



 [article55egypt](https://www.facebook.com/article55egypt)

**Article 55 Coalition Bulletin: Violations  
Documented in Egypt's Prisons and  
Detention Centers  
(July 1 to July 31, 2025)**



الشبكة المصرية  
لحقوق الانسان  
Egyptian Network For Human Rights ENHR



The Article 55 Coalition has released a bulletin highlighting various violations occurring in Egyptian prisons and detention centers. These violations directly contradict Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution, which stipulates:

**“Anyone who is apprehended, detained, or has their freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. Torture, intimidation, coercion, physical or psychological harm shall not be inflicted upon them. Their detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated facilities that are suitable, both in terms of humane and health standards...”**

## **Developments in Egypt – July 2025**

In July 2025, Egypt experienced interconnected political, economic, and social developments, reflecting the overlap between domestic affairs and surrounding regional and international dynamics. With Israel's continued bombardment of Gaza, the tightening of the blockade, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid to its residents, Egyptians followed the situation with anxiety and concern over its possible repercussions for internal stability and livelihoods.

### **Domestic scene**

In Egypt, in July 2025, a significant legislative change took place after the House of Representatives approved the draft rental law and canceled the old rent law. The most prominent features of the new law are:

- The existence of specific transitional periods: old residential contracts automatically expire after 7 years from the date the law comes into force.
- Non-residential contracts (such as shops and offices) expire after 5 years, with an annual increase determined and rents divided according to residential areas.

This has led to social concern about the potential displacement of some families after the end of the seven-year period, due to the absence of alternatives and the high cost of prices and rents, especially for vulnerable groups (the elderly, widows, and those with fixed incomes).

A fire broke out at Ramses Central on the evening of Monday, July 7, 2025, on the seventh floor of the building, and lasted for about 13 hours before being brought under control with the help of the water company and by cutting electricity and gas. The incident resulted in the death of four employees and the injury of 27 others, who were transferred to nearby hospitals.

The fire caused serious damage to infrastructure, including vital cables and servers, which led to widespread disruption of internet and communication services in areas of Cairo and Giza. According to NetBlocks, national connectivity dropped to 62% of the normal level.

The incident revealed the fragility of the digital infrastructure and Egypt's reliance on a single point of failure—"Ramses Central"—which is considered the main hub for both local and international internet and telecommunications. The fire also raised discussions about the importance of geographically and technologically distributing telecommunications infrastructure to avoid such outages in the future.

## Security and Judicial Crackdown

Security attacks and judicial targeting of citizens and human rights defenders continued at their usual pace, as the State Security Prosecution continued referring cases to trials and setting new sessions for previously referred cases.

The cases referred during the past nine months have reached about 230 cases. Some had hearings scheduled before terrorism circuits, while others have not yet been scheduled.

These cases include thousands of detainees, many of whom have been “recycled” into more than one case with the same charges and allegations.

Despite decisions by the prosecution to release some detainees, it was announced at the same time that new investigations and detentions were carried out in numbers exceeding those released.

## Labor protests

During the month, professional protests also escalated, reflecting the dissatisfaction of large segments of society with economic and social policies. Workers carried out more than one strike against low wages or the non-payment of dues.

Despite the economic and social pressures, Egypt remained subject to effective security containment mechanisms aimed at eliminating any tangible protest movements, whether from within labor sectors or from solidarity movements with Gaza.

Labor protests were the most visible, but they did not develop into a broad popular movement due to the continued pressure from the security services.

## Human rights situation

On the human rights front, Egypt continues to impose strict security policies on activists and human rights defenders. A number of them remain imprisoned and have not been released, while some have been charged in new cases and detained even after exceeding the legal period of pretrial detention.

Authorities also continue to pursue and imprison those who express solidarity with Gaza. During July, Egypt witnessed incidents involving the arrest of several bloggers active in various fields on the internet.

## Badr Prison – Suicide attempts and deteriorating conditions

Badr Prison also witnessed several suicide attempts, and conditions worsened dangerously during recent days, with 16 suicide attempts recorded in less than two weeks, including three attempts on July 4:

- Dr. Abdel Rahim Mohamed, a cardiology consultant, attempted to slit his throat in front of surveillance cameras.
- Reda Abu El-Gheit tried to cut his veins with his teeth.
- International economist Dr. Abdallah Shahat attempted to hang himself.

These incidents are not isolated events, but rather a collective cry for help from inside a prison that has turned into a furnace consuming life and dignity.

Summary of violations documented by the “Article 55” Coalition in Egyptian detention centers – July 2025  
The organizations of the “Article 55” Coalition documented the following violations inside prisons and other detention centers in Egypt during July 2025:

## **Deaths in detention (6 cases)**

- First victim: Reda Ali Mansour, aged 60, died inside the prison transport vehicle while being transferred from Borg El Arab Prison Hospital in Alexandria to Badr Court in Cairo to attend one of his trial sessions. This occurred after repeated pleas to save him went unanswered. Earlier in July, he had been transferred from Port Said Prison to Borg El Arab Prison Hospital after his health deteriorated due to cancer, and the lack of necessary treatment in Port Said Prison Hospital.
- Second victim: Abdel Moneim Abdel Baset Ismail El-Sayed, 40 years old, from the village of El-Tawila – Faqous district, Sharqia Governorate. He died after contracting a skin disease caused by poor detention conditions and deliberate medical neglect. He had spent more than six years under repeated arbitrary detention known as “rotation.” His deteriorating condition spread infection to other detainees, prompting the administration to isolate him in solitary confinement without providing any medical care. When his health worsened further, he was transferred to Faqous Hospital, but medical intervention came too late, and he died there.
- Third victim: Dr. Mohamed Salem Ghoneim, Professor of Library and Information Science, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University. He died inside Wadi El Natrun Prison 440 after four years in detention without clear charges or a court sentence, under the same harsh conditions endured by many prisoners. He suffered clear and deliberate medical neglect that led to his death. Dr. Ghoneim was a respected academic figure in Egypt, author of numerous scientific works in information and library sciences, and mentor to generations of researchers.
- Fourth victim: Ayman Sabry Abdel Wahab, a 21-year-old university student, died in the custody of Belqas Police Station, Dakahlia Governorate, after a week of severe torture inside the station. He was arrested on Saturday, July 19, 2025, and taken to Belqas Police Station, where he was held in the Investigations Unit for several days without being presented to the prosecution within the legal timeframe. During this period, he was subjected to severe torture, leading to a critical decline in his health. On the last family visit, Friday, he appeared in extreme exhaustion and collapsed in front of them. He handed his family a paper listing medications, without explaining the reason. Despite his condition, he was neither taken for treatment nor granted medical release. He died inside the station on Friday, but his death was concealed from his family, who only learned of it through his lawyer at 2:30 a.m. on Sunday—around 24 hours later.
- Fifth victim: Karim Mohamed Abdu Badr, 25 years old, died in custody at Saf Police Station, Giza, on Sunday, July 27, 2025. Security forces in Giza had arrested him and his brother on charges of attempting to steal a tuk-tuk. No further details were given about the circumstances of his arrest or his health in custody. According to testimony from a recently released detainee: “The detention inside Saf Police Station is completely inhumane. People are dying from overcrowding—far too many crammed into a small space without any care. The smell is unbearable. Contagious skin diseases are spreading because of poor hygiene and high temperatures. Smoking and drugs of all kinds are available inside, with the knowledge of officers and guards. Everyone knows it, and no one does anything. There is no inspection and no respect for the most basic rights of the detainees.”

- Sixth victim: Farid Mohamed Abdel Latif Shalabi, 52, from Ezbet El-Harda in Motobas, Kafr El-Sheikh. He was a teacher at Mohamed Ragab Religious Institute in Waqf Bahri, Motobas. He died in the custody of the Central Security Forces—one of the National Security detention centers in Kafr El-Sheikh. Shalabi had been pursued for years until security forces arrested him on Monday, July 7, in Borg El Arab, and transferred him directly to Central Security custody in Kafr El-Sheikh. There, he was subjected to systematic torture that caused his death. He breathed his last in custody as a result of harsh and inhumane treatment. Security forces contacted his family to inform them of his death without providing any explanation of the cause or circumstances. His body was handed over and buried under heavy security supervision, in an obvious attempt to cover up the crime and erase evidence.

## Hunger strikes and appeals

- The coalition documented dozens of detainees in Ward 4 (Investigation) of Wadi El Natrun Prison entering an open hunger strike to protest grave violations, especially arbitrary transfers from Badr 1 and Badr 3 prisons to Wadi El Natrun, despite being originally from Cairo and the Delta. These detainees have all been in pretrial detention for many years—some for more than five years without trial or release—facing deteriorating humanitarian and health conditions amid a complete absence of judicial or independent human rights oversight.
- In Prison 440, Wadi El Natrun, detainees issued an urgent appeal against what they described as systematic violations practiced against them for years by the prison's head of investigations, Lt. Col. Mohamed Abdel Mottaleb.  
They reported deliberate restrictions on their daily lives:
  - Most visit supplies are banned.
  - Only one insufficient meal is allowed in.
  - The prison canteen has been turned into a commercial shop with inflated prices.
  - Fans, bedding, shoes, razors, baked goods, and other essentials are prohibited—amounting to material and psychological starvation.

Prisoners also suffer from near-total deprivation of exercise and ventilation. They are allowed out of their cells only one hour a day, and during official holidays the cells are locked completely—as happened recently when they were closed from Wednesday morning until Saturday morning without being opened, causing exhaustion and breathing difficulties.

Violations extend to healthcare: sick prisoners are humiliated when taken to the prison hospital, mocked for their suffering, and denied medicine by the hospital's director, "Dr. Hani" (dentist), and ophthalmologist Dr. Mohamed El-Mokhlesawi.

## **Badr 3 Prison**

The coalition documented what is happening in Badr Prison 3, where the most horrific violations and human rights crimes are committed against political detainees. They have endured years of deadly isolation and inhumane conditions, including denial of visits, exercise, medical treatment, and human contact—some for more than ten years in total isolation.

The situation has worsened in recent weeks, with 16 suicide attempts recorded in less than two weeks. On July 4 alone, three detainees attempted suicide:

- Dr. Abdel Rahim Mohamed (cardiologist) tried to slit his throat before surveillance cameras.
- Reda Abu El-Gheit attempted to cut his veins with his teeth.
- International economist Dr. Abdallah Shahat attempted to hang himself.

These are not isolated incidents but a collective cry for help from a prison that has become a furnace consuming life and dignity.

A number of political detainees also launched an open hunger strike to protest continued isolation and deprivation, and to demand their basic humanitarian rights: exercise, family visits, necessary medical care, and an end to deliberate neglect. Among the most prominent strikers are:

- Dr. Mohamed El-Beltagy
- Dr. Abdel Rahman El-Barr
- Lawyer Osama Morsi
- Former minister Khaled El-Azhari
- Amin El-Seirfi
- Engineer Asaad El-Sheikha
- Yousri Anbar
- Engineer Amr Zaki
- Sobhi Saleh

Their demands focused on ending psychological and physical torture, improving detention conditions, and respecting human rights.

During the strike, cases of fainting and diabetic comas increased, particularly among older detainees with weakened immunity, due to shortages of food and medicine and the absence of medical intervention. In a controversial session on Saturday, July 5, 2025, before Judge Mohamed El-Saeed El-Shorbiny in Case No. 21212021/, detainees including Khaled El-Azhari and Dr. Hassan El-Prince requested that their health conditions be recorded and blood pressure and sugar levels measured. The judge ignored the requests and insisted on renewing detention without considering their critical condition, reflecting the judiciary's indifference to detainees' suffering.

The prison administration, led by National Security officer Marwan Hamad, showed no sympathy for the detainees or their demands, but instead responded with mockery, saying: "No one remembers you or cares about you outside prison!" This official stance reflects a systematic policy adopted by Egyptian authorities toward political detainees, especially in places like Badr 3, where they are treated as if erased from history and memory.



## Special appeal

The coalition documented an urgent plea for the release of Mohamed Walid Mohamed Abdel Moneim, 19 years old. He was arrested in April 2024 and investigated by the State Security Prosecution, which charged him with leading and financing a terrorist organization.

Mohamed suffers from severe medical conditions that make him entirely unable to sit or move without assistance. He cannot perform the simplest tasks, such as opening a door. He has a spinal deformity and curvature, disability in his left arm and leg, an enlarged skull, atrophy in his left foot, weakness in his heart and lungs, and other conditions.

## Conclusion

The organizations of the “Article 55” Coalition believe that what is happening inside prisons and detention centers in Egypt is not surprising, but consistent with the general approach adopted by the authorities in handling detainees, especially political ones. These are not isolated violations but systematic and entrenched practices.

The coalition stresses that the policy of impunity granted to officials responsible for human rights violations in detention has encouraged the continuation and expansion of such practices, to the point that they have become a fixed approach of the prison authorities. No official has ever been referred for accountability or even questioned, despite well-documented, serious violations.

These ongoing practices raise grave concerns about the fate of detainees, especially with the sharp rise in deaths in detention recently, alongside the severe deterioration of living conditions.

Accordingly, the coalition organizations call for an urgent investigation into these violations, and for those responsible to be held accountable in accordance with Egyptian law and international standards. They also demand adherence to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and to the Egyptian Prison Regulations, an end to their violations, and the guarantee of living conditions that respect the dignity and humanity of detainees.



 **article55egypt**

## **Article 55 Coalition**

**Committee for Justice - El-Shehab Center for Human Rights -  
Egyptian Network for Human Rights - Najda for Human Rights**

