

Egypt: A snapshot of systemic violations documented in 2023 and 2024

In 2023 & 2024, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF), in partnership with the International Commission of Jurists (the ICJ), documented and supported victims of serious human rights violations in Egypt in **66 cases**. The violations documented in these cases provide a small snapshot of the wider patterns previously and numerous documented in Egypt by the ICJ and ECRF, including violations by the Egyptian authorities of victims’ rights to protection from enforced disappearance and torture, and to a fair trial.

A. STATISTICS FROM ACROSS ALL 66 DOCUMENTATION AND LEGAL SUPPORT CASES



97% of victims were subject to enforced disappearance at some point after arrest

Enforced Disappearance: the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person from the detainee’s legal counsel and family. Use of enforced disappearance by the Egyptian authorities to crackdown on dissidents has been widespread and systematic.



24% suffered some form of torture or ill-treatment other than, or in addition to, enforced disappearance

Enforced Disappearance as torture or ill-treatment: the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has found that any act of enforced disappearance violates the victim’s, and their family’s, right to protection from torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. Torture and enforced disappearance are so widespread and systematic in Egypt as to amount to a crime against humanity.



4% of victims were rotated from other cases into their current case (Tadweer)

Tadweer: also known as “case rotation” or “case recycling”, tadweer is a practice in Egypt of adding defendants to multiple consecutive cases on near-identical charges and facts as previous cases they were charged in to restart the clock on pre-trial detention once the time limit is reached, keeping these individuals in indefinite pre-trial detention. The practice is also used to rotate victims into new periods of pre-trial detention on the completion of prison sentences.

B. STATISTICS CONCERNING THE 64 VICTIMS FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED (THE 97%)

14%
of victims were disappeared
> 2 years

33%
of victims were disappeared
3 months - 2 years



53%
of victims were
disappeared
< 3 months

14% of the 64 victims disappeared for any amount of time, remain disappeared

C. STATISTIC FROM THE 29 LEGAL SUPPORT CASES



In **88% of the cases** in which ECRF provided legal support, the Supreme State Security Prosecution investigated victims for, or charged them with, serious offences under the 2015 “Counter-terrorism” Law.

Abuse of Counter-Terrorism Framework: the Egyptian authorities have long weaponized the 2015 law to bring serious charges against human rights defenders and activists in retaliation for their legitimate work defending human rights or exercising their right to freedom of expression.

To read more about the context of these violations, refer to the ICJ’s previous submissions and publications:

International Commission of Jurists. (2024). Egypt: At the Universal Periodic Review, States must Call on Egypt to End Egregious Human Rights Violations. Retrieved from: <https://www.icj.org/egypt-at-the-universal-periodic-review-states-must-call-on-egypt-to-end-egregious-human-rights-violations/>