

The **Bloodshed**

Political Detentions in Egypt Post-Military Coup

September 2014

London



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK
المنظمة العربية لحقوق الإنسان في بريطانيا



Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK
المنظمة العربية لحقوق الإنسان في بريطانيا

PO BOX 68981 LONDON NW26 9FY

Email: info@aohr.org.uk Web: www.aohr.org.uk

About AOHR-UK

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK is an independent human rights outfit based in London. It campaigns for human rights and freedom in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Bloodshed

Political Detentions in Egypt Post-Military Coup

Copyright

© This report is a publication of the
Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK.
All rights reserved 2014.





Foreword

The 3rd of July, 2013 marked the beginning of a far-reaching campaign of mass arrests of political opponents by the Egyptian authorities. The arrests have put a huge strain on human resources as thousands of Egyptian men, women and children ended up in jail, many among them doctors, engineers, students and university professors. Most alarming of all are the horror stories leaked out of prisons as detainees recounted details of torture and other types of abuse meted out against them.

The judiciary joined the government's brutal security apparatuses in its systematic campaign of repression. Public prosecutors referred thousands of political opponents to the courts on bogus criminal charges and claims of terrorism. The prosecutor's case usually rests on investigations carried out by corrupt security forces and confessions extracted under torture. Despite thousands of complaints of torture and abuse filed by detainees, none were ever investigated by the authorities. Judges' verdicts - including death sentences - have relied on public prosecutors' version of events.



Despite wide-spread condemnation of these practices, little has been done to put an end to the systematic brutality and abuse. Indeed, cases of torture have been on the increase.

Egyptian media has played a major role in undermining reports of torture and arbitrary arrests, for example the media often describes complaints of torture and abuse as lies and fabrications. More often than not, journalists and talk show hosts have cheered on the military grip on power.

Egyptian human rights organisations, which are supposed to be independent and concerned for people's rights, have either succumbed to government pressure or simply doing its bidding by concealing some of these violations. They do this by denying these had ever occurred or justifying them through adopting the official narrative, in effect emboldening security forces to commit further crimes.

The silence of the international community and lack of substantial measures to put an end to these violations was interpreted by Egyptian authorities as a tacit approval of their policies. Much of the prevailing discourses in the US and European circles betray the lack of interest in what is happening in Egypt as long as the Egyptian army continues to protect the borders with Israel.

This timely report sheds light on many cases of arbitrary arrests and torture in Egypt and their impact on Egyptian



society. These violations also affect the very reputation of Egypt as the largest Arab country with a rich civilisation and heritage. It is hoped the findings contained in this report will move decision-makers around the world to exert pressure on the Egyptian authorities to put an end to the unfair detentions, the violations of human rights and bloodshed.

Mohammed Jamil

Director, Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK





Executive Summary

The 3rd of July, 2013 military coup in Egypt that toppled the country's first democratically-elected president marked the beginning of unprecedented crackdown on political dissent, which resulted in over 28,741 people arrested until the end of July 2014.

The figure is set to rise exponentially as the regime continues to target political opponents, some of whom were arrested during raids on their homes or places of work but the vast majority had been detained during security forces attacks on demonstrations and sit-ins. Arrests reached record levels in August 2013 soon after the violent dispersal of the Rabaa Square sit-in when more than 9,823 Egyptians were detained, some of whom had since disappeared without trace.



The indiscriminate and arbitrary arrests spared no one, men, women, the elderly and minors were detained. It is estimated that more than 522 women and 926 minors have been arrested while a record 3686 students were held during security forces' raids on university campuses. Students usually face quick trials culminating in harsh sentences that put their whole future at risk.

Even doctors who tended to the wounded after government attacks were not spared persecution. It is estimated that 180 medical doctors were arrested on bogus charges.

It was only natural that authorities would seek to hide the truth about events engulfing Egypt and attempt to prevent journalists from broadcasting to the world the flagrant human rights violations by security forces. At least 166 journalists have been arrested and a number of newspapers and satellite channels were shut-down without legal justification.

Moreover, as part of government efforts to deprive detainees of fair trials and legal representation, more than 234 lawyers were jailed for defending political detainees as a deterrent to other legal workers.

The list of charges brought against anti-coup detainees in Egypt rarely varies regardless of the detainees' line of work, age or background. These charges include: disturbing the peace, attempting to overthrow the regime, attempted murder, inciting violence, premeditated murder, vandalism, arson attacks, resisting arrest, assaulting security officers, possession of deadly weapons, disrupting traffic and demonstrating without permit.

Bogus charges, confessions extracted under torture and trials that lacked due process, fairness and transparency led to the conviction of 6977 detainees. The verdicts against 1275 detainees were referred to the



Grand Mufti for review of their death sentences, and of those he approved 259.while 657 detainees were sentenced to life in prison and 6061 were sentenced to less than three years , imprisonment and temporary hard labour for periods ranging between 315- years.

Security forces participated in the forced disappearances of opposition activists on regular basis across the country. Most of those arrested usually go missing for a while and neither their families nor lawyers are allowed to visit them. At-least 129 detainees have disappeared without trace after being abducted during demonstrations and sit-ins.

This report documents the deaths of 82 detainees among them 60 political opponents' detainees, 37 of whom were killed in the Abu Zabaal Prison van transfer incident during which security forces fired teargas into the back of the van which was crammed with detainees on the 18th of August 2014. Others have died of torture or after being denied access to medical treatment.

Egypt boasts more than 328 detention centres across the country in addition to 17 public prisons and 7 prison complexes that incorporate Limans and maximum-security prisons. A number of secret prisons such as Al-Azuli army prison, Central Security and Homeland Security prisons are notorious for housing political prisoners although it is illegal by law to hold civilians there. Prisoners are arrested and held there extra-judicially without proper documentation rendering virtually impossible for them to have any contact with the outside world or for their families to find out where they are being held.

Extreme torture is rampant in detention centres as evidenced by the hundreds of testimonies documented and of which 56 have been attached



to this report. Torture methods include the “Welcoming party” - a ritual form of beating that greets detainees upon arrival; overcrowded cells that render it virtually impossible to sleep or move; physical and psychological abuse such as electrocution, sexual harassment, rape, virginity tests, punching, kicking, and brutal beatings which often lead to multiple fractures, paralysis or permanent disabilities. The uniformity of torture techniques at all detention centres and electrocution with purposely-acquired equipment coupled with the refusal of public prosecutors to investigate instances of torture confirm that torture has been sanctioned by the highest authority in the Egyptian regime.

Many torture victims submitted formal complaints to public prosecutors but none, according to this report, have ever been followed up. Judicial orders and decisions against political opponents have time and again shown that public prosecutors have become subordinated to the ministry of interior without any regard for the law. Courts pass very harsh sentences on the basis of bogus charges and false confessions extracted under torture.

Faced with these harsh realities and the collapse of the Egyptian judiciary, Egyptians have no choice but to challenge this ruthless regime. The international community has an obligation to support the growing popular anti-coup movement in Egypt, especially since the silence of the international community has emboldened Egyptian authorities to press on with their repressive and brutal policies. Egypt is in desperate need for an international fact-finding mission with a mandate to monitor prisons and investigate crimes committed against political detainees and bring those responsible to justice.

Index

■ Introduction	19
■ Statistics and Figures	23
■ Murders and Deaths	35
■ Charges	45
■ Types of Arrest	51
■ Forced Disappearance	53
■ Torture	55
■ Psychological Torture	67
■ Detainees' Legal Rights Violated	71
■ Prison Conditions	77
■ Legal Framework	91
■ Conclusions and Recommendations	99
■ Resources	105
■ Annexes and Testimonies	107





Introduction:

By their very definition, prisons are correctional and rehabilitating facilities governed by the rule of law. Countries with strict human rights laws have adopted very rigorous regulations that determine prisoners' rights and duties. Many states, unfortunately, do not adhere to these national and international laws, thus transforming prisons into punitive entities. Prison conditions in these countries are marked by an absence of basic legal safeguards that preserve the humanity of both the jailer and the imprisoned. The former is transformed into a monster who commits heinous violations against detainees. Rehabilitation and corrections are absent, thus prisoners emerge at the end of their sentences determined to commit more crimes. In countries where democracy, plurality and the rule of the law are lacking, prisons are merely a repressive tool to silence the voices of political opposition.



In Egypt there is no shortage of prisons which, in addition to detention centres at police stations, state security headquarters and military camps, could be found in abundance all over the country. Technically-speaking, Egyptian prisons have become training centres for graduating more professional criminals. Nowhere is this more evident than in the phenomenon known as Baltagiyya (thugs) who are funded and supported by the Ministry of Interior.

In the 1990s, at the height of repression, former President Mubarak's regime decided to build a number of new prisons, especially those classed as maximum security where there is very little air, sunlight or humanity.

Conditions began improving following the 25th January Revolution in 2011 as the number of political detainees drastically dropped and there seemed to be a genuine desire to respect freedom of expression. Soon, prisons resumed their original purpose of being places for holding real criminals not prisoners of conscience.

Following the 3rd of July 2013 coup, the authorities launched a fierce campaign to arrest thousands of anti-coup protesters and political opponents. Prisons began filling-up once again with political prisoners at a rate unprecedented in Egypt's modern history. Men, women and children were arrested, tortured and abused.

Political detentions have made a comeback as a key arm of the military coup. Leaders of the coup are fully aware that without silencing the voices of dissent and jailing members of the opposition, the coup would have no hope of succeeding. Some commentators describe Egypt's military-backed government as being far worse than the Israeli occupation forces.

This report documents the escalating campaign of arrests and conditions in Egyptian prisons starting with the methods of arrests, the charges



levelled against detainees, and different types of torture and abuse. All of this is juxtaposed with the views of national and international laws on torture and arbitrary arrests.

The report relies primarily on field research, witness testimonies and cases of grievances relayed to AOHR from the families of victims. All complaints and grievances were investigated and verified before their inclusion in this report. Researchers were also able to obtain copies of the public prosecutors' reports.

AOHR researchers had to work under very dangerous and difficult conditions with the threat of arrest ever present. Sadly, one researcher was arrested and subjected to torture himself until he lost movement in his arms and legs as well as his ability to speak.

AOHR confirms that cases of torture and repression documented in this report were based on direct testimonies from those subjected to torture or the testimonies of family members who were able to visit their relatives in prison. AOHR also obtained information from defence lawyers who were in attendance when the prisoners were being interrogated.





Statistics and Figures

Obtaining exact figures from authorities of the number of detainees proved to be virtually an impossible task. However, Egyptian officials revealed to the Associated Press on 16th of March 2014 that the number of political detainees had exceeded 16000, including 3000 from the upper and middle echelons of the Muslim Brotherhood.

In order to reach an accurate estimate of detainees, AOHR collected data from police reports, official figures released by the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, as well as figures verified and documented by local human rights organisations.

According to these sources, the number of people arrested between the 3rd of July 2013 and end of July 2014 stands at 28741, with the highest number of arrests recorded in August 2013 when 9821 people were arrested.





Table 1. No. of people arrested between July 2013 and July 2014.

Month	Number of Detainees
July 2013	2491
August 2013	9821
September 2013	1500
October 2013	2139
November 2013	1368
December 2013	3506
January 2014	1671
February 2014	389
March 2014	1950
April 2014	1737
May 2014	1047
June 2014	600
July 2014	522

Despite the massive number of detainees, only a few were released during the same period only 3766 detainees were released with 925 released during the month of July 2013 alone.



Table 2. No. of people released between July 2013 and July 2014.

Month	Number of those released
July 2013	925
August 2013	573
September 2013	156
October 2013	85
November 2013	103
December 2013	468
January 2014	240
February 2014	112
March2014	242
April 2014	105
May2014	335
June2014	150
July2014	272



The Data Sample

Research was conducted on a sample of detainees who were arrested between July 2013 and February 2014. 412 detainees were randomly selected and contacted, either directly or through their families. They represented various age groups and vocations and were held in different prisons. The sample is representative of the political detainees held by the authorities.

Three sets of questions were posed: the first dealt with their legal rights and the manner of their arrest; the second dealt with their treatment in prison, and the third, concerned detainees' right to fair trials.

An analysis of the responses to the first set of questions revealed that 69.9 of respondents were arrested at anti-government protests; 8.3% were arrested randomly because they happened to be there when a protest broke out; 2.2% were arrested over suspicions they had committed a crime; and 19.6 % were arrested at home.

It was also found that 75.5% of respondents were not allowed to contact their families or lawyers during the first 24 hours to notify them of their arrest, the charges against them and where they were being held. Only 11.6% managed, through informal channels, to contact family members while 12.9 were able to do so through formal channels.

AOHR also discovered that 33.3% were forced to sign sworn statements after being tortured without even being allowed to read them first, while 5.8% refused to



sign and 43.9% only found out what they were being charged with after appearing before the public prosecutor.

In responding to the second set of questions which centred on treatment in jail, results showed that 89.1% of respondents were beaten-up as part of a ritual called “the Welcoming Party”; 6.6% were denied medical treatment; 97.3% were put into overcrowded cells; 4.1% were placed in solitary confinement; 96.1% were subjected to humiliating treatment such as verbal abuse and cursing; 93.4% were allowed very limited and sometimes no visits from family members; 70.6% had at one point been prevented from leaving their cells for at least five days; 98.3 % were placed in cells not fit for human beings; 98.3% were placed with convicted criminals during detention; 45.1% were subjected to at-least one form of torture (cigarette burns, electrocution, whipping, sexual assault, suspending, etc).

When the second set of questions was posed regarding detainees’ right to a fair trial, 78.2% said they were interrogated at detention centres; 89.8% said the public prosecutor refused to investigate the violations committed by the police against them; 44.9% were banned from appealing the extension of their remand in custody; 23.5% had their detention renewed at least once; and 84.2% were interrogated without a lawyer present.

Certain social and professional groups were specifically targeted with arrests

Doctors

Doctors played an important humanitarian role in the field hospitals which tended to the wounded during various sit-ins. According to the Egyptian Doctors’ Syndicate, more than 180 doctors were arrested since July 2013 including the Syndicate’s Secretary-General Dr Gamal Abdel Salam.



Lawyers

Detainees' defence lawyers were specifically targeted with arrests to dissuade them from defending the detainees and perverting the course of justice. Lawyers have had to work in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, which naturally impacted their ability to defend their clients. According to a complaint filed with the public prosecutor by the Lawyers Syndicate on 10th November, 2013 more than 234 lawyers were arrested for their work with detainees until the 1st November, 2013. Izzat Ghneim, one of the lawyers for the arrested defence lawyers, said the number of lawyers arrested had reached 370 by the end of July 2013.

Journalists

Journalists whose coverage of the events contradicted official narratives and views were widely targeted and threatened. More than 166 journalists have been arrested since the 3rd of July and charged with various 'crimes' such as being in possession of a camera, disturbing the peace, threatening national security and spreading disinformation. Scores of journalists were also assaulted and summoned by the security services. Some were tried in a military court such as Rasd Network reporter Amr Qazzaz (see testimony no. 10) and Ahmed Abu-Draa', a television reporter who was given a one-year suspended sentence.

Aljazeera Network received the lion's share of the authorities' attention. From the moment the coup was announced, Aljazeera's headquarter was raided, its equipment confiscated and staff arrested. Some Aljazeera staff members were arrested and released. On 16th of July, 2013, Aljazeera cameraman Mohammed Bader was arrested while covering the events at Ramses Square. Bader later revealed he was tortured and abused before he was found innocent and released on 2nd of February, 2014. On 14th of August 2014, Aljazeera staff reporter Abdullah al-Shami was arrested during the Rabaa massacre.

On 19th of December, 2013, Egyptian security forces arrested four Aljazeera journalists in Cairo. Mohammed Fahmy, Peter Greste, Baher Mohammed and Mohammed Fawzi (released on bail) were charged with spreading disinformation



and defaming the country. On 29th January, 2014, the public prosecutor charged 20 Aljazeera staff members with terrorism in what became known as the “Marriott Cell” case. The trial at Cairo Criminal Court lasted a few sessions and on 23rd June 2014 Peter Greste and Mohammed Fahmy were sentenced to 7 years and Baher Mohammed to 10 years in prison. Four others were sentenced to 7 years, two were acquitted and 11 sentenced in absentia to 10 years with hard labour.





Abdullah Al-Shami

Abdullah al-Shami is a 26-year old Egyptian journalist who worked in Nigeria as a correspondent for Aljazeera. He reported from many African countries in addition to reporting from Ankra on the situation in Syria.

He returned to Cairo to cover the events of July 2103. Al-Shami reported for Aljazeera from Rabaa al-Adawiya Square in an attempt to convey the true nature of the events following a fierce campaign of disinformation by Egyptian media.

On 14th of August, 2013 soon after the dispersal of anNahda and Rabaa al-Adawiya sit-ins, Egyptian security forces arrested al-Shami as he was leaving Rabaa Square and took him to Shorouq City police station where he was interrogated. On 18th of August, 2013 al-Shami was transferred to Abu Zaabal Prison where he was once again questioned without a lawyer and his remand in custody renewed for another 15 days.

He would appear before the public prosecutor every 45 days only to have his remand in custody renewed. On 21st of January, al-Shami announced he was going on a hunger strike. In early May 2014, al-Shami underwent medical check-ups



which revealed he was suffering from anaemia, mineral deficiency, and liver and kidney dysfunctions.

Al-Shami had sent his family a letter on 6th May, 2014 informing them of his deteriorating health condition and the pressure he has been put under to end his hunger strike. On 12th May, 2014, he was transferred from al-Torra Prison to an unknown location. A few days later it emerged he was being held at al-Aqrab maximum-security prison. Al-Shami revealed in his letter that he had been placed in solitary confinement with very little air or sunlight. Attempts by prison administrators to force-feed him resulted in his losing consciousness. He was woken-up by a doctor pouring cold water on his face after which he vomited three times. The Ministry of Interior published photos of al-Shami eating in his prison in early June, but he told his family the photos were fabricated and that he was still on hunger strike. On 16th June, 2014 the public prosecutor issued a decision ordering the release of al-Shami.

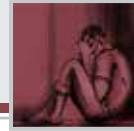
University Professors

University professors have not been spared arrest and repression. AOHR documented the arrests of 223 university professors. A number of the professors opposed to the coup have also lost their jobs.

Students

The most effective anti-coup movement has undoubtedly been that of students which explains why they were targeted the most by authorities. Hundreds were arrested, tortured and some killed. Authorities arrested more than 3686 students, only few were released while the rest anguish in jail. It is estimated that there are currently more than 1012 arrest warrants against students from various universities.

Students have reported brutal cases of torture and abuse. Female students in particular have been subjected to virginity tests and sexual harassment. All these abuses take place with the blessing of coup authorities who have given the green light to security services to crush student movements.



In one instance, 37 female students from al-Azhar University were arrested after they boycotted final exams in protest at the coup¹. The students were tortured, assaulted and subjected to virginity tests².

Some students were sentenced to 17 years in prison in speedy trials. Madinat Nasr Misdemeanours Court sentenced 26 students -- including two minors -- to 2 years in prison with labour.³ On 13th November, 2013 al-Jamalia Misdemeanours Court sentenced 12 students from al-Azhar to 17 years. The same month on the 27th, Sidi Jaber Misdemeanours Courts presided over by judge Ahmed Abdalnabi to sentence 20 women from the '7am Movement', including 7 minors, to 11 years before the Court of Appeal reduced it to one-year suspended sentence following an international outcry.

The impact of harsh sentences is not limited to incarceration but extends to these students' future prospects since conviction usually means stripping them of their civil rights such as access to government jobs. The private sector is also usually reluctant to employ anyone with a criminal record.

Women

More women were arrested after the coup than at any other point in Egypt's modern history. As an increasing number of women took part in anti-coup protests, authorities had no qualms about arresting and abusing them. Figures point to 522 women arrested, most of whom were subjected to torture while in custody, in addition to being sexually harassed and undergoing virginity tests⁴.

1 Case numbers 7399/2013 Madinat Nasr Court, 7458/2013 Madinat Nasr Court, 7332/2013 Madinat Nasr Court, and 6166 Madinat Nasr Court

2 Testimonies 29-37

3 Testimonies 26-37

4 Testimonies 26-37



Children

Authorities did not spare minors and an increasing number of boys and girls were arrested and tortured since the July 3rd military coup. In gross violation of the rights of children, almost all were held in the same cells as adults. Both Egyptian and international law guarantee children to be tried in juvenile courts and held in special detention centres. It proved quite difficult to determine the exact number of children who were arrested as most police reports fail to mention the age of detainees or include false information to make detainees appear older than they really are. The total number of detained minors reached to at least 926.



Murders and Deaths

AOHR documented the deaths of 82 detainees among them 60 anti-coup detainees in Egyptian prisons. Most of the deaths occurred outside Abu Zaabal prison on the 18th August 2013 when 37 detainees were trapped in the back of a police transfer van and gassed to death after being held for six hours in the van in sweltering heat. Other detainees died due to neglect and lack of medical care. The rest were either shot to death or died of torture after being illegally detained.



**Table 3. List of the Dead**

No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
1	Jamal Abulrahman Mohammed Abdulrahim	Jamal Abdunnasser St./ Assalam	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
2	HishamAzzam Hafez	Qalyubia	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
3	Rafiq Mohammed Ibrahim Abdulghani	Al-Mahalla	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
4	Rida Assayed Ahmed Assayed	Asharqia/ Al-Husseinia	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
5	Shukri Ibrahim Sa'ad	Madiant Nasr	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
6	Mohammed Isamil Mohammed Salih	Al-Mahal- Al-Mahmoudya	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
7	Adil Abdul shafi Abdul-hafez	Al-Marj	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
8	Waleed Assayed Mohammed Al-Najjar	Burj Al-Arab	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
9	Abu-Talib Abdujawad Suleiman	Asharqia-Faqoos	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
10	Mohammed Shihata Isamil		Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
11	Sharif Jamil Mohammed Siyyam	Damanhoor	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
12	Ahmed Ibrahim Kamel Hamzawi	Madinat Nasr	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
13	Mohammed Abdullah Mohammed Ali	Al-Mahalla	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
14	Fraj Assayed Faraj	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
15	Ibrahim Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Dashan	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
16	Mamdouh Sayyed Abdullah	Asharqia/ Faqoos	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
17	Safwat Ahmed Abdullah	Assaf	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
18	Mohammed Hasan Assayed Ahmed	Minyya	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
19	Ali Mihni Abu Khader	Dakarnas	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
20	Hasan Ibrahim Kurdi Mohammed	Dakarnas	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
21	Ahmed Ibrahim Kurdi Mohammed	Asharqia	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
22	Mustapha Mohammed Abdusalam Mohammed	Asharqia	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
23	Tariq Mohammed Hamid	Asharqia	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
24	Sayyed Barakat Sh'aban	Assaf	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
25	Mansoor Abdutawwab Abbas	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
26	Ahmed Sha'ban Rajab	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
27	Ahmed Khamis Mohammed	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
28	Sayyed Jum'a Issa	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
29	Mohammed Ramzi Abdullah Khalil	Al-Fayyum	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
30	Mohammed Tawfiq Sulieman	Giza/ Im-baba	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
31	Ahmed Mohammed Rajab Mandoor	Al-Waili	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
32	Ala'adeen HasanIssa	Banha	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
33	Mehdi Mahmoud Mehdi	Al-Matariyya	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
34	Mohammed Abdulmajid Mahmoud Ibrahim	Bani-Souif	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
35	Tal'at Abduazim Ali	Al-Buhaira	Abu Zabaal police van -18 August 2013
36	Abdumunim Mohammed Mustapha	Sohaj	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
37	Mustapha Mohammed Mustapha	Asharqia	Abu Zabaal police van - 18 August 2013
38	Abdullah Mahmoud Riba'	Asharqia	Al-Ismailia Prison as a result of torture
39	Mazen Majdi Saleem	Al-Areesh	Al-Ismailia Prison as a result of torture
40	Safwat Khalil Shaboora	Al-Areesh	Died 29th September 2013 at Al-Mansoorah Prison after being denied medical treatment for cancer.
41	Abdulwahab Mohammed Abdulwahab	Al-Man-soora	Died 1st October at Al-Minyya Prison
42	Ahmed Tamer Salahaldeen		His family said he was killed after being kidnapped by security forces on 6th October 2013. His body had clear telltales of torture



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
43	Omar Khalifa	Cairo	Same date and circumstances as above
44	Ibrahim Amer	Bani-Souif	Same date and circumstances as above
45	Salah Ahmed Yusuf Abu-Aleil	Cairo	A detainee at Al-Minyya prison. Died on 30th October 2013.
46	Sami Mahmoud Abu-Rukba		Died in prison after being denied medical treatment. Died on 6th January, 2014.
47	Abdulrahman Ali Abdulrahman	Alexandria	His family said he was killed after being kidnapped by security forces on 14 January, 2014.
48	Mohammed Assayed Guzlane	Sohaj	Died after being denied medical treatment at Torra Prison on 5th February, 2014.
49	Mu'min Mohammed Abdullatif	Kirdasa	Died at Burj al-Arab prison on 23rd February, 2014
50	Mahroos Ali	Alexandria	Died in custody at an Alexandria police station on 2nd March, 2014.
51	Mahmoud Abdulhadi	Alexandria	Died after being denied medical treatment at an Ismailia prison on 4th March, 2014.
52	Abdulrahman Mustapha	Al-Ismailia	Transferred from Torra Prison to Qasr al-Eini Hospital where he died on 14th October, 2013 from Pancreatic Cancer



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
53	Rida Abdulfattah Amara		Died at Damanhooir Prison on 18th March 2014 from kidney failure and medical neglect.
54	Fathi Ramadan	Al-Buhaira	Died at Minyia Prison on 5th April, 2014 after suffering a heart attack.
55	Haitham Saeed Hasan	Minyia	Died at Talibia Police Station on 6th April, 2014.
56	Sayyed Ali Guneidi		Died due to medical neglect at Damo Pirson in Fayyum on 17th April, 2014.
57	Mustpaha Mohammed Ahmed Ali AL-Aswani	Fayyum	Died at Al-Matarayia Police station after being beaten-up and tortured by convicted criminals and police officers on 20th April, 2014.
58	Juma' Ali Hamida	Al-Mataryia	Died at Burj al-Arab Prison after being denied medical care. Prison officials refused to transfer him to the hospital to treat his high blood pressure and diabetes. Died on 2nd May, 2014.
59	Izzat Abdulfattah Suleiman Al-Ghirbawi	Izbat Muh-sin-Alexandria	Died on 8th May, 2014 at Al-Mataryia Police Station. He was pummelled to death by police officers. Medical reports documented bruises all over his body in addition to a brain haemorrhage, 9 broken ribs, internal bleeding and collapsed lungs.
60	Abdulrahman Abdullah Abdulrahman	Al-Mataryia-Cairo	Died at Al-Talbia police station on 9th May, 2014.



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
61	Mohammed Abdulllah Ismail Sallam		Died on 31st May 2014 at Wadi Al-Natroon Hospital from Asthma. He was initially denied medical treatment.
62	Sameh Ibrahim Abul-Futooh	Al-Monofia	Died at Ein Shams Police station on 10th June 2014. His body reportedly bore signs of torture.
63	Hamdi Nadi Awad Al-Adam	Cairo	Died on 11th June 2014 at Sonoros Police Station in Fayyum after being tortured by three officers at the station.
64	Ahmed Mohammed Ibrahim Sayyed Ahmed	Fayyum	Died on 15th June, 2014 at Mataryia due to overcrowding and inhumane conditions. His family suspects he was killed.
65	Hashim Ahmed Abdul-rahman		Died at October 2nd Precinct on 18th June, 2014.
66	Ramadan Saeed Ramadan		Died on 20 June, 2014 inside his cell at 10 October 2nd Precinct from heart failure.
67	Fawzi Mustapha Ahmed	10 Ramadan-Al-Shar-qiyya	Died at Talbia Police Station on 20th June, 2014.
68	Mahmoud Sayyed Hasan		Died on 25th June at Imbaba Police Station
69	Abdulmajeed Mohammed Mohammed Mahmoud		Died on 26th June, 2014 at Assyut Prison due to medical neglect after officials refused to allow him to stay at the hospital following surgery.



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
70	Baleeg Hamdi Hasan	Assyut	Died at Al-Warraaq Police Station on 29 June, 2014.
71	Muhsin Ali Mohammed Ali		Died at Minyya Maximum Security Prison on 1st July after suffering from an acute circulatory condition.
72	Wajeeh Sabri Hasaneen	Minyya	Died at Imrania Police Station on 2 July, 2014
73	Khalid Mohammed Abdul-Latif		Died on 2 July, 2014 at 1st October Precinct.
74	Othman Ahmed Muhi-adeen		Died on 4th July in his prison cell at Mansoor 2nd Precinct following a diabetic coma when electricity was cut for more than ten hours in his overcrowded cell.
75	Hanafi Mohammed Awwad	Dakahilia	Died at Imbaba Police Station on 5 July, 2014
76	Sayyed Adam Mohammed		Died on 12 July, 2014 at Al-Himyyat Hospital in Madinat Nasr while he was receiving emergency medical attention. He had been held at Qasr Al-Nil police station.
77	Hani Attia Isawi	Cairo	Died on 12th July at Imbaba Police Station ⁵
78	Ashraf Abdullah Mohamed Shahin	Giza	Died on 12th July, 2014 at 2nd October Police Station ⁶

⁵ Case no. 6974/Imbaba

⁶ File no. 3466



No.	Name	Governorate Area	Cause and Place of death
79	Mahmoud Mohammed Saad-addin	Cairo	Died at Al-Amiri Hospital in Alexandria due to medical neglect on 14 July, 2014.
80	Islam Al-Sayyed Salem Abdullah	Alexandria	Died on 19 July, 2014 at Ramel 2nd Precinct after being attacked with sticks and tasers.
81	Ahmed Hamoud Ahmed Saleh	Alexandria	Died on 23 July, 2014 at Ihnasia Police Station in Bani Souif. Officials at the police station claimed he committed suicide by hanging in the prison's toilet. His body was taken to the Ihnasia Hospital morgue for autopsy.
82	Ahmed Abu-Bakr Adulsalam	Bani Souif	Died on 31 July at Assyut University Hospital where he was taken after suffering from very high blood pressure and a clot at Al-Wadi Al-Jadid Prison.



Charges

The list of charges brought against anti-coup detainees in Egypt rarely vary regardless of the detainees' line of work, age or background. These charges include: disturbing the peace, attempting to overthrow the regime, attempted murder, inciting violence, premeditated murder, vandalism, arson attacks, resisting arrest, assaulting security officers, possession of deadly weapons, disrupting traffic and disrupting the referendum on the constitution. Following the recent Anti-Protest Law in Egypt the following charges were added to the list: demonstrating without permit, spreading the ideas of a terrorist group -- a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood which has been banded a terrorist organisation in Egypt.

Some journalists were accused of being found in possession of a camera and publishing classified information (for those journalists covering news of the military council such as Amr Qazzaz, a reporter for Rasd Network).

A new group of charges was devised by Egyptian authorities to avert the attention of the international community away from the real number of political detainees and to make it more difficult for human rights organisations to gain insight into the sheer volume of human rights abuses. Authorities have, therefore, opted to fabricate criminal rather than political charges against detainees. Dr Mohammed Saeed al-Katatni, president of the Freedom and Justice Party, and Abdulmun'im Abdulmaqsood were both charged with running a gang of thieves that robbed apartment buildings.





The role of public prosecutors

Public prosecutors play an important role in bestowing legitimacy on charges fabricated in advance by the police and security forces. In most cases, detainees are remanded in custody for 15 days subject to renewal without probable cause.

In case number 2535/2013 at Boolaq Abu-Illa police station, eight anti-coup detainees were arrested by security forces and the police on 5th July, 2013 in the events known as the ‘Maspero Demonstrations’. They appeared before the public prosecutor having sustained very visible injuries and bruises to various parts of their bodies after they were assaulted by thugs, members of the police and army forces. The medical report confirmed the presence of the injuries. The public prosecutor charged them with organising a gathering of more than five people for the purpose of attacking a government building, assaulting members of the public and vandalising private and public property. Despite the lack of any material evidence, the contradictory statements by security forces and clear signs of injuries on the detainees, the public prosecutor renewed their remand in custody several times.

On 30th October, 2013, they appeared before the prosecutor who renewed the custody for 45 days this time without any probable cause or due process.

In case file 2971/2013 at 6 October Police Station, the police arrested 37 anti-coup demonstrators outside Media Production City after attacking protesters with live ammunition and bird-shots according to medical reports and witness statements. Despite the material evidence and medical reports which proved many demonstrators and some passers-by were injured, the public prosecutor ordered all those arrested be remanded in custody and renewed their remand several times without evidence or probable cause. They were charged with disturbing the peace and unlawful assembly. As usual, the public prosecutor’s decision, similar to many taken against



anti-coup detainees -- was unlawful and breached the rules of due process.

Case file 12695/2013/ Giza Police Station was filed in the aftermath of the dispersal of an-Nadhda Square sit-in. Security forces had laid siege to more than a hundred demonstrators at the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University until the morning of 15th August, 2013, before arresting most of them. The detainees were grouped into various case files and charged on several counts despite the lack of any material evidence to support any of the charges and the conflicting eye witness accounts. Soon the charges were changed to theft and the detainees were accused of stealing the contents of the Faculty of Engineering. Their remand in custody was renewed several times without any probable cause.

In case file 3657/2013 Al-Azbakia Police Station, the public prosecutor requested the police investigation report which should have ideally been an objective account of the facts without expressing any opinion or charging anyone with anything. Yet the investigation report read like a political manifesto which sang the praises of the so-called 30 June Revolution and attacked President Mohammed Morsi. The public prosecutor ignored the unbalanced report and ordered the detainees be remanded in custody for 15 days.



Judicial Rulings

Following trials that lacked the most basic standards of fairness and transparency, Egyptian court issued arbitrary and highly-flawed verdicts against more than 8867 political detainees. By the end of July 2014, many others were still awaiting trial.

During the past year, 4004 detainees were sentenced between September 2013 and March 2014 in 338 trials, and 1923 were sentenced in April 2014, 1238 in May 2014, and 1702 in June 2014. The trials which were held at both civilian and military courts resulted in acquittals, imprisonment, temporary hard labour, and life and death sentences.

1275 detainees were referred to the Grand Mufti for review in four separate cases (19 March, 24 March, 7 June, 18 June) , of those 259 death sentences were approved. While 657 detainees were sentenced to life in prison, 6061 were sentenced to sentences ranging between less than three years in prison, imprisonment, and temporary hard labour (3-15 years), in addition 1890 detainees were acquitted.





Types of Arrest

As the pace of arrests gained momentum and the authorities became increasingly intent on crushing any form of opposition, arrests were either made when homes, places of work, educational institutions were raided or during anti-regime demonstrations.

Arrests at home

Security forces usually raid homes after violently kicking down doors. Police officers quickly enter all rooms of the house without giving residents any warning regardless of whether it is day or night. Rarely do they show up with any search or arrest warrants from the public prosecutor or notify the detainee of why he/she is being arrested. Residents are often assaulted and abused. In some instances, security forces set fire to the house or deliberately destroyed or stole pieces of furniture and electrical appliances.

Ismail Abu Baraka filed a police report accusing the Ministry of Interior security forces which arrested his father of stealing some home appliances and sums of money from the house safe when they searched it. The report, which carried the number 11894/2013, revealed that a number of Ministry of Interior security forces stormed a house owned by Ismail Abu Baraka's father on Thursday 22 August, 2013 and arrested the father without an arrest or search warrant.



The Family of Abdulhamid Husseini Abdulhamid Mohammed Salem, 51, said he was arrested on 26th November, 2013 after security forces raided the house and other houses in the neighbourhood at 1:30am. The security forces kicked down the door and stole all home appliances and mobile phones they could get their hands on.

The family of the journalist Amr Salamah al-Qazzaz said he was abducted by security forces on 12th November, 2013 at 3am and taken to an unknown location. The family said the security forces, armed and dressed in civilian clothes, arrived in four private cars and a microbus. They surrounded the house before storming it, scattering its contents everywhere and stealing a number of electronic devices and al-Qazzaz's work cameras⁷.

Arrests at demonstrations

After security forces supported with thugs take the decision to attack a demonstration, they start firing live ammunition and teargas at demonstrators. In the mayhem that ensues, security forces surround the protesters and arrest anyone they can get their hands on before soldiers or thugs start kicking and punching demonstrators. These methods are clearly evident in the videos filmed by activists.

⁷ Testimony 11



Forced Disappearances

Forced disappearances became fairly routine following the 3rd July, 2013 military coup. Most of those who have been arrested were forcefully disappeared. Family members and lawyers often don't know where they are being held or if they did, they would not be allowed to visit them for very long periods of time -- sometimes never. Some detainees have disappeared without a trace.

In the first few hours that followed the 3rd of July military coup, coup leaders abducted the Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi and 9 members of his presidential team: Ahmed Abdul-Ati, Ayman Al-Seer, Mohammed Rafa'a al-Tahtawi, As'ad Sheika, Ayman Hudhud, Abdulmajid Al-Mashali, Essam al-Haddad, Ayman Ali, and Khalid al-Qazzaz.

Family members of President Morsi and his top aides revealed in a press conference held following the coup that they had no idea where their relatives had been taken after coup leader Field Marshal Abdul Fattah al-Sisi announced his roadmap. All of the president's aides were with him when he was arrested. President Morsi was seen for the first time since the coup at a court hearing on 4th November, 2013. He was later transferred to Burj al-Arab Prison after the court hearing scheduled for 8th



January, 2014 was adjourned. The president's aides are being tried in various courts on a number of charges.

Forceful disappearances were not limited to the deposed president and his presidential team but extended to include many detainees for various lengths of time. Some detainees disappeared without a trace and all efforts by lawyers and family members to establish their whereabouts failed.

Some detainees are held in unlawful facilities away from any prying eyes. They are then tortured to extract information and confessions before being thrown on the side of the road if they survive the torture. Sometimes their bodies are buried in secret if they die under torture⁸.

The practice of forceful disappearances become the norm after the events at the Republican Guard Headquarters and reached its zenith after the Rabaa al-Adawiya Square massacre and the demonstrations held on 16th August, 2013. Estimates indicate that around 129 detainees have disappeared without a trace following their arrest.

⁸ Testimony 38



Torture

It was evident from detainees' testimonies that Egyptian authorities have resorted to systematic torture to break the will of anti-coup political detainees and deter them from opposing the military-backed regime. Detainees are subjected to various forms of physical and psychological abuse from the moment they are arrested. The uniformity of torture techniques in all detention centres, methods of electrocution with equipment purchased for this purpose, the refusal of public prosecutors and judges to investigate incidents of torture proves beyond a shadow of doubt that torture is systematic and approved by the highest level in government. Despite widespread torture and media coverage of victims' sufferings, authorities have not taken any steps to put an end to these practices nor has any soldier or police officer ever been brought to justice. Victims say torture is worse than it ever was under the Mubarak regime. The following is an overview of some of the torture methods used by security forces in Egypt:

1 The "Welcoming Party"

Torture and physical abuse start from the moment anti-coup detainees are arrested as security forces beat them up very brutally before taking them away. Once they



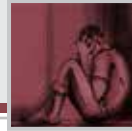
arrive at the prison or detention centre, security forces organise what they refer to as the “welcoming party”. During the first stage of the prison ritual, detainees are kicked, beaten up and physically abused in an attempt to break them down. The same thing happens again when detainees arrive at the first detention centre. Several videos of this ritual were leaked but no steps have been taken to bring the perpetrators to justice. One of the leaked videos showed detainees being punched, kicked and brutally abused following their arrest on 6th October, 2013. No detainees have been spared the the “welcoming party” regardless of age or gender.

According to testimonies from female political detainees who were arrested during the events at al-Azhar University on 28th and 30th December 2013, security forces kicked and slapped the girls, took their head scarves off, sexually harassed them, beat them up with batons and threatened them with taser shocks. The police also stole their personal belongings such as mobile phones and jewellery during the arrests⁹.

One female student, Jihad al-Khayyat, recounted the details of her own “welcoming party” where soldiers kicked, slapped and beat her up. When three young men who had witnessed the incident tried to defend her they were met with the same fate¹⁰.

⁹ Testimonies 29-37

¹⁰ Testimony 28



2 Slapping

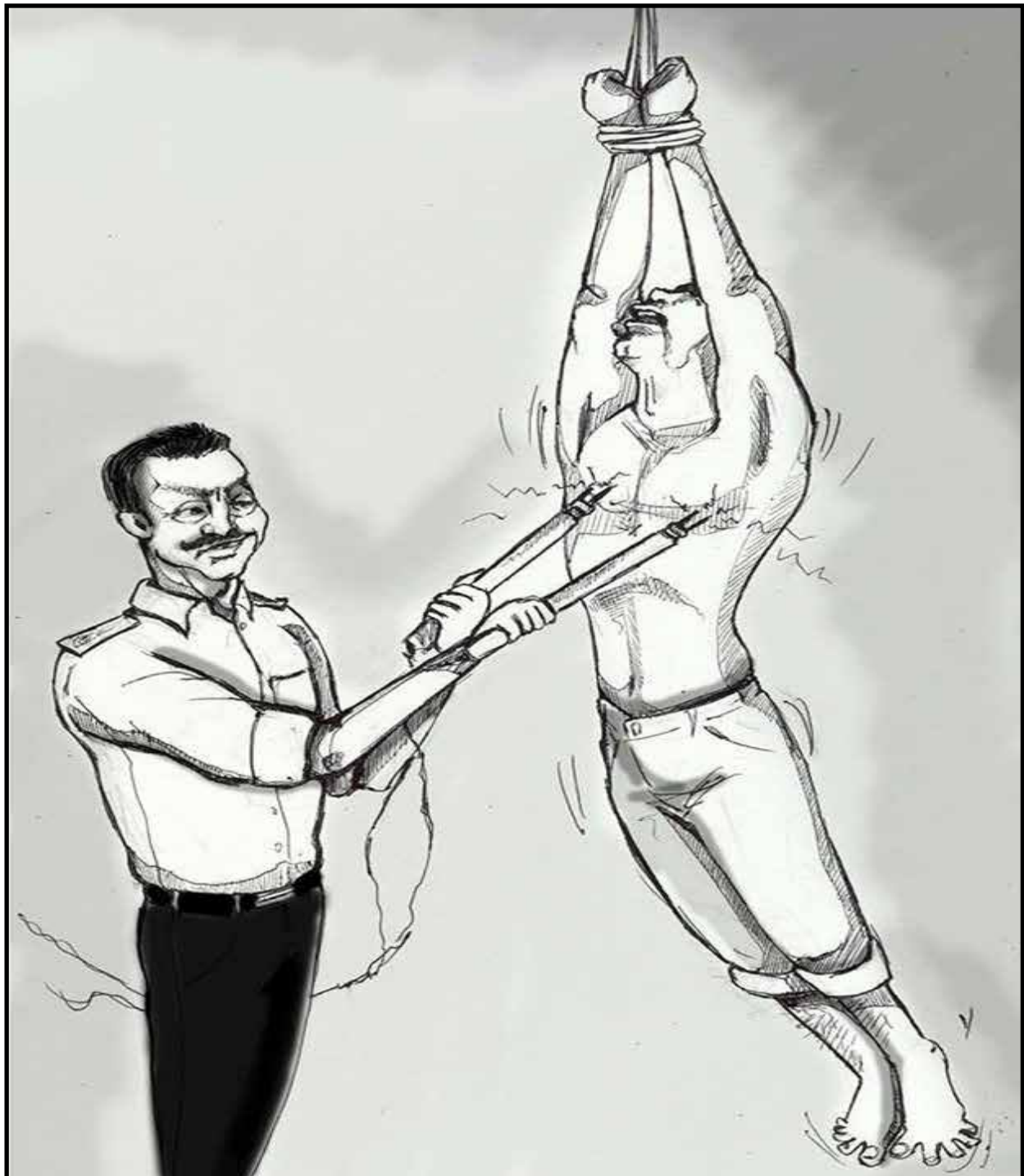
Soldiers and police officers forced the detainee to kneel down and tie his hands behind his back. The officer pushes his knee into the detainee's chest and starts slapping him on one side of the face 10 or 20 times before moving on to the other side. If the detainee leans forward, another policeman or soldier smacks him on the back of his neck forcing him to raise his head again. The slapping session lasts 7 to 10 minutes.





3 Electrocution

Torture by electrocution is quite commonplace in Egyptian prisons and detention centres as evident from the many testimonies AOHR documented. Authorities use custom-made equipment paid for with tax-payers money to inflict as much pain as possible on the victims. This is often done by hooking up wires to victims' private parts.



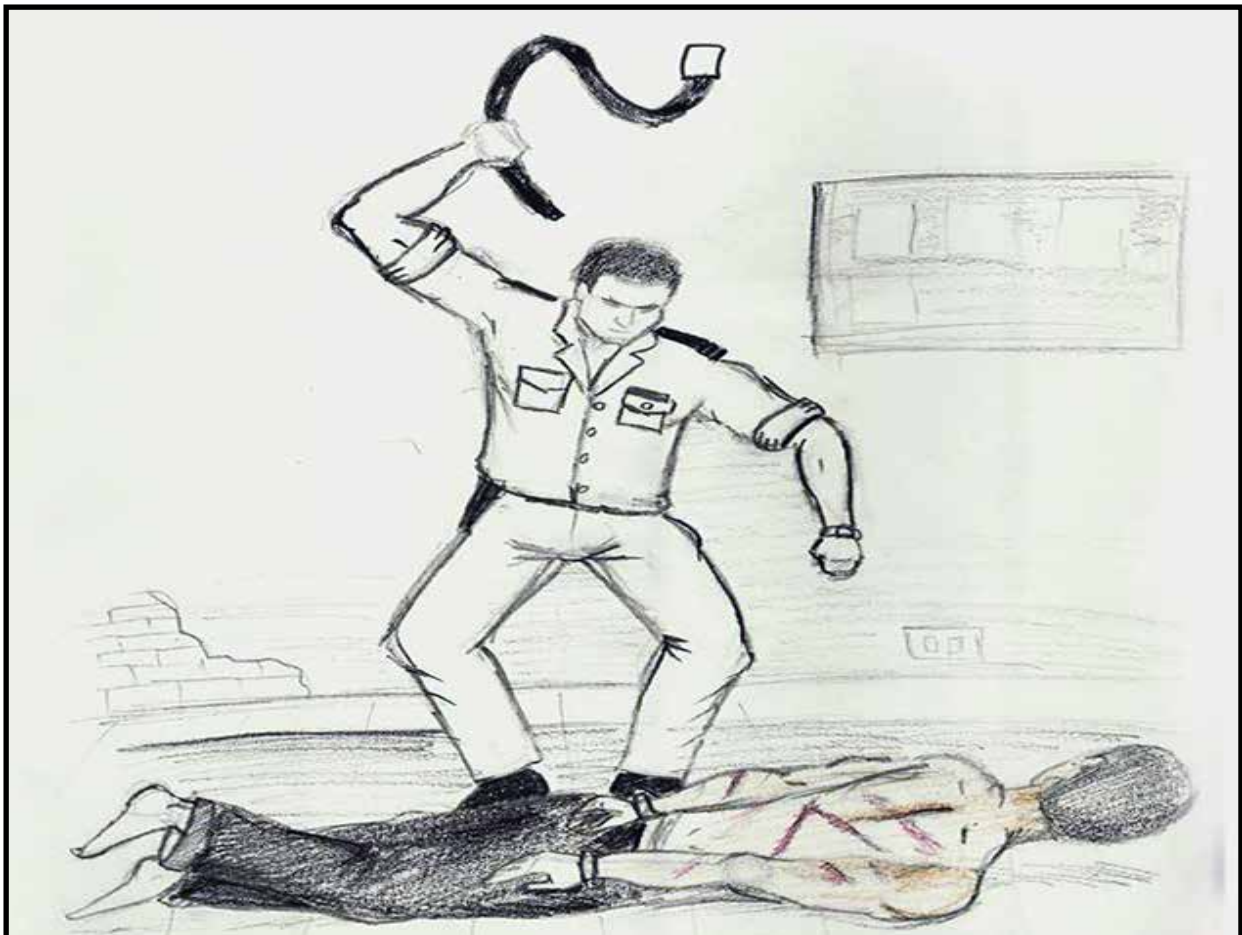


4 Suspending

Security officers suspend detainees from their feet or legs and attach weights to their feet until they develop very severe pain in the joints or get splitting headache.

5 Flogging

Detainees are stripped off their clothes and flogged with cables and belts. In case No. 5 Abu Qarqas Centre Mohammed Faouq, a 33-year old bakery owner, was accused of stealing a rifle belonging to the police during the demonstrations and clashes that occurred on 14th August, 2013 in Minya. Farouq was stripped off his clothes and forced to lie on the floor as security forces flogged him while a police officer was taking photographs of the torture.





6 The handbag

This method of torture is quite popular in Egyptian police stations. Police officers place a thick wooden stick between two chairs, then tie-up victims as they are forced to squat upside down. The stick is placed between their tied hands and knees and they would then be carried like a handbag and positioned on the two chairs. Officers proceed to torture victims in that position, beating them up, poking sticks at them and flogging them.

On 31st October, 2013 an MBC journalist, Islam Fathi, was taking his mother to the doctor when they chanced upon a building that had just collapsed. As the police surrounded the building, Fathi tried to cover the incident and take photos but he was prevented by the police. An altercation ensued after which Fathi was arrested and taken to Bandar Minya police station. He recounts how the police handcuffed his





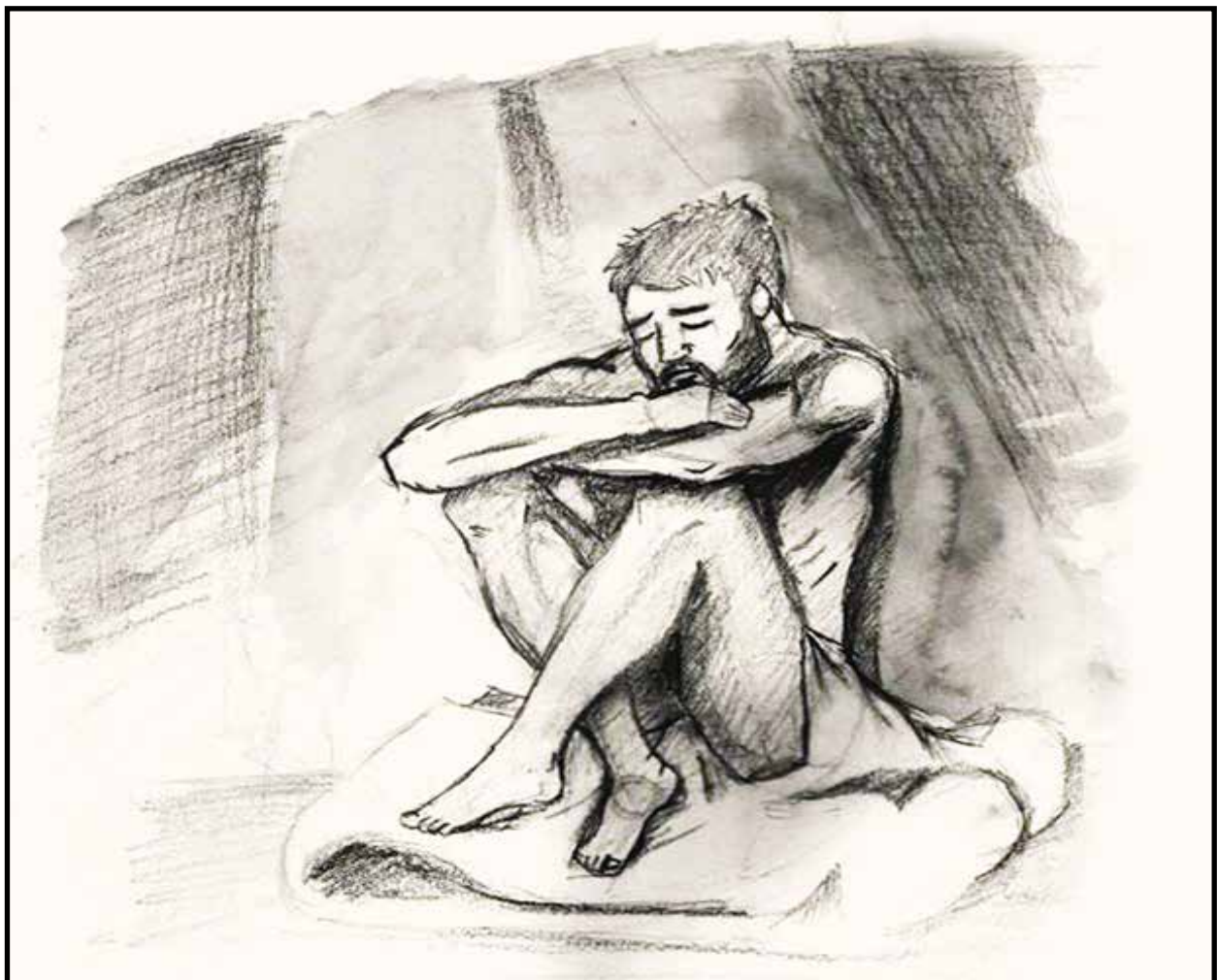
hands and legs before placing a wooden stick behind his knees and positioning it between two chairs allowing his body to swing. Fathi later learnt this method was known as the “handbag”.

7 Kicking

Detainees are handcuffed, thrown forcibly to the ground before being kicked all over the chest.

8 Sexual Assault

In some of the cases documented by AOHR, authorities stripped detainees and sexually assaulted them. Several detainees held after the Rabaa al-Adawiya massacre reported being raped, sodomised with sticks, stripped of their clothes and had their genitals fondled. According to testimony 46, a detainee was stripped of





his clothes and tied-up before security forces inserted a stick in his anus. Many female detainees were subjected to so called “virginity tests” but due to the cultural sensitivities surrounding sexual assault, many women, especially those who were raped, refused to document these cases.

On 30th October, 2013, Security Forces arrested Nasser Ibrahim Mohammed (aka Eid Abu-Marjonah) from his home in Beer al-Abid in Sinai. He was handcuffed, blindfolded, slapped and beaten, and threatened with rape and sexual assault.

Also a female detainee who had been randomly arrested was sexually harassed, and subjected to oral sex with a police officer¹¹.

According to testimonies from the families of female students from al-Azhar University who were arrested on 28th and 30th December, 2013, security forces arrested the girls for allegedly disrupting final exams at the university. The girls informed their families they had been beaten, sexually harassed and their head-covers yanked off by security officers. They were later tortured and subjected to virginity tests at Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct. The girls were then transferred to the Central Security Services Al-Salam Camp where they were assaulted, tortured and humiliated. The girls were subjected to even further abuse at Al-Qanatir prison where they were harassed during a body inspection, banned from wearing warm clothes and forced instead to wear very light, transparent item of clothing, causing them very deep emotional and mental distress since most of the girls usually wear conservative clothes and the Hijab¹².

9 Denying detainees medical care

A number of detainees died due to neglect and lack of proper health care despite mentioning they were suffering from chronic or acute ailments during the course of investigation. Prison administrators generally refused to make arrangements to extend health services to sick detainees.

¹¹ Testimony 29

¹² Testimonies 29-37



10 Overcrowded cells and inhumane conditions

Security forces usually hold political detainees with convicted criminals and the same rules and regulations are applied to both groups despite the fact detainees are still being questioned and have not been charged with any offenses. Overcrowded cells are crammed with triple or quadruple their ideal capacity making it virtually impossible for prisoners to move an inch or use the toilet. Prisoners are locked in under these conditions for long periods of time without being allowed any air or sunlight. Prominent opposition figures are held in solitary confinement for up to a week, sometimes without being allowed to leave their cells.

A lawyer for one of the detainees recounted in his testimony to AOHR that “political detainees in the Ramses Events which occurred on 16th August, 2014 were transferred to Wadi al-Natroon Prison but were shocked to be crammed into cells that were infested with bugs and flies making it impossible to sit anywhere. Almost 35 detainees were crammed into 9m x 9m cells that made it virtually impossible to sleep, sit down or even breathe properly”¹³.

11 Torture with cigarettes

Victims are tied-up and burnt with cigarettes. Amani Abdo, for example, was being held at Qubba Gardens Police Station when she was tied-up and burnt with cigarettes all over her arm¹⁴.

¹³ Testimony 44

¹⁴ Testimony 26



12 Attacks by dangerous and convicted criminals

Convicted and dangerous criminals are set upon political detainees. The latter are attacked and ordered to carry out humiliating acts and if they refuse, they are physically assaulted by those criminals.

On 16th July 2013, security forces at Azbakia, Bab Al-Sha'ria, Al-Zawyia Al-Hamra and Al-Darb Al-Ahmar prisons opened cell doors in which political detainees from the Ramses Events were being kept and fired teargas into them before letting loose a group of thugs and dangerous criminals armed with knives. A number of detainees were injured and despite filing complaints with the public prosecutor, no steps were ever taken to protect those detainees against similar future attacks or bring those responsible to justice.

13 Exposure to very cold temperatures

Prison workers often strip prisoners, splash them with cold water and leave them out in the open in prison yards without cover all night.

The brother of the minor detainee Khalid Ibrahim Mouawad said his brother was handcuffed for 11 hours on the roof of a building while it was cold and rainy before he appeared in front of the public prosecutor. When he was transferred to a juvenile facility he was forced to strip, put on wet clothes while it was very cold outside¹⁵.

The wife of the detainee Y.S. revealed her husband was held in Zagazig where his clothes, mattresses and blankets were taken away and he and the others were forced to sleep naked on the cold floor¹⁶.

¹⁵ Testimony 17

¹⁶ Testimony 1



14 Bone-crushing

A number of policemen and soldiers often hit detainees so hard with the aim of breaking their bones and causing permanent disabilities. The family of the detainee Mohammed Kammon, a university student from Damietta, reported how Mohammed was arrested on 27th December, 2013 after performing Friday prayers and taking part in a peaceful demonstration. Kammon was chased by a police car which deliberately ran him over to force him to stop. The police officers got out of the car and beat him so badly that he had to be hospitalised. According to his mother, Kammon suffered serious internal injuries that required surgery. His pelvis and one of his legs were broken, he also lost the ability to speak. Despite all these injuries, Kammon was still in handcuffs when his mother went to visit him in hospital.

15 Castration

Often, security forces apply extreme pressure on detainees' testicles that it leads to castration. One particular victim was electrocuted in his testicles until they were rendered non-functional¹⁷.

16 Suspending detainees on Al-Aroosa (the bride)

Al-Aroosa is a wooden frame shaped like a cross with an opening for the head. The victim's body is pushed against the frame and his arms are splayed across rendering him completely motionless as he is being tortured.

The father of the minor detainee Ahmed Abulfattah, 16, revealed that his son was questioned by the State Security, electrocuted and stripped of his clothes before being tied to al-Aroosa for more flogging. His private parts were also electrocuted.

¹⁷ Testimony 38





Psychological Torture

Political detainees in Egyptian prisons are subjected to various forms of inhuman and degrading treatment that amount to psychological torture. The following are an example of some of these forms of abuse:

1 Restricting or revoking visitation privileges

Authorities often revoke all the visitation privileges of political detainees for periods of up to two weeks after which visits are usually very short and do not last longer than five minutes either from behind a barrier or in the presence of a police officer who sits right next to the detainee and harasses him and his visitors. Families usually have to wait for hours for those precious five minutes.



2 Detainees forced to witness torture of others

The family of the minor A.H said that he was separated from his father at the police station and forced the father to listen to the sounds of his son being tortured in the adjacent room where he was being electrocuted, kicked, punched and verbally abused¹⁸. The father of the detainee Ahmed Abdulhamid Abdulatheem said his son was arrested and taken to Madinat Nasr 1st Precinct where he was placed in a room with other inmates who were being tortured and threatened. He was told that he would meet the same fate if he did not cooperate and confess to alleged crimes¹⁹.

3 Verbal abuse and degrading treatment

Detainees are subjected to an incessant tide of expletives, verbal abuse and swear words. That also extends to their families and lawyers during their visits.

4 Forced labour in prison

Detainees are often forced to provide special services to police officers for fear of being tortured. The family of the minor detainee Hajar Ashraf who was held at Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct said their daughter was forced to clean officers' offices and cells to humiliate her²⁰. Other female detainees from Al-Azhar University were transferred to Al-Salam Camp where they were forced to clean the whole camp²¹. According to the brother of the detainee Khalid Ibrahim, security forces made his brother wash their clothes on regular basis²².

18 Testimony 25

19 Testimony 14

20 Testimony 32

21 Testimonies 29-37

22 Testimony 17



5 Threats of Rape

The mother of the two female detainees Rasha and Hind Muneer Abduwahhab said her daughters were beaten very badly and threatened with rape by police officers at Al-Qubba Gardens Police Station²³. Another girl in the same case file, Amani Hasan Abdo, was also threatened with rape despite being paralysed²⁴. Other female detainees at Al-Ismailia Police Station were threatened with rape according to their lawyers²⁵.

6 Locking-up detainees in cells and depriving them of air

Prisoners of conscience are detainees held for political reasons and as such their time in custody is not a punishment for a crime they had committed. According to national and international laws, they should not be held in cells, and should be allowed to walk around in the prison yard and enjoy several other privileges. Security forces in Egypt, however, cram scores of detainees into small cells for long periods of time and do not allow them to spend any time out in the open.

According to A. Z. A., “many of us suffered from abdominal pain and various ailments but were denied medical treatment. Some of us became calcium deficient after spending two months without exposure to the sun²⁶”.

T.M.D. who was held at Abu-Zabaal Prison was allowed to leave the cell for only five minutes every day, barely enough time to go to the toilet²⁷.

²³ Testimony 27

²⁴ Testimony 26

²⁵ Testimony 47

²⁶ Testimony 5

²⁷ Testimony 6



7 Confiscating food brought by families or contaminating it on purpose.

Several families said that prison authorities forced them to pay bribes to allow food they had brought-in to reach their relatives inside. Prison workers would then empty the food containers on dirty tables before returning it to the containers on the pretext of inspecting it for contraband.

Jihad al-Khayyat mentioned that all foodstuffs brought in by her family were confiscated by prison authorities who would force her to watch as they ate. This prompted her to try to hide the food in rubbish baskets or in the toilet²⁸.



Detainees' Legal Rights Violated

Legal Violations During Arrest

These include:

1. Fabrication of charges.
2. Conducting searches and arrests without warrants or probable cause.
3. Raiding homes, destroying their contents and threatening occupants.
4. Implicate new detainees in old cases especially when detainees are about to be exonerated and released.
5. Arbitrary arrest of students, women and children.
6. Not arresting thugs and criminals known to the police. These thugs routinely accompany security forces during raids on homes and demonstrators.
7. Raiding homes in villages and arbitrarily arrests of hundreds of people opposed to the coup (Dalja and Kirdasa villages).



Violations by public prosecutors

These include:

1. Questioning detainees in police stations and prisons.
2. Refusing to investigate claims of torture and arbitrary detentions.
3. Holding detainees in custody despite the lack of evidence in relation to their alleged crime.
4. Prolonging remand times in custody without any legal grounds.
5. Implicating detainees, upto 20 cases at a time in some instances.
6. Public prosecutors often appeal the decision to release detainees after the latter has secured release through appeal. The law forbids appealing appeals.
7. Public prosecutors turn a blind eye to human rights violations committed in Egyptian prisons.

Violations committed by courts of law in determining renewal of custody

These include:

1. Courts renewing detainees' remand in custody even when detainees are not present in court.
2. Some courts accept the public prosecutor's appeal of the decision to release detainees even though the release has been secured through appeal. In this case, courts revoke the decision to release the detainees and renew their remand in custody.
3. Postponing requests for release.



4. Imposing exorbitant bails which in some cases amounted to 50,000 Egyptian pounds.

Human rights violations at prisons

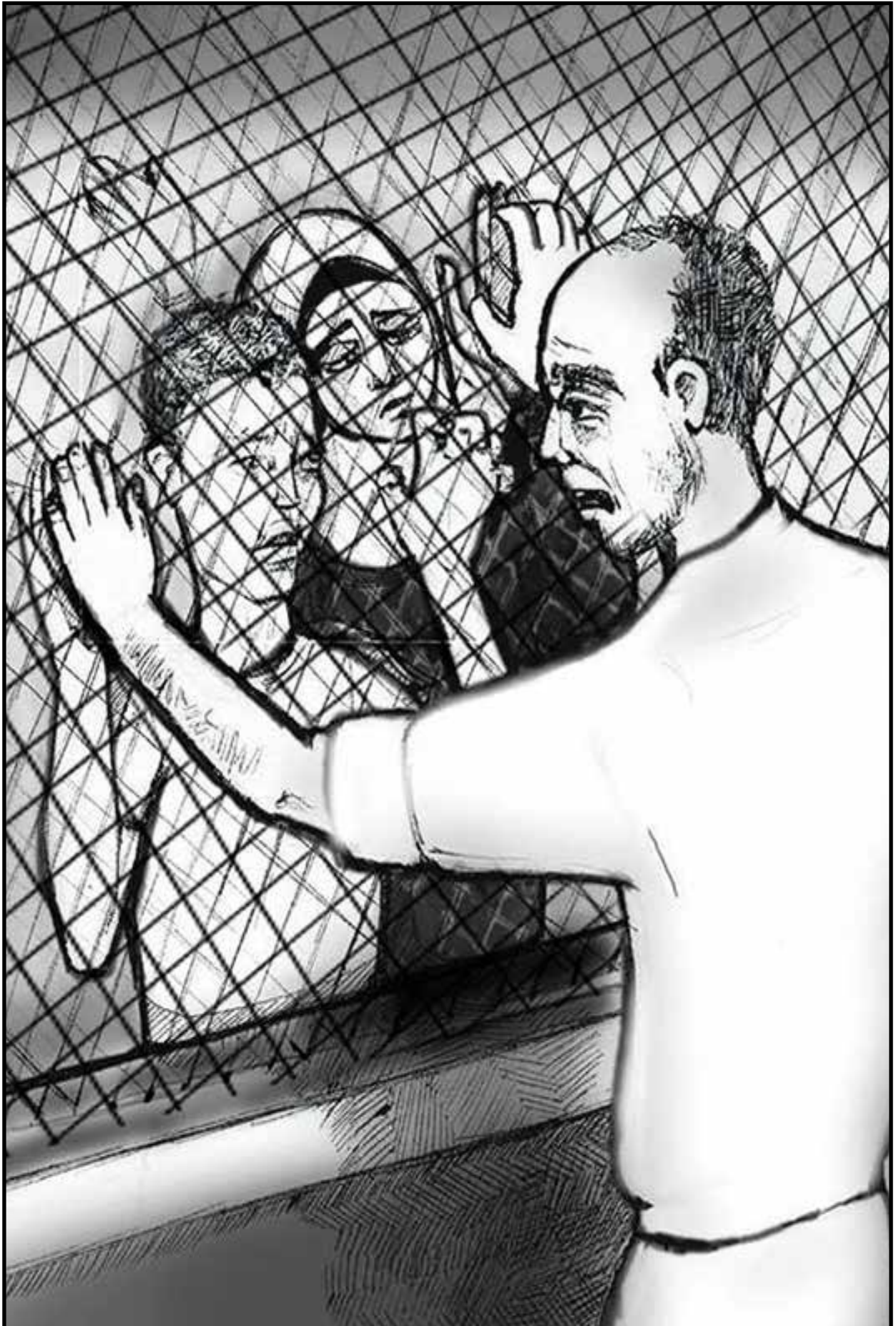
These include:

1. Placing detainees in solitary confinement.
2. Overcrowded, small cells.
3. Confiscating any items of clothing other than prison uniforms.
4. Confiscating food brought-in by family members.
5. Prohibiting all forms of communication with the outside world.
6. Preventing students from sitting exams.
7. Very short visit times. Harassment of detainees and family members during visits.
8. Preventing detainees from meeting with lawyers and family members.

Human rights violations during trials

These include:

1. Certain circuits are selected for the trials of anti-coup detainees who are usually described as “terrorists”.
2. Imposing exorbitant fees on lawyers wishing to obtain official case files from courts. In some instances, these fees amounted to 20,000 Egyptian pounds.
3. Court sessions convened at the Police Trustees Institute within the Torra Prison premises and at the Police Academy.





4. Although court sessions were supposedly open to the public, only those with permits from the court were allowed to attend.
5. Defendants are usually placed in a soundproof glass cages at the Police Academy making it virtually impossible to hear what is going on and follow the court proceedings. This was especially noticeable in the trial of President Mohammed Morsi.
6. Defendants are often transferred to where the court is being held the night before and forced to spend the night under tough conditions, rendering them quite exhausted the following day.
7. Forcing defendants to attend court sessions even when they do not recognise the legitimacy of the court.
8. Defence teams and lawyers are openly attacked by thugs as they make their way towards the court hall while the police stand idly by.
9. Members of the defence teams are sometimes banned from entering the court-houses.
10. Requests by defence teams are often rejected without justifications.





Prison Conditions

Conditions in Egyptian prisons are generally quite inhumane with very little sunlight, overcrowded cells and very little ventilation which leads to slow death for those with breathing difficulties. The very few toilets that cater to hundreds of prisoners are dirty and extremely unhygienic. Add to this the fact that most toilets do not have doors, so detainees resort to hanging sheets to protect their modesty. The sheer number of detainees and lack of proper waste management render the stench unbearable.

On top of these inhumane conditions, authorities resort to other methods for making detainees stay even more excruciating. Political prisoners are held with convicted criminals, often drug addicts and sadistic bullies who pick on these political prisoners and force them to do their bidding. Prison authorities ignore these abuses because everything short of murder is sanctioned in these prisons. Sometimes criminals or thugs are ordered by prison authorities to target certain detainees.

Detainees are also denied their most basic rights such as meetings with their defence lawyers and their families. Even when visits are allowed, they are usually quite short and involve a lot of harassment. Detainees are often not allowed to spend any time out in the open air.





Egyptian Prisons and Detention Centres

There are three types of penal facilities that restrict freedoms: closed, semi-open and open prisons. Egyptian law recognises two types: Closed and semi-open prisons.

Closed Penal Facilities

There are four types of closed prisons in Egypt: general prisons, central prisons, prisons for life sentences and prisons established by a special presidential decree.

1 Limans

According to Egyptian prison laws, Prisoners serving life sentences or dangerous criminals are held at Limans due to their brutal conditions with the exception of three groups of convicts: women, men over the age of sixty and prisoners suffering from health problems. Despite that, Limans in Egypt are full of anti-coup political prisoners who are held in custody without being charged with any offenses.



2 General prisons

General prisons are located wherever there is a Court of First Instance and usually house the following groups: prisoners serving prison sentences, women serving life sentences, men serving life sentences after they are transferred from a Liman. This is because they are over 60, suffer from health problems or have served half of their sentence on condition of good behaviour, and those serving prison sentences longer than 3 months as long as the remaining time they serve is not less than three months after deducting the time they were detained before a sentence has been passed or have not been held at a general prison prior to that.

3 Central Prisons

According to article (4) of the Prison Law the following groups are housed in these prisons: prisoners serving sentences of less than three months, those serving sentences longer than three months as long as the remaining time they serve is not less than three months after deducting the time they were detained before a sentence has been passed, those sentenced who, upon defaulting on the payment of fines, have been sentenced to prison. The latter may be placed in a general prison if it is closer to the public prosecution office or if there is no space at central prisons.

4 Semi-Open Penal Facilities

Egypt has a number of semi-open or medium-security prisons. The first prison of this type was Al-Marj prison which was established according to a Ministry of Interior decree issued on 2nd August, 1956.

There are currently seven prison areas in Egypt and usually house more than one prison and a number of other penal facilities. The following is a list of these areas:



No.	Prison	Location
1	Al-Torra Prisons area (A) which houses: Liman Al-Torra, Al-Mahkoom Prison and Liman Al-Torra Hospital	Al-Ma'adi, Cairo
2	Al-Torra Prisons area (B) which houses Al-Istikbal Prison, Al-Zira'a Branch, Mazra't Al-Torra Prison, and the maximum-security Al-Aqrab Prison.	Autostrad Road, Cairo
3	Al-Qanatir Prisons area which houses Al-Qanatir Prison for men and Al-Qanatir Prison for women.	Al-Qanatir Al-Khayria
4	Abu Zabaal prison area which houses the Abu Zabaal's old prison, Liman Abu Zabaal 1 & 2 and Abu Zabaal Industrial prison.	Abu Zabaal, Qalyubbia
5	Al-Qata Prison area which houses Al-Qata General Prison, Al-Qatamaxium security prison, Al-Qata Al-Jadid Prison and Tamel Al-Qata Prison.	Giza
6	Burj Al-Arab prison area which houses the Central Security platoon entrusted with guarding the prison, Burj Al-Arab Reserve Prison and Liman Burj Al-Arab	Alexandria
7	Wadi Al-Natroon Prison which houses Wadi Al-Natroon Prisons 1&2	Alexandria Desert Road.



There are 18 general prisons in Egypt. The following is a list of the names and locations of those prisons:

No.	Prison name	Location
1	Al-Marj Prison	Qalyubbia
2	Appeals Prison	Cairo
3	Mansoorah Prison	Dakahlia
4	Zagazig Prison	Asharqia
5	Port Said Prison	Port Said
6	Alexandria Prison	Alexandria
7	Damanhour Prison	Damanhour
8	Fayyum Prison	Fayyum
9	Assyut Prison	Assyut
10	Qina Prison	Qina
11	Sohag Prison	Sohag
12	Minya Prison	Minya
13	Tanta Prison	Tanta
14	Shbeen Kom Prison	ShbeenKom
15	Banha Prison	Qalyubbia
16	Janoob Al-Tahrir	Al-Bohaira
17	Hard Labour Prison	Al-Bohaira
18	Al-Wadi Al-Jadeed Prison	Al-Wadi Al-Jadeed



Police Stations

In addition to prisons, there are holding cells for temporary custody in 328 police stations all over Egypt. These stations are usually divided according to geographic area; each governorate has several stations with each station serving a number of villages or neighbourhoods while each housing complex has a police station or centre depending on the size of its population or its importance. Each Police unit has a detention point for temporary detentions while awaiting the public prosecutor's summons or the court's verdict. Police stations are spread throughout Egypt according to geographic classifications. Big neighborhoods usually have more than one police station depending on the size of the population. Although most police stations have witnessed human rights violations, some stations have figured quite extensively in human rights reports:

- * Madinat Nasr 1st and 2nd Precincts: these two precincts have the worst record of human rights abuses with most of its detainees reporting they had been abused or tortured. Police officers act with total impunity, displaying worrying signs of sadism and brutality as if they had been carefully selected to work at these stations. Torture, theft, sexual harassment and sexual assault are some of the abuses reported by detainees. Public prosecutors have refused to document these cases, let alone investigate.
- * Al-Qubba Gardens Police Station: This is notorious for torture and abuse. In one incident, Amani Hasan Abdo was tortured until she lost all movement in her arms and legs²⁹.

²⁹ Testimony 26



- * Al-Azbakia Police Station: Those detained here in the aftermath of the events at Ramses Square were assaulted by thugs and convicted criminals in their cells. All this happened under the orders of the presiding police officers.
- * Al-Ismailia 2nd Precinct: Several female detainees reported being tortured and sexually harassed in addition to torturing male detainees³⁰.

³⁰ Testimony 47



Secret Prisons in Egypt

As the tempo of arrests increased, many Egyptian families complained that their relatives were being forcefully disappeared. This was confirmed by detainees upon their release or transfer to general prisons. Many talked about secret prisons not subject to government oversight, a claim authorities rushed to deny. According to a statement by a military spokesperson released on the 24th April, 2014, “there are no secret or undeclared prisons operated by the army in Suez or any other Egyptian city. These claims are based on false information which the army unequivocally denies.”

But scores of testimonies documented by AOHR revealed that many detainees were forcefully disappeared and kept in secret prisons on military bases not subject to civilian oversight. These prisons include:

1. Central Security Camps: Most governorates have camps for accommodating and training Central Security Forces such as the one in Zagazig, Al-Mansoorah, Al-Salam (these are used by security forces to hold detainees before they appear in front of the public prosecutor, transferred to other prisons or police stations). Some of these camps are used by authorities as public centers of detention where detainees appear before public prosecutors or families visit their relatives due to overcrowded prisons but some are used for illegal detention without judicial oversight such as Al-Salam camp where Al-Azhar students were detained and tortured after being transferred from Misr Al-Jadida Police station and Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct to Al-Qa-



natir (female) and Abu Zabaal (male) prisons³¹. Al-Kilo Camp on the Cairo-Egypt highway is another notorious camp where scores of political opponents were kept after being forcefully disappeared.

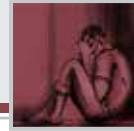
2. **Military Prisons:** Military prisons are located on army bases and are used to hold civilians on trial in military courts and army personnel serving prisons sentences. There are a number of secret prisons on military bases used for holding forcefully disappeared detainees since military areas do not fall under the jurisdiction of the judiciary or the public prosecutor. Al-Azouli Prison which is located on the Second Army Base in Al-Ismailia is the most notorious of Egypt's secret prisons. AOHR published a detailed report about this prison on 6th May, 2014³².
3. **State Security Investigations Services:** The main arm of the Ministry of Interior, State Security apparatuses carried out some of the worst forms of torture in Egypt. Their headquarters are not subject to any judicial oversight. Many incidents of torture at State Security centers have been documented by AOHR, the most notorious of which is the State Security Centre in Madinat Nasr³³.

There is very strong evidence of the existence of other secret detention centers where many detainees who had been forcefully disappeared are being kept since 3rd July, 2013.

³¹ Testimonies 29-37

³² Testimony 39

³³ Testimonies 14, 15 & 38



The Prison Revolution

The gross human rights violations perpetrated by Egyptian security forces have prompted detainees to announce they were going on a two-day hunger strike on 30th April, 2014 in addition to refraining from going to court in protest against the inhuman prison conditions and draw international attention to their plight. Prison authorities responded by cutting off water supplies to the detainees and subjecting them to brutal torture which led to the injury of dozens of detainees. On 5th June, 2014 detainees began a second wave of protests which was met with the same response. Detainees have pledged to remain steadfast until all their demands have been met.

Some of the detainees who have gone on a long hunger strike:

1. Mohammed Salah Abdulhalim Sultan (born 16 November, 1986). Abdulhalim is a US citizen who works as business development manager at a Petroleum company. He was arrested on 27th August, 2013 and spent time at five different prisons where he was brutally tortured to give up his father's whereabouts. His father was eventually arrested. Abdulhalim has been charged with terrorism and attempting to overthrow the government. Speaking while lying in a bed at the Cairo Criminal Court on 11th May, 2014 he elaborated on the circumstances surrounding his arrest:

“From the moment of my arrest until my appearance in court, neither I nor my lawyers have been able to examine the case file to find out why I was on trial. State Security officers questioned me twice



in the Torra Prison. I was told I needed to give up my US citizenship in return for my release from prison. The public prosecutor has completely ignored all medical reports about my health condition: My hand was broken, I have a chronic blood condition, my shoulder and elbows were full of nails (after being brutally beaten up and tortured) and I almost bled to death. Another inmate who happened to be a doctor felt compelled to operate on me without anaesthesia using primitive unsterilised tools to remove the nails lodged in my shoulder and to stop the bleeding. I was held for 15 days and was shocked to learn at the end of that period that the case had grown exponentially after adding several Muslim Brotherhood leaders and some prominent political figures to the list of the accused. At the end of the 15 days, we were optimistic that the new judge assigned to our case would be more impartial and transparent but we were stunned to be remanded for another 45 days in custody without as much as a proper hearing. On the same day, 26th January 2014, I decided to go on an open-ended hunger strike.”

2. Abdulrahman Ali Ali Iskandar (born 28 March 1986), who worked as an accountant was arrested on 2nd November 2013 and forcefully disappeared for seven days. He appeared before the State Security Prosecutor on 7th November, 2013 without being allowed to retain a lawyer or contact his family. Iskandar was tortured during the first five days of his arrest in a State Security building. According to his family, “He was often blindfolded and electrocuted in addition to being subjected to severe beatings and verbal abuse. He was also forced to sign false confessions under the threat of torture. Despite complaining to the public prosecutor about the torture and abuse, and demanding he be seen by a doctor to verify the torture, no steps were taken to respond to his demands. He began an open-ended hunger strike on 5th April, 2014.”



3. Sayyed Mahmoud Jaballah (born 15 July 1976 in Alexandria), was arrested on 6th November, 2013 and taken to Al-Aqrab Prison on 9th November after spending three days at a State Security building. According to his family, he was tortured and forced to strip. Jaballah is held in case no. 318/Higher State Security and has been charged with being a member of a terrorist organisation. No one was allowed to visit him from middle of January to March when his family and lawyer could see him from behind a glass barrier and only after obtaining a permit from the public prosecutor. He went on an open-ended hunger strike on 5th March, 2014.
4. Zakaria Ramadan Al-Sayyed (born 7 January 1966) is a lawyer and a member of the Lawyers Syndicate Council who serves on the defense team of political detainees arrested in Al-Gharbiyya. Al-Sayyed was arrested on 30th August, 2013 in Tanta while he was on his way to Tanta 2nd Precinct to defend political detainees. He was attacked by a group of thugs who beat him up until he passed out. He also sustained various injuries in the attack including a 15-cm cut. The thugs handed him over to the police where he was also assaulted by police officers. His wound remained without medical attention for hours. Al-Sayyed went on an open-ended hunger strike on 19th April, 2014. On Monday 21st April, the police transferred him and 32 others who had also gone on hunger strike to Jamsa Maximum-Security Prison.



Legal Framework

Egyptian constitutions are there to protect individual liberties and freedoms. According to articles 34 and 35 of the 2012 Constitution “individual freedom is a natural right, safeguarded and inviolable, except in cases of flagrante delicto, no person may be arrested, inspected, detained or prevented from free movement except under a court order necessitated by investigations. Any person arrested or detained must be informed of the reasons in writing within 12 hours; be presented to the investigating authority within 24 hours from the time of arrest; be interrogated only in the presence of a lawyer; and be provided with a lawyer when needed.



The person arrested or detained, and others, have the right of appeal to the courts against the measure of arrest. If a decision is not provided within a week, release becomes imperative. The law regulates the rules for temporary detention, its duration and its causes, and cases of entitlement to compensation, whether for temporary detention or for a sentence carried out that a court final ruling has revoked.”

Egyptian law, similar to other legislations around the world, views imprisonment and deprivation of freedom as a form of punishment for certain offenses and crimes that affect society. The seriousness of the crime determine the length of sentence. As such, Egyptian law regards imprisonment as a punishment that is meant to act as a deterrent against committing crimes.

Provisional detention: This form of custody is allowed under very strict and special conditions with legal guarantees that ensure no individual is robbed of his/her freedom without probable cause that a crime has been committed justifying such a course of action. Provisional detention is not form of punishment but rather as a precautionary measure in case the detainee is a flight risk, for example. In this case, detainees should not be treated the same way as convicted criminals since they have not been convicted of any crime yet and are merely in custody for a limited period of time as part of an on-going investigation. The Law of Criminal Procedures: The law stipulates the conditions under which provisional detention is allowed and specifies the guarantees to ensure it is not used as a form of punishment before the detainee is convicted of a crime. According to the law, provisional detention should not exceed six months for all crimes except those punishable by death in which case it could rise to two years.

Following 3rd July, 2013 military coup, the interim president Adly Mansoor approved an amendment to a draft legislation proposed by the Minister of Justice Adil Abdulhamid. The amendment to the last paragraph of Article 143 of the Law of Criminal Procedures sanctioned the renewal of detainees’ remand in custody for 45 days without setting a maximum limit on how long a detainee maybe held (the maximum period used to be six months).

This clearly constitutes a violation of detainees’ rights as set forth in international laws and agreements and transforms provisional detention into a form of punishment



especially in cases where authorities do not wish to release a certain detainee and put pressure on the public prosecutor to renew his remand in custody indefinitely without charging him with any offenses.

Most decisions taken by public prosecutors following 3rd July coup prove beyond a shadow of doubt that they are under the control of military and security authorities. None of the complaints filed by detainees against security forces are ever investigated by public prosecutors, nor do the latter follow the most basic rules of due process in questioning and charging political detainees. The situation is made worse by the fact that authorities are intent on suspending the law for the sake of silencing any voices of dissent or opposition to military rule.

Restrictions of Freedom in International Laws

Freedom is a basic human right guaranteed by all international laws, conventions and agreements. Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates that,

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his/her liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.
2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his/her arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him/her.



3. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgment.
4. Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his/her detention and order his/her release if the detention is not lawful.
5. Anyone who has been the victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

Egyptian authorities rarely informed those arrested of the reasons for their arrest or released any information to their lawyers and families about where they are being held. They are detained for long periods before appearing before a judge (sometimes never) and are held in places that do not respect the most basic rights of human dignity. Often they are held in the same cells with convicted criminals and subjected to torture by both criminals and the authorities. Moreover, detainees are prevented from the presence of a lawyer during questioning, an act which violates articles 9, 10 and 11 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. According to articles 10 & 11,

Article 10

1. All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.
2. (a) Accused persons shall, save in exceptional circumstances, be segregated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status as unconvicted persons.



(b) Accused juvenile persons shall be separated from adults and brought as speedily as possible for adjudication.

3. The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation. Juvenile offenders shall be segregated from adults and be accorded treatment appropriate to their age and legal status.

Article 11.

No one shall be imprisoned merely on the ground of inability to fulfill a contractual obligation.

According to the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under any Form of Detention or Imprisonment which was ratified by the UN General Assembly resolution 173/43 dated 9th December, 1988:

Principle 1

All persons under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be treated in a humane manner and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

Principle 2

Arrest, detention or imprisonment shall only be carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law and by competent officials or persons authorised for that purpose.



Principle 6

No person under any form of detention or imprisonment shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. No circumstance whatever may be invoked as a justification for torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Enforced Disappearance

Article (2) of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance stipulates that:

“For the purposes of this Convention, “enforced disappearance” is considered to be the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorisation, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.”

Article (5) of The Convention regards forced disappearance a crime against humanity and expanded the levels of responsibility of those directly or indirectly involved in enforced disappearances. The Convention declares that “enforced disappearances shall not be regarded as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence inspired by political motives. Accordingly, a request for extradition based on such an offence may not be refused on these grounds alone.” According to article (1) “No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.” Although the agreement has not been ratified by Egypt, it represents the international position on enforced disappearances and as such reflects very negatively on Egypt.



Torture

Egypt ratified the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in accordance with presidential decree no. 154 for the year 1986 without lodging any reservations. The decree was published in the Official Gazette and entered into effect on 25th July, 1986 as a law in Egypt in accordance with article 151 of the Egyptian Constitution for the year 1971.

The following are articles 1 & 2 of the Convention Against Torture:

Article (1)

For the purposes of this Convention, the term “torture” means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.

Article (2)

1. Each State Party shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction.
2. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.
3. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture.



The current regime in Egypt has violated the aforementioned articles of the Convention Against Torture by openly subjecting political detainees to acts of torture from the moment Egypt's democratically-elected president was forcefully overthrown by the army in July, 2013.



Conclusions and Recommendations





Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The current Egyptian regime, which came to power following the 3rd of July 2013 coup, is waging a brutal war against public freedoms and basic human rights including the right to freedom, safety from harm, and the right to life. These violations constitute a breach of all national and international laws.
2. Torture has become a commonplace and systematic in most detention centres and prisons in Egypt. Despite complaints by many torture victims, none have been investigated and no perpetrators have ever been brought to justice.





3. The Egyptian judiciary is under the total control of the Egyptian authorities and bestows it legitimacy on the human rights violations perpetrated by security apparatuses. Only in rare cases did judges uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary by exonerating the wrongly-accused defendants but in most cases judges had no qualms about issuing long prison sentences in the absence of legal justification or evidence.

4. The glaring human rights violations committed in Egypt are part of an agenda to annihilate a specific group with its own unique political and intellectual terms of reference. As such, these violations constitute crimes against humanity for which the former Minister of Defence and current president Abdul-Fattah al-Sisi, the Minister of Interior Mohammed Ibrahim, former interim president Adly Mansoor, former prime minister Hazem Biblawi, and the current Prime Minister Ibrahim Mihleb and in addition to any government employee, no matter how junior, who may have facilitated or perpetrated these acts. No one should be allowed to claim they were only carrying out orders. The legitimacy of an act is derived from the nature of the act itself, not the person who ordered it.

5. The dangerous collapse of virtually all legal apparatuses in Egypt and the lack of legal recourse for victims of human right violations should compel the UN and international decision-makers to form fact-finding missions to investigate these grave violations and bring those responsible to justice.

Resources

- » Field research
- » Victim testimonies
- » Lawyers' testimonies
- » The Egyptian Centre for Social and Economic Rights
- » Videos posted by activists on Youtube.
- » Public prosecutors' case files.
- » Police reports against anti-coup activists.
- » Official reports published by the current regime and official press releases.





Annexes

Testimonies

The First Part





1 Mrs. Aida F. Y

“My husband was arrested during peaceful protests on the 30th of August 2013 by a group of thugs working with the ministry of interior. He was initially taken to Asharqia security directorate but I learned the following day that he was being held at the Central Security headquarters in Zaqaziq. At around 11am a group of soldiers informed us that the detainees were due to appear before the public prosecutor, but they never showed up. We were surprised to hear that the public prosecutor had instead opted to question them in prison due to the large number of detainees. Our lawyer told us that the Central Security headquarters was not equipped to house any detainees. We waited with the lawyers in front of the Central Security building until 2:30 to attend the hearing. Police officers prevented the lawyers from attending the hearing with the detainees. After a huge row, only four lawyers were allowed to go in and represent all the detainees. We learned later it was the public prosecutor’s decision not to let the lawyer in. I was shocked to hear that my husband had been charged on seven counts, including premeditated murder and possession of deadly weapons. My husband is an engineer and a respected member of the community and there is no way he would even know how to get his hands on such weapons. He was remanded in custody for 15 days. We were not allowed to visit the detainees for 18 days. They were transferred outside Asharqia one week after the hearing and we had no idea where they were being held. During the first visit on the 18th of September 2013, my husband told me he had been beaten up in prison as part of a ritual called the “Welcoming party”. He also said they were forced to sleep on the floor without mattresses or blankets and were rarely allowed to leave their cells. Visiting my husband was in and of itself a humiliating experience as I was subjected to a humiliating body inspection. The prison warden refused to allow us to take in any food or fruit. The visit itself lasted only 10 minutes after we waited six hours under the hot sun. I have no idea what is going to happen next or what has become of my husband.”



2 A. S. (Lawyer and human rights researcher)

“I am a lawyer and law researcher at the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK) which is currently working to document human rights violations in Egypt. I personally investigated many of these breaches by examining official case files, talking to witnesses and comparing their testimonies to material evidence. In the case of victims, I would document their cases and collect authorisations from them to grant AOHR UK legal permission to institute legal proceedings on their behalf. I was able to collect a large number of authorisations from the families of victims killed during the Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Annahda squares massacres and other incidents. I had them all in my briefcase. On the 17th of November 2013, I headed towards Tahrir Square upon an invitation from a youth movement opposed to the military coup. I wanted to monitor the situation first hand and document any human rights violations. I arrived at Tahrir Square at 4:45p.m. Protesters began chanting anti-military regime slogans: “Down with military rule”, “The Coup is the real terrorist”. Security forces responded by firing teargas and birdshots at the peaceful protesters. In the melee that ensued I was taken by several officers to a far corner of the Square where they proceeded to inspect the contents of my briefcase. They found the authorisations from victims’ families and witness statements. A police officer demanded to know what political party I belonged to. I told him I was a lawyer and a human rights researcher and did not belong to any party and that I was there to document human rights abuses. He punched me in the face breaking my nose. They took me to another location within the Square where three policemen in civilian clothes began questioning me. A man in uniform showed up and everyone saluted him. He proceeded to quiz me at the same location.

Q: Do you belong to the Muslim Brotherhood movement?

A: No, I don’t belong to the Muslim Brotherhood or any other political movement

Q: Why did you come to Tahrir Square?

A: I am a lawyer and a researcher and work documenting human rights abuses.

He began shouting expletives against me, human rights organisations, and the young people in the streets and everyone opposed to the coup. He left and the



interrogation continued. Another police officer in civilian clothes called Major Walid began noting down the charges against me: (1) Anti-police and anti-army chants (2) Disrupting traffic (3) Terrorising the locals (4) Vandalising public and private property in and around Tahrir Square (5) Resisting arrest. Three generals and a first lieutenant in uniform signed the list of charges after which I was taken to Qasr Al-Nil police station. The chief detective at the station began questioning me about the same things I was asked about in Tahrir Square. At 8:30 p.m. I was thrown into a prison cell then an hour later I was once again taken up to another part of the station. I was blindfolded, stripped off the upper half of my clothes, and my hands and feet were tied up. A man there was swearing at me and my family. I felt them stick something on my back which turned out to be part of an electrocution device. I was electrocuted for what felt like forever. The pain was indescribable. Someone in the room began speaking but I could not see whom because I was still blindfolded. “This is just the tip of the iceberg. We can do much worse to you,” he said. He asked me whom I worked for and who were my partners in this documentation process. I told him that I worked for the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK) and gave him the name of my director. I explained it was a perfectly legitimate line of work. I pleaded with him to bring me before the public prosecutor. His response was to slap me a few times. He then asked me what my name was, where I lived and what brought me here. I told him that I was here in capacity as a lawyer and a human rights researcher.

Q: Do you work for the Muslim Brotherhood?

A. No.

Q: Whom do you belong to then?

A. No one. I am a lawyer and a researcher.

That statement was met with mockery and a stream of expletives and more electrocution. While I was being electrocuted he kept saying, “Maybe the electricity will remind him which group he belongs to.”

Q: Do you recall the group now?

A: I swear to god that I don’t belong to any group.



Q. Were you part of the Muslim Brotherhood while you were in college?

A. I never engaged in any religious or political activities in college.

Q. Electrocute him again maybe he will remember.

A. I am not lying to. If you want me to say anything in particular, I will and I will sign on it. All I know is that I have not lied to you.

I was electrocuted time and time again. He then asked me about my family and their political and religious leanings. I told him they did not have any specific leanings. He responded by hitting me on the head several times. He was standing behind me and with each response, I would be hit and electrocuted. By the time they took me back to the cell, I could barely move or talk. The following morning I appeared before the public prosecutors. One of the police officers advised me not to say anything about the nature of my job or what transpired at the police station if I wanted to get out in one piece. He warned me against complaining or else they would do the same thing to me again. At noon time, I signed a statement in the presence of the public prosecutor without reading it or saying a single word. The prosecutor ordered my release and I was taken back to the police station and released at midnight. I could hardly walk and my knees were wobbly I could barely take ten steps without falling down. My tongue felt heavy and I still have trouble speaking properly. The nerves in my hands were damaged by the electricity and I suffered continuous bouts of regurgitation after developing esophagitis from torture by electrocution. My nose was broken and had bled profusely.”



3 M. Y (Lawyer)

I had gone to attend the questioning at a court house in Cairo when my colleague A. S. got off the police van. He was in a terrible state and could barely walk. He was leaning against one of the other detainees and was unable to speak. I rushed towards him to ask him how he was doing but he gave me a blank, stunned look and did not utter a word. The other detainee told me that my friend had been electrocuted and was unable to speak. I decided to explain to the public prosecutor what happened to my friend after I got all the details from the other detainees and some of the guards accompanying him. I was shocked when the public prosecutor said this meant that there was a dispute between A.S. and the police officer and that he would have to summon the police officer to question him which meant A.S. would have to be remanded in custody for four days while this was being done. “But he is in no state to be remanded in custody as you can see. His nose is bleeding, his face was swollen and he has bruises on his back,” I said. I proposed he refer him to a medical examiner. “You talk too much and there is really no need to put him in custody but it is up to you,” the prosecutor said. I explained the detainee was a friend and a colleague. But I could see that his condition was so bad it was impossible for him to stay one more minute in prison so I agreed to his release without investigating the torture or referring him to a medical examiner as that would require he stay longer in jail. We had to wait until midnight for him to be finally released from jail. He still speaks with a stammer and his hands cannot stop shaking from all the beating and torture he was subjected to in prison.”



On the 30th of December 2013, I was with Mr. Hisham S. A at the metro station (Al-Shuhada') when a police officer -I later found he worked for the Transportation Police- tried to stop Hisham and shouted "Sir, this man is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. He is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood." Hisham and I tried to run as fast as we could but it was too late. Five members of the Transportation Police surrounded us and grabbed Hisham as if he was a criminal. His only crime was sporting a beard. They claimed they had seen him take part in a demonstration at the metro station although no demonstrations were held at the metro that day nor did we hear anyone chanting any slogans while we were there. Hisham was taken to Rabaa Al-Ataba prison before being transferred to Al-Khalifa police station and finally the appeals holding cell where he still remains. They have treated him like a criminal. The cell where he is being held is 70 square metres crammed with 200 prisoners who cannot all sit or sleep at the same time. When I asked Hisham about the food served there, he said the portions were not enough to feed a child and the quality of the food was inhumane. Prisoners are only allowed 10 minutes during visiting time punctuated by more humiliation and abuse. Most of the food brought in by relatives is taken by prison administrators."



5 A. J. A. Student, 18 years.

“On the 16th of August 2013, I was taking part in anti-coup demonstrations in the vicinity of Al-Fath Mosque when police attacked us with live bullets, teargas and bird-shots. A group of us took refuge in the mosque where we remained under siege for 20 hours until security forces stormed the mosque to arrest us. The sheer force of the raid and the density of the teargas prompted those inside the mosque to open the doors and go outside but were instantly set upon by thugs who beat them up and handed them over to the police. Security forces barged into the mosque and put all the men, women and children into one of the big rooms before marching them out of the mosque into police vans. The vans are not meant to hold more than 20 people at a time yet more than 60 or 70 were crammed into each. Women did not fare much better than the others as they were beaten up and placed in the same vans as men. Some people passed out in the transfer vans which took us to Torra security camp. When we got there we were dragged out of the vans and thrown into cells. The place was very dirty, toilets did not have water and human waste was everywhere. We were forced to sleep on the floor without blankets or pillows. We were blindfolded and questioned on the night of our arrival: “What were you doing at the mosque? Do you belong to the Muslim Brotherhood?... etc.” Two days later we were taken to see the public prosecutor. A number of us had sustained gunshot wounds during the demonstrations but were not given any medical treatment. On Thursday we were transferred from Torra to Wadi Al-Natroon prison camp. We sat in the police van for hours and could hardly breathe. When we arrived there, we were verbally abused, stripped down to our underwear before being beaten with plastic pipes. Our hair was completely shaved off. Even the sick and the paralysed were beaten. We were then placed in tiny cells crammed with 30 people each. The cells were very dirty, the toilet not fit for human use and the infested with bugs and insects. We remained without clothes for quite some time before being given blue uniforms. We slept on the floor without blankets and often suffering from stomach pain but they refused to give us any medications. We spent 60 days in our cells without being allowed to go out in the sun and some of us ended up with serious bone issues and Calcium deficiency. They would line us up against the wall and give us the food. Sometimes they would ask us to denounce Dr. Mohammed Morsi and if we refused,



they would beat us up until we did. The food was not fit for human consumption. One detainee was refused medication after ending up in hospital simply because he was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. A group arrived from a camp called Kilo 105 and told us that prisoners there were stripped and raped. We appeared before the public prosecutor 3 times and our remand would be renewed for another 15 days. On the fourth occasion, it was renewed for 45 days. Our families had to wait 15 days to find out where we were being held. There detainees suffered epileptic fits but instead of receiving medical treatment prison administrators tried to put them in solitary confinement but then ended up placing them with other inmates. There several detainees who suffered from mental illness and one who had polio. On the 1st of December 2013, 84 detainees held in connection with this case were released. I and the rest of the detainees were not so lucky. On Sunday the 2nd of December 2013 were moved to Istikbal Torra where conditions were equally dismal. Our trial continued at the Police Trustees Institute. The whole court session lasted an hour and a half after which I released. We went back to Istikbal Torra and were questioned again by the State Security before being taken to Cairo Security Directorate to be registered on the Dangerous Criminals Unit. I was released from the Directorate on the 8th of December 2013.



6 T. M. D (25 years old)

“I was among those taking part in the peaceful sit-in at Rabaa Al-Adawiya Square. On the 14th of August 2013, the sit-in was violently dispersed by security forces. Hundreds were killed and injured. The field hospital filled up with dead bodies. Bullets were flying everywhere and the situation was very dangerous. I tried to leave the Square a few times to no avail until I was finally arrested at 6:30 p.m. after security forces attacked the field hospital and set the mosque and the hospital on fire while many bodies and injured protesters were still inside. We were promised a safe passage if we came out but were immediately arrested and handed over to the army after being beaten quite badly. We were taken to the Cairo International Stadium after the police took away our phones, money and clothes. We remained there until sunrise. We were then taken to Al-Nuzha police station where we remained for three days during which we were subjected to various types of abuse from both the police and other convicted criminals they set upon us. We were not allowed any drinking water. Cells were so tiny and could only accommodate 10 people yet more than 45 detainees would be crammed into them. We were then transferred to the Military Prison, a meeting point for detainees from various police station. I ended up among the group taken to Abu Zaabal Prison where we were greeted a ritual known as the “Welcoming Party” which entails being beaten up with sticks and batons by other police officers while detainees are still in handcuffs. I was placed in the Disciplinary Section which consists of very small rooms (1.6m x 2m) shared by six people. There were no toilets and water was everywhere making it almost impossible to sleep on the floor. Food and drinking water were scarce and there was no electricity. We were allowed out of our cells for only 3 minutes every three days. Naturally we were subjected to physical and verbal abuse all the time. We had to wait 18 days to see our families. These 5-minute visits were usually punctuated by harassment, verbal abuse of visitors, and confiscation of any food they bring for their relatives inside. They prevented my parents from seeing me on the occasion of Eid. When I was finally released three months later, I appeared blindfolded before a State Security court and was questioned once again and beaten quite brutally while I was in handcuffs.”



7 Testimony from the mother of the victim Ahmed Tamer Salahiddeen Nabil (24 years old)

“Ahmed had called me at 2:30 p.m. and told me that he was taking part in the 6 October activities on Corniche Al-Nile near Semiramis Hotel. He said there was heavy police presence and demonstrators were being attacked with teargas, live bullets and bird-shots. I tried calling him at 3 p.m. but his phone was switched off. We began looking for him everywhere, at police stations, hospitals and anywhere where he might have gone. We reported him missing to the public prosecutor (case file no. 6411 Al-Sayyeda Zeinab police station). I received a phone call informing me that my son was being held at the Security Camp in Al-Jabal Al-Ahmar. I immediately headed there with a lawyer but they refused to give us any information. A relative then told me that Ahmed was being held at Bolaq police station but once again no one there would release any information. On Wednesday the 9th of October I received a phone call from Imbaba police station summoning us to the station and said it was regarding Ahmed. He would not give us any more details. When I arrived there with the lawyer, I was notified that my son had drowned and his body had been found by the Coast Guard. I noticed, however, that all his personal belongings and papers were still intact and none bore the tell-tale signs of having been submerged underwater. I headed to the morgue at Tahrir Hospital in Imbaba. There was blood on his face and his body was charred and unusually swollen. The family of another dead protester were there to collect their son's body. His name was Omar Khalifah and had died under very similar circumstances to my son after taking part in the 6 October events. They were given the same version of events. I headed immediately to the public prosecutor's office and filed a complaint saying my son had been tortured and murdered by the police. I collected the body and his death certificate cited the cause of death as 'drowning'. While we were washing him, we noticed several skull fractures and there were bruises all over his body in addition to traces of blood. I requested a post-mortem and we are still waiting for the medical examiner's report. The police tortured my son to death but the public prosecutor has refused to investigate my son's murder. Ahmed did not know Omar nor had he ever met him. The only thing they have in common is that both had taken part in the same demonstration and were tortured to death.”



8 Testimony from the mother of victim Omar Khalifah Othman Abdulhamid

“Omar was born on the 11th of November 1992. He was studying engineering at Hilwan University and lived in Bani Souif. We knew that Omar was going to attend the 6 October activities and watched on television how the police were attacking the demonstrators. When we called Omar at 2:30 p.m. he told us that he was near the Four Seasons Hotel and that the police had fired teargas, live bullets and bird-shots at them. We shortly lost all contact with him. We looked for him everywhere but there was no trace of him. Three days later we received a phone call from Imbaba police station to notify us that Omar had been found dead in the Nile along with another young man called Ahmed Tamer. When I saw him at the morgue I immediately noticed he was covered in blood, his face was black and swollen and there were green blots on his body (as if he had been hit and bruised). His eye were protruding and his mouth open. His cards, documentation papers and all other document he was carrying were intact and did not seem to have ever been submerged in water. His trousers and shoes were torn in several places. The report mentioned drowning as the cause of death but the death certificate did not list drowning as the cause. We were certain he had not drowned but was rather tortured to death but did not dare to complain. We were also pretty sure the public prosecutor and the judiciary would not question the death of anyone who died in police custody. We also found out there was another young man at the morgue who had died under similar circumstances and his parents were given the same version of events. We were too scared of the consequences of questioning the case of death so we decided to collect our son’s body and buried him on the 9th of October.”



9 Mohammed Abdo Suleiman, a 20-year old student.

“I was arrested on Friday the 10th of October 2014 near the Zoo in Giza. Security forces dressed in civilian clothes surrounded me and my friend then dragged us into an armoured vehicle where they proceeded to physically and verbally abuse us. A security officer, also dressed in civilian clothes, noted down our names and confiscated our phones. There were six of us in the armoured vehicle which drove for a while on a very bumpy road. The journey was made worse by our injuries. Upon arrival at the Central Security Camp in Asharqia we were greeted with a ritual called the “Welcoming Party” where security officers form two rows and force us to pass through while they kick, punch and beat us with rifles and sticks. Following a thorough body search they wrote down our names and took us up to cell 14 on the third floor. It was really cold and we were hurting from all the flogging and the beating. After another quick roll call in the cell, we were taken down to the first floor and ordered to stand in a corridor. We were then blindfolded and taken one by one into a room for questioning by the State Security. When it was my turn, the officer asked me for my name and address before taking my mobile phone and going through all my messages. All the while I was being smacked on the back of the head and slapped repeatedly by 3 other men in the room. When they found a patriotic song on my phone, they intensified the beating. They ask me if I knew anyone in the Muslim Brotherhood and I said I did not. They tied a rope around my neck and attached the other end to the top of the door and started pulling until I almost suffocated. After going through the list of names on my contact list, they asked me about three names in particular while they were still kicking, punching and beating me up. They asked me who my Muslim Brotherhood leader was, who ordered me to demonstrate, etc. I told them I was not linked to the Muslim Brotherhood in any way. My hands were then placed inside a metal respectable and they threatened to electrocute me. I was then taken up to cell 14 on the third floor. All the other detainees were also tortured. Some of them were in a very shape after being electrocuted for a long period. The cell had one mattress only which meant most of us had to sit on the very cold floor. They refused to give us any blankets. At 6 a.m. a soldier brought breakfast which consisted of beans in a dirty bucket and dry bread. We remained in the cell until around 10a.m. until a soldier fetched us and we went to a cell on the first floor. We



spent the night there. The following morning the public prosecutor came to the military camp and we appeared before him. We were divided into two groups of six and questioned. We asked the public prosecutor to do something to put an end to the torture and ensure we receive better treatment in prison but he refused to even document our request. I later learned from a friend called Said that he was tortured by State Security Forces and when he told the public prosecutor, the latter made fun of him. The public prosecutor ordered we be remanded in custody for four days. Bleeding men were brought in every few hours and our only access to the sun was a tiny window in the cell. On the 9th day we appeared before the court and were remanded in custody for another four days on top of the four days we had already spent in prison without even appearing before the public prosecutor. We did not say a word during the court session. We went back to prison camp. Two days later on Monday the 20th of January we were transferred to the General Prison. We were searched, ordered to change into white prison uniforms and I was given the number 173320. We spent the night in Block B, cell 2. Visits were not allowed, the food was terrible and the treatment inhumane. Political detainees who were already there had gone on a hunger strike to protest these conditions. Despite all threats of further torture and abuse, prisoners refused to back down and end the hunger strike. Prison officials attacked us with teargas canisters in our cells and we almost suffocated to death. The Director of the Prison Department was there and he inspected every cell, cursing and swearing all the while. They transferred two detainees (Engineering students Mohammed Ghali and Ahmed Eid) to a faraway prison to make it very difficult for their families to come and visit them. On Wednesday the 29th of January, I was released from prison and transferred to Zaqaziq 2nd Precinct to await the State Security decision for my release. The decision arrived at 11:30 a.m. and I left at 12 a.m.”



10 Testimony from the daughter of the detainee Mahmoud Abdulhadi Ahmed Abdo (59 years)

“My brother is president of the Department of Electrical Generation Plants at the North Delta Company. He has a heart condition and had had to have two open heart surgeries. Three days before his arrest he was staying at Dar Al-Fouad Hospital due to some serious heart problems. On the 12th of October he was arrested at 2:30 a.m. from our home in Al-Ismailia and taken to the Al-Mustakbal Prison in Al-Ismailia. The bad prison conditions led to a worsening of his health condition. The cell was so tiny yet housed more than 50 detainees. My father was forced to sleep on the floor despite his heart problems and shortness of breath he suffered from. He was refused this medication for two weeks. We submitted several appeals to the prison administration and the public prosecutor to release my father on compassionate grounds. But despite handing in medical reports as proof of my father’s poor health, all our appeals were rejected. One month after his arrest, the prison administration finally agreed to allow a doctor to examine a father. The doctor’s report recommended immediate admittance into the intensive care unit at the hospital. He was ‘detained’ at the ICU where the medical services were quite terrible. On one occasion we noticed that my father was not responding to us and discovered he had lapsed into a coma but none of the doctors had noticed. A few hours later he woke up. He remained in hospital for two weeks after which he was returned to the hospital despite his poor health. He spent 3 painful days in prison coming in and out of a coma. He was then returned to the hospital where he stayed for a month. At the end of the month the hospital released a medical report saying that my father’s health condition was very critical and they could no longer provide him with the care he needed because of limited resources. The hospital recommended my father be transferred to a more advanced hospital but prison officials ignored the report and put my father back in prison. Two weeks later we submitted an appeal to the public prosecutor and the Department of Prisons to have my father transferred to a private hospital but all our appeals were ignored. We meet Al-Ismailia Public Prosecutor Ahmed Madkoor and explained the situation to him. He went to the prison to verify our claims and despite finding out that my father’s health had deteriorated dramatically he refused to do



anything. On Monday the 3rd of March 2014 my father suffered a heart attack and he passed away in hospital on the morning of the 4th of March.”

11 Testimony from the father of the journalist Amr Mahmoud Ahmed Salameh Al-Qazzaz (24 years)

Amr works as a journalist and lives in 6 October City.

“On the 13th of October 2013 security forces raided my son’s apartment and arrested him. They also destroyed some of the apartment’s contents. We had no idea where they had taken him. Twenty days later we received a phone call from someone who told us that Amr was being held at Torra prison. The man who called was the relative of one of the detainees at the same prison. He told us that Amr had asked him to call us. When we saw Amr he told us that he was initially taken to a Military Intelligence prison where he remained for 15 days before being moved to Torra prison. He said he was questioned and tortured, and blindfolded for 15 days. He could not give us the details of his arrest because the visit was very short and we were surrounded by police officers. All he could tell us was that the treatment in prison was very bad and they were only allowed half an hour out of their cells every day. They had also taken all his personal belongings, blankets and clothes. Three weeks ago they were attacked in their cells by two agents, one of them called Mohammed Al-Najjar and the other’s name was Sabri. They beat them up quite badly. His eyes were gravely affected by being blindfolded for 15 days while he can barely move his left knee. Prison officials have refused to allow him to see a doctor or give him any medication. Amr is still in prison (case file 3558 for the year 2013) on charges of “divulging military secrets.”

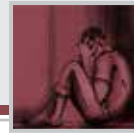


12 Testimony from the mother of the detainee Islam Rajaa Abdulmun'im Abu-Alyazeed Al-Rashidi (22 years old)

Islam is a fourth-year medical student at Al-Azhar University.

“The campus witnessed peaceful protests on the 5th of January 2014 prompting security forces along with some thugs to storm the campus and attack students with live ammunition, teargas and bird-shots. Islam was shot in the face at a very close range and physically assaulted. His friends rushed him to the hospital and a surgery was performed the following day on both his eyes but his left eye could not be saved. His jaw and nose were fractured and he had lost many of his teeth. He was interrogated in hospital (file no. 105 for the year 2014, Asyut) and transferred to a room there called “the incarceration room” guarded by two police officers. Islam was held in the poorly-equipped room for days before the attorney general decided to remand him in custody at a police station in Asyut despite doctors’ reports that he required further surgery on his left eye and nose. His health has since deteriorated under the harsh conditions in jail especially since he cannot take care of himself and has to be fed pureed food through a tube.”

According to one of Islam’s friends M. N. “On Sunday the 5th of January a peaceful protest was organised on campus and many students were assaulted by security forces and thugs. Islam was shot at a very close range -less than one metre from his face- and although he did not resist arrest, the police proceeded to shoot him anyway before abandoning him. He was rushed to the university hospital by some friends and colleagues at around 3p.m. The hospital administration insisted on filing a police report and when Islam mentioned that he had been shot by the police, security forces were notified. I arrived at the hospital four hours after Islam was shot. Doctors refused to treat him or even bandage his injuries on the pretext they were under strict orders from security forces not to do so. They finally agreed to operate on him twenty hours later. His left eye was removed while his right had several bird-shots only some of which were removed. His jaw was broken from both sides along with his nose. His face was swollen and riddled with bird-shots. Doctors said they were unable to operate on the nose or the jaw until the swelling went down. Islam was kept in a room under a guard from the ministry of interior. A decision was



issued to transfer Islam to the ‘incarceration room’ at the hospital but the doctors refused on account of his critical health condition. The police station sent a detective with 8 police officers to the hospital and proceeded to remove him from his room by force. The incarceration room at the hospital is very small (3mx3m), not properly disinfected and houses five other patients from various cases- some of them were drug addicts in addition to the 8 police officers who sat in the room chain-smoking. Obviously these conditions were not conducive to a speedy recovery and Islam’s health deteriorated rapidly. Another friend of ours, Khalid Al-Shahat, was facing similar conditions in another hospital. Five days after being held in that room, Islam had his nose surgery. The doctor said they could not do more at that point and had to wait another three months to operate again. Islam was supposed to be fitted with metal plates to fix his jaw but the doctor said that Islam ran the risk of developing an infection in the incarceration room so he fitted him with metal wires instead. The hospital refused to dispense any medications so we had to go and buy it from outside. On the 19th of January, Islam was interrogated and charged with 11 crimes (file no. 105 for the year 2014): membership in a terrorist organisation, possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, assaulting police officers, disrupting the peace, vandalising public property, protesting without permit and assaulting people in the line of duty. He was interrogated for 4 days and an order was issued to remand him in custody for 15 days. Islam was transferred to a police station on the 23rd of January 2014 despite his critical health condition and the fact that he needed further surgery on his right eye to remove bird-shots, another on his left eye to fit him with a prosthetic eyeball and a third to fix his broken nose. His face also needed plastic surgery to remove bird-shots. The wires on his jaw needed to come out. He has since been in custody despite a string of pleas from his parents, the latest of which was rejected on the 15th of February. We have to pay between 500 -1000 Egyptian pounds to be able to visit him and bring him medication, food and clothing. Islam told us they often refuse him access to his medications and confiscate his blankets. He has also been forced to watch as other detainees were being tortured. He does not tell his parents all these details because he does not want to worry them.”



13 Testimony from Khalid Al-Shahatt Al-Hussein (21 years old).

Khalid is a student at Al-Azhar University.

“On the 5th of January 2014 I was at the university taking part in a peaceful protest against security forces’ treatment of students. During the protest, security forces stormed the campus and shot live bullets, bird-shots and teargas at the demonstrating students. I was hit in the left leg with several bird-shots and a bullet. The moment I fell down, the police rushed to arrest me. I was put into a police van while still bleeding. They took me to the hospital where I was kept under heavy security in a room called ‘the Prison room’ for three weeks without being given any medical treatment. On the 27th of January I underwent surgery to have the bird-shots and bullet removed. I was moved to another room in the hospital reserved for detainees and prisoners. It was extremely dirty and not suitable for my condition. Despite doctor’s warnings that my condition was still critical, I was moved back to prison where medical care was non-existent. I requested a doctor on several occasions because I was in so much pain but my requests were denied. They withheld my medication, and the food and clothes that my family brought me. On one occasion the pain so bad they brought in a doctor and forced him to issue a report saying that my condition was stable enough for me to be remanded in custody. According to case file 105 Asyut 1st Precinct I was charged with 12 offenses including membership in a terrorist organisation, disturbing the peace, setting a police vehicle on fire, assaulting the police, vandalising public property, and possession of firearms. I appeared before the public prosecutor on the 20th of February and was remanded in custody for another 15 days but I appealed the decision and was released on a 15,000 Pound bail. My family had no choice but to pay this huge amount of money which they could not afford. Before I was released I appeared before a security officer from State Security who took down my details and threatened me with arrest. I was released on the 24th of February. One day after my release I learned that the police had been to my house to arrest me again while I was out. A doctor at the hospital which treated me also told me that a police officer had threatened hospital staff with arrest if they issued me with any medical reports or X-rays. The only medical report I have is the one I managed to obtain before my release. I cannot move my leg or even bend it. I am



still chased by security forces and my family is under constant threat. I cannot get treatment in any hospital for fear of being arrested again. My leg could end up being amputated because of lack of medical treatment.”

14 Testimony from the father of Ahmed Abdulhamid Abdulazeem Ibrahim.

Ahmed was arrested in connection to the “Mariott Cell” case.

“On the 29th of December, my son Ahmed Abdulazeem Ibrahim (born 9 September 1991) was studying at an apartment with a group of friends, including Anas Mohammed Beltaji when security forces raided the place and seized their mobile phones and personal belongings before detaining them for one day at the state security headquarters in Nasr city for interrogation. They were then taken to the police station in Nasr city where they beaten up quite badly upon arrival, a practice known as ‘the welcoming party’. The group was then placed in a room and forced to watch other detainees being sexually assaulted, tortured and electrocuted and were told that would be their fate if they refused to sign statements as dictated by the police. Ahmed signed the statement for fear of being tortured. Anas Biltaji refused and was subsequently tortured and held in solitary confinement. Several detainees were forced to be photographed with a pile of weapons and money to prove they were terrorists. Ahmed was taken to Abu Zaabal prison and, despite filing several complaints about the abuse he was subjected to in jail, the attorney general refused to examine his claims and he was later referred to the criminal court on bogus charges. I can confirm that Ahmed is being held under inhumane conditions and is abused on daily basis.



15 Testimony from the mother of Anas Mohammed Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Beltaji (21 years old)

“Anas had accompanied me to visit my husband at Al-Aqrab Prison. Security guards claimed we attacked a female prison official and we were arrested for 24 hours before being released on a 1000-pound bail. A week later on the 29th of December 2013, Anas was arrested with a group of his friends. They were taken to a State Security Centre for 24 hours during which time he was blindfolded and brutally tortured. They were then take to Madinat Nasr 1st Precinct where he was once again beaten up and tortured to force him to agreed to be filmed with some firearms, bird-shots, broadcasting devices and some money. They continued to torture him until he agreed to be filmed with the fabricated pieces of evidence. He was also forced to sign a statement. The charges against him included providing the Muslim Brotherhood with funding, membership in a terrorist organisation and inciting violence. During the first two days he was placed along with three others in a cage rather than a cell. The cage was too small and not suitable for holding anyone for long periods of time. They were then moved to a cell which was also too small and very dirty. The cell house 40 people including convicted criminals. I visited Anas two days after his arrest and it was clear from the bruises and injuries he had been tortured. I could not get any information from him because the visit did not last longer than a minute and we were not allowed to exchange any words. Anas remained at Madinat Nasr 1st Precinct for twenty days during which he was constantly tortured and abused. I learned from the others that my son Anas had been tortured more than the rest. He was then transferred to Abu Zabaal Prison where he was added to the infamous Marriott Cell case raising to three the number of cases he was charged in: The female prison employee case, the funding of a terrorist organisation and the Marriott Cell case. The cases do not list his full name but they rather refer to him as the ‘son of Beltaji’. Anas is currently in solitary confinement at Abu Zabaal where he remains 24 hours day and ever leaves his cell. We are not allowed to bring him any food or supplies and our visits are very short.”



Testimonies

about Minors

16 Al-Mitwali Samaha (father of detainee Maria, 14 years old)

Maria is student in the ninth grade and lives in Dakhilia.

On the 18th of December 2013, my daughter Maria was on her way to school and she happened to pass by a peaceful women's protest so she joined them. Suddenly a group of City Council employees-clearly in cahoots with security forces-began to attack the peaceful protest with sticks and batons. Three city council employees grabbed my daughter and called the police to come and arrest her along with two other girls. The three girls were beaten and assaulted before being hauled into a government car and taken to the police. My daughter was questioned and forced to sign a document containing statements she did not make. The police report listed her age as 18 years instead of her actual age of 14 because as a minor they cannot hold her in a cell with adults. She was threatened with abuse and torture to terrorise her. They also brought seized goods containing the Rabaa sign. In the meantime a friend of Maria's called and told me what had happened so I headed immediately to the police station. When she saw me she told she was being held with 'bad people'. I objected to her being held with convicted criminals and to the abuse she was subjected to. The detective threatened to abuse her even further if I did not keep my



mouth shut. She appeared before the public prosecutor on the 19th of December. She was held in the same cell with Yusra, Minna and Abrar on that particular day. Otherwise the three girls were held with the general population of the prison. The girls were arrested for the same reason but in different places. My daughter was questioned for five hours and she was remanded in custody for four days pending the outcome of the investigation even though I presented proof she was 14 years old. Ten days later we managed to secure her a an appearance before a juvenile court who remanded her in custody for another 30 days until the 30th of January. At the behest of prison officials, other convicts continuously harassed Maria. According to file No. 54/2013 Miniat Al-Nasr Station/Dakahilia, Maria purportedly assaulted a police officer, disturbed the peace, demonstrated without a permit and had anti-army songs on her mobile phone. We filed a request to demand her release but the judge rejected it. They also refused to allow her to sit her exams. We had to bribe prison officials to visit her. We used to see visit her twice a week but that has since been reduced to only once. She is held under inhumane conditions with no chance of release since Miniat Al-Nasr Station is not subject to prison laws. She is not allowed to go outside in the open air and has not seen the sun for ages. It is also a violation of human rights laws to hold her with convicted criminals. We filed a complaint with the public prosecutor in Mansoorah to end these violations but he has refused to do anything.”



17 Testimony from the brother of Khalid Ibrahim Mu'awwad (18 years).

Khalid is a student in the eleventh grade and lives in 6 October City.

“Khalid was on his way to a tutoring session on Tuesday the 24th of December 2013. He usually takes the bus from Al-Husari Square which on that day had just witnessed a demonstration. Although the demonstrators had dispersed, there were still security forces chasing people down so Khalid starting running with the others. He went into a restaurant where a thug bounced on him before calling out to the police to come and arrest him. Three security officers punched, kicked and assaulted him with their rifles. Khalid sustained several injuries in various parts of his body. He was then taken along with two girls and 8 young boys to 6 October police station. All this took place in the early evening but we only found out late at night when one of Khalid’s friends called to tell us he had been arrested. We headed to the police station but we could not get in because State Security was conducting investigations. They refused to allow lawyers to attend the questioning which lasted until 2 a.m. My brother was included in case file no. 12128 Misdemeanours/6 October City with a list of charges which included breaching the anti-protest law, disturbing public peace, burning car tyres, assaulting police officers, chanting anti-police slogans, and carrying out acts that harm the interests of other citizens and Egypt. All the detainees were students except one of whom was a delivery boy, the other the son of a janitor and the third worked in a supermarket. All three were released after the first appearance before the public prosecutor. It was not included in the file that he had been arrested at a restaurant nor did anyone sign the file. The following day we were told that he had been taken to the 6 October City public prosecutor so we headed there at 9 a.m. The detainees were taken to the roof of the Public Prosecutor Office building at 9 a.m. and kept there until 8 p.m. tied up and handcuffed while those brought in on criminal charges were quickly dealt with. At 8 p.m. they were brought down and questioned by the public prosecutor one by one. All the political detainees denied the charges levelled against them and recounted the details of their arrest. At 9 p.m. they were taken back to the police station. At 1 a.m. a decision was taken to bring them before the public prosecutor the following morning (Thursday, 26



December) following investigations by security forces. The following day they were once again put on the roof of the building from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. The State Security agent arrived in the afternoon and he claimed that all the boys with the exception of those three who were released are members of the Muslim Brotherhood. At 7 p.m. the boys were notified of the charges which they denied. At 1 a.m. a decision was taken to remand them in custody for another 15 days. Khalid is currently in a juvenile facility in Al-Marj while six of the boys were taken to Al-Qanatir prison. On the 1st of February all the boys except for Khalid appeared before the public prosecutor and their remand in custody was renewed. Although Khalid was not there, the case file claimed he was. On the 8th of February, the boys and their lawyers appeared in court but none was allowed to say anything. The judge simply made a note of their presence before renewing their remand in custody. During Khalid's first hearing it was evident from the bruises and injuries that he had been abused in prison and that he had not received any treatment. Khalid and the other detainees were subjected to a ritual of beating and assault called the 'Welcoming Party'. They were forced to wear very light clothes during the first week despite the cold and we were prevented from passing on any items of clothing to him. He was also beaten and abused by convicts and forced to clean the place and wash other inmates' clothes. None of political detainees was allowed any yard time and they would often be forced to assume certain positions on their hands and knees with their heads raised for hours. It is difficult to get any more details from him during visits because security forces stay very close and can hear every word we say."



18 A testimony from the uncle of the minor Ibrahim Abdulmaqsood Al-Qadi (15 years old)

Ibrahim Abdulmaqsood lives with his family in Al-Sadat City, Al-Monofia.

“Ibrahim was on his way back from school in Al-Sadat City when he chanced to pass by a demonstration. He was held up by thugs who beat him up and broke his glasses before taking to the police station where he was tortured for three days. He was not given food or drink for that duration nor allowed any visitors. His bags which contained only his school books was kept as evidence. His only crime was a notebook on which the statement “I am against the coup” was written. He was then transferred to the General Prison in Shbeen. Ibrahim’s father is has a liver condition and his mother works in a clothes shop. She is the family’s bread winner but has now quit everything to follow his case. Every time she goes to visit him in prison, she is abused and harassed by prison workers. She often has to wait from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. to see him. He is treated as a political prisoner so his visitors are held up while families of convicts receive a much better treatment and are allowed longer visiting times.”

19 Testimony from the mother of the minor Ahmed Jamal Abdulaziz

On Tuesday the 11th of February 2014 a police force raided the house and said they had come to arrest my son Ahmed. They told us he was charged with running someone over with a Tuk-Tuk car. I told the police officer that my student was a student, not a Tuk-Tuk driver and that we had never even owned a Tuk-Tuk. He insisted on taking my son after they searched the whole flat. I found out they were taking him to Mansoorah 2nd Precinct so I headed there. They initially refused to admit they were holding my son but I was certain he was there because I spotted one of the officers who had come to arrest him. I insisted he was there and after a lot of shouting they told me he was inside and was being questioned. When the questioning was over, I asked the detective who had quizzed Sharif Abu Al-Naja



him why my son was being held and he said that my son was arrested for taking part in demonstrations. I told him that my son was a top student and had no interest in politics. I demanded to see him but they refused. On Friday I managed to finally see him and found out he and the rest of the political detainees had been beaten, stripped and electrocuted. They were also forced to confess to acts they had not committed and photographed them with seized evidence that was not even theirs such as Molotov bombs. They were also coerced into confessing they belonged to a terrorist organisation and that the Muslim Brotherhood were inciting them to set police cars on fire. We filed a complaint with the public prosecutor on Wednesday to protest the illegality of my son's arrest. On Friday, their incarceration at the police station was documented in an official report which they were all forced to sign. On Saturday, they appeared before the public prosecutor. Charges against my son included disturbing the peace on a university campus despite the fact my son is still in school. The public prosecutor ordered they be remanded in custody for 15 days. My son told me he was held under very tough and inhumane conditions in an unventilated cell that measured 3m x 3m with 40 other people, many of them convicted criminals."

20 Testimony from the mother of the detainee Shadi Nabil Mukles Al-Imam Abdulhamid

"On Tuesday the 11th of February 2014, I woke up to the sounds of screaming and breaking in the house. When I got out of bed, I saw the police dragging my son Nabil down the staircase while beating my other son Shadi. When I asked why they were arresting my sons, they shouted expletives at me and took the boys with them. When we got to the police station, they denied holding Shadi and Nabil there but I learned they were there from a police officer. I was also told that all the boys were held in one room while Nabil was held on his own in another room. We filed a complaint with the public prosecutor to protest the illegality of my sons' arrest. On Friday the 13th of February 2014 the boys were given a case file containing confessions they did not make and forced them to sign the papers. On Saturday, the boys appeared before a court in Mansoorah. The case file claimed that my sons were



found in possession of Molotov bombs. They were remanded in custody for 15 days and their next court appearance is on the 27th of February. My sons told me they had been tortured and electrocuted to force them to confess to crimes they did not commit and agree to be filmed with the Molotov bombs. The film was shown on Egyptian television channels.”

21 A testimony from the brother of the two minors Suhaib and Bilal Imad Ibrahim.

“At 7 p.m. on Tuesday the 11th of February, our house was raided and my brothers Suhaib and Bilal Imad Mohammed Mohammed Ibrahim were arrested. The police also seized a laptop. My brothers were taken to Mansoorah 1st Precinct. Bilal was released on the same day but Suhaib and a few others remained under arrest. On Friday the 14th of February, he was transferred to Mansoorah 2nd Precinct (case file no. 1011/13 February 2014 although he was arrested on the 11th of February). They were all forced to sign incriminating statements after being tortured. On Saturday the 15th of February 2014 they appeared before the public prosecutor and I found out that my brother had been kicked, punched, and electrocuted at the station to confess to being in possession of Molotov bombs and that the Muslim Brotherhood had put him up to these acts of violence. He also told me that all the other political detainees were also tortured and electrocuted to force them to agree to be filmed with the Molotov bombs for the purpose of broadcasting the footage on Egyptian television channels.”



22 Testimony from the family of the minor Kareem Mahfooz Abdo (17 years old)

“At 3 a.m. on Tuesday the 11th of February 2013 police forces raided our house and arrested Kareem. He was still wearing his pyjamas when he was dragged down the stairs. They told us he was being taken to Mansoorah 2nd Precinct. At 8 a.m. we went to give him a change of clothes but they refused to take the clothing items. When the lawyer went to see him on Wednesday, he found out that Kareem was held in a room upstairs with other detainees but there was no official record of their arrest. We tried to visit him on Thursday but we were met with verbal abuse and lots of swear words from the police. The families of other 5 detained students were also present including the parents of a student in the sixth grade. We tried to plead with the officers to allow us to see our children but to no avail. I finally succeeded to go upstairs along with the mother of a boy in the tenth grade (Ahmed Jamal). The policeman ordered us to take in the food without saying a word. The boys were in a very bad shape and it was clear from their faces that they had been tortured and beaten but Um Ahmed managed to say a few words to her son who told her that they were tortured, beaten and electrocuted. When the policeman noticed they were conversing, he shouted and kicked us out. We filed a complaint with the public prosecutor to protest the illegality of the boys’ detention. Their arrest was documented on Friday the 13th of February and they were forced to sign the papers under the threat of torture. On Saturday they appeared before the public prosecutor and I managed to sneak a few words with my son. He told me they were tortured and forced to sign false confessions and told they would be tortured again if they changed their statements while being questioned by the public prosecutor. He also told me they were filmed with Molotov bombs for broadcast on a state-owned television channel. The boys denied all charges when they appeared before the public prosecutor but the latter refused to take any legal action against the police. It is very difficult to visit my son in prison and even when we manage to see him it is usually for a very short period. They are kept in small unventilated 3mx 3m cells with 40 others –some of them convicted criminals.”



23 Testimony from the mother of the minor Al-Bara' Hasan Ali Hasan Al-Jamal (16 years)

Al-Bara' is a student in the eleventh grade.

“My son was arrested twice. The first time was in Ramadan, two weeks before Eid. There was a demonstration in Mansoura and the police attacked girls taking part in the protest. Al-Bara' tried to interfere to protect the girls but a group of thugs wielding knives bounced on him. He was stabbed twice in the leg, once in his right hand, once in his left hand and once in the head. He was then taken in the police van. The beating and abuse continued in the van despite his injuries. The police took him to the hospital but a doctor there refused to tend to his wounds so they had to find another one. Al-Bara' was then taken to Mansoura 1st Precinct where he was once again beaten up. The police tortured him by hanging his handcuffed hands to a nail in the wall and beating him with batons. During his first appearance before the public prosecutor after a four-day custody, he waved at me. During the second time he could not even raise his arm because he was in so much pain from all the beatings and the torture. He grouped with 28 other detainees, hence the name “Group 28”. The group was remanded in custody for 15 days after the initial 4 days. Lawyers submitted a successful appeal and they were all released on a 2000- Egyptian Pound bail.

The second arrest occurred on the 13th of January 2014. Al-Bara' was walking along Shaima' Street when a thug who had just finished attacking a demonstration bounced on him and handed him over to the police. Security forces put him in an armored vehicle and beat him up and then took him to a security camp where he was subjected to the ritual of the “Welcoming Party”. He was also electrocuted until his right ear started bleeding. A detective there recognized him from the first arrest, and the beating and torture intensified. He was then taken in a microbus to a police station. A policeman there kicked and punched him some more. The second day he appeared before the public prosecutor who ordered he be remanded in custody for 15 days without a shred of evidence. He remained in the 1st Precinct for four days and was then transferred to a juvenile correctional facility where he was once again subjected to the “Welcoming Party”. They shaved off his head and electrocuted him.



He was beaten up everywhere he went: at the police station, in the juvenile facility, and at the detention centre. One day while he was at the juvenile centre a detective called Mohammed Al-Shami forced him to take off all his clothes and crawl across the floor naked. He then jumped on his back a few times until my son threw up blood. My son was then placed in a cell with convicted criminals who used a sharp object to make cuts across his neck. All the food and items of clothing we brought in for him were confiscated. My son also told me that policemen would do drugs and smoke with convicted criminals in the presence of my son who suffers from Asthma. We managed with great difficulty to transfer Al-Bara' to the political detainees cell where 21 children were being held. On one occasion after the children's remand in custody was renewed for 15 days, they were ordered to say their names out loud and then curse themselves but they refused so they were brutally beaten up and their cells and blankets were soaked with water. On Friday the 28th of February, police officers assaulted all the children held for political reasons. Mohammed Al-Shami took Al-Bara' to the chief detective at the juvenile centre Mohammed Matar and said "this is the boy I told you about." Matar ordered a few policemen to beat up Al-Bara'. My son was severely injured to the extent we were not allowed to visit him the following Saturday. When we saw him on Wednesday we could see clearly he had been tortured. We were not allowed to give him any medical treatment or bring in a doctor to see him. He may lose sight in one of his eyes and cannot hear well in his right ear."



24 Testimony from the father of the minor Ahmed Abdulfattah Ahmed Abdulfattah (16 years).

Ahmed is a student in the 10th grade.

“On the 24th of January 2014 my son was visiting his aunt at Abu-Kabeer Centre in Asharqia. My son was walking along the road at around 2:30 p.m. when he stumbled upon a peaceful protest security forces and thugs were trying to break up. Thugs beat him up and took his personal belongings before handing him over to security forces. He was then taken to Abu-Kabeer police station. Some of his friends saw him being arrested so they contacted his aunt who in turn called us. I headed to the police station but they denied he was being held there and told us detainees had not arrived yet. The following day we went to see him and it was evident he had been beaten up. When we asked him what had happened he told us he had been held there since the day before and that he had been beaten up. He was blindfolded and questioned by State Security. He also said he was stripped of his clothes and hung on Al-Aroosa (a wooden structure shaped like a cross). He was also flogged and electrocuted. Because he was blindfolded he could not see who was torturing him but one of the detectives, Mohammed Atif, had participated in torturing him. His case report number was 1001/2004/Abu-Kabeer. He was forced to confess to belonging to a terrorist organisation and that he had been arrested while in possession of 8 Molotov cocktail bombs. My son who suffers from epilepsy was held with convicted criminals and despite submitting several medical reports he was not released. On the 17th of February we received a phone call from the police station to inform us that Ahmed had had an epileptic fit. We headed there immediately and took a doctor with us and managed to bring his condition under control. According to the doctor, his condition had deteriorated a lot in prison.”



25 Testimony from the family of the minor S. (A student in the 10th grade)."

"On the morning of the 25th of February 2014 a police force raided our house and arrested me and my son Osama. They claimed our neighbours had complained we were making Molotov bombs at home. Once we arrived at the police station, they put us in separate rooms. I could hear my son screaming in pain as he was being beaten, kicked and electrocuted. I was released that same evening but Osama remained in custody. A police report was filed against him (no. 353 for the year 2014) in which he was forced to confess to bogus charges. According to the file, Osama is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and he was an expert at making Molotov bombs with his friends for the purpose of throwing them at police and army vehicles. The following day, Osama was brought in before the prosecutor-general and he denied all the charges levelled against him. His custody was extended for another 15 days and he was taken a security centre in Banha. His lawyer was denied access to him on the day of his arrest. We are not allowed to bring him food or clothes or even to see him. His lawyer is not allowed to attend the interrogation sessions and his remand has been extended without any probable cause."



Testimonies

about Female detainees

26 Testimony from the brother of the detainee Amani Hasan Abdo

Amani Abdo Saleh is a 33-year old Cairo resident and mother of two. Amani was arrested on the 16th of August 2013 by El-Qubba District police as she headed back home. Police had earlier resorted to lethal force to break up an anti-coup demonstration at Ramses Square. Amani was travelling in a car with her brother Amir Hasan Abdo and others when the police stopped them to search the car and found a poster of President Mohammed Morsi. The car's occupants were arrested and taken to El-Qubba police station where the police proceeded to physically assault them. Amani was kicked, punched, beaten on her head, face and back, and attacked with a baton until she passed out. She woke up to find herself blindfolded and being interrogated by several police officers who threatened her with rape. She was beaten up, slapped and burnt with cigarettes before being forced to sign a statement admitting she had been in possession of an automatic rifle and ammunition (in her handbag). Amani signed the paper to stop the barrage of physical and psychological abuse although she was not carrying a handbag that day or any form of ID.

Prior to this incident, Amani had suffered from lumbar and cervical disc herniation



that required special sleeping arrangements and treatment. Despite informing the police of her condition, they ignored her pleas and, in fact, targeted her impaired spine.

Amani informed the public prosecutor that her confession had been extracted by torture and that she was forced to sign a piece of paper without reading it first but he refused to include her statements in the proceedings and ordered she be remanded in custody at the same police station. Amani was punished for complaining about the torture by subjecting her to further episodes of physical abuse and threats of rape. The police would take her into the investigation room at least three days a week, blindfold her and start punching, kicking and hitting her. She was forced to sleep on the floor and kept feeling cold while the public prosecutor continued to remand her in custody without charging her. Fearful of subjecting her to worse persecution, her family refrained from filing a complaint demanding the torture be stopped immediately.

Amani's health deteriorated significantly to the extent she could no longer move her hand and foot normally. On the 22nd of September 2013, her lawyer filed an official request to have her examined by a doctor. The request was granted and a doctor at Ein Shams Hospital ordered an MRI which revealed that Amani was suffering from partial paralysis due to a herniated lumbar and cervical disc brought about by detention and torture. Once again, the public prosecutor ignored the medical report and continued to remand her in custody without charges. Amani feared that filing an official complaint would result in more torture and persecution. The police refused to take her to the hospital or allow her to take any medications.

Her health continued to deteriorate until she reached a point where she could not move her legs, arms or neck. On the 29th of December 2013 and upon the insistence of her family, the police agreed to have her examined by specialists at Kasr Al Einy hospital where doctors issued a medical report certifying that she was suffering from leg and arm paralysis and severe cervical and lumbar pain which require immediate medical attention in a hospital. The doctors recommended a one-week stay in the hospital for further tests and treatment; otherwise any delay would result in permanent damage. The police decided to ignore the report and bring her back to the station. On the 2nd of January 2014, Amani was transferred to Qanatir



Prison hospital. The public prosecutor has denied all requests for her release. Amani is due to appear in a criminal court on the 1st of February 2013.

27 Testimony from the mother of Rasha and Hind Muneer Abdulwahhab.

Rasha and Hind were arrested during the Ramses events on the 16th of August 2013.

“My daughter Rasha is 29 and married with two children. Hind is 35 and married with three children. On the 16th of August 2013 they were near Ramses Square when security forces began shooting at protesters. A driver saw them and invited them to ride with him to escape the shooting. He took Amani Abdo Hasan and her brother with him as well. A police detail stopped the car and searched it. That’s when they found a photograph of president Morsi. Security officers began kicking and punching everyone and hitting them with their rifles and batons. The driver got away in his car but the rest were arrested. They were all taken to Qubba Gardens police station. Rasha called and told us where she was held. She also said that Wael Al-Abrashi (a talk show host) had sent some cameramen to film them with seized goods that were not theirs. My daughters were charged with possession of firearms, breaking the curfew, and disturbing the peace. Rasha was charged with possessing a camera. When the public prosecutor asked where the camera was the police replied it was not with her so he said “No problem. Go get any camera and write it up as hers.” Their remand in custody was renewed a few times. Their first hearing at the criminal court was on the 1st of February but it was adjourned until the 1st of March because the seized goods had not been sent to the court. A month and a half ago, they were moved to Al-Qanatir Prison. They were tortured and abused while in custody. They were also threatened with rape a few times.”



28 Testimony of Jihad Ahmed Mohammed Mitwalli Al-Khayyat.

Al-Khayyat was arrested at Al-Shuhada' metro station on the 12th of November 2013 on her way back from college. Her arrest coincided with a protest against the coup which Al-Khayyat chanced upon prompting her to raise her hand and flash the Rabaa' sign as an expression of her solidarity with the protesters. She was immediately seized upon by the police who dragged her across the street and beat her up so badly she lost consciousness. Three young men who tried to help her met with the same fate. All were arrested and taken to the Metro police station where they were forced to sign a statement without being allowed to read it first after which they were taken to an unknown location where they were held until 1:30 am. They were then taken to Azbakia police station. Jihad was not allowed to contact her family until she appeared before the public prosecutor accused of flashing the Rabaa sign, owning a CD of anti-coup songs and a photo of the deposed Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi, obstructing metro traffic, terrorising the locals, disrupting the peace and assaulting police officers.

Despite the lack of any evidence, the public prosecutor quizzed Al-Khayyat and ordered she be held for four days at Azbakia police station. The public prosecutor renewed her detention for a further 15 days without charging her with any offences. She was moved to Al-Qanatir prison and held illegally with convicted felons (Egyptian law forbids holding those remanded in custody in the same prison with convicted felons). When the remand period elapsed, she was once again remanded in custody for a further 15 days under the same conditions and without being indicted which represents a stark violation of Egyptian law.

Meanwhile, Jihad's family attempted to appeal the decision to remand her in custody but court staff and the public prosecutor blocked her lawyers' attempts to file the appeal using administrative orders as a pretext, yet another breach of her human and legal right to file a grievance.

Al-Khayyat and the other three were due to appear before an investigating judge on the 23rd of December 2012 but her family and lawyers were stunned when she was not brought to court. The judge ordered the release of the three men but renewed her remand in absentia for another 15 days. Jihad's family headed the following day



to visit her in Al-Qanatir prison to check on her and find out why she did not show up in court. The prison warden told the family that Jihad had fallen off the bed and sustained minor injuries to her foot and hand and was subsequently transferred to the prison hospital.

When they finally got to see her, Jihad's family were shocked to see the extent of her injuries; Her right wrist was broken, her face was heavily bruised and swollen, her left leg had multiple fractures rendering her immobile, her body was covered in bruises while injuries to her jaw made it very difficult to speak. It was evident she had been tortured by the police. Jihad was visibly shaken and the presence of prison security officers and informants made it virtually impossible for her to communicate anything to her family.

29 Testimony from the mother of the detainee N. M.

The date and location of the testimony is not included here due to the cultural sensitivity of the testimony and the parents' request.

"My daughter was at...when police suddenly began firing teargas at people there. When she fell down, a police officer kicked her and threw a garbage container at her before dragging her to an armoured vehicle and beating her up some more. My daughter was sexually harassed inside the armoured vehicle. One of the policemen took his penis and forced it into my daughter's mouth. After that five young women were brought in and beaten up. Some of them were subjected to the same sexual assault my daughter endured. My daughter was traumatized by the sexual assault she vomited blood for days and could not eat. The sexual harassment continued upon the arrival of the girls at the police station. Police officers groped them everywhere. A police officer hit my daughter on the head, took all her money, her engagement ring and broke her phone. Another girl was abused in the same manner. My daughter was charged with assaulting a police officer, illegal assembly, disturbing the peace and other offenses. Many girls were subjected to virginity tests. They were forced to take off their clothes and were then examined by hand in a very humiliating and offensive manner. They would search the girls' vaginas on the pretext they were



hiding mobile phones and contraband there in addition to being constantly hit and beaten. I found out that my daughter had been subjected to virginity and pregnancy tests from another girl in the same prison. My daughter suffered great mental and psychological distress in prison and has hardly been able to speak since.”

30 Testimony from the mother of Ala’ and Sara Mohammed.

“ My daughters were arrested on campus on the 28th of December. Students had decided to boycott exams that day so a group of thugs and security forces were sent in to crush the students’ protests. They arrested some of the striking students and a few others quite randomly. Ala’s head and face cover were ripped off and she was dragged across the ground. My daughter Sara was also arrested and taken to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct in an armored vehicle. When they got there, police officers and soldiers welcomed them with batons and Tasers. Sara was kicked and hit with pens. Her bag was searched and they found a diary in which she had written the dates of all protests from the 25th of January. They checked other girls’ mobile phones and beat them up. After that, the boys and girls were taken to Al-Salam camp. The girls told me how they could hear the screams of pain as the boys were being tortured. They were then transferred to Al-Qanatir prison then returned to the camp at night. At prison, they were held in the same cell with convicted criminals and it was evident the criminals were encouraged to harass the girls. The convicted criminals would also steal the girls’ food and personal belongings. Before the 25th of January the girls were searched every few hours in a very humiliating manner which is why the girls had gone on a strike. They were also forced to wear very light, transparent clothes. Our visits to the prison were punctuated with abuse and humiliating body searches. The food we brought in would be searched with sticks and hands and sometimes they would tip it onto the table then return it to the containers. Often the food never reached the girls. Girls’ cells were searched by male prison guard who would go through their stuff. My daughters are now at Al-Qanatir prison and her remand in custody has been renewed for another 15 days for no reason at all.”



31 Testimony from the mother of Rawda (arrested on the 28th of December 2013).

“Rawda was a group of friends near Al-Azhar University at the time of the boycotting of the exams in protest against the military coup. They were arrested by campus security and handed over to security officials in a Suzuki car without a license plate. When she arrived at Madinat Nasr 1st Precinct, she and the other girls were sexually harassed by the police. They were assaulted and abused as well. Sometimes they were forced to clean the rooms of the police station. We could not talk to her properly during our visits because she was usually surrounded by policemen and soldiers who would delay the visit to make sure we did not get much time to speak with her. The moment we sat down they would tell us the visit was over. I suffer from bad knees and it is very difficult for me to stand up for a long time and despite providing the police with medical reports to that effect, I was forced to remain standing for hours before I could see my daughter. Relatives of convicted criminals received much better treatment. My daughter once told me that prison officials beat her up. We had to pay bribes if we wanted to get anything to Rawda. We paid the police in return for sending my daughter some clothes to cover up because they were forced to wear very light, revealing clothes. On the day of the referendum on the constitution, we managed to see her for a good length of time because there were not many guards there that day. We were also the only people there. She told us that she was initially taken to Al-Salam camp where they were subjected to a ritual called the ‘the welcoming party’ (soldiers formed two lines and as the detainees walked past them, they would kick and punch them). The young men had been stripped down to their underwear. Both the boys and the girls were physically assaulted. The girls were then transferred to Al-Qanatir prison and then returned to the camp at 1 a.m. The camp was flooded with water and they forced the girls to dry it in the middle of the night. They were transferred back to Al-Qanatir prison on the 30th of December. Body searches are very humiliating and convicted criminals pick on and harass political detainees.”



32 Testimony from the mother of school student Hajar Ashraf.

“My daughter had been undergoing dental treatment to the Faculty of Dentistry at Al-Azhar University for almost six months. Her teeth were in pretty bad shape and at the time of her arrest she was having a root canal done. On the 28th of December she was randomly arrested along with another female student. The two girls were taken away in a police van. And despite providing the police with a report from the dean of the faculty and the dentist confirming that my daughter was on campus for dental treatment, the appeal was rejected. She was initially taken to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct and then Al-Salam Camp where she was beaten up and physically assaulted until her mouth and nose bled. A soldier hit her on the back with his rifle and we were banned from seeing her until she slightly recovered but we insisted and four days later were able to see her. The girls spent less than one day at Al-Salam Camp. She was returned to the police station because she was a minor and the girls with the exception of three were transferred back with her. My daughter remained at the police station for the appeal which was rejected. Hajar is on painkillers to numb some of the pain caused by her bad teeth. They refused to allow her to continue her treatment. It is very difficult to obtain any information from her during visits because we are usually surrounded by guards and officials. We are subjected to a very humiliating body search when we come to visit. Prison guards often woke my daughter up at 2 a.m. and force her to wash and clean cells. Other convicted criminals bully and hit my daughter, take her food and blankets and those of the other political detainees. When prison officials heard Hajar telling me some of those details they began to harass us even more during visits. When I first went to see her at the police station, I was told they did not have anyone by that name. I was certain she was being held there. I nagged until they admitted she was there. I found out she was accused of starting a fire at the Faculty of Business. Her school bag which contained nothing but school books was kept as evidence. They filmed my daughter and several other girls with Molotov cocktail bombs that did not belong to them in order to broadcast the film on Egyptian television channels and claim these girls were terrorists. My daughter initially refused to be filmed but they beat her up until she agreed. The video was aired on Dream Channel. According to the file case she had nothing on her except her school books, some yeast and Tabasco sauce. On the



30th of January I was visiting my daughter when she refused to take the food I had brought her and wrote on a piece of paper “don’t bring me any more food. I am on a hunger strike.”

33 Testimony from the brother of the detained student Asma Nasr

“On Saturday the 28th of December, Asma arrived at college as usual and saw that some of the other female students had staged a peaceful protest and boycotted the exams. A policeman tried to conduct a body search but Asma refused and told him he had no right to search her. An altercation ensued and two other policemen joined the first one in hitting my sister and yanking her headcover off. She was then taken away in a police van. In the meantime, a colleague of Asma, Ayat, witnessed what happened and tried to interfere to force them to leave Asma alone but they arrested her as well. The two girls were taken to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct followed by Al-Salam Camp, back to the Precinct and then to Al-Qanatir Prison. When we saw her at the Precinct, Asma told us she had been hit and harassed. We also found out that the girls had gone on a partial hunger strike to protest the beatings, harassment and sexual abuse they were subjected to. They were also objecting to the abuse their families face during visits. That was on the 25th of January. When we went to visit Asma yesterday (the 29th of January) she told us that two policemen conduct body searches on the girls and verbally abuse them. She also told us that if their custody was renewed, they would go on a full hunger strike. The following day, the public prosecutor, in a clear violation of the law which states that all detainees must attend the hearing, renewed the girls’ custody in absentia. Family members are subjected to a humiliating body search prior to the visit. Women are searched by female convicts and men are searched by police officers. During our last visit, they refused to allow us to bring in bread. Visits are very short and we have to wait a long time to see Asma. The families of convicted criminals receive better treatment than the families of political detainees. We are not allowed to exchange many words during the visit so we are not really sure how much abuse my daughter has faced in prison.”



34 Testimony from the brother of the student Islam Raheel.

“My sister was at the Faculty of engineering where she studies on the 30th of December 2013. She refused to take the exam as part of a general boycott of exams. She acted in a very calm and collected manner and had no intention of stirring up any trouble but the invigilator insisted on calling in the exam hall supervisors who hit her and dragged her out. Campus security handed her over to a security official dressed in civilian clothes. The latter beat her up, took all her money and mobile phone and verbally abused her. He then punched her in the face. Two other police officers joined in and began hitting her with sticks and batons. Eight other girls were arrested with her and sent to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct where they were treated to the “Welcoming Party” ritual which consists of a lot of beating, punching and kicking. They were also threatened with Tasers. At 3p.m. They were taken to Misr Al-Jadida station and the same ritual awaited them there. We had no idea what was going on until one of her friends contacted Aljazeera and said that a number of students had been arrested. I found out these details from my sister after I saw her again at Misr Al-Jadida police station. ON the 31st of December, she appeared before the public prosecutor and her remand in custody was renewed for 15 days, four of which she spent at the police station before being transferred to Al-Qanatir prison on the 11th of January. We were allowed to visit her 11 days into her stay at Al-Qanatir prison after a long, arduous struggle to obtain visit permits. The man who issued the permits was very abusive. Inside the prison, all the female detainees must wear white clothes over white underwear. The uniform is a revealing, light Jalabia and if the girl happened not to have white underwear they would force her to wear the Jalabia without underwear which could be very humiliating. I saw this in the case of another girl who was wearing the Jalabia and crying her eyes out in embarrassment. The girls were not allowed to wear jackets, not even white ones. They had to wear either Jalabias or training suits. Some parents brought extra clothes for their daughters but prison officials refused to pass them on to the detainees. Cells are very small and house 33 inmates and are only opened once every three or four days for half an hour. Political detainees are held with convicted criminals who act upon prison officials’ orders and make detainees’ live inside very miserable. Body searches of visitors are an excuse for sexual harassment of both men and women.



Food is also inspected either by being dipped all over a table or with the use of sticks. The last time we visited Islam we were not allowed to bring in any bread on the pretext that detainees could use bread as explosives. They claimed that some detainees were students of chemistry and have the knowhow to make explosives out of bread. Relatives of convicted criminals are allowed in first and spend more an hour inside while relatives of political detainees are kept till the very end and allowed a few minutes of visit time under the direct supervision of soldiers and officials. The last time we visited was Monday the 27th of January 2014. I found out that the night before prison officials barged into the cells and subjected the girls to a humiliating body search and took away all their things. Islam is held under case file no. 7158/Madinat Nasr Misdemeanors charged with disturbing the peace, setting public property on fire, assaulting police officers, exploding Molotov bombs and fireworks.”

35 Testimony from the mother of the detainee Tasneem Ahmed

“My daughter was arrested on the 30th of December 2013. There was a heavy security presence that day because on the 28th of December 14 girls were arrested for boycotting exams and the following day another 4 girls were arrested for the same reason. That’s why there were a lot of policemen on campus. My daughter was arrested along with another 7 girls. Tasneem arrived at the university and was shocked to see security forces chasing after girls, especially near the faculties of engineering, science and medicine. They stormed an exam hall at the faculty of engineering and arrested 3 girls. One of the girls was arrested and beaten up before they ripped off all her clothes. Other girls were chased by armored vehicles. The girls, including my daughter, tried to hide from the armored vehicles. Tasneem was arrested while trying to run away from an armored vehicle. She was then kicked, punched, hit with batons and Tasers. The abuse continued inside the police car where detainees had to wait for two hours. The girls were taken to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct and greeted with a ritual called the “Welcoming Party” which is basically a collective form of abuse by soldiers and policemen of newly-arrived detainees. They were held in the same cell with abusive convicted criminals. When we went to visit her we discovered she was



no longer at the police station so began a long search for her. We finally found out she had been moved to Masr Al-Jadida police station during the night. She appeared before the public prosecutor on the 31st of December and her remand in custody was renewed for 15 days. She remained at Masr Al-Jadida police station for a day and a half before being transferred to Al-Salam Camp where they were tortured and abused. They were then moved to Al-Qanatir Prison. Before the 15 days were up, her remand in custody was renewed again. Yesterday, the 30th of January 2014, her custody was renewed in absentia. Female detainees are subjected to body searches on daily basis in addition to the verbal abuse, the beatings and the harassment. Prison officials also take away their food, clothes and personal belongings. I asked her to write me a letter about her experience in prison but they tore up every single letter she penned. Visits are very short and we can barely say a few words under the watchful eyes and ears of prison officials. They sleep two to a bed on very small mattresses. Every time we visit her they read our letters then tear them up. We are also searched in a very offensive and humiliating manner. When my daughter was arrested, she was abused by university security. She is now on a hunger strike along with other detainees in protest against the abuse and torture in prison.”

36 Testimony from the mother of Hajar Mohammed

“On the 30th of December 2013, armed security forces entered exam halls and tried to force the girls to take the exams. My daughter was among the girls who were boycotting the exams so they hit her and dragged down the stairs. The girls including my daughter were taken to a security campus room but the dean came and reassured them that everything was going to be fine. The girls were, however, handed over to the police who punched, kicked and beat up the girls in addition to ripping off their head covers. She called me from the police van and told me that she had been arrested and was being taken to Madinat Nasr 2nd Precinct. When they arrived at the police station, all her personal belongings were taken, her phone was smashed to pieces and she was physically assaulted. She was charged with 15 offenses and then taken to Al-Qanatir Prison. She cannot tell us anything during visits because she is surrounded by prison officials. The girls are locked up 24 hours a day and hardly



ever see the sun. They are also held with convicted criminals and are subjected to body searches all the time. We have to endure humiliating body searches before every visit. The food is also inspected. During the last visit they would not allow us to bring in any bread. Her remand in custody was renewed for 15 day son the 29th of January 2014 without her even being present during the hearing.”

37 The testimony of the mother of the detainee R. B.

“My daughter was arrested on the 28th of December 2013. She does not have any political affiliations or preferences and has never taken part in any demonstration or protest. On the day of her arrest, she arrived at the university to taken an exam but was stopped by campus security. Administrators and campus security had laid siege to the students and the exam was cancelled. My daughter left the campus and was on her way to take the bus back home when a police officer stopped her and asked to see her ID card. She told him she did not have an ID card but could show him her University card if he wanted. He took the university card and threw it away. He then hit her, took her phone and all her personal belongings, and put her in a police car. Someone called and told us my daughter had been arrested because she did not have an ID card. We went to the police station and they told us to bring an ID card. We produced a birth certificate but they rejected it. We then brought them her university papers but they rejected those as well. We were instructed to present them with a digital birth certificate which we did and took it back to the police station. We brought my daughter so clothes but she had been transferred to Al-Salam Camp so the police took the clothes and refused to give them back to us. She was returned to the police station. We managed to see her there from behind a grid. All the food we brought her was taken away by the convicted criminals she was being held with. My daughter bore the telltale signs of torture and abuse. She told me that she had been punched, kicked and beaten up in the police van. She was sexually harassed upon arrival at the station. On one occasion she was kept in a dark room all night without a blanket or a mattress. The following day she was taken to Al-Qanatir prison. The windowless, dirty rooms were overcrowded and detainees slept two to a bed. My daughter suffers from thyroid problems so she was taken to



prison hospital and placed in a room with another patient who had AIDS and was bleeding all over the floor. My daughter refused to enter the room but they flung her inside. She vomited and screamed for three hours. Finally she was taken to another room equally dirty and cold. She was given a medication which caused her to hemorrhage. I had to bring her the medication myself but found out that she had gone on a hunger strike. That was last Sunday, the 26th of January 2014. We were allowed to visit that day to mark the occasion of Police Day. Convicted criminals are constantly picking on political detainees. My daughter is charged with rioting and disrupting exams despite being arrested because her only crime was not having an ID card on her. We cannot have any meaningful exchanges with her during visits because we are always surrounded by prison officials and policemen. We are subjected to humiliating body searches, sometimes more than once if we go in twice. We have to pay a lot of money and queue for many hours to see her.”



Testimonies

about people who were forcefully disappeared

38 Testimony of M. A. H. (20 years old)

“At around 4 a.m. I was standing next to Al-Azhar University wall watching as 7 snipers perched on the roof of the Islamic Da’wa College were shooting at anyone who happened to be standing near the memorial. I was shocked when 13 masked men in civilian clothes appeared out of nowhere and pointed their rifles at me and another 40 onlookers. The masked men were backed up by police officers carrying batons and firearms. We were hit on the head with the batons and forced to kneel down before being carried away in a police van. My nose was bleeding profusely from all the beating. While we were in the van, several policemen hit us with batons. The man sitting next to me was hit so hard on the head, he lost consciousness and began to bleed profusely. The van drove on while detainees were screaming in pain. Policemen would hit anyone who dared to lift his head to look out the window to find out where we were being taken. After ten minutes, the van suddenly reversed down a steep hill before coming to a standstill. We were dragged out of the van one by one. I was pulled by the belt and thrown to the ground. We were then forced to walk with our heads bowed down. A group of police officers in civilians clothes were standing in two rows through which we passed while they kicked, punched and beat us everywhere. Anyone who tried to turn his head or look



up would immediately be hit on the back of his head. One detainee was hit so hard he fell down unconscious and bleeding yet the police officer continued to hit him. As we walked along a 15-metre corridor with our heads bowed down, the guards continued to hit us on the back of the head. We turned a corner and walked along another long corridor flanked by cells on either side. Screams of pain could be clearly heard everywhere. We finally arrived at a cell at the end of the corridor. At no point did the beating or verbal abuse subside. The cells measured 2m X 3m and was expected to house around 30 detainees. There was not enough space for anyone to sit down. They later took out all the bearded detainees and anyone over the age of 25 leaving 14 detainees including me in the cell. One of the detainees was a 13-year old child. We were then tied to the wall with a thick rope. The rope was so thick my left hand swelled up. After ten minutes, three policemen came in and took all our personal belongings while they were punching and kicking us. A few minutes later, someone else came in and untied us. He then ordered us to take all our clothes off before tying us up again. At one point he grabbed the head of one of the detainees and slammed it against the wall a few times until the detainee passed out. A huge, loud fan hung from the ceiling of the room. The sound was so deafening I could barely hear the person standing next to me. The windowless cell was lit by a small bulb. I eventually lost track of whether it was day or night. A while later, a security officer came into the cell carrying a bucket filled with brownish water. He forced us to drink the dirty water and anyone who refused was electrocuted with a Taser. The ritual was repeated every four hours. It was Ramadan but they would not let us fast. They started taking out detainees two at a time and bring them back unconscious an hour later. It was not long before it was my turn. I was taken to another cell along with a 20-year old who, judging by his accent, is originally from Upper Egypt. I saw a bare-chested detainee tied to the wall with electrical wires attached to various parts of his body. He was unconscious and his body bore the marks of torture. I was thrown to the floor and someone stood on my chest while a policeman tied my legs to suspend me from the ceiling. He then proceeded to hit me with a stick all over my body. The beating intensified with every scream of pain. He grabbed my testicles a few times and squeezed very hard. He hit me on the chest and on the head until my nose and mouth bled. He would then move to the guy next to me and do the same thing. He eventually returned with a Taser which he used to electrocute me all over,



especially my testicles and buttocks. The torture session lasted an hour until I finally passed out and fell to the floor. I was untied and left lying on the floor while they finished torturing the other guy. Eventually we both lay on the floor, exhausted and worn out. We were drenched in cold water to revive us before being dragged back to the cell. When I woke up I saw one of the police officers fiddle with a few buttons and the man I noticed when I first walked into the cell began screaming in pain. Back in the cell, I was tied again with my face facing the wall. A man they called Ayman would bring us food twice a day, pee all over it and then leave. At one point they took the 13-year old boy and brought him back unconscious. I never heard him speak again. It seems the torture may have cause nerve damage or something of the sort. One of the other detainees suffered from asthma but his inhaler was smashed to pieces by the police when he was arrested. He suffered from constant shortness of breath and almost died under torture. Another detainee was tortured so badly his chest cracked open. Every now and then several security officers would come into the cell, hit us with batons and stick, and verbally abuse us. They would should that Rabaa and Annahda were over and that we are never getting out. The cell floor was flooded with water to prevent us from sitting down. Every time anyone of us tried to sleep, a prison officer would barge in and stomp all over him to wake him up. Three days into this ordeal, three men came into the cell and began beating our heads against the wall. A while later they fired a teargas bomb into the cell and closed the door. The man with the asthma died as a result of the teargas attack. When prison guards noticed the dead body, they untied it and dragged it out while stomping all over it! On one occasion, we were flogged with electrical wire for more than half an hour. During another torture session, I was forced to sit down with my back against another detainee and we were tied up to each other and electrocuted. A day and a half passed without torture. Fresh water began arriving at the cell and the man who brought our food stopped peeing into it. Four men came into the cell, untied me and six of the others and gave us fresh clothes to wear. We were blindfolded and marched out of the cells along the same long corridors. After we were hauled into a police van, they began throwing each one of us out of the moving vehicle at 3-minute intervals. I was the fourth to be thrown out. I sat on the side of the road for a while enjoying the sunshine and pulling myself together. I walked till I reached a mosque where someone gave me 50 pounds. I took the train back home. As a result of the torture



I was subjected to suffered from atrial fibrillation, low blood pressure, shortness of breath, temporary amnesia for two weeks, frequent loss of consciousness, difficulty standing up for almost twenty days, constant vomiting, weak eyesight, bruises and injuries, swollen testicles, inability to maintain an erection, broken nose, broken teeth, severe headaches, and epileptic fits. I believe I was held at the State Security building in Madiant Nasr. The men who tortured me were called Rushdi, Ibrahim, Noor, Wael and Ahmed.”

39 Testimony from Al-Husseini Ibrahim Al-Husseini.

Al-Husseini is the brother of the minor detainee Omar (born 2 September 1997), a resident of Asharqia.

“On Thursday the 27th of February 2014, security forces from Zaqaziq 2nd Precinct raided our home but no one was there except for my mother and my younger brother Omar so they arrested him and took him to an unknown location. We have not seen him since. We headed to the police station but they refused to give us any information about his whereabouts. We sent letters to the minister of interior, the minister of defense, the public prosecutor and the attorney general to document the incidence of his forceful disappearance and to ensure no bogus charges be brought against him. Four days after his abduction we heard that Omar was being held at Al-Jala’ Camp in Ismailia and was being tortured along with a number of other detainees. The same person told us he had been held at the same camp with Omar but was released. We headed to the camp, a military zone housing a military court and a prison. When we asked the military prosecutor about Omar, they denied knowing anything about him. Two days later someone who had been held with Omar called and told us that Omar was at the camp and that he was being tortured and electrocuted. All my attempts to contact the military commander of the camp have been to no avail. Nor has the public prosecutor done anything to investigate this crime.”



40 Testimony from Khalid Mohammed; Lawyer.

Khalid is the brother of the student Abdullah Mohammed Ahmed Mohammed (born 24 April, 1993), a third-year student at Zaqaziq University, Asharqia province.

“On Tuesday the 4th of March 2104, my brother Abdullah was in the company of several friends when a microbus came to a halt next to them and several armed people disembarked. They forced my brother and two of his friends to get into the microbus. Two friends walking not far behind called me immediately. I headed to Zaqaziq 1st and 2nd Precincts and two other prison camps but they all denied having any knowledge of his whereabouts. As a lawyer, I had access to prison camps so I was able to find out from a security guard there that they received 14 young men that day including my brother. I was able to verify that from a group of detainees I was defending and who are held at the same camp. They told me that a group of young men had indeed arrived and that they were being taken from 10p.m. until the morning to be stripped of their clothes, tortured and electrocuted. They said their screams could be heard everywhere. They also told me that my brother and the others were not allowed any food or drink. Abdullah was apparently held in cell 11 on the third floor. I tried with several other detainee family members to verify their presence but prison officials kept insisting they were not being held there. As a lawyer I already knew that many gross human rights violations were being committed at the camp and that all detainees had been subjected to one form of torture or another. The public prosecutor has always refused to take any steps to put an end to these violations despite the scores of complaints submitted to him. And since it is a closed military area, civilians are abducted and taken there to be tortured and put on trial on bogus charges. My brother suffers from a gastrointestinal condition and has to eat special food and take his medication. We have sent letters to the attorney general and the public prosecutor but nothing has been done to address our concerns.”



41 Testimony from the family of the detained student Khalid Salem Ghuneim (born 15 July 1992).

“On Tuesday the 4th of March 2014, Khalid had gone to Zaqaziq to get his exam results. He called us in the afternoon to tell us that an accident had caused severe traffic jams so he was going to try to find another way to get back home. After that we lost all contact with him. We went to Zaqaziq the following day and looked for him at police stations and prison camps but they all denied he was being held there until a prison guard at the Central Security prison told us he was inside with another group of students. Other parents were told the same thing by lawyers, the parents of other detainees and a couple of prison guards. We learned from a lawyer that a group of students arrested on Tuesday were due to appear before the public prosecutor on Thursday. We waited at the camp from 8 a.m. until 3p.m. but none of those arrested with my brother made an appearance. We still don’t know where my brother is and we are extremely worried about his safety.”



42 Testimony from the wife of the forcefully disappeared Ja'far Ibrahim Khalid Al-Za'farani.

Al-Za'farani (born 2 July 1989) is a marketing executive at Lamar, a company for the manufacture of dairy products.

“The last time I communicated with my husband was on Tuesday the 4th of March 2013 at 7 p.m. I could not reach him after that. We tried to get any information about his disappearance but to no avail. The following day the Secretary-General of the Strong Egypt party Abdullah Wajih Amin told me that Ja'far and three of his friends were at an advertisement agency owned by Amin when Homeland Security forces raided the company and arrested my husband, Amin's brother Mohammed, Mahmoud Abdullah and Khalid Mohammed. They also destroyed the company's offices and took some equipment and files, according to eyewitnesses. My husband's father Dr. Ibrahim Al-Za'farani received a phone call on the same day from someone who told him that at 10p.m. on Tuesday someone threw him a piece of paper from a police car that was carrying several detainees. The paper had my father-in-law's phone number. We have no idea where my husband or the others have been taken or why they were arrested. Every now and then I call my husband's mobile phone and sometimes I find it switched on. The same thing happened with Mahmoud and Mohammed's phones. On Saturday the 8th of March 2014 we sent a letter to the public prosecutor and the minister of justice to inform of them of what happened to my husband but no action has been taken yet.”





Testimonies

from some Detainees' Defense Lawyers

43 Testimony from M. F. M.

A defense lawyer for some of the detainees arrested Al-Fath and Ramses events, file no. 8616/2013/Al-Azbakia.

“After my clients were arrested on the night of the 17th of August 2013 I headed to the hearing the following day. I looked for them everywhere until I found them at Qasr Al-Nil police station. The public prosecutor went to the police station to question the detainees but they would not allow us in to attend the questioning. We sent to Al-Azbakia public prosecutor on the same day to inquire about why we were banned from being with our clients. The public prosecutor told us that the questioning would take place at Torra prison. We were stopped by the police at the Torra prison gates and informed they did not have orders to allow us to go in. We asked to see the public prosecutor and were told he had not arrived. We waited until someone from the public prosecutor’s office arrived and I stopped him myself to tell him we had come to attend the questioning with Al-Azbakia detainees. He



said, “That’s up to the Pasha” and pointed at the police officer guarding the gate. No lawyer was allowed to go in that day. We learned the following day that a decision had been issued to remand the detainees in custody for 15 days. When the remand was up for renewal, we came to the prison to attend the hearing. I and several other lawyers arrived at the gate to demand we be allowed to attend the hearing with our clients but the prison guard refused saying that he did not have any orders to let in any lawyers. The public prosecutor finally arrived and we were allowed to go in. The questioning was held in the prison warden’s room and detainees were brought in two or three at a time. The public prosecutor’s clerk would call their names and they would be taken back to their cells. The public prosecutor would hear from each lawyers and take the supporting documents. We finally reached the appeals stage which is usually referred bot the Criminal department. The public prosecutor approved some requests but not my client’s so he was not released with the 84 detainees whose appeal was successful despite being charged in the same case as my client. We went to see the public prosecutor and the attorney general but to no avail. Our appeal was rejected. My client is still in custody and I have no idea whether it has been renewed or not because the renewal takes place at the prison and detainees are held in three different locations. I visited the detainees in prison and they complained about the abuse, the food and sleeping arrangements.”

44 Testimony from A. S. N.

“I am a member of the defense team in case 8615/2013/Al-Azbakia, otherwise known as Al-Fath mosque case. There defendants charged in this case are currently held in Wadi Al-Natroon prison. I learned from them that they have been tortured and abused. They also told me that since arriving at Wadi Al-Natroon, prison officials, police officers and detectives have physically and verbally abused them. On one occasion, they broke one detainee’s arm and he still cannot move it. They also dragged them across the floor and ordered them to take all their clothes off. They were asked to denounce Islam and the deposed president Mohammed Morsi. Prison cells are worse than toilets and infested with cockroaches. More than 35 prisoners are crammed into 3m x 3m cells. When they complained they were tortured, their



clothes were taken away and threatened with worse if they did not shut up. The food on offer is terrible and we cannot bring in any food from outside. As a lawyer, I am subjected to abuse every time I go to visit my clients in a glaring violation of the law and basic principles of human rights. I also learned some of the detainees were raped on several occasions. All of these are gross human rights violations. Detainees' families are subjected to humiliating treatment during visits and prison officials spend the duration of the visit verbally abusing detainees and their family members. Detainees are denied medical treatment and are told "you don't deserve to see a doctor. You deserve to die here."

45 Testimony from A. S.

"I am lawyer for some for some of the students detained in December 2013 when security forces raided Al-Azhar University to break up a strike after students decided to boycott the exams. Central Security Forces arrived on campus at 10 a.m. and attacked the students before arresting some of them. Those arrested were kicked, punched and slapped and then shoved into an armored vehicle. Their arms and legs were brutally tied up. They stayed in the armored vehicle for almost an hour without much ventilation until they almost suffocated. The students were taken to a police station and on the way there the physical abuse with batons and hands continued. The female students were sexually harassed by police officers who fondled their private parts in a very sadistic manner. Some female detainees had penises shoved into their mouths. More abuse awaited the students at the police station. The girls were subjected to virginity tests. A doctor exposes the lower half of a girl's body in the presence of other police officers and proceeds to do the virginity test. Even married women had to endure the humiliating virginity tests. According to the official police report, "On the occasion of the final exams at Al-Azhar University, campus security in collaboration with the police put together a security detail to ensure the smooth running of the exams. A group of students decided to engage in acts of violence to terrorize the other students and prevent them from sitting the exams. The rioting students threw bricks and stones at the others. Security forces led Captain Ahmed Salim moved into campus where they were met with bricks and



stones. The violent students were consequently arrested and brought to the police station.” The public prosecutor’s office is under the direct control of the government and have done nothing to put an end of the abuse of detainees and the human rights violations committed by security forces.”

46 Testimony from A. A.

I was asked to act as a defence lawyer in case file number (.../Madinat Nasr). I decided to offer the following testimony because my client was subjected to many human rights violations while in prison. My client (...) was banned from taking his final exams because of his political activities and his opposition to the military coup. There was no legal basis to this ban. When my client objected, one of the security men at the university contacted a police officer stationed on campus from Madinat Nasr police station. The police officer took him to the station where he was blindfolded and beaten up before his penis and testicles were electrocuted. He was also sexually assaulted. A policeman inserted a stick in his anus. Following a prolonged detention period, he finally appeared before the public prosecutor and a new cycle of violations started.

Usually there is no secretary from the ministry of justice to note down the detainees’ statements so a policeman is asked to do it.

- 1- The public prosecutor the defence’s request that the torture the detainee was subjected to be noted in the investigation. They also rejected our request the he be referred to a medical examiner.
- 2- The public prosecutor remanded my client in custody in direct violation of due process. His arrest was unlawful due to lack of probable cause and lack of any material evidence against him.
- 3- His remand in custody was renewed several times even after the investigation ended without proving anything against my client.
- 4- His case was referred to a misdemeanours court which also ignored his re-



quest that the incidence of torture be documented in the case file and that his case be thrown out because of lack of due process and evidence. Judge Ahmed Majdi said to him “My son, no one knows what is right or wrong anymore. The country is in a state of upheaval. I suggest you turn all your attention to your studies and ignore everything else.”

I was also one of the defence lawyers in case file number 53751/Madinat Nasr against several detainees:

- 1- After being unlawfully detained since there was no probable cause to justify their arrest except the way they looked nor were they in possession of anything incriminating. Indeed, one detainees, Shareef Mukhtar, is disabled and another, Mustafa, is a 17-year old minor. The young men were verbally and physically abused at Madinat Nasr police station. The tell-tale signs of torture and abuse was all over the boys, there was no need for a medical report to prove it.
- 2- The detainees were questioned at a very late hour without any proper justification.
- 3- The interrogation took place at Madinat Nasr police station. A deputy public prosecutor showed up at 3am to conduct the investigation.
- 4- The person noting down the statements was a police officer from the station.
- 5- There were no lawyers present when the detainees were questioned.
- 6- The public prosecutor refused to document the torture and abuse.
- 7- The public prosecutor ordered they be remanded in custody despite the fact my clients were entitled to a release due to the lack of due process and unlawful arrest procedures. Nor was there any evidence to support the charges against them.
- 8- My clients’ remand in custody was renewed five times, each time for 15 days despite the fact the investigation had ended and there was no reason to keep



them in custody.

9- The public prosecutor who was acting as judge in renewing the custody ignored the defence's request that abuses against my clients be documented.

10- After three months in prison, the case was referred to a misdemeanours court where Judge Ahmed Magdi, despite being not the competent authority, presided over the case. All political cases are now referred to him because he is notorious for his harsh prison sentences without much regard for the rule of the law.

11- One of the detainees, Abdulfattah Juma' is a lawyer who was arrested while doing his job defending political prisoners.

47 Testimony by H.A. (A lawyer)

As lawyers we have become accustomed to the difficulties and hurdles facing us as we try to offer our clients the best defence possible against the bogus charges levelled against them by Egyptian authorities. We are often prevented from meeting with our clients or be alone with them. We are either not informed of any renewal of custody or given false dates. For example, I was given a false date for the case of the four girls who had been arrested. I was told it was going to be on the 22nd of January but I was suspicious of the information so I went to the police station on the 21st of January and found transferring the girls. I also found out that the renewal was going to take place at Al-Mustakbal Prison. I headed along with the other lawyers to the prison but confronted the administrators who denied any knowledge of this. A police officer there told us that the public prosecutor had issued orders that lawyers be delayed so they will not be able to attend the hearing. We missed out on the hearing and the girls' remand in custody was renewed. Another violation committed by the authorities is the order to remand all detainees in custody and renewing detention periods even when there is no risk of flight. According to Egyptian laws, defendants are remanded in custody if the court fears they are a flight risk or if the defendant has no permanent address or if the investigations are not over yet. Otherwise, the



accused is released until s/he stands trial. We also find huge difficulties in obtaining legal documents. In one instance, I and a number of lawyers requested from the Public Prosecutor Mohammed Abu Thurayya in Ismailia that they issue our clients with proper documents certifying that they are in jail so they may not lose their jobs, or get suspended from college or school. He rejected our request. Also according to Egyptian law, a lawyer who attends investigations with the defendants is allowed to take any measures on behalf of the defendant without a written authorisation but Abu Thurayya insisted on the document or we else he would forbid us from attending with our clients. When we would ask him to grant us an authorisation, he would say that the ‘security situation’ does not allow for authorisations at that moment in time. I recall him saying to me,” Egyptians don’t deserve our help and support and we are not going to allow you to defend them.” As far as the girls who were arrested, almost 18 were detained in Ismailia since the beginning of the coup. Ismailia second prescient is notorious for dispatching forces to track pursue girls and arrest them. These forces are usually led by a detective named Sharif Balbola and chief detective Ahmed Al-Sageer who were notorious for torturing young girls at the police station. The most famous case at Ismailia was a group of girls who were arrested in 2013 and brought to the police station. A police officer named Yasser Al-Hifnawi threatened one of them and her mother with sexual assault. The girls were of course physically assaulted, verbally abused and sexually harassed by the policemen especially during the “welcoming party” with which all detainees were usually greeted. Policemen would form two lines and the girls would be forced to walk between them as they are being harassed and assaulted. They would then be thrown into prison cells and their journey from hell starts. In December of 2013, four girls were illegally arrested. The four girls, all wearing the niqab (face cover), were taking part in a demonstration which the police dispersed with live bullets and teargas. One of the locals offered the girls refuge in his house until the shooting stops. As soon as they entered his house he started beating them and the proceeded to call Detective Balbola to come and arrest them. The police came and took them to the station where a police report was filed alleging they were arrested while they taking part in a demonstration and that they were committing violent acts, vandalising public property and disturbing the peace. In another case, two girls were on their way to school when the police decided to arrest them simply because one of them



was wearing the niqab. The girls were assaulted, sexually harassed, touched in very private areas upon the orders of the detective. The two girls sustained several injuries and bruises. One of them suffered a dislocated shoulder. The same girl also suffers from an autoimmune disease called systemic lupus erythematosus but she was not allowed any medical care. The two girls' detention was renewed twice for 15 days.

Ismailia second precinct is notorious for brutally torturing both male and female detainees. Everyone there is engaged in torture; detectives, policemen, even other inmates who take orders from the police. Charges against political detainees are often fabricated and they are photographed with 'seized evidence' that does not belong to them such as firearms and bombs. Photographs are then circulated in the media as proof that these detainees are terrorists. I worked on a case involving two young men. One of them was arrested during a demonstration and assaulted in police van and then tortured at Ismailia second precinct. He was beaten up and electrocuted before his leg was broken by the police. The second young man was a university student at Al-Azhar University and was also arrested during a demonstration and taken to Ismailia second precinct. He was beaten up and electrocuted. He was then photographed with weapons and explosives and forced to falsely confess they belonged to him. He was later transferred to AL-Mustakbal Prison. Both young men were arrested in December and had their remand in custody renewed several times. They have not been released yet. As a lawyer, my life is in constant danger. My house was raided more than once and my family threatened. As soon as they know you are a defence attorney for political detainees, they arrest you.



Testimonies

The Second Part





1 Mohammed Bakri Haroon (born 12 September 1982).

a business graduate who worked at Vodafone, has been charged in a number of cases such as the Arab Charkas and Ansar Bait Al-Maqqdis cases and subsequently transferred to Al-Aqrab Prison.

“I was subjected to forceful disappearance for more than four months after being abducted from one of the streets of 10 Ramadan City in Asharqia on the 28th of November 2013. My wife and two children were with me at the time (a 2-year-old girl and a three-month-old baby). My wife and children were held for ten days at the State Security building in Zagazig where she was quizzed about me, my activities, and contacts. Her passport, mobile phone, her laptop and all the money she had were taken away before they were released. I was tortured and was refused legal representation when I insisted on calling a lawyer. A while later, I was transferred to Al-Azhouli military prison in Ismailia where I was once again tortured and electrocuted. The deterioration of my health necessitated I be taken to Alzouli prison hospital. I was too ill at the time to appear before the public prosecutor and my body bore signs of torture some of which I still have until this day. On the 21st of March, I was airlifted to Al-Aqrab prison where I was interrogated instead of being taken to any official interrogation centres as specified by the law. I was once again refused a lawyer and my family was not allowed to visit me throughout the duration of my stay there. We were being held under very bad and inhuman condition; we were banned from receiving visitors, walking outside, leaving our cells or spending any time in the open air. Despite the fact there was no resident doctor at the prison, prison officials refused to transfer detainees to the prison hospital especially in view of the fact there was no proper ventilation which led to the spread of several skin conditions among the detainees. On the 27th of June, I was taken to the Disciplinary Block of the prison along with five others because we had objected to the way another detainee, Ahmed Al-Masri, was being treated. Ahmed was very sick and required special medical attention. The Disciplinary Block consists of rows of adjacent cells for solitary confinement. The cells did not have a toilet, were painted black from floor to ceiling, and had no ventilation except for a small opening through which they sent in the food and water (usually one small



bottle a day) for drinking, washing up and ablutions. I was charged with blowing up the Cairo Police Directorate on the 24th of January 2014 which was blow up two months after my arrest, and blowing up the Dakahilia Police Directorate on the 24th of December 2014 although I had been in prison for a month at the time. I was also charged in military case no. 43/2014/military crimes which alleges that I and others ambushed and killed several soldiers. I was also accused of being behind an explosion at an Arab Charkas warehouse which was blown up four months after my arrest in addition to a number of other offenses such as murder, theft and planting explosives. All of the above crimes occurred while I was at Al-Azouli prison.”

2 Ahmed Mohammed Fouad Abdulrahman (born 12 August 1979).

an accountant and a resident of 6 October City, has been held in connection to case no. 419/2014/October 2nd Precinct in which he was charged with murder, possession of firearms and forming a terrorist cell.

“I was arrested at the 11 October police station on the 28th of January 2014 after heading there to report a murder I had witnessed near the Virgin Mary Church. I had been driving along in my car when a group of armed thugs attacked my car. A church security employee heard my cries for help and rushed to my assistance. He sustained a gunshot wound to the head in the exchange of fire which ensued between him and the thugs. I was shot in the hand. I then headed to the police station where I was arrested and charged with killing the church employee. When my family heard that I had been arrested, they came to the police station but both my parents and brother were held for 11 hours. I was tortured for four days at the police station. They would remove my clothes, electrocute me, stub cigarettes on my body, place me in cold water and electrocute it, and hit me with a water hose. They would beat me so hard until I bled from the nose and ears. I was then transferred to the Central Security Camp on the Cairo-Alexandria Highway where I was also tortured. Officers would handcuff my hands behind my back and place a wooden plank and hang it between two doors from 7p.m. until 1a.m. I would be electrocuted while still in this



position. The nerves in my arms were severely damaged. My family had no idea where I was being held until 11 days later. The bullet in my hand was not removed for two months after several pleas from my parents to the public prosecutor that my hand would be amputated if left untreated.”

3 Tareq Mohammed Madani Radwan (born 30 September 1979).

a resident of Ein Shams, is being held in case no. 1255/2014/Ein Shams.

“I was arrested at midnight on the 24th of February 2014 when security forces in uniform and civilian clothes led by Major General Mohammed Qassem stormed my house. Security forces assaulted everyone in the house including my children Razan, 9, and Suhaib, 2. The apartment was searched and some of its contents were destroyed. They also took 5000 Pounds, my laptop and some papers. I was taken to Ein Shams police station where I was tortured and forced to sign a false statement. I was electrocuted and sustained injuries to the face and head. I was also forced to make false confessions in front of a television camera. The following day, I was transferred to Misr Al-Jadida police station. Four days later, I still had not appeared before any judge or public prosecutor. When I finally appeared before the public prosecutor, he refused to document the series of abuses I had been subjected to and ordered I be remanded in custody for 15 days in case no. 1255/2014. I was charged with setting up a Facebook page (Ein Shams Today) to incite the public against the army and the police and to publish information about certain security officers. One of the incriminating exhibits was a photo of my father-in-law carried on a banner during MB marches after he was killed during one of the security forces attacks on anti-coup demonstrations on the 6th of October 2013.

On the 6th of March, I was taken to Al-Khalifa police station where I was reunited with my father and brother Amr,³² who is also lawyer. The two of them were arrested at home fifteen days after I was taken away but they did not appear before the prosecutor and no one knew where they were being held until I saw them at the police station. I was transferred to the Appeals Prison on the 31st of May 2014 and held in a room known as “Security Concerns” which is adjacent to the room where



death sentences are carried out. The room measured 2m x 3m and housed 7 other detainees. It did not have a toilet or any form of ventilation. We were not given any food or water. Every time we were taken to the court, we would be attacked in the transfer van.”

4 Amr Mohammed Rabee (born 28 September 1992).

an engineering student who resides in Al-haram, is held at Al-Aqrab Prison in Ansar Bait Al-Maqqdis case no. 423.

“I was with one of my friends, Mohammed Ramadan, at Ramses Square on the 11th of March 2014 when we were abducted by a group of people. Some were dressed in uniform and the others in civilian clothes. We were taken to State Security Directorate where we stayed for 25 days. We were tortured and abused. I would be hung up, electrocuted, whipped, beaten up and assaulted. My shoulder was dislocated more than once and the nerves in one of my hands were damaged to the extent I could no longer move my hand. I was then transferred to Al-Azouli military prison by which time my health had deteriorated so badly I was passing out all the time. I was tortured at Al-Azouli but prison officials tried to treat me to ensure that there were no signs of torture when I would appear before the public prosecutor especially since there was the possibility I might become permanently paralysed. The treatment itself was a disaster. Dirty needles were used to inject me with 25 nerve shots. I was transferred to Al-Aqrab prison 67 days after my arrest at Ramses. I was not allowed any visitors but I sent my family a request for some medications and asked them to file a request to have me referred to a medical examiner but these requests were rejected. The state of my health is quite bad and prison officials are refusing to allow my family to visit me, refer me to a medical examiner or give me the medications I need.”



5 Abdulrahman Sayyed Rizq (14 August 1994).

a school student who resides in Eid Shams, is charge din several cases including the Arab Charkas explosion. He is currently held at Al-Aqrab Prison, Block H1.

“I was abducted from the streets of 6 October City along with Islam Sayyed and Ahmed Abu Saree’ on the 16th of March 2014. We were taken to the State Security Building in 6 October City where we were tortured and electrocuted. I passed out on several occasions because I have a heart condition and my body could not tolerate the electrocution sessions. We were then taken to Al-Aqrab prison and prevented from contacting our families for a month and a half. My family was able to visit me only once in May. Conditions at AL-Aqrab Prison are very bad. We are not allowed to go for a walk out in the open air, are denied family visits and medication, the food is inedible, and the cells lack any form of ventilation. We are tortured by prison officials who torture us and release vicious dogs into our prison cells. The three that stand out the most are Mohammed Abdulhafeez, Mohammed Subhi and Tamer. At the beginning of July, they shaved off our hair as part of the humiliating treatment. Five of those charged with me in the Arab Charkas case were transferred to the Disciplinary Block after they complained about the treatment of another detainee, Ahmed Al-Masri. Ahmed is one of those charged in the Habbara case and has been in detention for six months. He suffers from several ailments including a very bad skin condition, that sometimes deteriorates into Scabies, and a liver tumour. Prison officials refused to take him to the prison hospital but sent in a doctor to check on him. His health condition is quite bad requiring hospital stay. According to the doctor, he should be drinking only chilled water, given healthy food, and allowed to take a warm shower every day. He also needs special creams for his skin condition and at least half an hour of exposure to the sun every day. None of these requests have been fulfilled.”



6 Ahmed Ali Ahmed Al-Najjar (born 29 June 1995).

a first-year law student from Alexandria, has been held at Al-Aqrab Prison in Block 21, cell 15.

“I was arrested on the 3rd of April in the vicinity of the Alexandria Security Directorate while conducting interviews with the families whose children had been released from Kom Al-Dokka juvenile centre. I was interrogated on the fourth floor of the directorate which also happens to be the State Security floor. I was electrocuted and beaten up with sticks and whips. I was held for four days during which I was quizzed twice by Homeland Security. I was also forced to ‘confess’ in front of a television camera that I was arrested after the police found broadcasting equipment with me. I appeared before the public prosecutor on the 8th of April and charged with belonging to a banned group, disturbing the peace, rioting and attempting to overthrow the government. I was not allowed to communicate with my family or my lawyer for five days. Twenty days after my arrival, I was taken to Burj Al-Arab Prison where we were humiliated and abused by both the officers and the other criminals who attacked us with knives. In one instance, we were attacked inside the police transfer van on our way back in court. We were all handcuffed inside the car without ventilation. The reckless driving meant we kept bumping into each other and falling to the floor. Some of us were injured. Back at the prison, we were attacked with gas and banned from receiving family members or walking around. Mohammed Breik and Imad Shathili were the two officers issuing the orders to the police and criminals to assault us.”



7 Testimony of the minor Ahmed Massad Rafat Al-Deeb(born 17 September 1997),

an 11th grade student from Tanta, Al-Gharbiyya held in case no. 142/2014/State Security.

“I was arrested on the 4th of May 2014 while taking my exams at Tanta Secondary School. Security forces stormed the exam hall and dragged me out. When some teachers protested, the police threatened to shoot them. One of the officers stomped on my face and head until I bled. They took me to the State Security building in Tanta where I stayed for three days without being able to make any contact with my family. The police blindfolded me before proceeding to beat me up and electrocute my mouth, teeth, shoulders and private parts. I was forced to confess to setting police cars on fire in the Hasan Radwan area and that I had knowledge of a weapons warehouse in town. They tortured me so badly, I signed the false statement.

On Wednesday the 7th of May, I appeared before the State Security public prosecutor and I told him that all the confessions were false and had been extracted under torture. I was shocked when he threatened me with more torture if I didn’t confess to the same crimes. There was no lawyer present or anyone who could help me so I confessed again.

I was transferred to the correctional facility in Al-Marj. The place is notorious for its abuse of detainees. I was held with convicted criminals who had orders from the facility to harass and abuse political detainees. I was greeted with the “Welcoming Party” upon my arrival.

The conditions were extremely inhumane. We were forced to sleep on the floor and woke up at six. They would often force us to sit in a certain position for eight straight hours. We would not be allowed to even move our necks. I now move my legs with great difficult because these positions did a lot of damage to my knees.”



8 Anas Al-Sayyed Ibrahim Mohammed Moussa (born 8 April 1993)

a first year student at the Faculty of Engineering at the 10th of Ramadan Institute. Anas is held in case no. 7272/2014/Zagazig 2nd Precinct.

“I was arrested at a friend’s house on the 1st of June 2014. Security forces raided the house where I and three others (Anas Al-Sayyed, Mustapha Abdullah and Abdulrahman Juma’) were spending time. We were assaulted and sworn at from the moment they entered the apartment. We were asked about the whereabouts of my brother Yihia but we told them we had no idea where he was. We were all arrested. We were beaten so badly, I passed out. The officers hauled us, blindfolded and handcuffed, into a police car which took us to the Central Security Directorate Camp in Zagazig.

We were quizzed by state security officers inside a room on the camp. I was the first to be interrogated while still blindfolded and handcuffed. Security officers assaulted me in a very brutal manner to the extent my three friends who were outside the room at the time could hear my screams. I was also electrocuted. Most of the questions revolved around my brother Yiha and his whereabouts. Once the quizzing was over, we were held in a corridor that opened onto cells holding political detainees until the following day when I and Anas were transferred to another location outside Asharqia which turned out later to be Cairo. Our injuries were photographed and recorded. I had lost my left eye to a gunshot wound during a demonstration in Dukki on the 6th of October 2013 when security forces opened fire on the peaceful protesters. Back in the camp, we were held in Cell 3 and appeared before the public prosecutor on the 7th of June 2014 and were remanded in custody in for 15 days in case no. 3564/2014/Zagazig 2nd Precinct. We were charged with demonstrating without a permit and membership in a terrorist organisation. Case papers reveal that the order to make arrests in this case was issued on the 3rd of June 2014. An order was issued for our release but Anas and I were detained in another case (no. 7272/2014/2nd Zagazig Misdemeanours) on charges of demonstrating without permit and setting police cars on fire. Our remand in custody has been renewed several times since. I was transferred to Zagazig 2nd Precinct where I passed out and threw up a few



times due to the inhumane conditions and abuse. My eye also deteriorated but prison officials refused to take me to the hospital. One of the detainees operated on my eye with primitive tools.”

9 Testimony of the minor Omar Sa’ad Al-Saeed (born 11 June 1998).

a secondary school student and lives in Dakahilia.

“I was arrested on the 4th of July 2014 while I was travelling on the bus. I was arbitrarily arrested after the police ambushed the car I was riding without any justification. I was taken to Al-Mansoorah 2nd Precinct where I was held in a tiny cell measuring 3m X 3m that can only hold up to 10 people but there were more than fifty detainees in there. We were not allowed to leave the cell, and food and drink were very limited. As a result of these inhumane conditions, lack of ventilation, and overcrowding, many detainees suffered bouts of unconsciousness, shortness of breath, and throwing up. Yet we were refused medical attention and all requests to have us transferred to a hospital were rejected. We were assaulted by soldiers and police officers on the orders of Brigadier-General Fayiq Al-Zaki and his assistant Ashraf Mitwalli Zeidan and chief detective Shareef Abu Al-Naja”