



United Nations – 46th Session of the Human Rights Council
Oral Intervention
Agenda Item 3 - ID with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Human Rights Council is obligated to act on deteriorating human rights situation in Egypt

Thank you, Madam President,

CIHRS welcomes the Special Rapporteur's report entitled "Final Warning: Death Threats and Killings of Human Rights Defenders." Earlier this year more than 100 NGOs from around the world wrote to member states of the UN to provide a similar warning concerning the situation in Egypt. We note that Egypt had the second most communications last year by your mandate – a strong indication that the situation for Egyptian rights defenders is at a critical juncture.

For years NGOs have warned that the Egyptian government is attempting to [annihilate](#) human rights organizations and [eradicate](#) the human rights movement in the country through sustained, widespread, and systematic attacks.

Such attacks include prolonged arbitrary detention, torture, death threats, disappearances, travel bans, repressive NGO bylaws, trumped up criminal charges and other [increasingly brutal](#) tactics. The government typically invokes "counterterrorism" to justify these abuses.

In such [a severely repressive environment](#), many human rights organizations have been forced to [close](#), scale down their operations, operate from outside the country, or work under constant threat.

Human rights defenders held in prolonged pre-trial detention [include](#), Mohamed al-Baqer, Esraa Abdelfatah Solafa Magdy, Ibrahim Ezz el-Din, Patrick Zaki, and many more.

Madam Special Rapporteur, the survival of the Egyptian human rights movement is at stake. Faced with these repeated warnings, do you believe the UN Human Rights Council has a responsibility to act on the case of Egypt?

Thank you.