



## **Egypt - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 29 June 2015**

### **Information on treatment of participants, particularly Musim Brotherhood supporters, involved in the Rabaa al Adawiya Square protests July – August 2013**

In February 2014 the *United States Department of State* released a report commenting on events of 2013 stating that:

“On August 14, Ministry of Interior forces supported by military units used lethal force to disperse large Muslim Brotherhood (MB)-organized sit-ins at Rabaa al-Adawiya Square in Cairo and Nahda Square in Giza” (United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013, Egypt*, Executive Summary).

In January 2014 *Amnesty International* notes:

“While security forces have carried out targeted arrests, particularly of the MB leadership and other prominent figures, the bulk of the arrests have taken place during dispersals of demonstrations and sit-ins. Hundreds were rounded-up in Cairo during major demonstrations, including the violent dispersals of Rabaa al-Adawiya and al-Nahda sit-ins on 14 August 2013, protests on 16 August 2013 around Ramsis Square and marches on 6 October 2013” (Amnesty International (23 January 2014) *Egypt: Roadmap to repression: No end in sight to human rights violations*, p.11).

This report also states:

“On 14 August 2013, security forces used excessive and unnecessary lethal force to disperse protests by Mohamed Morsi’s supporters who were camped at Rabaa al-Adawiya Square in Nasr City and al-Nadha in Giza, and others squares across the country” (ibid, p.29).

In August 2014 *Human Rights Watch* states:

“Since the events of July and August 2013, Egyptian authorities have continued to brutally suppress dissent. While focused overwhelmingly on the country’s largest political opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood, authorities have also targeted other opposition groups and individuals” (Human Rights Watch (12 August 2014) *All According to Plan, The Rab’a Massacre and Mass Killings of Protesters in Egypt*, p.17).

This report also points out that:

“Authorities have also arrested, by their figures, at least 22,000 people since July 3, many on charges relating to their exercise of basic rights or for membership in the Muslim Brotherhood, which the government declared a terrorist organization on December 25, 2013” (ibid, p.18).

This document also states:

“Security forces rounded up thousands of perceived Muslim Brotherhood sympathizers across Egypt on charges of being involved in attacks on churches and police stations in the aftermath of the Rab’a and al-Nahda dispersals” (ibid, p.107).

A report issued in November 2014 by *AhramOnline* points out that:

“A fact-finding committee formed to investigate events in Egypt since the ouster of president Mohamed Morsi announced on Wednesday that a total of 693 civilians and 10 police men died when security forces dispersed pro-Morsi sit-ins in greater Cairo on 14 August 2013. Dispersal of the sit-in at Rabaa Al-Adawiya square in eastern Cairo left 607 civilians and eight policemen dead; while the smaller sit in at Nahda square in Giza saw the death of 86 civilians and two policemen, the committee said in a press conference on Wednesday” (AhramOnline (26 November 2014) *Dispersal of pro-Morsi sit-ins left 703 dead: Fact-finding committee*).

This report also notes:

“The committee, headed by prominent judge Fouad Abdel-Moneim Riad, blamed pro-Morsi protesters for the wave of violence that swept the country before, during and after the dispersal of the sit-ins, especially attacks on Coptic Christians” (ibid).

In April 2015 *AhramOnline* states:

“Egypt’s top prosecutor on Wednesday referred 379 supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi to court over their participation in one of the main sit-ins calling for his reinstatement. The defendants, all participants in the Nahda square protest camp near downtown Cairo, were charged with rioting, forming an armed group, murder, attempted murder, thuggery, sabotage of public property, possession of weapons, and torture. The dispersal of the Rabaa and Nahda square sit-ins left hundreds killed and thousands arrested on a variety of charges. The dispersals also unleashed days of nationwide street clashes and attacks on security installations. Prosecutors said the defendants fired at security forces when they moved to break up the sit-in on 14 August 2013, killing two policemen and injuring 27 others. Some 187 of the accused have confessed to belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood and taking part in the sit-in, based on orders from the Brotherhood leaders, the prosecution added in a statement” (AhramOnline (8 April 2015) *379 Morsi supporters referred to court over Nahda sit-in violence*).

This article also states:

“The Muslim Brotherhood has been banned and designated a terrorist group by two court rulings. Thousands of its members and supporters face trials, including hundreds sentenced to death” (ibid).

A report published in June 2015 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of 2014 points out that:

“At the end of the year, the government had not held accountable any individual or governmental body for violence after June 30, 2013, including the death of civilians and security force members during the August 2013 dispersals of the sit-ins at Rabaa al-Adawiya and Nahda squares. A total of three reports on violent incidents after June 30, 2013, were published during the year, including a March report by the quasigovernmental NCHR, an August report by Human Rights Watch, and a

November report by a government-appointed fact-finding committee. All three reports addressed the dispersal of the Rabaa Square sit-in on August 13, 2013, which was the single deadliest incident following the July 3, 2013, change in government. The three reports varied in their estimates of the number of protesters killed during the dispersal of the sit-in, ranging from the fact-finding committee's claim of 607 civilian deaths to the estimate of the international NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) that possibly more than 1,000 civilians were killed. All three reports published the Forensic Medicine Authority's account that eight police officers were killed at Rabaa. The three reports offered conflicting information on how events unfolded and to what degree government forces were responsible for civilian deaths. In March the NCHR issued a report on the August 14, 2013, Rabaa al-Adawiya Square clearing operation. The report found that police "sometimes failed to maintain self-restraint and sometimes were not proportional," resulting in the deaths of 632 individuals, of which 624 were civilians and eight were police. NCHR's mandate is limited to collecting and recording data, and it has no judicial power. Some government authorities cooperated with the NCHR on the report, although the Ministry of Interior did not. At the end of the year, the government had not announced any specific action it would take based on the report's recommendations" (United States Department of State (25 June 2015) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014, Egypt*, Section 1d d. Arbitrary Arrest or Detention/Role of the Police and Security Apparatus).

## References

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Attachment not included due to IT limitations

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

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