



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**

Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme

مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

- UN Human Rights Council: 54th Session
- Item 4: General Debate
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
- Oral Intervention

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Egypt: Absence of democracy has resulted in deteriorated quality of life for citizens

The recent spate of arrests and arbitrary detention of media figures, dissidents and/or their family members in Egypt ahead of the upcoming presidential election is indicative of the severe crackdown on basic freedoms and liberties occurring within the country, and reflects the Egyptian government's lack of genuine political will to address the human rights crisis.

In the last decade, no less than 3,000 citizens have been forcibly disappeared and at least 1,200 people have died by torture, mistreatment, and medical negligence in detention sites. More than 750 people have been extrajudicially executed, and there have been 655 cases of sexual assault against detained individuals. These figures, documented by Egyptian human rights organizations, may be much less than the actual number of cases.

Meanwhile, despite several declarations by the Egyptian authorities about their commitment to advancing socio-economic rights, the lack of good governance, democracy and accountability have worsened living conditions for the majority of the population.

The continued silence on Egypt by the HRC and its member states will only encourage further violations. NGOs continue to urge UN member states to ensure appropriate action on Egypt at the UN Human Rights Council through the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism on the human rights situation in the country, or at the very least, a follow-up joint statement by governments condemning the human rights crisis in the country and calling on the Egyptian government to refrain from continuing to commit widespread human rights violations.