



**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 - 55th Session**

**Item 4 – General Debate (Situations that require the attention of the Council)**

**Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)**

**Oral Intervention**

**20 March 2024**

**Delivered by: Mayssa Achek**

## **Egyptians' calls for "bread, freedom, and social justice" have become more distant than ever before**

Mr. President,

Thirteen years after Egyptians courageously took to the streets to demand dignity, their calls for “bread, freedom and social justice” are further away than ever before.

President Sisi’s decade of authoritarian rule has been an unmitigated human rights disaster: Instead of bread, Egyptians have been given an economy in free-fall; instead of freedom, tens of thousands have been imprisoned; and in place of social justice the people of Egypt have been treated to astounding levels of rampant corruption enforced through brutal repression.

President Sisi and his government have [orchestrated](#) an unprecedented crackdown on civil liberties, [obliterated](#) the rule of law and independent civil society, and [stamped out](#) the political opposition – using surges in [arbitrary detentions](#) and [death sentences](#), widespread torture that may amount to a [crime against humanity](#), and routine practices of [enforced disappearance](#) and [unending pretrial detention](#).

Other violations include: Horrific conditions and deaths due to [medical neglect](#) and [suicide](#) in Badr Prison, a continued crackdown on free media persists, with hundreds of websites blocked, and a [slew of violations](#) during Egypt’s recent unfree and unfair presidential election. The question for many experts is no longer if but *when* this house of cards will fall?

The wholly inadequate response of this Council and international community to the human rights crises in Egypt will only accelerate this process.