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Universal Periodic Review

Written statement* submitted by Human Rights Information and Training Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[01 February 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Human Rights in Egypt

At the end of this month, Egypt will give its approval to the recommendations submitted by the member states of the Human Rights Council, and it is scheduled to hold a final adoption in mid-March 2020 to present the position of the Egyptian government recommendations,

The Human Rights Information and Training Center stresses the need to interact with the human rights file by dealing with the universal periodic review file.

Laws regulating freedom of opinion and expression showed a reflection of what the country was exposed to after the events of June 30 and the exit of people against the "Islamic" regime and the subsequent exposure of the country to events described as terrorism, which consisted in burning and destroying dozens of public institutions and Christian and Islamic places of worship and bombings that killed hundreds of civilians. This situation was reflected in the legislator who wanted to achieve a balance between exercising freedom and protecting the country, and a series of laws were issued, including the Anti-Terrorism Law and a law on cybercrime, then an amendment to the penal laws and procedures; 3 laws regulating the media and the press were also issued. They are: Law No. 178 of 2018 establishing the National Media Authority, the first of which was the Department of Official Information Affairs; Law 179 of 2018 establishing the National Press Authority, which gave it the administration of Official Press Affairs owned by the government; and Law No. 180 of 2018 establishing the Supreme Council for the Regulation of Information, He who has 3 specializations, part of the Ministry of Information, another of the Ministry of Communications, and part of the Ministry of Investment, to serve private and official media and press institutions, whether printed or electronic, and to establish and renew licenses, and has been granted the right to punish the media and journalists disciplinarily.

Returned position of the Minister of Information and became the Minister of State for Information Affairs attempt to set a national strategy for the media in coordination with the three constitutional institutions a number of regulations were issued to organize the media circulation of some issues, the regulations that were subject to severe criticism and issued by the Supreme Council for the Regulation of Information, after the closed news sites and television channels, which put pressure and considered negative signs of freedom of expression in Egypt.

Frequently, criticism is directed at the media industry in Egypt because of the lack of constitutional rights, the lack of understanding by the new bodies of their roles, and the attempt by some to circumvent the will to reform the media, although the official political discourse is clear in ensuring media reform.

The legislative framework regulating the work of the press needs a serious correction to ensure the performance of the press message and to guarantee freedom of opinion and expression.

The process of chasing those who express their opinion through organized groups of lawyers specialized in submitting complaints to the Public Prosecution against them, by exploiting the right to complain to the official authorities, is still ongoing.

The arrested journalists are imprisoned by judicial decisions issued by the Public Prosecution and their accusations have nothing to do with publishing, and they are crimes related to political activities, accusations of supporting terrorism or inciting violence through social media sites or violating the procedures for issuing newspapers, except that their long periods in pre-trial detention insult to The situation of freedom of opinion and expression and their release pending their trial greatly improves the general situation, especially since they number thirty journalists and social activists. a balance must be struck between the requirements of combating terrorism and enabling citizens to exercise their freedoms, foremost of which is freedom to express opinions, exercise the right to criticize senior officials, firm commitment to the provisions of Articles 70, 71 and 72 of the Constitution, and review the laws regulating freedom in the light of these articles.

Women rights

Egypt ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Egyptian women have made remarkable achievements in Fundamental Rights, on the top of the list women economic rights.

Egyptian women played an important role in local development during the past years, when Egyptian working women Passed the women of many obstacles in the period from 2006 through the revolution of 25 January 2011 then the revolution of 30 June 2013 till now.

In addition to the achieved positive legislative reforms to support women's economic empowerment such as the new investment law, the new bankruptcy law, which helps women to enter the labor market without fear, the harshness of the punishment of sexual harassment in the workplace.

The new inheritance law that criminalizing the denial of inheritance, and the Companies Act, Includes individual projects and One-person companies, along with the Civil Service Act of 2016

Finally, The Social Insurance Law, which opens the door to non-regular employment which included empowering women socially and economically as a major theme in the women's rights program, and through the savings and loan associations in the villages.

And the program works to improve the economic and social security for women in Egypt, needs support of all the international partners and grants to increase the number of women of receivables for economic empowerment through governmental institutions or civil society

Child Rights

Egypt Child Rights faces many challenges despite the Government's achievements and civil society organizations in this field.

In the light of the economic and social changes took place in the country, the Child Rights is the most violated.

Education

A report of The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics showed that the rate of drop-outs from education in Egypt in 2017 reached about one million and one hundred thousand dropouts, the report declared that more than 200,000 dropped out because of physical conditions.

While the number of students who dropouts because of the difficulty of access to school was about 58.2 thousand,

Dropouts due to the desire of the family were 211.9 thousand another in the campus of the early marriage were about 71 thousand students.

Violence against children

Violence against children is one of the important issues which everyone needs to intensify efforts to curb this phenomenon. A national team to eradicate violence was created, which recognized the national plan to eliminate violence.

There were initiatives to eliminate violence against children such as the initiative of "Ulou - El Arham" launched by El Azhar Establishment that targeted raising the awareness domestic violence, and its causes and How to disseminate the values of intimacy and love between family members.

The UNICEF Egypt in December 2016 Launched national campaign to reduce violence against children, in partnership with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

The problem of homeless

The problem of homeless children will remain a serious problem faced by governments and civil society organizations for years, which Egyptian families.

The government took steps to reduce the phenomenon such as a draft to protect homeless children from drugs, as this category of children is a victim of difficult societal conditions and they need support and care to be reintegrated into society.

Election year

2020, Three constitutional claims will be a test of political participation. Elections include parliamentary elections, the board of governors that is considered second legislature, then the local elections.

The parliament discusses during the fifth session in 2020 the amendment parliamentary elections act and law of political rights.

Recommendations

These recommendations represent the basic demands, particularly these related to review the laws to fundamental freedom of speech to release the detainees because of the expression of their views; we stress the following recommendations:

Urging the Egyptian government to work to harmonize national legislation with the international conventions and treaties which it has ratified.

Recommending Egyptian government to work seriously to ensure fair trials for all journalists held on judicial decisions and release all the detainees with charges of the expression of their views.

Recommending the Egyptian government for specialization of judges and prosecutors for child cases in order to develop child-friendly justice.

Urging the government to expand the role of the civil society, and work to raise the awareness of society toward the child rights and positive civil education and flow information necessary for that.

Urging the international to support to national initiatives to achieve sustainable development goals 2030 and provide social protection through the provision of further grants to institutions based on their implementation.

We recommending to work on measures to allow international and local organizations observing of the electoral process, allowing the presence of observers serves as information within the commissions not half-hours as provided for in the present Law.
