

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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## **Egypt Rises: Recommendations to the Egyptian authorities**

To address the human rights violations perpetrated specifically in the context of the “25 January Revolution”, Amnesty International makes the following recommendations to the Egyptian authorities:

### **To the Egyptian authorities:**

- Conduct full, impartial and independent investigations into all cases of human rights violations taking place in the context of the “25 January Revolution”, including excessive use of force; arbitrary detention and torture and other ill-treatment, including by members of the armed forces; and killings and torture of prisoners. Ensure that the investigations cover violations committed outside the major urban centres, especially regions in Upper Egypt and in Egypt’s informal settlements;
- Ensure that victims and families of those killed and their legal representatives have access to and are informed of all information related to the Fact-Finding National Commission about 25 January Revolution and Public Prosecutor’s investigations, and are aware of mechanisms enabling them to present evidence;
- Publish the full findings of the Fact-Finding National Commission about 25 January Revolution, including a full list of all those killed during the unrest and the circumstances of their deaths;
- Guarantee that no evidence of human rights abuses, including evidence of unlawful killings, is tampered with or destroyed and that investigations into all killings follow the methods set out in the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extralegal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions;
- Ensure that the National Commission’s findings, including a full list of those killed in the unrest, and its recommendations, are officially published and widely disseminated without undue delay, including by means of a written report describing its findings in detail;
- Ensure that everyone who provides information to investigations into human right abuses is adequately protected from reprisals or any other form of intimidation;
- Take special measures to assist victims, their families and their legal representatives in accessing information about the investigation, presenting views and concerns, registering their case, participating and giving testimony;
- Guarantee that families of those killed are provided with autopsy reports, medical certificates and any other evidence or information necessary to clarify the circumstances and causes of the death of their relatives;
- Establish a vetting system to ensure that, pending investigation, officials and others about whom there is evidence of serious human rights violations do not remain or are not placed in positions where they could repeat such violations;

- Ensure that all those criminally responsible for unlawful killing and injuries as a result of excessive and arbitrary use of force in policing demonstrations or in prisons, including those who committed the violations or ordered others to commit them, are brought to justice in proceedings meeting international standards of fair trial and with no possibility of the death penalty;
- Investigate all allegations of torture or other ill-treatment in line with the Principles on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, even when no official complaint has been made; bring all those responsible to justice; and provide adequate reparation to victims;
- Publicly condemn torture and other ill-treatment; ensure that these practices cease; and make clear to all officers involved in arrest, detention and interrogation that torture and other ill-treatment will not be tolerated under any circumstances;
- Establish a mechanism that provides for the mandatory conduct of independent, unrestricted and unannounced visits to all places of detention (which include confidential interviews with any detainees of the visiting body's choice), including any national security and military facilities;
- Ensure that all injured are rehabilitated at the highest standard of medical treatment without incurring expenses, especially those who suffered from handicap as a result of their injury;
- Provide all victims of human rights violations with financial compensation and other forms of reparation that are appropriate and proportional to the gravity of the violation, the harm suffered and the circumstances of their case, including the coverage of full medical costs to those injured during demonstrations as a result of excessive use of force or other abuses by members of the security forces;
- Ensure that enough information and assistance is provided for potential beneficiaries seeking to claim financial compensation;
- Issue a formal apology at the highest level of the State to victims of human rights violations;
- Publish and disseminate in a form that is readily accessible to the public the rules and regulations on the use of force by all security forces, including the army;
- Ensure that security forces and other law enforcement officers act in line with the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, by giving clear instructions that force may only be used when strictly necessary and only to the extent required for performance of their duty, and that lethal force may only be used when strictly unavoidable in order to protect their lives or the lives of others;
- Undertake a fundamental overhaul of all the security and law enforcement bodies, and make public a clear structure of the various security branches with a clear chain of command and full accountability under the law;
- Ensure that the newly-established National Security Department does not have powers to arrest and detain people incommunicado and is firmly placed under judicial oversight;
- Immediately lift the state of emergency and repeal all provisions of the Emergency Law that entrench human rights violations. The state must not arbitrarily detain people, torture them, engage in other reprisals against them, or deny their right to fair trial;

- Abolish trials of civilians before military and emergency courts. Halt immediately all trials of civilians before military courts and either release them or transfer them to civilian courts for fair trial;
- Release all those detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly, including those convicted by military courts; and uphold the rights to freedom of assembly and to freedom of expression, including by protecting the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers and through any media; and by refraining from imposing undue restrictions on Internet and mobile telecommunications services; and
- Ratify the Optional Protocol on the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.