

Extrajudicial Killings in Egypt

Patterns, Evidence and Impunity in 2025





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Worldwide Lawyers Association - WOLAS

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Contents

Introduction	6
Summary Executions during Detention	7
Definition of Extrajudicial Killing	8
Methodology	8
Facts and Patterns of Deprivation of the Right to Life	9
Lethal Neglect: Deaths Resulting from Deliberate Medical Neglect and Inhumane Detention Conditions (Prolonged Death)	9
Deaths Resulting from Torture	13
Summary Executions Following Enforced Disappearance	18
Execution of Arbitrary Death Sentences	20
Summary of Findings and Legal Analysis:	
Extrajudicial Killings and Systematic Impunity	22
Key Conclusions	23
Recommendations	24
To the Egyptian Authorities	24
To the International Community (UN, African Union, EU and member states):	25

Abbreviations

CAT	Convention against Torture
CFJ	Committee for Justice
EIPR	Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights
EU	European Union
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PA	Public Attorney
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
WOLAS	Worldwide Lawyers Association

Introduction

The most fundamental of all human rights, the right to life is enshrined in all major international human rights treaties and in the domestic laws of virtually every state. The international community has, since the adoption of the UN Charter and the proclamation of the UDHR on 10 December 1948 (Article 3), consistently affirmed the sanctity of human life. Reflecting the view that the right to life is non-derogable, efforts to abolish the death penalty have gathered considerable momentum, with dozens of states having abolished capital punishment altogether.

In stark contrast to these well-established principles of international law, the Egyptian authorities have demonstrated a persistent and systematic disregard for the right to life. State policies and practices have resulted in recurring violations that may properly be characterised as extrajudicial killings committed on a systematic basis. This report provides a comprehensive statistical account of extrajudicial killings in Egypt during 2025, supported by documentation of individual cases. Drawing on evidence collected by the Monitoring and Documentation Unit of WOLAS over the twelve months between January and December 2025, the report documents incidents amounting to extrajudicial killings perpetrated by state agents within prisons, places of detention, and police stations. The Unit has confirmed at least eighty-seven cases of extrajudicial killings occurring in custodial settings or at the hands of security officers. These violations fall into the following categories:

- Denial of medical care (40 cases)
- Torture leading to death (23 cases)
- Execution pursuant to death sentences imposed after unfair trials (15 cases)
- Summary executions during or after arrest (9 cases)

Note: The total of eighty-seven cases is the aggregate of the four categories listed above. This figure reflects the minimum number of cases documented and verified by WOLAS and should not be construed as an estimate of the total number of extrajudicial killings that occurred in Egypt during the reporting period.

Summary Executions during Detention

- The victim is arrested at the scene, subjected to several hours of intense interrogation under torture and subsequently executed.

Summary executions are not a recent phenomenon in Egypt. Since 2013, the authorities have employed them as a means of suppressing and extracting revenge on their opponents. This policy has resulted in thousands of people being deprived of their lives without a modicum of accountability for the perpetrators, thereby fostering a climate of impunity in which such practices have proliferated. The absence of accountability, however, is not the sole factor contributing to the persistence of extrajudicial killings. The authorities have also sought to legitimise these abuses through the following means:

- President Sisi's speech¹ to army and police officers, in which he assured them that no officer would be held accountable for the use of violence against Egyptians.
- Article 8 of Terrorism Law No. 96 of 2015,² which grants immunity to security personnel from criminal liability for the use of force resulting in death.
- The law granting military commanders immunity from legal prosecution³ for offences committed the events of 2013 and thereafter.
- The systematic promotion and reward of special privileges for officials implicated in serious human rights violations, rather than their prosecution. The current Speaker of Parliament,⁴ Counsellor Hisham Badawi, exemplifies this practice. Badawi played an instrumental role in politically motivated prosecutions during his tenure at the Supreme State Security Prosecution and later headed the Central Auditing Organisation following the dismissal of Counsellor Hisham Geneina, who had exposed widespread corruption within the state apparatus.

1 youtu.be/rF8Yz8J3MHI?si=4j0lcGRVAv0P3hVi

2 <https://manshurat.org/node/14679>

3 <https://manshurat.org/node/28325>

4 <https://www.madamasr.com/2026/01/14/feature/سياسة/هشام-بدوي-رئيساً-للنواب-قضاة-أمن/>

Definition of Extrajudicial Killing

An extrajudicial killing is the intentional deprivation of life by law enforcement authorities or other persons acting with their authorisation, support or acquiescence carried out without due process of law and in absence of a final judgement rendered by a competent, independent and impartial court after proceedings affording the accused all guarantees of a fair trial.

These acts are recognised under international laws and the domestic laws of many states as serious violations that are not subject to any statute of limitations. Among the legal instruments affirming this classification are the following:

- The UDHR (Article 3), which provides that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 6), which affirms that the right to life is inherent in every human being and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their life.
- The UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (1989).
- The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Articles 51 and 55), which obliges the state to protect human dignity and criminalises torture and all forms of assault on human dignity.

Methodology

This report is based on first-hand documentation collected by the WOLAS Monitoring Unit between January and December 2025. The corpus of evidence includes direct interviews with victims' families and survivors, legal case files, medical reports, prison communication logs and cross-verification with local human rights networks, such as ElNadeem Center and the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms. It must be noted, however, that state-imposed media blackouts and the active suppression of information severely impeded documentation efforts. Accordingly, the figures presented in this report provide only a minimum account of the documented abuses rather than a comprehensive picture of their true scale.

Facts and Patterns of Deprivation of the Right to Life

This report examines the documented incidents through the lens of four principal patterns, which, taken together, establish the existence of a systematic policy of extrajudicial killing pursued by the authorities:

Lethal Neglect: Deaths Resulting from Deliberate Medical Neglect and Inhumane Detention Conditions (Prolonged Death)

This has been the most prevalent and pernicious pattern over the past twelve years. Prisoners and detainees are held in cells that fall far below minimum standards of health and safety, creating an environment conducive to the spread of disease among otherwise healthy inmates and effectively imposing a slow death sentence on those suffering from readably treatable conditions. In 2025, deaths resulting from the denial of medical treatment increased significantly compared with the previous year, with no fewer than forty documented cases attributable to medical neglect and the denial of necessary care.

Egypt's prison system has attracted widespread criticism and sustained scrutiny from human rights organisations over the past decade. Although Egypt's constitutional and statutory framework contains provisions that ostensibly align with international standards, the day-to-day reality within prisons diverges sharply. Human rights reports document a wide chasm between the law and its implementation in places of detention. This report analyses the legal framework governing prisons in Egypt and contrasts it with documented violations.

Article 54 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that personal liberty is a natural right and prohibits the arrest or restriction of any person's liberty except pursuant to a reasoned judicial order. Article 55 further requires that every person who is arrested, detained or otherwise deprived of liberty be treated in a manner that preserves his dignity and unequivocally prohibits

torture, intimidation and physical or psychological abuse. Article 56,¹ in turn, defines prisons as ‘places of correctional and rehabilitation’ that are subject to judicial oversight.

Article 37 mandates that if an inmate’s condition becomes critical, the prison administration shall immediately notify the administrative authority within whose jurisdiction the inmate’s family resides so that they may be informed without delay and permitted to visit. In the event of the inmate’s death, the family must likewise be notified forthwith in the same manner, and the body released to them upon request. Should the deceased inmate’s family wish to transfer the body to their hometown, the requisite health measures are to be carried out at government expense prior to its release, while the cost of transport shall be borne by the family. No such transfer shall be permitted in the case of epidemic-related deaths. If the family fails to claim the body within twenty-four hours of the inmate’s death, it shall be deposited in the nearest morgue. If the body remains unclaimed for seven days from the date of deposit, it shall be released to a university institution (As amended by Law No. 119 of 1974).

At the international level, Rules 24 and 35 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)² require that prisoners be provided with healthcare within places of detention. The Rules further mandate that every prison have access to qualified healthcare professionals, that prisoners enjoy the same standards of healthcare that are available in the community, and that healthcare professionals be able to make clinical decisions independently of the prison administration.

According to data compiled by independent human rights organisations, including the ElNadeem Center³ and the Justice Commission, 2025 witnessed an alarming deterioration of conditions in detention conditions, with more

1 <https://www.presidency.eg/ar/%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B1/>

2 https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/GA-RESOLUTION/A_ebook.pdf

3 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GAD6uJk5tREGVQjB3J7Dao1dx4fNtunA/view?fbclid=IwY2xjawPmqIhleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFON1VXbGllKQVBHdGp0QzI3c3J0YwZhcHB-faWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHrFphJTTgRDN-zsi0VaYy6r51R5rLg7cP5C2DT-jHmXd1vNfKpUzB2DZ4gK87_aem__c-oLnSkMo-FpKhHogotJg

than 5,000 documented human rights violations, including torture, enforced disappearances and the deliberate mistreatment of detainees.

Deaths in custody have likewise been documented. According to data compiled by human rights organisations and corroborated by information published by victims' families, between sixty and eighty-seven deaths were recorded. Causes of death ranged from acute circulatory failure resulting from medical negligence to inhumane conditions of detention.

At least 274 cases of gross medical neglect have been documented, with the deliberate denial of medical care employed as an additional form of punishment against political detainees. The most prevalent inhumane conditions documented in prisons and detention centres include the following:

'New Model' Prisons:

Newly constructed prisons, such as the Badr Prison Complex and Wadi El-Natrun Prison, have been repurposed as isolation centres. Documented violations include:

- Constant video surveillance: Cameras are installed inside prison cells and operate twenty-four hours a day, violating minimum standards of privacy and causing severe psychological distress.
- Continuous artificial lighting: Bright lights remain on around the clock, thereby depriving prisoners of regular sleep and amounting to a form of psychological torture that leads to serious mental deterioration.
- Denial of visits: Entire prison sectors, including Badr 3, have been denied visitation for years, effectively isolating detainees from their families and legal counsel.

New Valley Prison

Detainees are subjected to the following conditions in New Valley Prison:

- Denial of blankets: Despite extremely cold weather, the prison administration refuses to permit families to provide blankets to detainees.
- Systematic food deprivation: Detainees are provided inadequate and nutritionally deficient meals as part of a policy of systematic starvation.

- Denial of outdoor exercise: Detainees are deprived of exercise for extended periods and, in some cases, are prohibited from leaving their cells or receive any exposure to sunlight.
- Absence of beds and severe overcrowding: Detainees are forced to sleep on the floor for years in severely overcrowded cells designed to accommodate for ten persons but housing more than thirty. This stands in stark contrast to wings housing non-political offenders, where beds are provided and overcrowding has not been documented.

Survivors' testimonies and reports published by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and other international organisations further corroborate that Egyptian prisons, particularly those housing political detainees, are characterised by systematic human rights abuses.

WOLAS documented at least sixty deaths of prisoners of conscience inside Egyptian prisons during 2025. ElNadeem Center, in its report entitled *The Archive of Oppression in 2025: 366 Days of Tyranny*,⁴ documented seventy-eight deaths in places of detention attributable to a range of causes, with medical negligence identified as the leading cause of death.

Analytical Insight

Most affected groups: The elderly (those over fifty years of age) constitute the largest proportion of victims, at approximately seventy percent, indicating the particular severity of detention conditions for individuals with chronic illnesses.

- Causes of death: Causes ranged from deliberate medical negligence, especially in cases involving cancer and heart patients, to severe physical torture resulting in immediate death, as documented in cases from Manshiyya and Qalyub police stations.
- Timeline: August 2025 recorded the highest mortality rate, with seventeen cases, followed by April and December with seven cases each.

4 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GAD6uJk5tREGVQjB3J7Dao1dx4fNtunA/view>

Deaths Resulting from Torture

Article 52 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that torture in all its forms is a crime not subject to any statute of limitations. This prohibition is further affirmed by international instruments, including the Convention against Torture, ratified by Egypt in 1986, which obliges State Parties to conduct prompt and impartial investigations wherever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture has been committed, and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which provides that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Despite this criminalisation of torture and the severe penalties prescribed by Articles 126 and 127 of the Egyptian Penal Code for state employees and those acting on their behalf, torture continues to be practised systematically and on a widespread scale, often with fatal consequences. WOLAS has documented twenty-three cases of deaths resulting from torture in detention centres and police stations in 2025.

Statistical analysis of deaths among individuals under the age of forty-five reveals that they account for more than one quarter of all deaths in prisons and detention centres. This finding points not only to the inadequacy of medical care but also to the prevalence of torture as a practice that extends far beyond the isolated incidents portrayed by Egyptian authorities, situating these deaths firmly within the framework of systematic extrajudicial killings.

Despite repeated promises of human rights reform and the rebranding of prisons as ‘places of rehabilitation’, 2025 witnessed a marked escalation in policies of systematic humiliation and degradation within places of detention. Torture has ceased to be merely an instrument of interrogation; it has become a means of breaking the political will of detainees and subjugating them to psychological and political subjugation.

Torture in Egypt has evolved beyond its conventional manifestations to encompass deliberate medical negligence and prolonged solitary confinement, both of which constitute methods of inflicting severe suffering that amount to torture under international law.

Documented Patterns of Torture in Prisons, Police Stations and Detention Centres

- Physical Torture
 - Severe beatings with sticks, batons and electrical cables.
 - Electrocution applied to sensitive areas of the body.
 - Suspension: Hanging detainees by their hands or feet for prolonged periods.
- Psychological Torture
 - Sleep deprivation through continuous exposure to bright artificial lighting, preventing detainees from sleeping for days at a time.
 - Threats against relatives, including threats to arrest detainees' wives or mothers.
 - Prolonged solitary confinement accompanied by the complete denial of family visits, correspondence and access to legal counsel, as documented in Badr 3 prison.
- Torture through Medical Neglect
 - Denial of essential medication to detainees suffering from diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.
 - Refusal to transfer critically ill detainees to external hospitals until their condition has deteriorated beyond recovery.

These practices resulted in the deaths of at least twenty-three individuals in the custody of Egyptian security forces, as detailed in Table 10, which documents cases of torture resulting in death.

In the absence of official statistics, available figures are derived from documentation compiled by local human rights organisations and information published in the media, resulting in variations between sources. Nonetheless, the available evidence demonstrates that 2025 witnessed an alarming increase in deaths attributable to torture and inhumane conditions of detention.

The evidence presented in this report demonstrates that Egypt's system of torture during 2025 did not consist solely of isolated incidents but formed part of a systematic punitive policy carried out with near-total impunity. The

absence of genuine oversight by the Public Prosecution, coupled with the complicity of the Egyptian Forensic Medicine Authority, has rendered the pursuit of accountability through domestic legal mechanisms effectively impossible. If the Egyptian authorities are genuinely committed to implementing the objectives set out in the National Human Rights Strategy, they must take the following steps to bring state practice into conformity with the Egyptian Constitution, domestic law and Egypt's international human rights obligations:

- Amending the definition of torture in the Penal Code to align with the Convention against Torture.
- Granting the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture immediate and unimpeded access to Egyptian prisons.
- Transferring the Forensic Medicine Authority from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice to a fully independent body.

The Failure of Oversight Mechanisms in Egyptian Prisons and Detention Centres

In recent years, Egypt's prison system has undergone major transformations, including the construction of large prison complexes designated by the authorities as 'places of correction and rehabilitation' and legislative amendments that altered their legal classification. Nevertheless, the gap between the constitutional and statutory guarantees of judicial oversight and the reality experienced by detainees has continued to widen, as these facilities have become sites of systematic abuse operating beyond effective oversight.

Notwithstanding the clarity of the relevant legal provisions, the reality is markedly different. Article 56 of the Egyptian Constitution expressly provides that prisons are correctional and rehabilitation facilities subject to judicial oversight and explicitly prohibits any treatment that violates human dignity or endangers human health. The Prisons Organisation Law (No. 396 of 1956), as amended by Law No. 14 of 2022, likewise affirms that correctional and rehabilitation centres are subject to judicial oversight and authorises members of the Public Prosecution to inspect them at any time. In practice, however, effective oversight is largely illusory. The role of the Public Prosecution is routinely limited to administrative formalities and is frequently exercised in

This disparity between legal provisions and the reality on the ground is reflected in the following:

Visits conducted by the Public Prosecution and official bodies, including the National Council for Human Rights, have become largely perfunctory, amounting to little more than public relations exercises devoid of any genuine investigative or oversight function:

- ## Badr Prisons and the New Rehabilitation Centres: Official Narrative versus Documented Reality

5 [https://timep.org/post-arabic/السجون-الجديدة-في-مصر-عنف-خفي-و-وعد-بال-](https://timep.org/post-arabic/السجون-الجديدة-في-مصر-عنف-خفي-و-وعد-بال-https://eipr.org/press/2025/09/)
<https://eipr.org/press/2025/09/> بعد-أربع-سنوات-على-افتتاحها-المبادرة-المصرية-تصدر-نتائج-تحقيقها-حول-الأوضاع-في-مجمع-سجون-
<https://cihrs.org/egypt-rights-groups-warn-of-collective-punishment-at-badr-prison/>
<https://eg.usembassy.gov/2023-human-rights-report/>

The Badr Prison Complex: A Centre of Systematic Deaths and Ill-Treatment

- Permanent video surveillance: Twenty-four-hour video surveillance inside cells constitutes an egregious violation of prisoners' privacy and causes severe psychological distress.
- Continuous lighting: Powerful artificial lighting is maintained inside cells around the clock, resulting in chronic sleep deprivation and neurological disorders.
- Denial of family visits: In Badr 3 Prison, hundreds of detainees have been denied family visits for years, in clear violation of the Constitution and the Prisons Organisation Law.
- Deliberate medical neglect: Human rights organisations have documented the deaths of several detainees, including Alaa al-Salami and Hassan Diab, resulting from the prison administration's refusal to provide emergency medical care.
- Deprivation of exercise and reading materials: Prisoners are confined to their cells for weeks at a time and denied access to books, newspapers and other reading material.
- Suicide attempts: Human rights reports have documented a marked escalation in suicide attempts among prisoners in Badr Prison, attributing this trend to despair and systematic psychological torture.

The rebranding of prisons as 'places of rehabilitation' has not altered the substance of repressive practice; it has merely provided a veneer of modernity for long-standing abuses. Judicial oversight in Egypt remains institutional subordinate to the executive branch, rendering it complicit through acquiescence, silence or inaction.

Officials and Institutions Responsible for Abuses in Prisons and Places of Detention

Based on complaints submitted by lawyers and documentation compiled by human rights organisations, WOLAS has identified a number of officials and institutions alleged to bear responsibility for serious violations in prisons and places of detention, including the following:

- Heads of the Prisons Authority: Bear overall administrative and legal responsibility for conditions across all prisons, including the widespread denial of adequate medical care.
- National Security Agency Officers: Responsible for interrogations and alleged acts of torture in prisons and unofficial places of detention.
- The Administration of Badr 3: The administration under whose authority numerous reports of mass hunger strikes and suicide attempts have emerged, allegedly resulting from the denial of family visits and round-the-clock video surveillance inside cells.
- Prison Medical Personnel: Allegedly responsible for drafting misleading medical reports and refusing or delaying the transfer of critically ill detainees to external hospitals.

Rebranding is merely cosmetic and cannot substitute for the substantive reform governing the treatment of detainees. Compliance with the Egyptian Constitution and Egypt's international human rights obligations is not optional; it is both a moral imperative and, more importantly, a binding legal obligation of the Egyptian State.

Summary Executions Following Enforced Disappearance

This pattern involves the unlawful killing of individuals by Egyptian security forces following their arrest and interrogation under torture while in custody. According to investigations and reports by human rights organisations based on eyewitness testimony and analysis of official statements issued by the Ministry of Interior, these incidents are typically carried out within hours of arrest. The Ministry routinely attributes such deaths to 'exchanges of fire' between security forces and criminal suspects in desert areas or residential apartments. Comparative analysis, however, reveals a striking discrepancy: whereas genuine police confrontations regularly result in casualties on both sides, alleged clashes involving politically wanted individuals result exclusively in the deaths of the wanted persons without any reported injuries to security personnel, alleged suspects or bystanders.⁶

6 <https://x.com/hussainsaleh22/status/1026041062635253760?s=46>

Although this pattern had subsided in recent years, it re-emerged in 2025, claiming the lives of at least nine Egyptian citizens. Since 2013, the Ministry of Interior has maintained a remarkably consistent narrative. Human rights investigations, however, have identified a recurring pattern indicative of deliberate extrajudicial execution characterised by the following elements:

- **Pre-killing enforced disappearance:** The most prevalent pattern involves a person being arrested at home or on the street and subsequently subjected to enforced disappearance for weeks or months while held at National Security Agency facilities, during which officials deny any knowledge of the victim's whereabouts. The Ministry of Interior later issues a statement announcing that the victim was killed in an alleged 'exchange of fire' and publishes photographs of the body alongside firearms. This sequence of events constitutes compelling evidence that the victim was in state custody and unarmed at the time of death.
- **Fabricated crime scenes:** Photographs published by the Ministry of Interior consistently raise serious concerns regarding the authenticity of alleged crime scenes. Firearms displayed besides the bodies are frequently clean and undamaged, arranged in a manner inconsistent with the chaos of a genuine armed confrontation. In several documented cases, the same firearm appeared in photographs from different incidents occurring at different times and locations.
- **Eyewitness testimony:** In numerous documented cases, neighbours and other witnesses reported that security forces arrived and arrested the individual alive before removing him from the scene. In other cases, witnesses reported hearing gunfire originating from only one direction, directly contradicting the Ministry of Interior's account of a reciprocal exchange of fire.

Debunking 'Exchange of Fire' Claims

The official narrative advanced by the Ministry of Interior and routinely endorsed by the Public Prosecution without independent investigation is readily refuted by several lines of evidence, including the following:

- **Absence of security casualties:** It is statistically implausible that hundreds of alleged armed confrontations with individuals described as ‘dangerous terrorists’ would consistently yield virtually no casualties among security personnel.
- **Prosecution acquiescence:** The Public Prosecution routinely adopts the security forces’ account of events without scrutiny, disregards evidence of prior enforced disappearance, fails to order independent forensic examinations and closes investigations without conducting an effective inquiry.
- **Killing as a first resort:** The replacement of arrest and prosecution with the immediate use of lethal force reflects not a legitimate law enforcement strategy but a policy of extrajudicial execution aimed at eliminating political opponents and instilling fear within society.

Number of Documented Victims of Summary Executions (2013–2025)

In the absence of official transparency, data compiled from Ministry of Interior statements and independent reports indicate that at least 1,100 summary executions have been documented since mid-2013. The number of reported cases peaked between 2015 and 2018 before declining to lower albeit persistent levels. While the true number of victims is likely to be higher, the convergence of official statements and independent documentation provides a reliable estimate of the scale of these killings.

Execution of Arbitrary Death Sentences

The exceptional terrorism circuits, established by the Public Attorney in November 2013, have effectively functioned as dependent courts designed specifically to extract political retribution from government opponents. These circuits have become one of the regime’s principal tools for the judicialisation of political persecution, depriving defendants of their fundamental right to be tried before a natural judge. Operating in complete alignment with the executive rather than as independent judicial bodies, they have systematically violated the core standards of due process and fair trials. This subordination of the judiciary has contributed to a dramatic increase in capital punishment. In 2025 alone, these courts issued at least 492 death sentences, fifteen of which were subsequently carried out.

Overall, approximately twenty percent of death sentences imposed in politically motivated cases were handed down by military courts or exceptional terrorism chambers, where fair trial guarantees are severely curtailed.

Between 2023 and 2024, Egyptian courts imposed 963 death sentences, including eighty-four against women, which represents 8.2 percent of the total. During the first half of 2025 alone, thirty-one out of 342 sentences imposed were against women, reaching 8.3 percent of the total.

International reports consistently identify⁷ Egypt as one of the world's leading executioners. For several consecutive years, it ranked third globally in the number of executions carried out, following China and Iran. Since 2013, the use of capital punishment has increased markedly, reflecting a shift from the relatively limited use of the death penalty to its systematic application. This rising trend demonstrates not only the growing scale capital punishment but also of its institutionalisation as an instrument of state policy. Notably, in 2020, Egypt again ranked third globally in the number of executions carried out.

In response, numerous international organisations and UN bodies have issued reports strongly condemning Egypt's use of capital punishment, arguing that it contravenes international human rights law.

- Amnesty International has characterised Egypt's increasing reliance on the death penalty as deeply damaging to the country's international standing and has stated that many of the trials were grossly flawed, relying on confessions extracted under torture.
- Human Rights Watch has documented numerous cases in which defendants were sentenced to death on the basis of weak or insufficient evidence or following mass trials that failed to assess individual criminal responsibility.
- UN human rights experts have repeatedly called on the Egyptian authorities to halt executions and have expressed grave concern that capital trials in Egypt fail to meet international standards of fairness, concluding that the resulting executions constitute arbitrary deprivations of life.

⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/12/egypt-chilling-rise-in-executions-reveals-depth-of-human-rights-crisis/>

Summary of Findings and Legal Analysis: Extrajudicial Killings and Systematic Impunity

The data and findings presented in this report confirm that extrajudicial killings in Egypt have moved beyond isolated acts of official misconduct to constitute a systematic state policy aimed at controlling the political landscape and suppressing political opposition. This policy manifests itself in three primary, overlapping patterns, each of which constitutes a flagrant violation of the right to life—a non-derogable right protected under Article 4 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights even in times of public emergency.

Pattern of Violation	Mechanism Employed	Legal Description
Killings by state agents	Fabricated ‘exchange of fire’ narratives following enforced disappearance	Extrajudicial summary executions
Politically motivated death sentences	Proceedings before exceptional terrorist circuits that fail to meet minimum standards of due process	Arbitrary deprivation of life through the abuse of judicial process
Deaths resulting from deliberate medical neglect in detention	Deliberate denial of medical treatment and the maintenance inhumane conditions of detention	Torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment resulting in death, in violation to the Convention against Torture

Key Conclusions

- **The Erosion of Judicial Independence and the Judicialisation of Political Repression:** The report documents an unprecedented surge in death sentences, with Egypt ranking third worldwide in executions carried out in 2020. The use of exceptional terrorism circuits and military courts to try civilians, often on the basis of confessions extracted under torture, has transformed the judiciary from a guarantor of justice into a mechanism for legitimising the elimination of political opponents.
- **The Institutionalisation of Torture in ‘Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres’:** The evidence demonstrates that the rebranding of prisons as ‘places of correction and rehabilitation’ amounted to a purely cosmetic change. Modern facilities such as Badr Prison and Wadi al-Natrun have functioned as instruments of total isolation and psychological torture, employing continuous video surveillance, the denial of visits and other coercive measures that have contributed to a rise in suicide attempts and deaths related with severe psychological and physical deterioration.
- **Systematic Impunity:** The absence of genuine judicial oversight, coupled with the acquiescence of the Public Prosecution and the Forensic Medicine Authority, has played a central role in perpetuating these violations. By routinely endorsing official security narratives without conducting independent investigations, the Public Prosecution has ceased to function as an independent guardian of legality and has instead become an institutional safeguard against accountability, thereby entrenching a climate of impunity.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report and in light of Egypt's obligations under its Constitution, the ICCPR, CAT and UDHR, WOLAS makes the following urgent and actionable recommendations. These recommendations are consistent with the stated objectives of Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy, launched on 11 September 2021, but require meaningful implementation rather than rhetorical commitment.

To the Egyptian Authorities:

1. Ensure that the criminal justice system operates in full conformity with the Constitution and the law, in particular by ending the referral of civilians to military courts and exceptional terrorism chambers for offences unrelated to armed conflict.
2. End the cycle of impunity for extrajudicial killings and torture by publicly directing the Prosecutor General to open prompt, independent and transparent investigations into every death documented in this report. No member of the security or intelligence services should be immune from criminal investigation or prosecution.
3. Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty and commute all existing death sentences imposed following grossly unfair trials, including mass trials and proceedings based on confessions allegedly obtained under torture. Pending abolition, ensure that no execution is carried out without meaningful judicial review of the fairness of the underlying proceedings.
4. Ensure that the Public Prosecution fully exercises its statutory supervisory powers over prisons and places of detention through unannounced inspections, unrestricted access to all detention areas rather than designated 'show cells', and immediate investigation of every allegation of torture, ill-treatment or medical neglect.
5. Grant independent international and domestic human rights organisations— including the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the UN Working

Group on Arbitrary Detention and Egyptian NGOs—immediate, unfettered and continuing access to all prisons, police stations and National Security detention facilities.

6. Publish the full results of all investigations into deaths in custody occurring during 2025, including forensic reports, and ensure that these findings are made available to victims' families and independent legal observers.
7. Guarantee the institutional independence of the Forensic Medicine Authority from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior and ensure that autopsies in all cases involving deaths in state custody are conducted by independent forensic pathologists appointed by the courts or with the consent of the deceased's family.
8. Immediately end the practices of deliberate medical neglect, prolonged solitary confinement, continuous cell lighting and twenty-four-hour video surveillance inside cells, as these measures amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and, in many cases, to torture.

To the International Community (UN, African Union, EU and member states):

1. The UN Human Rights Council should urgently establish an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions in Egypt, with a mandate to examine all deaths in custody and during alleged security operations since 2013.
2. The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment should be granted immediate access to Egypt. Should access continue to be denied, the Human Rights Council should consider adopting a resolution of censure and the establishing an official commission of inquiry.
3. States parties to the ICCPR and CAT should raise Egypt's record on extrajudicial killings and torture during the Universal Periodic Review and relevant treaty body reviews and should consider targeted sanctions against officials credibly implicated in serious human rights violations.

Restoring the sanctity of the right to life in Egypt requires far more than a moratorium on executions or incremental improvements to prison conditions. It requires dismantling the structures of impunity and ensuring that all those who ordered, authorised, perpetrated or concealed extrajudicial killings are held accountable in accordance with domestic and international law.

Note: In the tables below, hyphens signify the fact that the relevant data/information could not be obtained.

Table 1: Documented Cases of Extrajudicial Killings by Category (2025)

Murder by Death Sentence	Torture and ill-treatment	Physical Qualifiers	Medical Neglect
15	23	9	40

Table 2: Deaths Resulting from Medical Neglect in Prisons and Places of Detention (2025)

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
January 2025 - 4 Deaths						
1	Abd El-Salam Sadauma	2 January 2025	50	Um al-Masryen Hospital, Giza	Cancer; delayed transfer to hospital	Oussim, Giza
2	Saad Al-Sayed Madyan	14 January 2025	57	Borg Al-Arab Prison	Medical neglect; conditions of detention	Eastern Minya Al-Qamh
3	Metwally Abu Al-Majd Suleiman	16 January 2025	57	Gamasa Prison	Heart attack	Shubra Al-Kheima
4	Ahmed Mohamed Jabr	19 January 2025	43	University Hospital of Alexandria	Medical neglect	Alexandria

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
February 2025 - 3 Deaths						
5	Hisham Al-Haddad	1 February 2025	-	Tenth of Ramadan Prison	<i>Deliberate medical neglect</i>	-
6	Khalid Ahmed Mustafa	18 Feb 2025	63	Tenth of Ramadan Prison	<i>Medical neglect in treatment of liver cancer</i>	-
7	Nabil Farfour	27 February 2025	65	Oncology Institute	<i>Medical neglect; acute stroke</i>	Damanhour, Beheira
March 2025						
<i>No individual records available for this month.</i>						
April 2025 – 5 Deaths						
8	Abd El-Fattah Obeido	2 April 2025	60	Mansoura Hospital / Gamasara Prison	<i>Hepatic coma</i>	-
9	Yasser Mohammed Al-Khashab	11 April 2025	-	Badr Prison Hospital	<i>Complications during open heart surgery</i>	Damietta Governorate
10	Hamdi Yousry	20 April 2025	62	Medical Centre, Tenth of Ramadan Prison	<i>Cirrhosis; denial of medical care</i>	-
11	Detainee Unknown	-	-	Ward 22, Borg El Arab Prison	<i>Unexplained death following transfer from disciplinary confinement</i>	-
12	Saad Abu El-Enein	27 April 2025	-	Tenth of Ramadan Prison	<i>Medical neglect</i>	Menoufia

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
May 2025 - 2 Deaths						
13	Bilal Raafat Mohamed Ali	8 May 2025	55	Minya Al-Qamh Police Station – Hospital	<i>Severe cerebral hemorrhage; medical neglect</i>	Eastern Province
14	Ahmed Abdel Aal Al-Jundi	11 May 2025	62	Wadi al-Natroun Prison	<i>Medical neglect</i>	Kerdasa, Giza
June 2025 - 2 Deaths						
15	Abd El-Aziz Abd El-Ghani Mohamed	23 June 2025	62	Awlad Saqr Police Station	<i>Untreated prolonged intestinal obstruction (>25 days)</i>	Sharqiyah Governorate
16	Jamal Ahmed El Sawi	24 June 2025	70	Minya Liman Prison	<i>Cirrhosis; deliberate medical neglect</i>	6 th of October City, Giza
July 2025 - 3 Deaths						
17	Reza Ali Mansour	13 July 2025	60	Inside deportation car	<i>Cancer; deliberate medical neglect</i>	-
18	Mohamed Salem Ghoneim	18 July 2025	57	Wadi al-Natroun Rehabilitation Prison 440	<i>Inhumane conditions; medical neglect</i>	-
19	Karim Mohamed Abdo	27 July 2025	25	Al-Saff Police Station, Giza	<i>Inhumane conditions; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Giza

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
August 2025 – 8 Deaths						
20	Rajab Thabet	4 August 2025	-	Beni Suef Police Station	<i>Medical neglect; ill-treatment</i>	Beni Suef
21	Dr. Naji Ali Al-Prince	5 August 2025	69	Badr Prison 3	<i>Harsh conditions; denial of medical care</i>	Alexandria
22	Dr. Atef Mahmoud Zaghloul	8 August 2025	52	Abu Kabir Police Station, Sharqiyah	<i>Medical neglect; delayed treatment of heart attack</i>	Eastern Province
23	Tamer Hosni Abd El-Hamid Desouki	11 August 2025	56	Minya Liman Prison	<i>Severe cardiovascular failure; untreated diabetes</i>	Agouza, Giza
24	Ali Hassan Amer Abu Taleb	15 August 2025	77	Wadi al-Natroun Prison	<i>Medical neglect</i>	Kerdasa, Giza
25	Ramadan Al-Sayed Hassan	16 August 2025	-	Mansheya Department, Alexandria	<i>Fatal Beating</i>	Alexandria
26	Mohamed Ahmed Saad	16 August 2025	-	Mansheya Department, Alexandria	<i>Medical neglect</i>	Alexandria
27	Mr. Abdullah Atwa	27 August 2025	62	Al-Ahrar Hospital, Zagazig / Tenth of Ramadan Prison	<i>Deliberate medical neglect</i>	Ibrahimiya Centre, Sharqiyah
September 2025 - 1 Death						
28	Ibrahim Eid Saqr	3 September 2025	63	Wadi al-Natroun Prison	<i>Heart attack; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Hosh Issa, Beheira

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
October 2025 - 5 Deaths						
29	Ahmed Hamed Bashindi	10 October 2025	68	Abu Zaabal Prison	<i>Untreated acute intestinal obstruction; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Toukh Centre, Qalyubia
30	Saleh Ayed	13 October 2025	40	Minya Maximum Security Prison	<i>Cancer; deliberate medical neglect</i>	-
31	Mohamed Jumaa	Late October 2025	-	Wadi al-Natroun Prison	<i>Deliberate medical neglect</i>	Sinai
32	Alaa Mohammed Al-Azab	30 October 2025	60	Badr Prison 3	<i>Pancreatic cancer; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Zafta, Gharbia Governorate
33	Hamdi Mohamed	31 October 2025	63	Minya Liman Prison	<i>Deliberate medical neglect</i>	Al-Fayyum
November 2025 - 1 Deaths						
34	Ahmed Mahmoud	8 November 2025	48	Giza Public Prison	<i>Cancer; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Giza, Kerdasa

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death	Address
December 2025 - 6 Deaths						
35	Khaled Ibrahim Abd El-Salam	4 December 2025	52	Liman Minya	<i>Severe hypertension and persistent vomiting; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Helwan, Cairo
36	Ibrahim Alsayed Abdullah Al-Sabbagh	6 December 2025	60	Gamasa Maximum Security Prison	<i>Untreated gallbladder blockage and cancerous tumour; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Ismailia
37	Atta Yousef Abd El-Latif Mohamed	26 December 2025	70	Badr Prison 3	<i>Stomach cancer and cardiovascular disease; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Assiut
38	Ahmed Suleiman Al-Masoudi	27 December 2025	55	National Security Sector, Sharqiyah	<i>Untreated acute pneumonia; deliberate medical neglect</i>	Eastern Province
39	Hisham Makki	31 December 2025	-	Wadi al-Natroun Prison	<i>Harsh conditions; inadequate medical care</i>	-
40	Islam Mahmoud Abdel Fattah	December 2025	36	Badr Prison 3	<i>Lung and liver cancer; medical neglect</i>	-

Table 3: Documented Deaths in Custody (2025)

The table below shows the distribution of deaths in custody by place of detention, based on data documented during 2025.

#	Prison Name	Count
1	Giza Central Prison	1
2	Borg Al-Arab Prison	2
3	Gamasa Prison	4
4	Tenth of Ramadan Prison	6
5	Badr Prison	2
6	Wadi Al-Natroun Prison	5
7	Minya Liman Prison	4
8	Wadi El-Natrun Rehabilitation 440	1
9	Badr Prison 3	4
10	Abu Zaabal Prison	1
11	Minya Maximum Security Prison	1
12	Giza Public Prison	1
13	Other State Facilities	9

Table 4: Death Sentences (2023–2025)

The following table illustrates the sharp increase in the imposition of death sentences and in the pace of executions carried out, both of which peaked by 2025.

Year	Death sentences (First Instance/ Referred to the Grand Mufti)	Documented Executions Carried Out	Observations
2023	590	8	Decline in number of executions despite the continued high number of death sentences imposed
2024	373	13	Increased use of the death penalty in cases involving both ordinary criminal offences and politically motivated prosecutions
2025	492	15	Renewed increase in the imposition of death sentences by the end of the year
Total	>1,453	36	Estimates compiled from reports by the EIPR, Amnesty International and CFJ

Table 5: Age Distribution of Documented Deaths in State Custody (2025)

Based on the data presented in the Table 5, sixty documented deaths occurring in Egyptian prisons and other places of detention during 2025 were analysed. The findings are broken down by age group and occupation:

Age Group	Number of Cases	Percentage
Older Persons (over 65)	21	35.6%
Older Adults (51–65)	20	33.9%
Middle-Aged Adults (31–50)	11	18.6%
Young Adults (18–30)	7	11.9%
Total	59	100%

Note: One victim’s age could not be determined and is therefore excluded from this age-based analysis.

Table 6: Documented Deaths of Young Adults in Custody (2025)

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death
1	Mohamed Salim Salmi	10 January 2025	23	Qalioub Police Station	Suspected torture resulting in bleeding from multiple parts of his body; pronounced dead on arrival to hospital.
2	Ahmed Mohamed Jabr	19 January 2025	43	University Hospital of Alexandria	Medical neglect
3	Mohamed Hassan Hilal	9 April 2025	32	Badr Prison 3	Suspected torture resulting in severe cerebral haemorrhage
4	Mahmoud Asaad (Mahmoud Mika)	12 April 2025	26	El Khali-fa Police Station	Suspected torture (visible signs of torture and deep wounds)
5	Abd El-Rahman Mohamed Hassan	19 May 2025	45	El Sayeda Zeinab Police Station	Suspected torture
6	Ayman Sabry	25 July 2025	21	Belqas Police Station, Dakahlia	Suspected torture
7	Karim Mohamed Abdo	27 July 2025	25	Al-Saff Police Station, Giza	Inhumane conditions of detention; deliberate medical neglect
8	Wael Youssef Khairy Bishara	13 August 2025	20	Pyramids Section, Giza	Suspected torture; died one week after arrest
9	Saif Imam	August 2025	23	Ain Shams Police Station, Cairo	Torture (cranial fractures, nasal laceration, widespread bruising and wounds)

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death
10	Muhannad Ahmed Abd El-Azim Al-Fiqi	August 2025	30	Menouf Police Station, Menoufia	Torture resulting in traumatic brain injury, internal bleeding, and severe impairment of consciousness following violent beatings
11	Mustafa Taha	5 October 2025	35	Al-Marg Police Station, Cairo	Suspected torture
12	Saleh Ayed	13 October 2025	40	Minya Maximum Security Prison	Cancer; deliberate medical neglect
13	Ahmed Mustafa 'Ahmed Jazeera'	10 November 2025	35	Imbaba Police Station, Giza	Suspected torture
14	Islam Mahmoud Abdel Fattah	December 2025	36	Badr Prison 3	Lung and liver cancer; deliberate medical neglect

Table 7: Documented Cases of Torture in Prisons and Places of Detention (2025)

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death
1	Mohamed Salim Salmi	10 January 2025	23	Qalioub Police Station	Torture
2	Mohamed Abd El-Razek Ahmed	29 March 2025		Damanhour Prison (Al-Abadia)	Unexplained circumstances
3	Mohamed Hassan Hilal	9 April 2025	32	Badr Prison 3	Heavy cranial haemorrhage resulting from torture
4	Mahmoud Asaad	12 April 2025	26	El Khalifa Police Station	Torture

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death
5	Abd El-Rahman Mohamed Hassan	19 May 2025	45	El Sayeda Zeinab Police Station	Torture
6	Karim Mohamed Abdo	27 July 2025	25	Al-Saff Police Station, Giza	Inhumane conditions of detention; deliberate medical neglect
7	Sheikh Farid Shalabi	30 July 2025	-	National Security Sector, Kafr al-Sheikh	Severe torture (live burial)
8	Abd El-Rahman Ahmed Abd El-Rahman	2 August 2025	-	El Omraneya Police Station, Giza	Torture and beatings in custody
9	Wael Youssef Khairy Bishara	13 August 2025	20	Pyramids Section, Giza	Torture resulting in death one week after arrest
10	Hazem Fathi	16 August 2025	-	Nag Hammadi Police Station Detention Centre, Qena	Torture
11	Ramadan Al-Sayed Hassan	16 August 2025	-	Mansheya Department, Alexandria	Beaten to death
12	Waleed Ahmed Taha	16 August 2025	-	Shubra El-Khaimah (Second Section), Qalyubia	Torture
13	Muharram Fouad Ali Azab	20 August 2025	50	Unknown (Arrested from Al-Basateen, Cairo)	Torture 24 hours after arrest
14	Saif Imam	August 2025	23	Ain Shams Police Station, Cairo	Torture (cranial fractures, nasal lacerations, extensive bruising and wounds across the body)

#	Name	Date of Death	Age	Place of Death	Cause of Death
15	Muhannad Ahmed Abd El-Azim Al-Fiqi	August 2025	30	Menouf Police Station, Menoufia	Severe brain trauma, internal bleeding and impaired consciousness resulting from severe beatings
16	Mustafa Taha	5 October 2025	35	Al-Marg Police Station, Cairo	Severe torture
17	Ahmed Mustafa "Ahmed Jazeera"	10 November 2025	35	Imbaba Police Station, Giza	Poor conditions of detention; suspected torture
18	Tariq Ashraf Elsayed Mahfouz	24 December 2025	-	Al-Haram Police Station	Injuries to the back, neck and legs resulting from torture and severe physical violence
19	Ayman Sabry	28 July 2025	21	Belqas Police Station, Dakahlia Governorate	Suspected torture
20	Khalil Muhammad Abu Hiba	14 October 2025	-	Third Mahalla Police Station	Suspected torture
21	Ahmed Al-Sharif	13 August 2025	-	National Security Sector, Abbasiya	Suspected torture
22	Mohsen Mustafa	13 August 2025	-	National Security Sector, Abbasiya	Suspected torture
23	Khalil Muhammad Abu Hiba	8 October 2025		Cairo Outskirts Police Stat	Suspected death resulting from torture

Extrajudicial Killings in Egypt

Patterns, Evidence and Impunity in 2025

This report brings together a year's worth of documentation on unlawful deprivations of life committed by Egyptian state agents during 2025. Drawing on interviews with victims' families, legal case files, medical records, and close coordination with local human rights networks, it documents deaths in state custody resulting from suspected medical neglect and torture, summary executions following enforced disappearance, and executions carried out pursuant to death sentences imposed after trials that fell far short of the most basic standards of fairness.

The report's findings indicate that these cases are not isolated incidents but manifestations of a broader structural pattern. Newly constructed prisons, marketed as 'rehabilitation centres', function instead as sites of prolonged isolation and psychological torture. Oversight bodies routinely rubber-stamp official accounts rather than subjecting them to genuine scrutiny. Meanwhile, the judiciary—particularly the exceptional terrorism chambers—has increasingly functioned as an instrument for suppressing political opponents and dissent rather than as an independent check on executive power.

The systematic policy of secrecy maintained across Egypt's state institutions makes it exceedingly difficult to compile a comprehensive account of every case. In light of these obstacles, WOLAS presents its findings not as an exhaustive record but as a documented minimum. The report concludes with concrete recommendations for the Egyptian authorities and international community aimed at breaking the cycle of impunity that enables such violations to continue.