

## **COI Factsheets**

### **Safe Country of Origin concept - Egypt**

**February 2025**



The below factsheet on Egypt was produced in early 2025 by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in accordance with article 12(2) of its founding Regulation (EU) 2021/2023, and in response to a request from the European Commission (Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs - DG HOME) to support its work on the designation of safe countries of origin at Union level.

This factsheet was peer-reviewed by a range of partners, including the DG HOME (international unit) and the European External Action Service. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also provided valuable input into this process. This factsheet was drafted in accordance with the EUAA COI Methodology, which emphasises the use of diverse sources to ensure factual, balanced and reliable information.

While this factsheet was structured around the defining criteria of a safe country of origin as stipulated in the Asylum Procedure Regulation (EU) 2024/1348, the EUAA (and its partners) played no part in assessing whether such criteria were met for Egypt to be designated as a safe country of origin at Union level. That assessment was performed entirely by the European Commission and was based on a range of relevant and available sources of information.

## Table of Contents

|                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Egypt.....</b>                                   | <b>4</b> |
| Legal and political situation – overview .....      | 5        |
| Security situation.....                             | 9        |
| Human rights situation.....                         | 11       |
| Specific profiles .....                             | 14       |
| Legal remedies against human rights violations..... | 20       |
| Bibliography .....                                  | 23       |

## COI Factsheet - Safe Countries of Origin (SCO)

### Egypt

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The information provided in this factsheet has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above-mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a legal position.

The information in the factsheet does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EUAA and makes no political statement whatsoever.

Sources were accessed between 7 January and 6 February 2025. Some additional information was added during the finalisation of this factsheet in response to feedback received during the quality control process, until 21 February 2025. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this document.

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# Legal and political situation – overview

## System of government and political situation

The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt<sup>1</sup> defines the country as a democratic republic<sup>2</sup> where the President serves as both the head of State and the head of the Executive Power.<sup>3</sup> The President is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and presides over the Supreme Council for Judicial Authorities.<sup>4</sup> Islam is the religion of the State and Arabic is its official language.<sup>5</sup> The principles of Islamic *Sharia* are the main source of legislation.<sup>6</sup> The constitution officially recognises Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.<sup>7</sup>

Following the 2013 military coup in the country, political participation has been significantly restricted.<sup>8</sup> In 2014, the former army chief, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, won the presidential elections with 96.91 % of the votes.<sup>9</sup> In April 2019, Egyptian voters approved constitutional amendments that extended Sisi's term until 2024 and permitted him to seek a third term, which would extend his tenure until 2030.<sup>10</sup> In December 2024, Al-Sisi was re-elected for a six-year third term, securing 89.6 % of the vote.<sup>11</sup> The government has extended its control over the political, economic, social, and religious spheres.<sup>12</sup>

Since 1952, Egypt's security establishment has backed successive presidents.<sup>13</sup> Under President el-Sisi,<sup>14</sup> military influence has expanded, encompassing the economy, communications, and governance,<sup>15</sup> and exerted control over the parliament.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> IFES, Electoral Guide, Arab Republic of Egypt, 10 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>2</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>3</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>4</sup> Abdel Wahab M, An Overview of the Egyptian Legal System and Legal Research, available at NYU, Law, GlobaLex, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>5</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>6</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>7</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>8</sup> Germany, BMZ, political situation, changes in the separation of powers and curbs on basic rights, 23 January 2023, [url](#); ISPI, The changing role of the Egyptian military under el-Sisi, 11 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>9</sup> Ahramonline, El-Sisi wins Egypt's presidential race with 96.91%, 3 June 2014, [url](#)

<sup>10</sup> CRS, Egypt: Background and U.S. relations, 27 May 2020, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>11</sup> BBC, Egypt's election: President Sisi wins third term, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>12</sup> BBC, Egypt's election: President Sisi wins third term, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>13</sup> CRS, Egypt, Background and U.S. relations, 2 May 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>14</sup> CRS, Egypt, Background and U.S. relations, 2 May 2023, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>15</sup> McBride J., Egypt's growing military capabilities and regional implications going forward, 9 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>16</sup> ISPI, The changing role of the Egyptian military under el-Sisi, 11 December 2023, [url](#)

## Demographics and migration profile

Egypt has an estimated 114.5 million population,<sup>17</sup> 90 % of whom are Muslims<sup>18</sup>. Among them, 90 % are Sunni Muslims, while 1 % are Shia Muslims; there are also a ‘small number of Dawoodi Bohra Shia Muslims and Ahmadi Muslims’<sup>19</sup> and Baha’is.<sup>20</sup> Christians constitute an estimated 10 % of the population (the majority being Copts).<sup>21</sup> Egypt's ethnic minorities include the Amazigh that reside near Siwa by the Libyan border, Bedouins in the Sinai Peninsula and the Eastern and Western Deserts, and Nubians south of Aswan near the Sudanese border, which account for a few hundred thousand persons.<sup>22</sup>

In 2024, an estimated nine million foreigners lived in Egypt, including four million Sudanese, 1.5 million Syrians, one million Yemenis, and one million Libyans.<sup>23</sup> As of October 2024, 800 000 refugees and asylum seekers<sup>24</sup> were registered with UNHCR including 513 000 Sudanese, 159 000 Syrians, 46 000 South Sudanese, and 40 000 Eritreans,<sup>25</sup> many of whom reside in impoverished areas in city outskirts.<sup>26</sup> As of early 2025, the situation of Syrian refugees in Egypt remained uncertain following the fall of Assad regime in December 2024,<sup>27</sup> Between 8 December 2024 and 7 February 2025, 4 586 closure requests involving over 9 467 Syrian refugees in Egypt have been submitted to UNHCR’s offices, averaging 121 requests per day compared to the November 2024 average of just 7.<sup>28</sup> According to the Middle East Eye, as of 4 February 2025, Egypt received an estimated 200 000 Palestinians on its territory, since the beginning of the hostilities in October 2023. The source cited Egyptian authorities, who reported the number being between 80 000 and 100 000.<sup>29</sup>

Over the past few years, Egyptian nationals have submitted an increasing number of applications for international protection in Europe. Rising from 15 441 applications in 2022 to 26 514 in 2023 and slightly decreasing by 4 % in 2024 to 25 434. Recognition rates for Egyptian nationals remained low, varying from 7 % in 2022, 6 % in 2023 to 4 % in 2024.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> UNFPA, World population dashboard, Egypt, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>18</sup> ECLJ, Status of human rights in the Arab Republic of Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 2; US, CIA, World Factbook, Middle East and North Africa, religious affiliation by country, updated in September 2015, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>19</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>20</sup> AI, Egypt: Protracted human rights and impunity crisis: Submission to the 48th session of the UPR working group, January 2025, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>21</sup> ECLJ, Status of human rights in the Arab Republic of Egypt, 5 September 2024, [url](#), p. 2; US, CIA, World Factbook, Middle East and North Africa, religious affiliation by country, updated in September 2015, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>22</sup> BTI, 2024 Country report, Egypt, 24 March 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>23</sup> InfoMigrants, Egypt seeks “cooperation” for hosting 9 million refugees and migrants, 3 July 2024, [url](#); Sada, Egypt’s refugee situation: economic gain or drain?, 6 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>24</sup> UNHCR, Fact Sheet – Egypt, Egypt, October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#); UNHCR, Egypt, information observed on 13 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR, Fact Sheet – Egypt, Egypt, October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url, p. 1](#); UNHCR, Egypt, information observed on 13 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>26</sup> EC, European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations, 10 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>27</sup> Reuters, Uncertainty clouds fate of Syrians in Egypt after Assad ouster, 24 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>28</sup> UNHCR, Regional flash update, Syria situation crises, 7 February 2025, [url](#)

<sup>29</sup> MEE, White House ignores State Department pleas as it calls for Palestinians to go to Egypt, 4 February 2025, [url](#)

<sup>30</sup> EUAA, EPS as of 3 February 2025

By late 2023, over 11 million Egyptians lived abroad, sending USD 32 billion in remittances, vital for the economy.<sup>31</sup> As of December 2024, key destinations for Egyptian migrants included the Gulf states, Italy, and the U.S.<sup>32</sup>

## International legal instruments

Egypt signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on 4 August 1967 and ratified it on 14 January 1982, alongside the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which was also signed in 1967 and ratified in 1982. Egypt signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) in 1966 and ratified it in 1967. Egypt signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and ratified it in 1981. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was signed and ratified in 1990. Egypt signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) in 2007. Egypt also signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 and 2008, respectively.<sup>33</sup> On 25 June 1986, Egypt acceded to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).<sup>34</sup> However, as of writing, Egypt has not signed the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, which seeks to abolish the death penalty, or the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.<sup>35</sup>

Egypt also ratified the 1969 Organisation of African Union (OAU) Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa,<sup>36</sup> and the African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa (known as the Kampala Convention) in 2019.<sup>37</sup> Additionally, Egypt signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families in 1993.<sup>38</sup> In 2010, Egypt enacted the Law No. (64) regarding combating human trafficking.<sup>39</sup>

The Arab Republic is party to the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,<sup>40</sup> and its additional Protocol of 1967.<sup>41</sup> The Convention and protocol were adopted by Egypt

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<sup>31</sup> SIS, CAPMAS: Egypt ranked world's 6th country on expats' remittances in 2023, 15 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>32</sup> Ardic O, International Day of Migrants: The power of digital remittances in supporting Egypt's families, World Bank, Blogs, 18 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>33</sup> UN, Human Rights, Treaty bodies, Egypt, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>34</sup> UN, Treaty collection, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 10 December 1984, [url](#)

<sup>35</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 45

<sup>36</sup> OAU, Convention, Governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, 10 September 1969, [url](#), p. 14

<sup>37</sup> OAU, Kampala Convention, African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, (Kampala Convention), 23 October 2009, [url](#), p. 27

<sup>38</sup> UN, Treaty collection, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 18 December 1990, [url](#)

<sup>39</sup> UNODC, SHERL, Arab Republic of Egypt, The People's Assembly, Law No. (64) of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>40</sup> UN, Treaty Series. 2. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>41</sup> UN, Treaty Series. 5. Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, n.d., [url](#)

through succession in 1981.<sup>42</sup> No geographical or other limitations apply in the case of Egypt,<sup>43</sup> which is ‘bound by the international human rights agreements, covenants and conventions’ that it ratified.<sup>44</sup>

Egypt has enacted laws and established ministries to manage mixed movement flows.<sup>45</sup> The Egyptian Constitution stipulates in its Article 91 that ‘the State may grant political asylum to any foreigner persecuted for defending the interest of people, human rights, peace or justice’.<sup>46</sup> Moreover, the Constitution indicates that ‘freedom of movement, residence and emigration shall be guaranteed’.<sup>47</sup> As of writing, UNHCR has been conducting numerous activities in Egypt including reception, counselling, and legal assistance, community-based protection, communicating with communities, child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, registration, refugee status determination on behalf of the government, durable solution and education, while working with the government of Egypt to facilitate the transition to a government-led national asylum system.<sup>48</sup> On 19 November 2024, the Egyptian parliament passed its first asylum law,<sup>49</sup> which was ratified by the president on 17 December 2024 and subsequently published in the official gazette.<sup>50</sup> The law has reportedly been fast-tracked without significant consultation with UNHCR or civil society organisations,<sup>51</sup> and it has garnered significant criticism from both local<sup>52</sup> and international human rights organisations<sup>53</sup> on challenges including restriction on asylum rights, lacking due process safeguards, and transferring refugee registration and refugee status determination from the UNHCR to the government.<sup>54</sup> In October 2024, Amnesty International expressed concerns about limited access to asylum, differential treatment of those entering irregularly, and the absence of sufficient protections against *refoulement*.<sup>55</sup> The source noted that the law, which does not explicitly ban *refoulement*, coincides with ongoing mass arrests and forced returns of refugees, including Sudanese, by the police and border guards.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> UN, Treaty Series. 2. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, n.d., [url](#); UNHCR, States Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, [url](#), p. 2.

<sup>43</sup> UNHCR, States Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, [url](#), p. 5.

<sup>44</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>45</sup> IOM, IOM Strategy for Egypt, (2021 – 2024), n.d., [url](#), p. 5

<sup>46</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>47</sup> SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>48</sup> UNHCR, Fact Sheet – Egypt, Egypt, October 2024, 9 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 2, 3 and 4

<sup>49</sup> AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>50</sup> HRW, Egypt: Asylum Bill Threatens Refugee Rights, 17 December 2024, [url](#); InfoMigrants, Egypt enacts first asylum law sparking concerns over migrant rights, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>51</sup> HRW, Egypt: Asylum Bill Threatens Refugee Rights, 17 December 2024, [url](#); InfoMigrants, Egypt enacts first asylum law sparking concerns over migrant rights, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>52</sup> EIPR, Refugees in Egypt platform and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights: Asylum Law Needs Real Societal Discussion, 14 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>53</sup> Amnesty International, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>54</sup> AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>55</sup> AI, Egypt: Protracted human rights and impunity crisis: Submission to the 48th session of the UPR working group, January 2025, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>56</sup> AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

Relations between the EU and Egypt are based on the Association Agreement which entered into force in June 2004.<sup>57</sup> On 17 March 2024, building on the Association Agreement concluded in 2004 and the Partnership Priorities agreed in 2022, the EU and Egypt have signed a Joint Declaration launching a new Strategic and Comprehensive partnership.<sup>58</sup> The joint declaration on the Partnership, signed by Presidents von der Leyen and al-Sisi in March 2024 is built around six key pillars: (1) political relations, (2) economic stability, (3) investments and trade, (4) migration and mobility, (5) security, and (6) demography and human capital. The partnership features a financial package of up to EUR 7 billion, including up to EUR 5 billion of Macro-Financial Assistance on 29 June 2024 and 200 million for migration.<sup>59</sup>

## Security situation

Preserving security in Egypt is the duty of the Egyptian Armed Forces (EAF), according to the Constitution.<sup>60</sup> EAF consist of an estimated 450 000 personnel,<sup>61</sup> with fast growing strength and capabilities,<sup>62</sup> and is one of the largest military forces in the region.<sup>63</sup> Egyptian authorities claim full sovereignty over their territory including national borders,<sup>64</sup> and in January 2023, the President of Egypt announced ‘the end of terrorism’ in the country.<sup>65</sup>

However, the situation in the Sinai Peninsula remains a security concern for the Egyptian Government.<sup>66</sup> The situation has been marked by various forms of trafficking, the presence of Islamist groups, and clashes between the Egyptian military and Islamist groups.<sup>67</sup> Egyptian security forces have a significant presence in Northern Sinai<sup>68</sup> combating Sinai-based militants,<sup>69</sup> including the Islamic State Sinai Province (ISSP or Wilayat Sinai),<sup>70</sup> which pledged allegiance to IISIL in 2014.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> EC, Egypt, latest update 2024, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>58</sup> EC, Joint Declaration on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between The Arab Republic Of Egypt and the European Union, 17 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>59</sup> EC, Egypt, latest update 2024, n.d., [url](#); European Council, European Peace Facility: Council adopts an assistance measure in support of the Egyptian Armed Forces, 5 November 2024, [url](#); EC, Joint Declaration on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between The Arab Republic Of Egypt and the European Union, 17 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>60</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021, [url](#)

<sup>61</sup> US, CIA, World Factbook, Egypt, information observed on 20 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>62</sup> McBride J., Egypt’s rising militarisation and regional implications, TGP, 29 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>63</sup> McBride J., Egypt’s rising militarisation and regional implications, TGP, 29 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>64</sup> SIS, SIS: Egypt responds to Israel claims about its borders with Gaza, 22 January 2024, [url](#); Egypt Today, Egypt replies to ‘false Israeli allegations’ about smuggling weapons through borders with Gaza, 22 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>65</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>66</sup> ARI, Three factors shaping Egypt’s response to the war in Gaza, 27 October 2023, [url](#)

<sup>67</sup> Arte, Mapping the world, Sinai: Between Egypt and Gaza, 31 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>68</sup> Reuters, At least four killed in clash in Egypt’s Sinai, security sources say, 31 July 2023, [url](#)

<sup>69</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Terrorism 2023, 12 December 2024, [url](#); US, CIA, World Factbook, Egypt, information observed 20 January 2025, [url](#); ICCT, Security in the Sinai: Present and future, 27 March 2014, [url](#)

<sup>70</sup> CRS, Egypt, Background and U.S. relations, 2 May 2023, [url](#), p. 8; USDOS, Country Reports on Terrorism 2023, 12 December 2024, [url](#); Geneva Academy, RULAC, Non-international armed conflict in Egypt, updated on 24 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>71</sup> HRW, Egypt, Questionable amnesty deals for ISIS members, 13 March 2024, [url](#)

The authorities have enacted laws granting special powers to the armed forces<sup>72</sup> and the police in North Sinai.<sup>73</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, the new law ‘granted the military sweeping new authority to fully or partially replace functions of the police, civilian judiciary, and other civilian authorities, and to further expand the jurisdiction of military courts to prosecute civilians’.<sup>74</sup> However, since 2013, the ISSP, along with other terrorist groups, has carried out hundreds of attacks<sup>75</sup> targeting the military and civilians, in particular in Sinai.<sup>76</sup> In response, Egyptian security forces have launched multiple counteroffensives, which have reportedly weakened the ISSP and reduced its ability to launch attacks.<sup>77</sup> As of May 2024, the Union of Arab Tribes, a pro-government coalition<sup>78</sup> composed of five Egyptian Bedouin tribes led by pro-government businessman and militia leader Ibrahim al-Organi,<sup>79</sup> was established in Sinai with the objective of maintaining security in the province<sup>80</sup> and alongside its borders.<sup>81</sup> According to The New Arabe, an Egyptian security source stated: ‘the Union of Sinai Tribes have been functioning as paramilitary militias [reportedly] fighting alongside army and police forces against an insurgency in North Sinai for almost a decade’.<sup>82</sup>

Additionally, the Egyptian authorities have allegedly made opaque amnesty deals with suspected ISSP members in exchange for ceasing hostilities.<sup>83</sup>

Military operations against armed groups in Sinai have led to the destruction of homes, commercial buildings and farms and as well as civilian casualties, displacements, and arbitrary arrests and detentions<sup>84</sup> of civilians who protested against the war.<sup>85</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, ‘the military continued to prevent tens of thousands of residents, whom it has forcibly evicted since 2013, from returning to their land’.<sup>86</sup> During the past 10 years of war with militants in Sinai, Egyptian security forces have seized over 37 schools in Sinai turning them into military bases.<sup>87</sup> As of February 2024, the Egyptian army has reportedly intensified patrols and checkpoints in Sinai, stopping residents and construction workers to inspect their belongings and deter them from reporting on the fortified zones construction at the Gaza border.<sup>88</sup> In North Sinai, authorities have imposed restrictions on local residents' movement within and outside the

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<sup>72</sup> CIHRS, Egypt: Alarming New Law Expands Military Power amid Fears of Popular Unrest as Economy Deteriorates, 2 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>73</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Terrorism 2023, 12 December 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>74</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>75</sup> BTI, 2024 Country report, Egypt, 24 March 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>76</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 30

<sup>77</sup> BTI, 2024 Country report, Egypt, 24 March 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>78</sup> The New Arabe, A state within a state? Inside Egypt's controversial union of Arab tribes, 21 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>79</sup> MEE, Rafah invasion: Egyptian army turns to Sinai tribes to prepare for influx of Palestinians, 6 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>80</sup> The New Arabe, A state within a state? Inside Egypt's controversial union of Arab tribes, 21 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>81</sup> Ahramonline, Tribes unit, 7 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>82</sup> The New Arabe, A state within a state? Inside Egypt's controversial union of Arab tribes, 21 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>83</sup> HRW, Egypt, Questionable amnesty deals for ISIS members, 13 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>84</sup> MEE, Killed, disappeared, displaced: Egypt's Sinai devastated by Sisi's 10 years as president, 1 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>85</sup> MEE, Killed, disappeared, displaced: Egypt's Sinai devastated by Sisi's 10 years as president, 1 July 2024, [url](#); UN GA, Human Rights Council, Egypt, A/HRC/WG.6/48/EGY/2, 7 November 2024, [url](#), p. 43; AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>86</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>87</sup> Guardian (The), Egyptian army has turned Sinai schools into military bases, says rights group, 30 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>88</sup> AI, Egypt: Human rights group and its director threatens and smeared, 26 February 2024, [url](#)

governorate, while significantly<sup>2</sup> limiting media access to the area.<sup>89</sup> In Northern Sinai, the main threats to civilians have stemmed from improvised explosive devices planted by ISSP in civilian areas and crossfire between government forces and armed groups.<sup>90</sup> Additionally, sources reported the detention of women and girls without charges, allegedly due to links with ISIL.<sup>91</sup>

Between 2016 and 2018, Israel has reportedly carried out more than 100 of airstrikes targeting ISSP in Egypt.<sup>92</sup> In October 2023, Israel carried out airstrikes on Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt amid rising tensions with Hamas.<sup>93</sup> In May 2024, Israel took control of Gaza's 12.6 kilometres border with Egypt (known as the Philadelphi or Salah al Din Corridor), which reportedly heightened Egyptian security concerns.<sup>94</sup> Under the January 2025 ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, Israeli forces are expected to scale down their presence in the Philadelphi Corridor, and fully withdraw by 6 March 2026.<sup>95</sup> In December 2024, Egypt has reportedly rejected the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza,<sup>96</sup> calling it an 'act of injustice that would threaten Egyptian security'.<sup>97</sup> On 1 February 2025 the Rafah border crossing point reopened for medical evacuations and the EU has restarted its civilian mission EUBAM Rafah to monitor the key transit point between Gaza and Egypt.<sup>98</sup>

## Human rights situation

In 2023 and 2024, major human rights violations were reported in Egypt,<sup>99</sup> including restrictions on the freedom of speech and the right of association, arbitrary arrest and lengthy pre-trial detention without charges (including in unofficial detention centres), forced disappearances, harsh and life-threatening prison conditions and systematic use of **torture**, and the targeting of, among others, political opponents, journalists and human rights defenders,<sup>100</sup> and arbitrary or

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<sup>89</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 30

<sup>90</sup> USDOS, Egypt 2023 human rights report, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 31

<sup>91</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 31

<sup>92</sup> Geneva Academy, RULAC, Non-international armed conflict in Egypt, updated on 24 May 2023, [url](#)

<sup>93</sup> Al Jazeera, Israel bombs Gaza's border crossing with Egypt, 11 October 2023, [url](#); Mada Masr, Israeli air strike hits Rafah border crossing between Gaza, Egypt, closing only exit from Gaza not controlled by Israel, 9 October 2023, [url](#)

<sup>94</sup> AP, Israel says it's taken control of key area of Gaza's border with Egypt awash in smuggling tunnels, 30 May 2024, [url](#);

<sup>95</sup> Al Jazeera, What do we know about the Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal in Gaza?, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>96</sup> AP, Trump wants Jordan and Egypt to accept more Palestinian refugees and floats plan to 'clean out' Gaza, 25 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>97</sup> Reuters, Sisi says Egypt will not take part in 'act of injustice' displacing Palestinians, 29 December 2024, [url](#); AP, Trump wants Jordan and Egypt to accept more Palestinian refugees and floats plan to 'clean out' Gaza, 25 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>98</sup> EEAS, EUBAM Rafah: Statement by the Spokesperson on the redeployment of the mission at the Rafah Crossing Point, 2 February 2025, [url](#); EEAS, Gaza-Israel ceasefire - EUBAM Rafah returns to Rafah Crossing Point, 10 February 2025, [url](#)

<sup>99</sup> FIDH, Egypt: Report on the human rights situation for the Universal Periodic Review, 13 November 2024, [url](#); Freedom House, Egypt, Key developments, June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, 15 June 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#); USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>100</sup> FIDH, Egypt: Report on the human rights situation for the Universal Periodic Review, 13 November 2024, [url](#); Freedom House, Egypt, Key developments, June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, 15 June 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, Events of

unlawful killings including **extrajudicial killings**.<sup>101</sup> Authorities frequently used anti-terrorism legislations to target persons of these profiles,<sup>102</sup> and equated peaceful dissent with terrorism.<sup>103</sup> Authorities also targeted Egyptian political dissidents and human rights defenders abroad, and their families inside the country.<sup>104</sup> Activists were detained and punished for participating in peaceful protests,<sup>105</sup> while anti-foreign funding and cybercrime laws were used to silence critics.<sup>106</sup> In addition, criminal libel laws were reportedly enforced to restrict freedom of expression.<sup>107</sup> According to Reporters Without Borders, under President al-Sisi, Egypt turned 'into one of the world's most oppressive countries for journalists',<sup>108</sup> and the government has tightened control over traditional and social media to an unprecedented level.<sup>109</sup>

Although the 2022 Presidential Amnesty Committee granted the release of some former detainees, their travel bans and asset freezes remained in place.<sup>110</sup> In 2023, **arbitrary arrest and detention**, systematic use of prolonged pretrial detention against journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents were reported.<sup>111</sup> On 5 March 2023, 14 human rights activists were sentenced to prison on terrorism-related charges.<sup>112</sup>

Egyptian authorities reportedly used intimidation, harassment and **torture** as a political tool to target dissents with methods such as 'beatings, electrical shocks, sexual violence, [...], the denial of access to medical care and treatment, lack of family contact, and other acts that cause severe pain and suffering'.<sup>113</sup> Torture has been used in detention against activists, bloggers and journalists.<sup>114</sup> According to Amnesty International, 'torture and other ill-treatment remained routine

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2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#); EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43; UN CAT, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CAT/C/EGY/CO/5, 12 December 2023, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>101</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>102</sup> UN OHCHR, Egypt: Special Rapporteur concerned about use of anti-terrorism legislation against human rights defenders, 15 January 2025, [url](#); EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>103</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43; Freedom House, Egypt, Key developments, June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, 15 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>104</sup> Freedom House, Egypt, 9 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>105</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2023, 11 January 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>106</sup> FIDH, Egypt: Report on the human rights situation for the Universal Periodic Review, 13 November 2024, [url](#); AI, Amnesty International Global Report, death sentences and executions, 2023, 16 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>107</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>108</sup> RSF, Ten years of power for Sisi: Egypt has become one of the world's biggest jailers of journalists, 30 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>109</sup> BBC, Egypt country profile, 2 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>110</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>111</sup> UN OHCHR, UN Human Rights Committee publishes findings on Egypt, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and Zambia, 24 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>112</sup> AP, Egypt sentences 14, including activists on terrorism charges, 5 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>113</sup> Redress, Torture in Egypt: A crime against humanity, 2 October 2023, [url](#), p. 41; HRW, Egypt: UN review spotlights key rights concerns, 31 January 2025, [url](#); ICJ, Egypt: At the universal periodic review, states must call on Egypt to end egregious human rights violations, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

<sup>114</sup> Freedom House, Egypt, Key developments, June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024, 15 June 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

in prisons, police stations and NSA [National Security Agency]-run facilities.<sup>115</sup> Sources reported cases of individuals being tortured to death in prisons and detention centers.<sup>116</sup>

Prison conditions remained severe in Egypt, with widespread and **systematic mistreatment**, and restrictions on family and lawyer visits, along with inadequate medical care,<sup>117</sup> as well as extended isolation, constant exposure to bright lights, and continued camera surveillance.<sup>118</sup> Numerous human rights groups reported that ‘authorities subjected prisoners accused of crimes related to political or security matters to physical and verbal abuse and prolonged or indefinite solitary confinement.’<sup>119</sup> According to Human Rights Watch, no recent statistics on the number of prisoners in Egypt have been released by the authorities.<sup>120</sup> However, reports indicated that **detention centres** remained overcrowded and life-threatening, with an estimated 80 000 convicted prisoners and 40 000 pretrial detainees.<sup>121</sup>

Egypt retains the **death penalty** for 105 crimes under the Penal Code and military laws.<sup>122</sup> Article 10 of the Egyptian Penal Code stipulates that ‘Felonies are crimes liable to the following penalties [including] capital punishment’.<sup>123</sup> Article 13 of the mentioned Penal Code stipulates that ‘Any person who is sentenced to capital punishment shall be hanged’.<sup>124</sup>

The death penalty continued to be heavily applied in the country,<sup>125</sup> with numerous cases handled ‘under the counter-terrorism legislation’,<sup>126</sup> and is frequently imposed in trials that do not meet international standards including mass trials and trials in military courts.<sup>127</sup> In 2023, Amnesty International documented 590 death sentences, including 577 for murder, 6 for drug-related offences, 4 for rape, and 3 for unknown offences with 8 executions.<sup>128</sup> Courts continued issuing capital sentences in 2024, including 26 in November and 42 in December.<sup>129</sup>

Dissidents have faced **enforced disappearances, solitary confinement, torture**, and forced confession in official and secret locations.<sup>130</sup> Since 2015, 4 253 individuals reportedly disappeared with 821 individuals recorded between 2022 and 2023.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>116</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>117</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>118</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>119</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 7

<sup>120</sup> HRW, Egypt: Release prison population figures, 28 February 2023, [url](#)

<sup>121</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 9

<sup>122</sup> CIHRS, Joint report on human rights situation in Egypt, 17 December 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>123</sup> ILO, Law No. 58 01 The Year 1937 Promulgating The Penal Code, n.d. [url](#), p. 7

<sup>124</sup> ILO, Law No. 58 01 The Year 1937 Promulgating The Penal Code, n.d. [url](#), pp. 7 and 8

<sup>125</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>126</sup> UN GA, Human Rights Council, Egypt, A/HRC/WG.6/48/EGY/2, 7 November 2024, [url](#), p. 43; AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#), p. 10

<sup>127</sup> UN OHCHR, UN Human Rights Committee publishes findings on Egypt, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan and Zambia, 24 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>128</sup> AI, Amnesty International Global Report, death sentences and executions, 2023, 16 May 2024, [url](#)

<sup>129</sup> EIPR, Death penalties in Egypt during November 2024, 30 December 2024, [url](#); EIPR, Death penalties in Egypt during December 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>130</sup> CIHRS, Joint report on human rights situation in Egypt, 17 December 2024, [url](#), p. 3; HRW, Egypt, Events of 2023, 11 January 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt, events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>131</sup> CIHRS, Joint report on human rights situation in Egypt, 17 December 2024, [url](#), p. 3

On 27 January 2025, Amnesty International reported that ‘Egyptian authorities have embarked on a renewed crackdown on peaceful dissent, through arbitrary detentions and politically-motivated criminal investigations’.<sup>132</sup>

## Specific profiles

The overview below is not an exhaustive list of profiles that may face specific human rights concerns.

**Muslim Brotherhood** - The Muslim Brotherhood (*al-Ikhwan al-Muslimun* in Arabic<sup>133</sup>) was established in 1928 in Egypt by Hasan al-Banna and has become the most influential Islamist organisation,<sup>134</sup> promoting social change based on Islamic principles, and engaging in political activism,<sup>135</sup> particularly against the British colonial rule in Egypt.<sup>136</sup> In the 1970s, the Muslim Brotherhood gained widespread support by providing essential social services such as pharmacies, hospitals, schools,<sup>137</sup> and Islamic charity.<sup>138</sup> The Muslim Brotherhood became the main opposition force in 2000 after winning 17 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.<sup>139</sup>

Following the removal of President Hosni Mubarak from power during the 2011 Arab Spring protests, the Muslim Brotherhood’s newly founded Freedom and Justice Party (FJP)<sup>140</sup> secured the most seats in Egypt’s Lower House of parliament.<sup>141</sup> Its candidate, Mohammed Morsi, was elected as the country’s first civilian president,<sup>142</sup> winning 51.73 % of the vote<sup>143</sup> in a highly divisive run-off against retired air force commander Ahmed Shafiq.<sup>144</sup> Following Morsi taking office, the opposition held widespread demonstrations,<sup>145</sup> demanding his resignation,<sup>146</sup> which led to his removal from power by the military in July 2013.<sup>147</sup> Morsi was arrested and detained,<sup>148</sup> and

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<sup>132</sup> AI, Egypt: Repression intensifies ahead of human rights record review, 27 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>133</sup> BBC, Profile: Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 23 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>134</sup> CFR, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#); Pew Research Center, Muslim Brotherhood and Jama’at-i Islami, 15 September 2010, [url](#)

<sup>135</sup> Al Jazeera, Saudi and the Brotherhood: From friends to foes, 23 June 2017, [url](#)

<sup>136</sup> BBC, Profile: Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 23 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>137</sup> BBC, Profile: Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 23 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>138</sup> CFR, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>139</sup> BBC, Profile: Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 23 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>140</sup> CFR, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>141</sup> CFR, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>142</sup> AP, Arab Spring exiles look back 10 years after Egypt uprising, 24 January 2021, [url](#)

<sup>143</sup> France 24, Brotherhood candidate Morsi wins Egypt presidency, 24 June 2012, [url](#)

<sup>144</sup> BBC, Profile: Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 23 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>145</sup> BBC, Mohammed Morsi’s trials and convictions, 17 June 2019, [url](#)

<sup>146</sup> BBC, Mohammed Morsi’s trials and convictions, 17 June 2019, [url](#)

<sup>147</sup> CFR, Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>148</sup> BBC, Mohammed Morsi’s trials and convictions, 17 June 2019, [url](#)

reportedly died in 2019<sup>149</sup> due to harsh prison conditions,<sup>150</sup> including torture<sup>151</sup> he endured in Damietta detention center.<sup>152</sup> In addition, after Morsi's removal from power, members of the Muslim Brotherhood were imprisoned, forced into exile, or went underground.<sup>153</sup> Hundreds of his supporters were reportedly killed by the security forces during protests and the Rab'a Massacre,<sup>154</sup> while thousands fled the country.<sup>155</sup>

In 2013, the Egyptian Government declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation,<sup>156</sup> and targeted 'individuals for alleged membership in or support for it'.<sup>157</sup> The EU does not consider the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation.<sup>158</sup> Assuming the presidency in May 2014, the Government has taken harsh measures to target any opposition, using allegations of Brotherhood membership to suppress all forms of dissent.<sup>159</sup> In March 2024, several members of political opposition parties were sentenced to death, including members of the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>160</sup> On 7 July 2024, nine individuals were sentenced to death by hanging on charges of links to the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>161</sup>

In December 2024, an Egyptian criminal court placed 15 individuals on a terrorist list for five years due to their alleged connections with Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>162</sup> As of writing, the Muslim Brotherhood, including its political wing, the FJP, remains banned in Egypt.<sup>163</sup>

**Christians (including Copts)** - In Egypt, most Christians are Copts, native Egyptian Christians,<sup>164</sup> numbering an estimated 15 million,<sup>165</sup> with over 90 % affiliated with the Coptic Orthodox Church.<sup>166</sup> Other Christian communities include Armenian Apostolic, Catholic (Coptic, Armenian, Chaldean, Melkite, Maronite, Latin, and Syrian rites), Orthodox (Greek and Syrian), Anglican/Episcopalian, and various Protestant denominations under the Protestant Churches of Egypt, also called the General Evangelical Council.<sup>167</sup> There are also an estimated 1 500

<sup>149</sup> MEE, Prominent Egyptian politician is being 'tortured to death' in prison, 3 July 2019, [url](#)

<sup>150</sup> UN OHCHR, Egypt: UN experts denounce Morsi "brutal" prison conditions, warn thousands of other inmates at severe risk, 8 November 2019, [url](#)

<sup>151</sup> MEMO, Egypt: political prisoner Al-Morsi tortured to death, 7 March 2023, [url](#); MEE, Prominent Egyptian politician is being 'tortured to death' in prison, 3 July 2019, [url](#)

<sup>152</sup> MED, Egypt: political prisoner Al-Morsi tortured to death, 7 March 2023, [url](#)

<sup>153</sup> CFR, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>154</sup> Al Jazeera, 'Rabaa massacre': Calls for justice remain six years on, 14 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>155</sup> The New Arab, Egypt court adds 15 people to terror list over Muslim Brotherhood links, 13 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>156</sup> CFR, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#); Guardian (The), Egypt declares Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group, 25 December 2013, [url](#); BBC, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood declared 'terrorist group', 25 December 2013, [url](#)

<sup>157</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 24

<sup>158</sup> European Parliament, Designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation, 24 January 2023, [url](#)

<sup>159</sup> CFR, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, 15 August 2019, [url](#)

<sup>160</sup> MEE, Egypt confirms death penalty for eight opposition politicians after mass trial, 5 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>161</sup> Mada Masr, Nine sentenced to death by hanging for operations supporting "terrorist" Muslim brotherhood, 7 July 2024, [url](#)

<sup>162</sup> The New Arab, Egypt court adds 15 people to terror list over Muslim Brotherhood links, 13 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>163</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 24; The New Arab, Egypt court adds 15 people to terror list over Muslim Brotherhood links, 13 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>164</sup> USCIRF, Annual Report 2024 – Egypt, 18 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>165</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>166</sup> USCIRF, Annual Report 2024 – Egypt, 18 May 2024, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>167</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), pp. 6 and 7

Jehovah's Witnesses<sup>168</sup> and fewer than 100 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Egypt, mostly expatriates.<sup>169</sup> There are over 3 000 legalised Christian churches and service buildings in Egypt, including 141 churches and 233 service buildings approved by the Egyptian prime minister in June 2023.<sup>170</sup>

However, several minority groups including Copts continue to face discrimination, restrictions on their freedom of worship, sectarian violence, and prosecution under blasphemy laws.<sup>171</sup> Christians also experienced severe societal oppression, including abductions and forced conversions of Christian women,<sup>172</sup> including due to the increasing economic crisis in rural Upper Egypt that exposed women to exploitation,<sup>173</sup> discrimination against children in schools, and frequent mob attacks over blasphemy rumors or religious disputes.<sup>174</sup> Discrimination against Christians is reportedly 'relatively subtle in main cities like the capital, Cairo, or Alexandria but becomes much more pronounced in the south.'<sup>175</sup> As of October 2023, over 18 'cases of alleged abduction and forced conversion of Coptic women and girls' were reported.<sup>176</sup>

Copts are reportedly barred from holding high ministerial roles, sensitive security positions, or running for presidential elections.<sup>177</sup> In April 2024, an attempt by Copts to build a church in Al-Fawakher, Minya Governorate,<sup>178</sup> faced violent opposition from the Muslim community,<sup>179</sup> resulting in the burning of Coptic homes.<sup>180</sup>

While the Christian community in Egypt has expressed support for President Sisi, tensions between Copts remained prevalent and deadly, particularly in Upper Egypt, including in the Asyut region.<sup>181</sup> As of January 2025, Copts have continued to face hostility over church construction, blasphemy accusations, and interfaith relationships, with radical groups posing a persistent threat, especially in Sinai.<sup>182</sup> On 14 December 2024, the Egyptian Ministry of Justice and five

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<sup>168</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, August 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 4

<sup>169</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt , 15 July 2024, [url](#), pp. 6 and 7

<sup>170</sup> Ahramonline, Egypt legalizes 374 more unlicensed churches and service buildings, 19 June 2023, [url](#); USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, August 2023, n.d., [url](#), p. 4

<sup>171</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), p. 12

<sup>172</sup> ECLJ, ECLJ report exposes ongoing human rights violations against Christians in Egypt ahead of UN review, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>173</sup> USCIRF, Annual Report 2024 – Egypt, 18 May 2024, [url](#), p. 1

<sup>174</sup> ECLJ, ECLJ report exposes ongoing human rights violations against Christians in Egypt ahead of UN review, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>175</sup> The New Arab, Muslim extremists reportedly burn down Christian homes in southern Egypt, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>176</sup> Redress, Torture in Egypt: A crime against humanity, 2 October 2023, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>177</sup> The New Arab, Muslim extremists reportedly burn down Christian homes in southern Egypt, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>178</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt , 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 16 and 17

<sup>179</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), pp. 16 and 17; The New Arab, Muslim extremists reportedly burn down Christian homes in southern Egypt, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>180</sup> The New Arab, Muslim extremists reportedly burn down Christian homes in southern Egypt, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>181</sup> ECLJ, ECLJ report exposes ongoing human rights violations against Christians in Egypt ahead of UN review, 28 August 2024, [url](#)

<sup>182</sup> Open Doors, Egypt, persecution dynamics, January 2025, n.d., [url](#), p. 11

officially recognised Christian communities signed the draft Personal Status Law for Christians<sup>183</sup> to provide ‘a cohesive legal framework for Christian families’.<sup>184</sup>

**Shia Muslims (including The Dawoodi Bohras)** - Shia Muslims constitute 1 % of the total Egyptian population,<sup>185</sup> including the Dawoodi Bohra Shia Muslims who are part of the Ismaili branch of Shia Islam<sup>186</sup> living in Egypt.<sup>187</sup> Shia Muslims have reportedly been targeted by hate speech on social media, prevented from building their places of worship and allowed to worship only in private places.<sup>188</sup> In some official school books, the Ismaili branch of the Shia Islam is considered as heretical.<sup>189</sup> Shia Muslims face discrimination, including restrictions on worship and burial sites, prosecution under blasphemy laws, and sectarian violence committed with impunity, including by armed groups.<sup>190</sup>

**Baha’is** - The law in Egypt does not recognise Baha’i faith and prohibits its religious institution and activities in the country.<sup>191</sup> Baha’is and Ahmadi Muslims are regarded as an ‘esoteric’ sect of Islam.<sup>192</sup> As of writing, there were an estimated between 1 000 and 2 000 Baha’is living in Egypt.<sup>193</sup> Baha’is in Egypt, among others, face various forms of discrimination and harassment<sup>194</sup> including ban on establishing new cemeteries, and non-recognition of their marriages, which remain unregistered<sup>195</sup> due to the lack of personal status laws for Baha’is in the country.<sup>196</sup> In addition, Baha’is face challenges obtaining ID cards, as parents of newborns cannot access birth certificates unless the religion of the parent holding the ID is specified.<sup>197</sup> Since a 2009 court order, Baha’is, along with other citizens belonging to unrecognised religious groups, have their religious affiliation denoted by a dash (‘-’) on national identity cards.<sup>198</sup> As of 2024, the state reportedly continued surveillance of Baha’is and their activities, including monitoring social media, email accounts, and personal cell phones.<sup>199</sup>

**Women and girls** - In 2015, Egypt established a National Strategy to eliminate violence against women;<sup>200</sup> however, the UN Human Rights Committee has noted critical shortcomings in laws, enforcement, and societal perceptions. Furthermore, domestic violence, including marital rape,

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<sup>183</sup> Egyptian Streets, New Personal Status Law for Christians approved in Egypt, 15 December 2024, [url](#); Ahramonline, Explainer: Key facts about Egypt 1<sup>st</sup> personal status draft law for Christians, 17 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>184</sup> Ahramonline, Explainer: Key facts about Egypt 1<sup>st</sup> personal status draft law for Christians, 17 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>185</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>186</sup> Ahramonline, Sisi & Sultan Saifuddin inaugurate renovated Al-Sayeda Nafisa Mosque, 8 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>187</sup> Ahramonline, In Photos: The Dawoodi Bohras in Egypt: A long history behind mosque restorations, 13 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>188</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), pp. 4, 5

<sup>189</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 31

<sup>190</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), p. 12

<sup>191</sup> USDOS, International Religious Freedom Report 2023 - Egypt, 15 July 2024, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>192</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, 20 February 2025, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>193</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, 20 February 2025, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>194</sup> Freedom House, Egypt, Overview, 28 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>195</sup> MRG, MRG urges action on minority and indigenous rights in Egypt, 20 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>196</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, 20 February 2025, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>197</sup> MRG, MRG urges action on minority and indigenous rights in Egypt, 20 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>198</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, 20 February 2025, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>199</sup> USCIRF, Country update: Egypt, 20 February 2025, [url](#), p. 6

<sup>200</sup> Egypt, NCW, Report on the national strategy to eliminate violence against women, 2015-2020, n.d., [url](#), p. 2

has not been explicitly criminalised, and the Penal Code still permits leniency for ‘honour crimes’.<sup>201</sup>

In 2023, women and girls continued being subjected to discrimination in marriage, divorce, child custody, and political participation, with continued gender-based violence by state and non-state actors, including family members.<sup>202</sup> The Edraak Foundation's Violence Against Women and Girls Observatory [informal translation] recorded 950 cases of violence against women and girls in Egypt in 2023, including 492 incidents of domestic violence, 364 femicides, 81 cases of rape, and 82 attempted murders.<sup>203</sup> There have been notable cases of impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence.<sup>204</sup>

Since 2020, authorities have detained and charged at least ten women TikTok influencers with ‘indecentcy’ and ‘inciting immorality’.<sup>205</sup>

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) remains practiced in Egypt<sup>206</sup> which ranks sixth globally for circumcision.<sup>207</sup> Although FGM/C is illegal in the country, the law is not enforced, and cases are rarely reported.<sup>208</sup> In Egypt, 73.8 % of the FGM/C practices are carried out by doctors, 9.3 % by nurses, and 15.8 % by traditional midwives.<sup>209</sup>

In 2021, Egypt amended its FGM/C law, imposing a minimum seven-year prison sentence for non-medical personnel if the procedure results in permanent disability and at least 10 years if it leads to death. Medical professionals, including doctors and nurses can face up to 20 years in prison for performing FGM/C.<sup>210</sup> According to Freedom House 2024 report on Egypt, enforcement remains ineffective due to societal resistance, inadequate implementation, police abuses, and insufficient protection for witnesses, discouraging victims from seeking help.<sup>211</sup>

**LGBTIQ persons** - Although consensual same-sex activity is not explicitly criminalised, authorities frequently arrest LGBTIQ individuals on charges such as ‘debauchery,’ prostitution, and ‘violating family values,’ leading to penalties of up to 10 years in prison, heavy fines or both.<sup>212</sup> LGBTIQ individuals also face widespread societal discrimination,<sup>213</sup> and violence from the public, driven by conservative cultural and religious values.<sup>214</sup> In detention, LGBTIQ individuals were documented

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<sup>201</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>202</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>203</sup> EDRAAK Foundation for Development and Equality, تقرير مرصد جرائم العنف الموجه ضد النساء والفتيات في مصر لعام [Observatory of Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls in Egypt, 2023 report], 16 May 2024, [url](#), p. 9

<sup>204</sup> AI, Egypt, submission to the Human Rights Committee, 24 March 2023, [url](#); USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 13

<sup>205</sup> AI, Egypt: Protracted human rights and impunity crisis: Submission to the 48th session of the UPR working group, January 2025, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>206</sup> Freedom House, Egypt, Overview, 28 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>207</sup> Gamal S, Medicalised female genital mutilation: faulty policies, unwilling doctors, and frightened girls, available on Daraj Media, 25 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>208</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 64

<sup>209</sup> Gamal S, Medicalised female genital mutilation: faulty policies, unwilling doctors, and frightened girls, available on Daraj Media, 25 March 2024, [url](#)

<sup>210</sup> UNICEF, Medical deception, Naja's daughter nearly died because of FGM medicalisation, 17 December 2023, [url](#)

<sup>211</sup> Freedom House, Egypt, Overview, 28 February 2024, [url](#)

<sup>212</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 72

<sup>213</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>214</sup> ARC, Egypt: Query response on the situation and treatment of the LGBTQI+ community, 26 August 2023, [url](#)

to have been subjected to severe abuse, including solitary confinement, denial of food, water, medical care, and family contact, as well as sexual assault and other physical violence,<sup>215</sup> including anal examination to prove same-sex sexual conduct,<sup>216</sup> often perpetrated by security officials or fellow inmates.<sup>217</sup> Authorities in Egypt have been reported to monitor and exploit social media and dating apps to target, harass, arrest, and abuse LGBTIQ+ individuals.<sup>218</sup> Additionally, LGBTIQ individuals face entrapment, abuse during investigations (including forced anal exams), arbitrary arrests, and hate speech, with rights defenders targeted.<sup>219</sup>

As of writing, Egypt had no law that provides legal recognition for transgender individuals.<sup>220</sup> Transgender and intersex individuals in Egypt face discriminatory laws, policies and practices that obstruct their access to healthcare, with persistent barriers to equitable treatment due to bias based on gender identity and sexual orientation.<sup>221</sup> The Egyptian Medical Syndicate allows gender-affirming treatment based on a *fatwa* stating it must be ‘medically necessary’ and for intersex individuals, with approval from a committee of doctors and al-Azhar clergy, leaving transgender people to seek unsafe treatments and unable to change identity documents without approval.<sup>222</sup>

**Human rights defenders** - Human rights defenders are subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention and torture or face measures such as travel restrictions and asset freezes as punishment for their work, including their collaboration with UN mechanisms.<sup>223</sup> Human rights defenders face intimidation, making it difficult for them to conduct research in the country.<sup>224</sup>

Egyptian authorities added to the list of terrorist entities thousands of people such as human rights defenders,<sup>225</sup> with 820 individuals, including human rights defenders, being added in 2023, and more than 600 websites remained blocked including the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Soula 4 and Masr 360.<sup>226</sup>

On 22 January 2025, Egyptian authorities charged with terrorism a leading human rights defender and the executive director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR).<sup>227</sup>

**Sudanese refugees** - As of April 2025, Egypt hosted 1.2 million Sudanese refugees who arrived in Egypt since the conflict began in April 2023.<sup>228</sup> As of January 27, 2025, UNHCR Egypt has scheduled registration appointments for 874 800 Sudanese refugees who fled Sudan including

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<sup>215</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2023, 11 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>216</sup> AI, Egypt: Protracted human rights and impunity crisis: Submission to the 48th session of the UPR working group, January 2025, 10 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>217</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2023, 11 January 2024, [url](#)

<sup>218</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 30

<sup>219</sup> ARC, Egypt: Query response on the situation and treatment of the LGBTQI+ community, 26 August 2023, [url](#)

<sup>220</sup> TIMEP, The “Chromosome Trap”: Anti-Trans Narratives and Policy in Egypt, 29 June 2023, [url](#)

<sup>221</sup> TIMEP, Egypt’s Fourth Cycle UPR: The Right to Health for Transgender and Intersex Individuals, 6 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>222</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), pp. 75 and 76

<sup>223</sup> EIPR, A crisis by design, the systemic nature of human rights violations in Egypt, 2023, 27 January 2023, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>224</sup> Redress, Torture in Egypt: A crime against humanity, 2 October 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>225</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), p. 4

<sup>226</sup> AI, Amnesty International, Egypt 2023, 25 April 2024, [url](#)

<sup>227</sup> HRW, Egypt: Rights defender charged with terrorism, escalating crackdown on critics, 22 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>228</sup> UNHCR, Sudan Situation map weekly regional update – 27 January 2025, [url](#)

563 800 individuals (64 %) have completed their registration for support and protection.<sup>229</sup> To stem the flow, in June 2023, Egypt introduced visa requirements for Sudanese fleeing the conflict as well as an obligation for irregular migrants to regularise their situation.<sup>230</sup> Authorities reportedly detained and deported undocumented Sudanese.<sup>231</sup>

According to Amnesty International, in 2024, Egypt's Border Guard Forces and the police have carried out mass arbitrary arrests of Sudanese refugees, and held women, men and children in cruel and inhuman conditions pending their forced return to Sudan.<sup>232</sup> Under the new asylum law, enforced in December 2024, asylum seekers who enter Egypt irregularly and fail to submit their asylum applications within 45 days of arrival could face 'imprisonment for at least six months and/or fines, and forcible removal'.<sup>233</sup> In addition, individuals' refugee status can be revoked, and they can be deported if they do not comply with the country's vaguely defined 'values and traditions'.<sup>234</sup>

## Legal remedies against human rights violations

According to the Egyptian Constitution, 'The independence, immunity and impartiality of the judiciary are essential guarantees for the protection of rights and freedoms';<sup>235</sup> however, authorities reportedly used the judiciary system as a tool of mass repression, targeting critics and dissidents.<sup>236</sup> The 2019 constitutional amendments undermine judicial independence by allowing the President to directly appoint the heads of judicial bodies and the prosecutorial authority, while authorities increasingly relied on 'emergency courts and military courts to prosecute individuals under overly broad provisions of counter-terrorism legislation and other laws'.<sup>237</sup> Meanwhile, judicial independence is significantly limited as the executive progressively expands its control over the judiciary.<sup>238</sup>

The Emergency State Security Court continued to handle cases, sentencing human rights defenders and other peaceful dissidents to imprisonment through trials that fail to meet fair trial standards despite the official cessation of the state of emergency in 2021.<sup>239</sup> Additionally,

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<sup>229</sup> UNHCR, Egypt, Sudan Emergency response update, 15 January 2025, [url](#), p. 2

<sup>230</sup> HRW, Egypt: Civilians fleeing Sudan conflict turned away, 13 July 2023, [url](#); AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>231</sup> AI, Egypt: Sudanese in Egypt risk detention and deportation, 19 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>232</sup> AI, Egypt: Authorities must end campaign of mass arrests and forced returns of Sudanese refugees, 19 June 2024, [url](#)

<sup>233</sup> AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#); HRW, Egypt: Asylum Bill Threatens Refugee Rights, 17 December 2024, [url](#); InfoMigrants, Egypt enacts first asylum law sparking concerns over migrant rights, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>234</sup> AI, Egypt: President al-Sisi must reject new asylum law which violates refugee rights, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>235</sup> Egypt, SSCHR, The Egyptian Constitution, 29 July 2021 [url](#), art. 94

<sup>236</sup> HRW, Egypt's catastrophic draft criminal procedure code, codified abuses, further undermines justice system, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>237</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), p. 11

<sup>238</sup> BTI, 2024 Country report, Egypt, 24 March 2024, [url](#), p. 10

<sup>239</sup> EIPR, A crisis by design, the systemic nature of human rights violations in Egypt, 2023, 27 January 2023, [url](#), p. 12

authorities used video conference systems for remote pretrial detention hearings, limiting a judge's ability to assess the legality of detention, conditions, and detainee wellbeing.<sup>240</sup>

On 14 December 2024, Egypt's military court reportedly sentenced 62 North Sinai civilians, including tribal leaders and journalists, to 3 and 10 years for peaceful protests demanding their right to return to their seized lands.<sup>241</sup> As of January 2025, the Supreme State Security Prosecution (SSSP), a branch of Egypt's public prosecution, has reportedly kept thousands of activists and journalists in pretrial detention for extended periods without evidence.<sup>242</sup>

In December 2024, authorities proposed a new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) to replace the 1950 version,<sup>243</sup> without consulting civil society.<sup>244</sup> The draft introduces major changes such as extended pretrial detention, restrictions on defense lawyers, treating absentia judgments as if the accused were present, remote trials, inadequate safeguards against judicial abuse in torture and enforced disappearance cases,<sup>245</sup> and increased government control over the judiciary.<sup>246</sup> As of 15 January 2025, the draft law was pending presidential approval.<sup>247</sup>

Established in 2003, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) in Egypt<sup>248</sup> aims to protect, promote, and develop human rights by receiving individual complaints, raising awareness of rights, and making recommendations to the government.<sup>249</sup> In September 2021, Egypt launched its National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS), focusing on four main areas: civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly; and human rights education and capacity building.<sup>250</sup> In 2023, authorities have taken several measures to further focus on respecting human rights including the implementation of NHRS.<sup>251</sup> However, the progress on NHRS has remained slow, with continued issues in freedom of expression and rule of law in 2023.<sup>252</sup>

By September 2023, numerous human rights violations were documented in the two years following the launch of the NHRS, reflecting a significant disconnect between the strategy's goals and the situation on the ground.<sup>253</sup> In addition, despite the existence of NHCR, 'multiple groups reported investigations of deaths in custody often either concluded that death occurred from

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<sup>240</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>241</sup> CIHRS, Human Rights Organizations: Right to Return for North Sinai Residents is Fundamental, and Military Trials are invalid, 23 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>242</sup> HRW, Egypt, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>243</sup> AI, Egypt: Reject draft Criminal Procedure Code, 2 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>244</sup> HRW, Egypt's catastrophic draft criminal procedure code, codified abuses, further undermines justice system, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>245</sup> CFJ, Egypt: CFJ publishes report on proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Law and calls for in-depth public dialogue, 26 September 2024, [url](#)

<sup>246</sup> HRW, Egypt's catastrophic draft criminal procedure code, codified abuses, further undermines justice system, 20 December 2024, [url](#)

<sup>247</sup> National (The), Egypt's parliament approves sweeping changes to criminal procedure law, 15 January 2025, [url](#)

<sup>248</sup> NCHR, Establishment, vision and goals, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>249</sup> NCHR, Our Vision – Human Rights as a National Priority, n.d., [url](#)

<sup>250</sup> Egypt, Embassy of Egypt, Washington DC, Launch of Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy, September 2021, , [url](#), p. 1

<sup>251</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>252</sup> EEAS, Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2023 country update, 29 May 2024, [url](#), p. 43

<sup>253</sup> CIHRS, The National Strategy: Two Years of Denying the Ongoing Human Rights Crisis, 13 September 2023, [url](#)

natural causes or did not include a forensic examination.<sup>254</sup> In October 2024, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) decided to downgrade NCHR from A (fully compliant) to B (partially compliant) status due to concerns over its independence and effectiveness.<sup>255</sup>

Despite Egypt's adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023–2030, corruption has remained ‘pervasive’, including in the judiciary.<sup>256</sup>

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<sup>254</sup> USDOS, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2023 - Egypt, 22 April 2024, [url](#), p. 3

<sup>255</sup> EFHR, Welcoming the Downgrade of Egypt's National Council for Human Rights to Grade B, 26 November 2024, [url](#); GANHRI, Report and Recommendations of the Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, 18 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>256</sup> UN ICCPR, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Egypt, CCPR/C/EGY/CO/5, 14 April 2023, [url](#), pp.

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