



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

Thank you, Mr. President

Since President Morsi was elected, serious violations continue, including extrajudicial killings, sexual assaults, torture, arbitrary arrests, and the resumption of military trials of civilians.

Rather than taking steps to end violations, state officials and members of the ruling party have incited violence against protesters, opposition leaders, and media.

The authorities have refused to open serious investigations into the many cases of violence against minorities, protestors, media professionals, and women. The president has also refused to publish the report of the independent fact-finding committee appointed to investigate violations since the revolution. No accountability for grave crimes has been sought.

The current authorities are directly contributing to the establishment of a legal framework hostile to human rights, from the constitution to repressive new legislation. The recent draft law on association deviates widely from international standards and restricts the fields of NGO work, provides for security surveillance of NGO activities, and imposes major restrictions on NGO funding.

Even before the passage of this law, a verdict issued three days ago condemned international NGO employees to between 1 and 5 years in prison for exercising their fundamental right to freedom of association. One of those sentenced, Ms. Okail, stated:

“When the revolution happened, I went back to Egypt to work in human rights and democracy, and I was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison, while the police officers accused of killing the protesters all got acquitted”.

We call upon this Council to urge the Egyptian government to withdraw the current bills which would severely restrict freedom of association and assembly, ensure that all new legislation fully complies with international standards, accept without delay all pending requests for visits by special procedures, and ensure that adequate mechanisms for accountability are established to end the legacy of impunity.

Thank you, Mr. President.