Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy: A Year in Review

September 11, 2022 marked one year since the Sisi regime launched Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS), which has been widely criticized as a smokescreen for the country's growing human rights violations. The five-year strategy was drafted through an interagency process chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but did not involve coordination with human rights organizations or public engagement.

In the year that the NHRS was adopted:



individuals were imprisoned or detained on politically motivated charges, according to US State Department estimates





One year after the NHRS was established, the Egyptian state continues to exert tight control over public discourse and has escalated its abuses against journalists, human rights defenders, and political dissidents.



Journalists

70 journalists are held in Egypt's prisons, making the country the world's third worst jailer of journalists

4 journalists working for independent news outlet Mada Masr were summoned for interrogation

Egyptian authorities arrested the editor-in-chief of state-run newspaper Akhbar El-Barlman for speaking out against the imprisonment of Alaa Abd el-Fattah

Prisoners

At least 7 political prisoners have been executed

At least 44 people have died in Egyptian prisons

Authorities have continued to accelerate their use of a 'rotation policy' against political detainees, a strategy that involves renewing arbitrary arrests to keep individuals in prolonged detention

Egypt issued 34% more death sentences in 2021 than in 2020

Human Rights Defenders

Egyptian authorities adopted Law No. 23, which requires all NGOs to register with the government

One of Egypt's longest standing human rights organizations, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, suspended its work

4 months

after the adoption of the NHRS due to its inability to work under Law No. 23



"The NHRS absolves the authorities of any responsibility by blaming security threats, economic challenges and Egyptian citizens themselves for 'failing to understand' and exercise their rights."

- Amnesty International

Adopted in April of 2022, Law No. 23 builds on Egypt's previous efforts to regulate the work and funding of human rights organizations, including via Case 173 and Law No. 149

Law No. 23





The Sisi regime has used the NHRS as "a propaganda tool to conceal ever growing repression of any form of dissent ahead of COP27 in November 2022."

- Amnesty International

Sources: Amnesty International, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Committee to Protect Journalists, Egyptian Front for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Mada Masr, Middle East Monitor, Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy, United States Department of State



Arab Center Washington DC المركز العربي واشنطن دي سي





