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



الشبكة المصرية
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Egyptian Network For Human Rights ENHR



Article 55 of the Egyptian Constitution:

«Anyone who is arrested, detained, or has their freedom restricted must be treated in a manner that preserves their dignity. They may not be tortured, intimidated, coerced, or physically or morally harmed. Detention or imprisonment shall only take place in designated, humane, and health-appropriate locations...»

Developments in Egypt in October 2025

The month of October 2025 witnessed a series of political, economic, social, and human rights developments that reflected the persistence of internal crises amid a complex regional landscape. Egypt hosted an international summit in Sharm El-Sheikh on October 13, 2025, titled the Gaza Peace Summit, co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and U.S. President Donald Trump. The summit was attended by over 20 international leaders to discuss ending the war in Gaza. An agreement was signed to end the war, which had lasted more than two years, resulting in the deaths of many children, women, youth, and the elderly, and the destruction of Gaza's infrastructure. Despite the ceasefire, violations continue sporadically. Humanitarian aid has begun to enter Gaza after months of deliberate starvation, which has had direct political and economic repercussions on Egypt.

Domestically, the process of accepting candidacy applications for the Egyptian House of Representatives elections began. Many candidates, all representing opposition currents, were excluded. Some commentators noted that the elections are devoid of opposition, with a single list guaranteed to win, indicating the ongoing political deadlock.

Egypt also held a bilateral summit with the European Union, during which the Egyptian President met with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission to discuss political and economic cooperation, migration, and regional challenges. Several human rights organizations called on the EU to review its relations with Egypt in light of ongoing human rights violations.

Economically, Egypt began preparations for the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) near the Giza Pyramids—a major cultural and tourism project showcasing thousands of artifacts. The government announced extensive security and logistical preparations for the opening. However, the project faced criticism over a lack of transparency regarding its costs and the financial burden it imposes on the Egyptian economy amid difficult living conditions. The Ministry of Planning announced a 5.4% increase in external debt during the 2024/2025 fiscal year, reaching \$161.23 billion by the end of June. Inflation saw a slight decline in September but remained above expectations, with vegetable prices rising by 12.3%, housing rent by 12%, and increases in fruit, personal care products, and hospital services, indicating continued living pressures.

On the human rights front, courts continued to hear numerous cases referred by the Supreme State Security Prosecution, involving large numbers of pretrial detainees—some held for over five years. Most charges relate to expressing opinions on social media, labeled as spreading false news.

Economist Abdel Khalek Farouk was sentenced to five years in prison for allegedly spreading false news in a trial that lacked fair trial standards. The charges were based on opinions he expressed on his personal page and in articles.

We also documented the re-arrest of journalist Safaa Al-Korbeji by Egyptian security forces, after her release in February of the previous year, due to her reporting on corruption. Similarly, researcher and journalist Hani Sobhi was arrested over posts on his Facebook page.

Labor Law No. 14 of 2025 came into effect on September 1, 2025, and applies to labor disputes starting October 1, 2025. However, concerns remain about its implementation, with critics arguing that legislation alone is insufficient without effective enforcement. The reforms are seen as superficial, failing to prioritize practical application. One of the key challenges remains the strength of independent unions and the genuine representation of workers amid labor market changes and economic reforms.

Journalists at Al-Wafd newspaper escalated their protest against the party's administration by launching an open sit-in at the party's headquarters, demanding the implementation of the minimum wage. Female employees of the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education from various governorates organized a protest in front of the Authority's headquarters in Cairo, demanding a suitable work environment and the enforcement of court rulings affirming their right to permanent employment. Workers at Al Ahly Club branches in Sheikh Zayed, Tagamoa, and Nasr City held simultaneous protests demanding the implementation of the minimum wage. We also documented the summoning of 10 workers from the Edfu Sugar Factory in Aswan by the National Security Agency of the Ministry of Interior, in a clear act of intimidation against workers demanding their rights. Security workers at Madinaty, a project by Alexandria Construction Company (a subsidiary of Talaat Moustafa Group), organized a protest demanding salary and allowance increases. Additionally, around 1,500 workers at the Canal Mooring and Lighting Company (affiliated with the Suez Canal Authority) launched a full strike on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, in response to new internal regulations that reduced their profit shares by 25%. Security forces quickly surrounded the company buildings, imposed a strict lockdown, and prevented administrative staff from joining the strike. The company's management refused to engage in dialogue with the workers until the sit-in was ended and operations resumed.

The Justice Committee documented 1,419 violations in its semi-annual report (January–June 2025) inside detention centers, including 18 deaths. Conditions in prisons and detention facilities remain dire, with no notable improvements.

Summary of violations documented by the Article 55 coalition in Egyptian detention centers – October 2025

The Article 55 Coalition documented the following violations in Egyptian prisons and detention facilities during October 2025. Four deaths were recorded: Khalil Mohamed Abu Heba, from El-Mahalla El-Kubra, died in the Third El-Mahalla Police Station, allegedly due to brutal torture during detention. Ahmed Hamed Beshendi, 68, a former municipal employee from Toukh, Qalyubia, died in Abu Zaabal Prison after a sudden health crisis. He was transferred to Badr Hospital, where he was diagnosed with acute intestinal obstruction and passed away. He had been arrested in 2024 at Cairo Airport while traveling to Saudi Arabia for Umrah and was detained in Case No. 185 of 2023 (Supreme State Security). Mostafa Taha, 36, an employee at the Ministry of Supply, died in El-Marg Police Station on October 5, 2025, days after being detained over an in-absentia sentence related to a family dispute. Saleh Ayed Rabie, died in Minya Prison after cancer spread throughout his body over eight months without receiving adequate medical care, despite repeated requests for transfer to a specialized hospital. He had been detained since January 2014 in connection with the Helwan Police Station case. He was a father of three. Authorities refused to allow a funeral prayer and buried him at 3 a.m., two days after his death.

Clashes occurred in Minya Maximum Security Prison after security forces attempted to forcibly transfer dozens of political detainees to New Valley Prison—known among detainees and their families as the death prison. Detainees resisted and threatened mass suicide if forced to move. After security forces stormed the cells using batons and reinforcements, around 12 detainees attempted suicide by cutting their wrists and ingesting pills. They were eventually forced out and transferred. Upon arrival at New Valley Prison, they began a full hunger strike, demanding the fulfillment of promises made by a National Security officer at Abu Zaabal Prison not to transfer them to New Valley but only temporarily to Minya until relocation closer to their homes.

In Borg Al-Arab Prison, under the supervision of officers Hamza Al-Masry and Amr Omar, a harsh and degrading strip-search operation was carried out in Ward 22. Detainees were forced to stand facing the wall for over an hour and a half. Their personal belongings were scattered, some were damaged, and essential items were lost. Outdoor time was completely suspended.

Conclusion

The Article 55 Coalition affirms that the prevailing conditions in Egyptian prisons and detention facilities cannot be dismissed as isolated incidents or exceptional violations, as claimed by the Ministry of Interior. Rather, they reflect a systematic pattern in the management of detainees, particularly those held for political reasons. The Coalition stresses that the Egyptian authorities' policy of impunity for those responsible for human rights violations in detention facilities has entrenched these abuses and institutionalized them within the prison system. No security or administrative official has been held accountable, despite repeated documentation by independent human rights organizations. The Coalition warns that the continuation of these policies raises serious concerns about the fate of detainees, especially amid increasing distress calls from inside detention centers and the ongoing deterioration of living conditions.

In this context, the Coalition emphasizes that detainees possess inalienable rights that must not be violated. These rights are guaranteed by national legislation and relevant international conventions, foremost among them the right to physical and psychological integrity, access to adequate healthcare and nutrition, communication with the outside world—including family and legal visits—and the right to challenge the legality of detention before an independent judicial authority. Respecting these rights is the cornerstone of any criminal justice system committed to upholding human dignity.

Based on the above, Article 55 Coalition calls for an urgent and independent investigation into the documented violations in detention facilities. Accountability for those responsible, in accordance with Egyptian law and relevant international standards, is essential to end the policy of impunity. Full compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the Egyptian Prison Regulations must be ensured. All practices that contravene these standards must cease. Dignified living conditions that uphold the humanity and fundamental rights of detainees must be guaranteed.

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