



**CAIRO INSTITUTE**  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES  
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme  
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

**United Nations Human Rights Council: Session 33**

**Oral Intervention: Item 4 General Debate**

**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**

**19 September, 2016**

**Delivered by: Bahey Eldin Hassan**

Thank you Mr. President.

My name is Bahey Eldin Hassan and I am the founder and Director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

24 years ago I was honoured to receive my first training on UN mechanisms here in this building. But today I'm here because two days ago, upon the Egyptian government's request, a Cairo court ordered the freezing of my personal assets, the assets of the Cairo Institute, and those of other leading rights defenders and organizations.

This will effectively end the ability of many independent rights organizations to operate and continue their work on defending human rights and exposing unprecedented human rights violations in Egypt.

More severe rulings are expected in the coming period as more brave and principled defenders will risk up to 25 years in prison under a recently-amended article that is allegedly placed to address terrorism but is being used against rights defenders.

This effort to eradicate civil society comes during a period of unprecedented government repression that has led to more radicalization; a time where civil society is needed the most.

If this Council stays silent in face of the Egyptian government's escalation, it should expect that other governments across the world may follow suit.

Mr. President, I'm lucky. While I have only received death threats, tens of thousands of other peaceful Egyptians have been killed, tortured, imprisoned, or disappeared. I fear deeply for the future of the human rights movement in Egypt and even more for the future of my country under this unprecedented type of corrupt, military authoritarianism.