing signs of abuse during a visit on 3 August 2023. She further reported that the officers humiliated her son by attempting to force him to wear women's underwear in front of other inmates as a form of mockery and intimidation.

- **Public Prosecution Response (October 2023):**

The prisoner's record showed ten prior infractions. His visitation records were regular, with the most recent visit on 10 August 2023. The prisoner denied the abuse allegations and explained that his mother likely submitted the complaint in hopes of securing his transfer to a rehabilitation center

closer to home. Medical examination found no visible injuries, with vital signs within normal ranges.

4) **Citizen W.R.A.G.**, residing at 11 Waraq Ibn Nawfal Street, Shubra El-Kheima, Qalyubia Governorate. The complainant requested police action regarding Case No. 6315/2022 and Case No. 3885/2023 (Shubra El-Kheima First Police Station), which involved alleged assaults against him and his brothers and coercion to sell his property, by the accused, H.M.A., who resides at the same address. The complainant and his siblings are persons with disabilities and unable to defend themselves against the accused.

- **Ministry of Interior Response (June 2024):**

The accused was targeted for arrest at his residence and known locations multiple times but was found to have absconded. Efforts to locate and apprehend him are ongoing to proceed with legal measures.

5) **Citizen S.H.A.A.:**

The complainant alleged that, on 30 August 2023, police officers from Motobas Police Station raided his residence, destroyed all its contents, physically assaulted his elderly mother, and threatened to falsely incriminate him in criminal cases.

- **Ministry of Interior Response (June 2024):**

The complaint was deemed unfounded. The actions taken were reported to be lawful, following proper legal procedures and with prior approval from the Public Prosecution. An official report was filed accordingly.

6) **Citizen H.S.A.B.**, on behalf of his brother, inmate S.S.A.B., held at Wadi El-Natrun Rehabilitation Center (Rehabilitation Unit 3).

The Ministry of Interior stated that the inmate's eligibility for conditional release depends on settling outstanding financial obligations. He has been notified but has not made the required payment.

7) **Citizen G.M.S.M.:**

The complainant requested consideration for a medical release for his father, *Mostafa Sayed Mohamed Ahmed*, currently held at Gamasa Correctional and Rehabilitation Center. He reportedly suffers from acute viral hepatitis, knee osteoarthritis, weakness in the anterior and posterior muscles of the right thigh, and has undergone 37 surgeries on his left knee. His condition is reportedly deteriorating.

- **Ministry of Interior Response:**

The medical report confirmed a medical history of a right knee joint replacement surgery. The inmate is under medical supervision and shows no current symptoms. Vital signs are

normal, the general condition is stable, and transferring the inmate was deemed unfeasible.

8) A petition submitted by the citizen **N.B.M.A.** on behalf of her brother, the inmate H.S.A.A., held at the 10th of Ramadan Correctional and Rehabilitation Center. The petitioner requests the possibility of granting her brother medical parole, stating that he suffers from complete fibrosis in one lung, partial fibrosis in the other, cruciate ligament damage, a stomach ulcer, esophageal reflux, and a fracture in the left shoulder. His health condition is reportedly extremely deteriorated, and he has not received the necessary medical care.

- **Ministry of Interior Response:**

The inmate's case will be presented for review in regard to possible release by presidential pardon on the occasion of Eid al-Adha.

9) A petition from the citizen **M.M.A.**, residing at 18 Roushdy Pasha Street, Alexandria Governorate. She states that she and others are heirs of the late M.M.A., who had leased a plot of land at 157–159 Rabie El-Gizy Street, El-Mounib since 1964 for operating a licensed fuel station, with the license still valid. She claims that the South Giza District issued an expropriation order in June 2022 for public benefit, resulting



in demolition works that included the fuel station. The petitioner alleges that loaders and excavators demolished the station's fences and administrative building. However, upon reviewing decision numbers 797 and 4505, it was found that these do not cover properties on Rabie El-Gizy Street, including the said fuel station. Accordingly, she requests verification of the allegations raised in the complaint and that appropriate action be taken.

- **Giza Governorate Response:**

A field inspection by the Road Compensation Committee revealed the land in question is an empty lot used for parking, with only a ground-floor structure. Due to the lack of actual operational use as a fuel station, no administrative receipt was issued, per Governor Decree No. 176 of 2020. The General Oversight Committee rejected the grievance, stating compensation should be sought through the Giza Directorate of Surveying. A letter from the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation also confirmed that the station could not be identified as existing.

10) A petition from **A.M.A.A.**, an assistant lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Assiut University, residing in Monqabad, Assiut.

She claims to be facing violations and persecution. After completing her master's degree in the field of structural engineering through a Fulbright scholarship at North Carolina State University, she received another scholarship to pursue a PhD at the same university. However, her request for study leave was denied. She also complains that the recognition process for her master's degree was delayed, which hindered her promotion, and her salary has not been paid since her return. She seeks to consider her affairs and remove the violations that occurred against her.

- **Assiut University Response:**

Upon referring the matter to the Head of the Central Administration for Legal Affairs, the following was stated:

1. A memo was received on 12/11/2023 regarding her unauthorized travel without the college and university's approval. This was registered as Investigation No. 513/2023, and based on the University President's approval on 25/12/2023, she was referred to the Disciplinary Council for Teaching Assistants and Lecturers. It was also decided to deduct the salary that was unduly paid to her for September 2023.

2. Another investigation was registered under (No. 560/2023) but it was closed due to the prior ruling in No. 513/2023.

3. A legal opinion (No. 555/2023) was also filed and closed for the same reason. Her case is pending before the Disciplinary Council No. 1/2024.

11) A petition from the citizen **H.A.H.M.**, residing in Hallet Rouh, Tanta Center, Gharbia Governorate.

He states that he filed Appeal No. 3318/53 Q.S. on 23/6/2022 to secure permanent employment at the Central Department of Afforestation under the Ministry of Agriculture, and the ruling was in his favor. However, the judgment has not been executed. He requests enforcement of the ruling.

• **Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Response:**

All relevant documents were sent to the Ministry's HR Department, which forwarded them to the Central Agency for Organization and Administration for further action.

12) A petition from the citizen **R.N.B.**, residing at 3 Sayed Said Street, New Nozha, Cairo Governorate.

He claims that he found a child, M.R., at the Virgin Mary Church in Abu Zaabal on 2/10/2016 and was entrusted with the child's care by the Bishop of Shebin Al-Qanater, a notarized certificate (a copy is attached). He cared for the child until 2018, then the child was removed from his care following a court ruling (Case No. 330/2018, Cairo Central), and placed in a care institution. A fatwa later declared that the child was Christian. The petitioner says he developed a deep emotional bond with the child and is financially and socially capable of raising him. He requests permission to foster the child and raise him in a loving family environment.

- **Ministry of Social Solidarity Response:**

It was confirmed that he did, in fact, raise and care for the infant until 2018. However, the child was removed from his custody in execution of the ruling issued in Case No. 330 of 2018, and was placed in a care facility on 28/03/2018.

Subsequently, on 20/09/2018, the Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Central Cairo Prosecution for Criminal Incidents issued a decision to formally name the child—residing in the care home—in accordance with Article 20 of the Child Law, and a birth certificate was issued under the name Mohamed Rashad Samir Selim.

In light of Article 89 of Child Law No. 12 of 1996, as amended by Prime Ministerial Decree No. 2075 of 2010, which stipulates that for a child to be entrusted to a foster family, the following condition must be met:

- The foster family must regularly provide a criminal record certificate, as determined by the competent administrative authority.

Given that the applicant is lacking this condition due to a previous criminal ruling—which, as per legal standards, constitutes irrefutable truth—his criminal record is not deemed clean. As a result, his request for fostering the child must be dismissed for lacking the legal basis required as outlined above.

13) A complaint from the citizen **A.A.A.M.**, residing in Hajer El-Dabaeya, Qurna Center, Luxor Governorate.

He submitted via the electronic platform. He claims he was dismissed from the Faculty of Islamic Studies for Boys in Aswan after being barred from the exam for the History subject due to not receiving his college ID, despite paying the fees and obtaining a receipt from the student affairs officer S.G.A., who later took the receipt without issuing the ID. He also had COVID-19 during the Quran exam (documented by a medical certificate dated 6/6/2021), but was not allowed to

defer. During exams for Islamic Systems and Quranic Sciences, the invigilator reportedly took his answer sheet 30 minutes before time ended. He requests reinstatement into third year, Sharia Division, for the 2023/2024 academic year.

- **Al-Azhar Response:**

The matter has already been discussed with the office of His Eminence Prof. Dr. / Vice President of the University for Assiut Branch, who reported that the student had already exhausted all chances of failure at the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Aswan, Principles of Islam Division. He was re-enrolled in the Sharia Division at the same faculty, but his enrollment was suspended pending clarification of his military service status.

14) A complaint submitted via the electronic platform by **the citizen M.M.A.**, residing at Walid Moatamed Building, Behnous Street, El-Kharga, New Valley Governorate.

He states that his wife, a teacher of Arabic at the Al-Ta'meer Al-Azhari Primary Institute, was transferred to the Baghdad Azhari Primary Institute, located approximately 90 km from their residence. She suffers from several medical conditions (colitis, chronic diarrhea, vertigo, gallbladder wall inflammation), supported by an official report from the General Medical Council of the governorate. However, the

Al-Azhar Education Directorate in El-Kharga refused to consider the report. He requests cancellation of the transfer due to the health risks involved in commuting.

- **Al-Azhar Response:**

The mentioned woman was assigned to fill the deficit, and what was stated in the complaint is contrary to reality, as the decision includes the assignment of 421 teachers for a period of one year, after which the assignment ends and those on whom the role falls are assigned according to the seniority of the teachers, and she was previously asked to bring medical reports, but she refused to bring anything to support her health condition, and she was referred to sign a medical examination at the General Authority for Health Insurance, New Valley Branch, and a session was set for her, but she did not go and refused to do so.

**Allegations of Enforced Disappearance Received by the Complaints Committee of NCHR Period from 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024**

<b>Alleged Victim</b>	<b>Summary of the Complaint</b>	<b>Summary of Response from Relevant Authority</b>

<b>M.A.G.</b>	On 26/06/2023, the mentioned individual arrived at Cairo International Airport aboard flight 611 from Saudi Arabia, but did not exit the airport and his whereabouts remain unknown to date. His family confirmed that he entered the airport, specifically Terminal 2, at 1:00 AM, but no exit was recorded. Later, his wife received a phone call from an unidentified person claiming that the individual was detained for four hours upon arrival and had requested that his wife be contacted.	Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.
<b>A.A.A.F.</b>	On 27/02/2023, the individual was summoned by a National Security	The investigation revealed that he is in custody pending



	officer at Imbaba Police Station. He responded and went to the station, but never returned. His place of detention and the responsible authority remain unknown.	Case No. 3943 of 2023 (Administrative – Al-Warraq) and is currently detained at Giza Correctional and Rehabilitation Center.
<b>M.H.A.</b>	The individual was arrested on 21/02/2022 from his home by a police force in the presence of neighbors and was subsequently taken to an unknown location.	Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.
<b>M.S.M.</b>	The individual was arrested on 04/04/2019 in front of his home by a police force and taken to an undisclosed location. On the same day, the police raided his house and confiscated his mobile phone. His wife	Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.

	<p>was later unofficially informed that he was held at Nasr City Police Station (Second Department), but when inquired, the station officials denied his presence. Despite more than four years passing, his whereabouts and reasons for detention remain unknown.</p>	
<b>A.G.T.</b>	<p>The individual was arrested on 24/02/2021 from his workplace (Rasyat Company – Zahraa El Maadi Towers) by a police force dressed in civilian clothes, along with several coworkers. All were taken to an unknown location. Over time, all detainees were later presented as defendants in various</p>	<p>Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.</p>

	cases — except for the complainant, whose whereabouts and the reasons for his detention remain unknown. It is also noted that the individual had recently undergone a serious surgical operation and had been in intensive care, requiring regular medication and medical attention.	
<b>N.M.A.A.</b>	The individual was arrested on 09/02/2023 in relation to Case No. 5270 of 2023 (Boulak El-Dakrour Misdemeanor). The case proceeded through the court system until a decision for release was issued by Giza Criminal Court (Circuit 21) on 18/07/2023. However, he	The investigation confirmed that he was previously arrested and legal procedures were taken against him in Case No. 5270 of 2023 (Giza Misdemeanor). He was released on 27/07/2023 and has not been re-

	<p>remained in custody until 08/08/2023, the date on which the release order was finally executed. That same day, the individual received a phone call from a police officer instructing him to report to Giza Police Station. He went with his father, but the father was denied entry, and was told his son would be released after one hour — which never happened. Since then, his whereabouts remain unknown, and it is unclear whether he was re-detained. Officially, his location is unconfirmed. Additionally, he had been released under precautionary measures at Boulak El-Dakrour Police Station, but upon</p>	<p>arrested since.</p>
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	<p>follow-up, the Prosecution was informed by the police that he had failed to comply with the precautionary measures and that the court would be notified, putting his release at risk.</p>	
<b>A.H.A.H.</b>	<p>On 26/08/2023, a joint police force from the Sharqia and Ismailia Security Directorates raided the complainant's residence and arrested him, taking him to an unknown location. His family approached the Sharqia Security Directorate, which denied involvement or knowledge of his whereabouts. Subsequently, the family visited the Ismailia</p>	<p>The investigation confirmed that he is currently detained at El-Daher Police Station in Cairo, in connection with Case No. 2970 of 2023 (El-Daher Misdemeanor – Car Theft). No re-arrest has occurred since.</p>

	Security Directorate, where officials initially acknowledged the arrest but later withdrew the acknowledgment and denied any knowledge of his location. As a result, his whereabouts and the responsible authority are officially unknown.	
<b>M.A.A.</b>	The individual was arrested from his home on 24/08/2023 by a police force and taken to an undisclosed location. His family searched for him at Hadayek El-Kobba and El-Amiriya Police Stations but were unable to find him. A report was filed regarding his disappearance on 14/09/2023 under Report No. 4849 of 2023 (Hadayek El-Kobba	Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.

	Administrative). It is also noted that two of his neighbors were arrested a week prior to his own arrest.	
<b>F.S.A.</b>	On 11/09/2023, the complainant — a police sergeant at Wadi El-Natroun Prison — left home for work and has not returned since. His family inquired at his workplace, where officials denied knowing his whereabouts. It was informally rumored that he may be on a classified mission for his workplace, but his exact location and the responsible authority remain unknown to this day.	Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.
<b>S.A.M.</b>	In the early morning of Saturday, 05/09/2023, a	The investigation confirmed that he

	<p>police force stormed the complainant's house, arrested him, and took him to an unknown location. His family searched for him in detention centers in his residential area, but were unable to determine the location or reason for his detention.</p>	<p>is currently detained in connection with Case No. 21339 of 2023 (Abu Hammad Misdemeanor Center) and is being held at El-Qarein Central Police Prison.</p>
<b>R.M.A.</b>	<p>On 18/11/2023, the individual, an Assistant Professor at the National Research Centre, headed to Cairo International Airport to travel to the UAE on flight EY658, to attend an event related to animal production. Around 7:00 AM, after entering the airport's passenger area, he contacted his family to inform them that he had</p>	<p>The investigation confirmed that he is currently detained in connection with Case No. 1075 of 2018 (State Security Supreme Emergency) and is being held at the Central Reform and Rehabilitation Center in Giza.</p>



	<p>been detained at the airport, after which contact was lost. His relatives went to the airport immediately to inquire, but no information was provided regarding his whereabouts or the authority responsible for his detention. Since then, all attempts to determine his location or the reason for his disappearance have failed. It is worth noting that he has cancer and requires regular treatment and a specific dietary regimen.</p>	
<b>A.A.M.</b>	<p>On 09/10/2018, the individual was arrested by a police force while sitting at “Mazag El-Kheir Café” located in Al-Shoon Square, El-Mahalla El-</p>	<p>Upon investigation, no record of his arrest was found.</p>

	<p>Kubra, and was then taken to an unknown location. For the past five years, his family has tried unsuccessfully to find out his whereabouts or the reasons behind his disappearance.</p>	
<b>M.K.A.</b>	<p>On 18/12/2023, the individual was arrested from his home by a police force, some of whom wore civilian clothes while others were in uniform. The force searched the house and confiscated two mobile phones, three laptops, and two desktop computers. They then arrested him and took him to an undisclosed location. His family has failed to determine his location or the reasons</p>	<p>The investigation confirmed that he is currently detained in connection with Case No. 3569 of 2024 (Giza Misdemeanor Center) and is being held at Giza Security Forces Prison.</p>

	for his detention.	
<b>H.A.A.Y.</b>	On 2/1/2024, the individual was arrested by a police force affiliated with the Kafr El-Dawwar Police Investigations Department and was then taken to an unknown location. His relatives inquired at the Kafr El-Dawwar Police Station, but the officials there denied any knowledge of his whereabouts.	The investigation revealed that he is currently detained in connection with Case No. 1186 of 2024 (Administrative - Damanhour Police Station) on charges of joining a terrorist group, and is being held at Damanhour Security Forces Prison.
<b>A.A.B.A.</b>	On 19/10/2016, the individual was arrested while heading to work in Nasr City, after being stopped at a police checkpoint in El-Salam area, and was then taken to an undisclosed	The investigation revealed that the individual is classified as a fugitive terrorist and has been sentenced to death in Military Case No.

	location. His family has been searching for him over the past seven years without success, and to date, his whereabouts and the reasons for his disappearance remain unknown.	325/38/2017 (North Sinai Military Court).
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