



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK

# Republic of Gallows

**Egypt...**

**Judicial Authority in total collapse**



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# Republic of Gallows



## *Introduction*

Hundreds of Egyptians could be executed following flawed and politically motivated trials. The Egyptian government seems intent on carrying out these death sentences now that the defendants have exhausted all legal avenues of appeal.

The Egyptian judicial system has, for all intents and purposes collapsed, as security forces-who are tasked with killing, arresting, torturing and fabricating cases against political opponents and protesters-continue to refer these political detainees to public prosecutors and special judicial branches chosen by the Minister of Justice, all for the purpose of bestowing upon these violations and illegal trials a semblance of legitimacy.

Thousands of people are being tried before Egyptian courts on offences related to their sacred and constitutionally protected right to express their opinions freely. Many have been sentenced to death, life imprisonment, various prison sentences and hefty fines.

All the trials that culminated in death sentences have lacked the most basic standards of a fair trial. The verdicts were politically motivated and dictated by government directives.

Although the Court of Cassation overturned some of the verdicts issued against political opponents, reviving the hopes of hundreds of others, it upheld the death sentence against an Egyptian who was



later executed despite the deeply flawed nature of his trial.

Egypt's Court of Appeals allocated nine circuits to review terror-related cases. Case files are available to lawyers and many others making it easy to refute the flimsy evidence and false testimonies contained therein. The extensive media coverage of court sessions also revealed the sheer absurdity and farcical nature of these trials.

In addition to these specialized circuits, Egyptian authorities introduced legislations broadening the powers of military judiciary to include charges related to opposing the government. These offences constitute the highest number of court cases since the 3 July 2013 military coup.

Recent verdicts by civil and military Egyptian judiciary clearly reflect the desire of the authorities to remove any political opposition through the courts. Many are already dying at torture centres, or due to medical neglect in prisons if they survive being shot at by security forces out on the streets.

This report seeks to examine the politicisation of the judiciary as it is brought under the control of the executive branch. Nowhere is this more evident than in the hundreds of death sentences issued against members of the political opposition. The report also sheds light on the danger these verdicts post to Egyptian peace and security and the importance of international pressure to put an end to these illegal practices.



## *Convicted before being brought to trial*

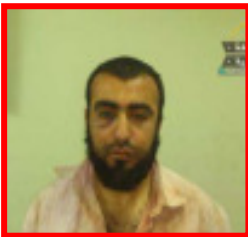
Torture at Egyptian prisons and detention centers remains rampant. Systematic torture has not been limited to extracting false confessions that would be used to convict these political detainees on terror-related charges, it is also used to justify its own use through media outlets which publicly convict these individuals without trial or due process. Political detainees are often filmed with visible signs of torture and abuse and forced to reenact their alleged crimes which are then broadcast on pro-government satellite channels as justification for meting out very harsh punishments often the death sentence in many cases.

In addition to filming these bogus confessions, the names of the detainees are circulated by the media in association with charges such as “terror cells”, “Al-Qaeda informants”, “destruction of public property”, and “raiding police stations”.

Egyptian media participates fully in these informal public trials instead of investigating why these detainees were tortured or the reason for broadcasting their confessions, both of which constitute a crime under Egyptian law. More absurdly, the media invents names for these cases which are later used by the judges themselves. During the trial of President Mohammed Morsi, judge Sha’ban Al-Shami used media designations to refer to these cases, “As for the first case known by the media as “The Escape from Wadi Al-Natroon...and the case known as the “Exchange of Intelligence”.

## *Photos of detainees during television interviews:*

### **Ahmed Mohammed Fouad Abdulrahman:**



Ahmed's death sentence was upheld on 20 September 2014 after his papers were referred to the Grand Mufti on 23 August 2014.

### **Amer Ma'sad Abdo Amer:**



The Terror Circuit at Al-Mansoorah Criminal Court referred his death sentence to the Grand Mufti on 16 March 2015 after he was convicted on four different charges. The court upheld his sentence on 18 May 2015 in one case and reduced his sentence to life in prison in two other cases. A decision in the fourth case will be issued on 22 June 2015.

### **Samia Khalil Mohammed Shanani:**



Her death sentence in the same case along with 182 others was upheld on 2 February 2015 after the referral of their cases to the Grand Mufti on 2 December 2014.



## **Adel Mohammed Ibrahim:**



(a.k.a Adel Habara): Charged in several cases and sentenced to death in two cases on 6 December 2014 and 26 May 2015.

## **Ibrahim Al-Azab:**



Cairo Criminal Court upheld his death sentence along with 25 others on 19 March 2014 having referred his case to the Grand Mufti on 26 February 2014.



## *Terror Circuits*

On 26 December 2013, the Minister of Justice issued a decision creating nine circuits tasked with reviewing terror-related cases after a number of judges recused themselves from presiding over the trials of many political prisoners. The government selected a number of pro-government judges to preside over these newly created circuits in cases deemed terror-related by the government. The circuits began their work on 1 January 2014.

The circuits convene at Cairo and Giza Criminal Courts at the Police Institute in Cairo and the Police Trustees Institute in Torra, instead of their original headquarters north and south of Cairo and Giza. Terror related cases are referred to one of the nine circuits according to the number of the case.

These circuits are notorious for issuing mass death sentences against political detainees following farcical trials that have attracted a significant degree of criticism given their highly politicized nature.



## *Judge Mohammed Naji Shehata*



Judge Shehata is President of the 5th Circuit at Giza Criminal Court, created following the 3rd of July 2013 military coup to review cases classified by security agencies as terror related. Shehata is notorious for issuing some of the harshest sentences on record. He sentenced more than 200 people to death, more than half of those whose death sentences became final. Shehata is famous for his total disregard for due process and proper procedure. He is often seen chewing gum, and swearing and cursing in court.

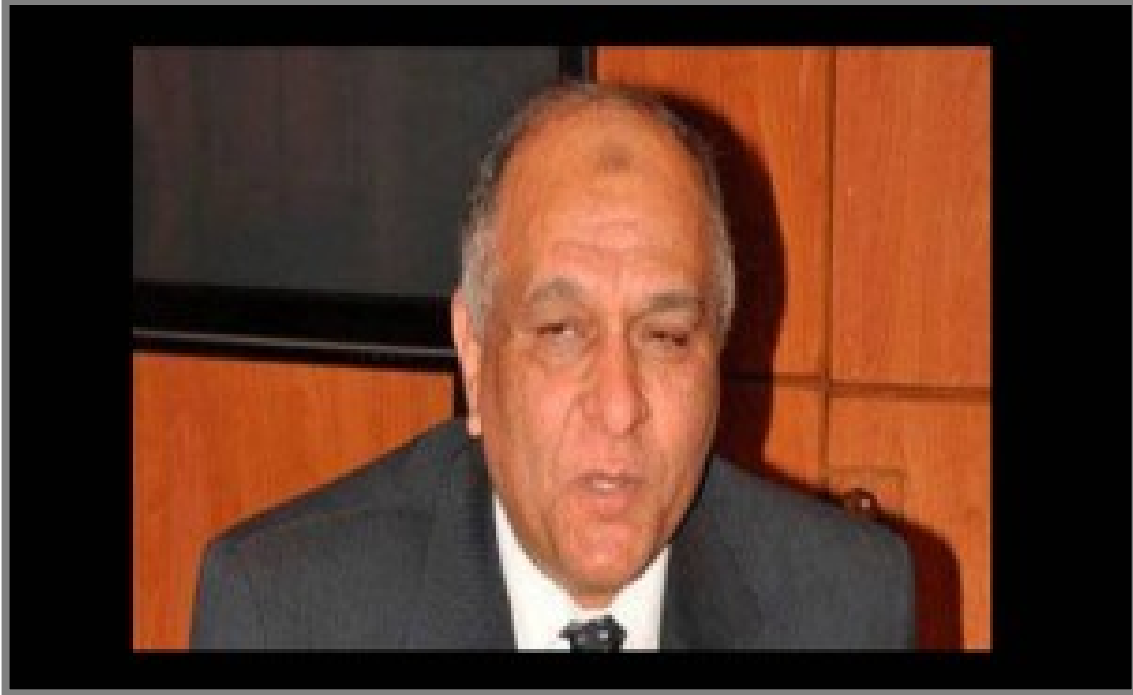
Shehata was the judge in the case known as the Marriott Cell in which 17 Aljazeera journalists were sentenced to between 7 and 10 years in prison.

## *Judge Sha'ban Al-Shami*



Judge Al-Shami is President of the 15th Circuit at Cairo Criminal Court, which has been tasked with the review of terror related cases. He was the first to issue death sentences five minutes into a court session that none of the defendants attended. The case, known as the 'Suez Cell', centred upon events that had occurred five years before. Al-Shami referred 122 people to Grand Mufti, including former president Mohammed Morsi and several members of his presidential team. Among those referred were a number of deceased or detained Palestinians. Ironically, Al-Shami acquitted former President Hosni Mubarak of all charges on 20 June 2013 and rejected an appeal by the public prosecutor to remand Mubarak in custody pending a trial.

## *Judge Saeed Sabri*



Judge Sabri used to be President of Bani Suef Criminal Court before becoming president of the Terror Circuits of Minya, Fayuum and Bani Suef Criminal Court. Sabri has sentenced a record number of Egyptians to death. In two court sessions lasting only twenty minutes each, he ordered the verdicts of 1212 people be referred to the Grand Mufti in preparation for their execution. It is worth noting that twenty minutes is not enough time to read out the names of the defendants let alone sentence them all to death. The defendants were sentenced in two cases involving raids on two police stations in Matay and Adwa in response to the violent crackdown on the Rabaa Square sit-in on 14 August 2013.

Similar to other judges at the Terror Circuits, Sabri is notorious for his very harsh sentences against those opposed to the government and his leniency towards former members of the Mubarak regime. On 26 April 2014, Sabri sentenced 11 Egyptians, opposed to the military coup, to terms ranging between 57 and 88 years, the highest in the history of the Egyptian judiciary. The verdicts were passed without hearing from the prosecutor or the defense

team. On 15 January 2013, he acquitted the former security director of Bani Suef and all officers charged with killing protesters during the 25 January 2011 revolution following a trial that lasted 2.5 years. He dismissed all the lawsuits filed by Bani Suef residents and ordered them to pay legal fees amounting to 200 Egyptian pounds for filing those lawsuits.

## *Judge Moataz Khafaji*



Khafaji is the president of the 14th Circuit of the Giza Criminal Court. He has sentenced many Egyptians to death, and in four of those cases, verdicts were handed down despite the questionable investigations by the police and confessions extracted under torture. Khafaji often appears in interviews to express his own personal opinions about the defendants in ongoing trials that he is presiding over by describing them as “terrorists’ and “part of the forces of darkness” while at the same time voicing his admiration for security forces.

## *The Grand Mufti of Executions:*

### *Shawqi Ibrahim Abdulkareem Allam*



The opinion of Grand Mufti in death sentences is a non-binding formality, but there is ample evidence that his opinion has had a major influence on whether to uphold or overturn such sentences. Egypt's current Mufti, Shawqi Allam, upheld almost all the death sentences referred to him, even in the face of glaring human rights violations that should have prompted him to overturn them. The majority of cases rested on Homeland Security investigations with little or no evidence to support the charges. In some of the most absurd examples, a number of Egyptians were convicted of crimes committed months after their arrest. In the Arab Sharkas case, for example, seven people were sentenced to death and later executed over crimes that were committed while they were in detention. The Mufti has had no qualms about openly expressing his support for the authorities, describing the defendants in the Rabaa Case as the "enemies of Allah" deserving of the punishment reserved for banditry, which is death. Despite the fact the Mufti's opinion is non-binding, his approval of these death sentences, which came on the heels of unfair trials, is an attempt to bestow religious legitimacy on them and upon the abuse of the defendants' human rights, rendering him complicit in these judicial killings. It is the first time Dar Al-Ifta' has exploited Sharia law to serve political agendas aimed at murdering hundreds of people in the name of Islam.



## *Judicial Murder*

It is estimated that 1665 people were sentenced to death between 3 June 2013 and 28 May 2015. Death sentences are usually referred to the Grand Mufti for approval. At least 530 have had their death sentences confirmed by Egyptian courts, including seven whose death sentences became final and not subject to any further appeal and thus were carried out.

Terror Circuits and the Military Court reviewed 22 cases of which 4 are awaiting the Mufti's decision. The following is a brief overview of these cases:

## 1- Death Sentences which have been Carried out

**The case known as “Sidi Gaber” presided over by Al-Sayyed Abdulatif.**



On 29 March 2014, the court referred the death sentence of Mohmoud Hasan Ramadan and another Egyptian to the Grand Mufti in case number 1442/15663/2013/Sidi Gaber. The two men were convicted of throwing a minor off a rooftop in Alexandria. On 19 May 2014, the court upheld the death sentence of Ramadan and commuted to life the sentence of the other Egyptian along with 12 others. Eight other men were sentenced to 15 years with hard labour, 35 men to ten years, and five were sentenced in absentia to life in prison. A minor was sentenced to 7 years. On 10 February 2015, the Court of Cassation, presided over by Adel Shorbji, rejected a final appeal by the defendants. Ramadan was executed on 7 March 2015.

The case was fraught with illegalities, with convictions made on the basis of fabricated evidence. The defence team was not allowed to present evidence that proved their clients' innocence. The public prosecutor refused to include testimonies from the families of victims murdered by live bullets and birdshots



fired by thugs with the blessing of the police. The court also ignored the fact Ramadan's confession was extracted under torture, recorded and broadcast to the public. According to the defence legal team, the court relied on weak evidence including unclear audio-visual evidence, which did not reflect the whole picture. The incriminating footage broadcast by Egyptian media was edited and tampered with. The original video showed clearly that Ramadan was not even on the roof, let alone took part in the act of throwing anyone off of it.



## The case known as Arab Sharkas (a military trial)



A military court sentenced 7 men (one in absentia) to death on 26 August 2014. On 21 October 2014, the Military Court upheld the death sentences and sentenced two others to life in prison to serve at least 25 years. On 24 March 2015, an appeal by the defendants was rejected paving the way for the execution of the six men on 17 May 2015. The men were: Mohammed Bakri Haroun, Hani Mustapha Omar Amin Amer, Mohammed Ali Afifi, Abdulrahman Sayyed Rizq, Khalid Faraj Mohammed Mohammed Ali, and Islam Sayyed Ahmed.

The military public prosecutor had charged the six men with the killing of two officers during a gunfight in the village of Arab Sharkas, north of Cairo, on 19 March 2014. The defence team presented the court and public prosecutor with official documents proving that three of the men were in custody at that time and could not have carried out the attacks.

Mohammed Bakri Haroun was arrested on 28 November 2013, months before the attack in Arab Sharkas. Hani Mustapha Amin was arrested on 16 December



2013 along with his brother-in-law Ahmed Suleiman in Ismailia before being taken to Al-Jala' Camp prison. Mohammed Ali Afifi was arrested on 19 November 2013 under similar circumstances. Abdulrahman Sayyed Rizq, Khalif Ali, Islam Sayyed Ahmed, Ahmed Mohammed, Husam Sa'ad were arrested on 16 March 2014. All five men were tortured to force them to confess to crimes they did not commit. No attempt was ever made to investigate the circumstances surrounding their torture and enforced disappearance.



## 2-Death Sentences still under Review

### **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Suez Cell, presided over by Sha'ban Al-Shami .**

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On 26 February 2014, Cairo Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 26 defendants to the Grand Mufti after convicting them on terror-related charges that occurred before the 25 January 2011. On 19 March 2014, the court upheld the convictions upon the recommendations of the Grand Mufti.

### **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Matay Raid in Minya, presided over by Judge Saeed Sabri**

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On 24 March 2014, a court in Minya referred the death sentences of 529 Egyptians to the Grand Mufti following a court session lasting a record 10 minutes. The defendants had allegedly taken part in a raid on Matay police station in which a police officer was killed. On 28 April 2014, the death sentences of 37 defendants were upheld. The rest had their sentences commuted to life in prison. On 24 January 2015, the Court of Cassation ordered a retrial. The trial is currently ongoing.

### **The verdict issued in the case known by the media as the Edwa Raid in Minya, presided over by Saeed Sabri.**

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On 28 April 2014, Minya Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 683 Egyptians to the Grand Mufti whose approval led to the court upholding the death sentences of 183 defendants. Four others had their sentences commuted to life, while 496 were acquitted. The Court of Cassation overturned the verdicts on 13 January 2015 and ordered a retrial. The trial is currently ongoing.



## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Qalyoob Road Banditry, presided over by Hasan Fareed.**

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On 7 June 2014, Qalyoob Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 10 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 5 June, 2014, Shubra Criminal Court upheld the death sentences on the recommendations of the Mufti. Thirty-seven others were sentenced to 25 years in the same case.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known as the Istaqma Mosque Incidents, presided over by Mohammed Naji Shehata.**

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On 16 June 2014, the court referred the death sentences of 14 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 30 August 2014, six of the death sentences were upheld and the rest were commuted to life in prison on the recommendations of the Grand Mufti.

## **The verdicts issued in the Murder of Major General Nabil Farraj, presided over by Judge Moataz Khafaji.**

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On 18 June 2014, the death sentences of 12 defendants were referred to the Grand Mufti. On 6 August 2014, the sentences were upheld on the recommendations of the Mufti. On 2 February 2015, the Court of Cassation overturned the verdicts and ordered a retrial. The trial is ongoing.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the October Cell, presided over by Judge Moataz Khafaji**

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On 23 August, 2014, the death sentences of 5 defendants were referred to the Grand Mufti. On 20 September, the sentences were upheld on the recommendations of the Grand Mufti.



## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Kirdasa Police Station Raid, presided over by Mohammed Naji Shehata.**

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On 2 December 2014, the death sentences of 185 defendants were referred to the Grand Mufti. On 2 February 2015, the court upheld the sentences of 183 of them, including that of a woman named Samia Khalil Mohammed Shanana, 55.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Second Rafah Incidents, presided over by judge Mohammed Shirin Fahmy.**

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On 6 December 2014, the Cairo Criminal Court sitting at the Police Trustees Institute upheld the death sentence of six people upon the recommendations of the Grand Mufti. Another 22 were sentenced to 15 years with hard labour, 3 to life and 3 others were acquitted.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Irshad Office, presided over by Judge Moataz Khafaji**

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On 7 December 2014, Cairo Criminal Court referred the death sentences of four defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 28 February 2015, the court upheld the death sentences upon the recommendations of the Grand Mufti. Twenty-five others were sentenced to life.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as Spying for Al-Qaeda, presided over by judge Sha'ban Al-Shami.**

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On 12 January 2015, the death sentences of four defendants were referred to the Grand Mufti after convicting them of spying for Al-Qaeda. On 8 February 2015, the death sentences of three of the defendants were upheld and one had his sentence commuted to 10 years upon the recommendations of the Mufti.



## **The verdicts issued in the case of the Takfiri group in Asharqia, presided over by judge Salah Hreiz**

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On 24 February 2015, Zagazig Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 8 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 26 May 2015, the sentences were upheld based on the recommendations of the Mufti.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Rabaa Operations Room, presided over by Mohammed Naji Shehata.**

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On 16 March 2015, Cairo Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 14 defendants to the Grand Mufti and set the 11 of April 2014 as a date for announcing its final verdict. The death sentences were upheld upon the recommendations of the Grand Mufti. Thirty-six others were sentenced to life in the same case.

## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the Media as the Tirat Al-Mansoorah Street, presided over by Osama Abdulzaher.**

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On 16 March 2015, Al-Mansoorah Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 4 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 18 May 2015, the sentence of one of the defendants, Amer Massad Abdo, was upheld upon the recommendations of the Mufti.



## **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Kirdasa Police Station Raid, presided over by Mohammed Naji Shehata.**

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On 18 March 2015, the death sentences of 22 defendants were referred to the Grand Mufti. On 20 April 2015, the Kirdasa Criminal Court upheld the death sentences upon the recommendations of the Mufti.

## **The verdicts issued against defendants accused of being members in the Muslim Brotherhood, presided over by Mohammed Naji Shehata**

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The death sentence of one defendant, Anas Abedrabbo Suleiman Shahin, was referred to the Grand Mufti on 3 May 2015. On 24 May 2015, the death sentence was upheld upon the recommendations of the Mufti.



## 3- Death sentences commuted without awaiting the Grand Mufti's decision

**Verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Attempted Murder of Al-Sayyed Al-Isawi in Al-Mansoorah, presided over by judge Osama Abdelzaher.**

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On 16 March 2015, Al-Mansoorah Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 5 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 18 May 2015, the sentences were commuted to life in prison without awaiting the Mufti's decision.

**Verdicts issued in the case known by the media as Al-Mansoorah Riots, presided over by judge Osama Abdelzaher.**

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On 16 March 2015, Al-Mansoorah Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 4 defendants to the Grand Mufti. On 18 May 2015, the sentences were commuted to life in prison without awaiting the Mufti's decision.





## **4- Death Sentences awaiting the Grand Mufti's decision.**

### **The verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Deterrent Cell of Al-Mansoorah, presided over by Osama Abdelzaher**

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On 16 March 2015, Al-Mansoorah Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 5 defendants to the Grand Mufti. The court set 22 June 2015 as a date for announcing its final decision.

### **The Verdicts issues in the case known by the media as Spying for Hamas, presided over by Sha'ban Al-Shami.**

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On 16 May 2015, Madinat Nasr Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 17 defendants to the Grand Mufti. The court set 16 June as a date for announcing its final decision.

### **Verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Prison Break, presided over by judge Sha'ban Al-Shami.**

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On 16 May 2015, Madinat Nasr Criminal Court referred the death sentences of 108 defendants, among them Former President Dr. Mohammed Morsi, to the Grand Mufti. The court set 16 June as a date for announcing its final decision.



## **Verdicts issued in the case known by the media as the Kirdasa Cell, presided over by judge Moataz Khafaji**

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On 18 May 2015, Giza Criminal Court referred the death sentences of two defendants to the Grand Mufti. The court set the 4 July as the date for announcing its final decision.



## *Human Rights Violations*

1. All the cases outlined in this report were based on flimsy evidence and flawed legal proceedings. Case files were fraught with contradictions, illogical conclusions and nonsensical arguments that were widely criticized by several European countries, human rights organisations, the UN and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
2. It is evident, having reviewed the mass death sentences outlined above that they were issued by certain Circuits and the same pool of judges, carefully chosen to review the cases involving defendants opposed to the government. As mentioned earlier, these so-called Terror Circuits were created in the aftermath of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2013 military coup in Egypt after a number of judges recused themselves from politically-motivated cases.
3. Courts have relied on two types of evidence; investigations by security forces and the confessions of some defendants, neither of which could be considered reliable under a military regime that dispensed with transparency, fairness and justice. Many defendants reported being brutally tortured to extract false confessions from them.
4. Some of the death sentences were issued by military courts, as in the case of the six Arab Sharkas defendants, which meant they had been deprived of their rights to appear before a civilian court as guaranteed by all international conventions. Military courts, which under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Defence, are not independent and cannot be trusted to judge fairly.
5. More than 150 crimes are punishable by death according to Egyptian law. These legal provisions as they occur in the Penal Code, the Military Code, the Law for Firearms and Ammunitions, and Special Criminal Law,



are vaguely worded thus rendering them open to any number of interpretations.

6. All the defendants were robbed of their right to defend themselves properly as judges refused to investigate claims of torture at the hands of security forces and further, refused to allow defence teams to present exonerating evidence.
7. The trials were fraught with blunders, including cases where dead, imprisoned, and disabled people were convicted of crimes, although they clearly could not have committed them. Some of the defendants were outside the country when the crimes they were accused of committing took place. In the 'Spying for Hamas' case, in which Dr. Mohammed Morsi was charged with passing on state secrets to Hamas, some of his co-defendants had been dead for years or serving lengthy sentences in Israeli prisons. In the case of Al-Minya Riots, one of those convicted of destroying public property was a physically disabled man, while most of the defendants in the Arab Sharkas Case were in custody when the crimes they were convicted of took place.
8. Mass death sentences were announced after one or two court sessions lasting no more than a few minutes. The judge did not even have enough time to read all the names of the defendants let alone conduct a proper trial.



## *Legal Framework*

The right to life is a sacred right protected by domestic and international laws that have sought to protect the right to life from the vagaries of wars and regimes. Article (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 stipulates that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” The same right was reaffirmed in Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for 1966.

Murders committed by regimes and groups during wars or domestic upheavals are considered crimes against humanity whose perpetrators should be brought to justice. This can include, death sentences issued by courts under dictatorial regimes for the purpose of wiping out political opponents.

The UN has worked tirelessly to abolish the death penalty in all its member states to ensure that despotic regimes have no recourse to execution to rid itself of political opponents. The General Assembly reaffirmed on five occasions resolution A/RES/69/186 that calls for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The latest vote on 19 December 2014 showed that 117 countries supported the resolution. Thirty-eight countries voted against it, 34 abstained and four were absent.

In addition to international efforts aimed at abolishing the death penalty, several international instruments have been imposed on countries that have not done so. On 25 January 1984, the UN Social and Economic Council approved decision number 50/1984 entitled “Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of those Facing the Death Penalty” which stipulates that “capital punishment may be imposed only for the most serious crimes” and “Capital punishment may be imposed only when the guilt of the person charged is based upon clear and convincing evidence leaving no room for an alternative explanation of the facts.” It also stipulated that “Capital punishment may only be carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court after



legal process which gives all possible safeguards to ensure a fair trial, at least equal to those contained in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

The situation in Egypt could not have deviated further from those international safeguards. More than 150 crimes are punishable by death according to Egyptian law. These legal provisions as they occur in the Penal Code, the Military Code, the Law for Firearms and Ammunitions, and Special Criminal Law, were vaguely worded rendering them open to any number of interpretations.

There is no doubt that the death sentences outlined above are politically motivated and bare no relation whatsoever to the rule of the law but are a reflection of the desire of the Egyptian military regime to crush any form of dissent.



## ***Conclusions and Recommendations***

The 3rd of July 2013 military coup in Egypt witnessed an unprecedented level of bloodshed as security forces embarked on a violent crackdown of political opponents and peaceful protesters. In addition to mass killings on the streets and public squares of Egypt, authorities exploited the judiciary for more killings in the form of mass death sentences. There is little difference between the heinous crimes committed by the Egyptian regime, in the form of arbitrary trials resulting in mass death sentences, and those perpetrated by the terrorist groups, who behead their victims.

Seven Egyptians have so far been executed even though their trials lacked due process and their convictions were based on flimsy evidence. Not only is this an abuse of their human rights, but also, constitutes an act of murder by the Egyptian authorities.

Such executions and the despair amongst Egyptians that they could never receive a fair trial will only lead to more violence and armed struggle against the authorities as the International community continues to turn a blind eye to the



atrocities committed by the Egyptian military regime since the 3rd of July 2013 coup.

Countries that have pledge financial and military support for Egypt are complicit in these acts of murder. It is incumbent upon the governments of these countries to take a firm stand and reconsider their position vis-à-vis Egypt.

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon is urged to take steps to have these death sentences overturned. The UN Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights are urged to form fact-finding missions to investigate the crimes of the Egyptian government and adopt measures to bring those responsible to justice.

It is imperative that those complicit in judicial murders be brought to justice, especially judges Sha'ban Al-Shami, Mohammed Naji Shehata, Saeed Sabri, Moataz Khafaji, Salah Hreiz, in addition to the Prosecutor General and the Grand Mufti Shawqi Allam.

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