



United Nations – Human Rights Council 46th Session
Agenda Item 4 – General Debate
Joint Oral Intervention¹
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
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Civil society calls for the council to take action on arbitrary detention in Egypt

As NGOs from around the world we welcome the joint declaration made by states under this Agenda Item condemning the widespread human rights violations being carried out by the Egyptian government - and view this declaration as the beginning of a long overdue process to ensure strong and consistent attention at this Council on the human rights crises in Egypt.

Earlier this year more than 100 NGOs from around the world [wrote to UN member states](#) to warn them that the Egyptian government is attempting to [annihilate](#) human rights organizations and [eradicate](#) the human rights movement in the country through sustained and systematic attacks.

Such attacks have occurred in the context of an “[increasingly brutal](#) crackdown on human rights defenders and civil and political rights more broadly,” often carried out under the guise of “counterterrorism.”

The message today to the Egyptian government is clear: you will no longer be given *carte blanche* to imprison, torture, violate the right to life, or murder peaceful critics.

Going forward, we urge this Council and its members to demand that Egypt begins to immediately release and provide remedy to all those [arbitrarily detained](#), including human rights defenders, journalists, academics, artists, lawyers, and politicians, as well as those whose cases have been raised by the Special Procedures and OHCHR.

¹ This statement is delivered by the CIHRS in cooperation with: Access Now, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB), Amnesty International, Arab Network for Knowledge about Human Rights, L'Association Arts et Cultures des deux Rives, L'association Création et Créativité pour le Développement et l'Embauche (C.C.D.E.), L'association Citoyenneté, Développement, Cultures & Migrations Des Deux Rives, L'Association Solidarité Laïque Tunisie, L'Association Tunisienne pour la Lutte contre la Torture, L'Association Tunisienne pour la Défense des Libertés Individuelle Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine), CIVICUS, Le Comité pour le Respect des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme en Tunisie, Committee for Justice, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Centre de Tunisie pour la Liberté de Presse, DefendDefenders (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project), Dignity, The Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF), Electronic Frontier Foundation, English PEN, EuroMed Rights (The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network), Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR), Fondation Hassan Saadaoui pour l'Egalité et la Démocratie, Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux, Freedom House, The Freedom Initiative, Global Focus, humanrights.ch, Initiative franco-égyptienne pour les droits et les libertés (IFEDL), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR), The Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Lawyers for Lawyers, The Legal Resources Centre (LRC), MENA Rights Group, Minority Rights Group, Pan Africa ILGA, PEN International, People in Need (Czech Republic), Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED), Rafto Foundation for Human Rights, Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour l'Observation et le Suivi des Élections en Guinée (ROSE), The Tunisian Human Rights League, Tunisian Forum for Youth Empowerment, Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), Vigilance pour La Démocratie et l'Etat Civil, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.