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December 15, 2022

To: Egypt's Minister of Interior, General Mahmoud Tawfik

Cc: Prosecutor General, Chancellor Hamada al-Sawy

CC: Chairperson of the National Council for Human Rights, Dr.

Moushira Khattab

Dear General Mahmoud Tawfik,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to respectfully request information about Egypt's prison and other detainee population and the capacities of detention facilities in Egypt. Over the past few years, our organizations have documented dozens of cases of arbitrary arrests and dozens held in prolonged pretrial detention without charge. We understand that the Egyptian government built several new prisons recently, but we continue to document complaints of overcrowding in detention facilities in the country.

We believe that making public critical information about the detainee population is important for government transparency and would aid the study of crime, trends, recidivism, and other valuable research as well as shed light on the overall human rights situation for prison inmates.

We would therefore appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. What is the total population in custody in Egypt for each year since 2011? Please provide a breakdown by:
 - a. Men vs women (including a breakdown of transgender people and whether such information is acknowledged and registered by the government);
 - b. Numbers of children under 18 (boys vs girls);
 - c. Those detained after conviction and sentencing for a criminal offense, those held in pretrial detention, and those detained for any other reasons.

2. How many people did authorities detain during each year since 2012 on grounds related to exercising political (violent or non-violent) or human rights activity, particularly in connection to:
 - a. Joining or supporting a political party or group;
 - b. Calling for or participating in protests;
 - c. Posts on social media;
 - d. Writing or publishing or producing any form of news or journalism in any format;
 - e. Working for or participating in an independent organization or activity;
 - f. Defending other detainees as lawyers;
 - g. "Suspicion" about homosexual orientation or gender non-conformity;
 - h. Expressing support for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people;
 - i. Morality-based charges based on consensual conduct in private life, social media posts, music, poetry, dance, or any form of peaceful expression online or offline,
3. In the previous question, please provide a yearly breakdown indicating how many of those detained each year faced prosecution? And how many of those faced violence- or terrorism-related charges? How many remain in prison as of December 2022? Please provide a breakdown by men vs women and adults vs children.
4. How many people were arrested each year since 2012 in cases related to violent attacks that were carried out against civilians or security forces? How many remain in prison as of December 2022? Please provide a breakdown by men vs women and adults vs children.
5. How many prisoners held in pre-trial detention have stayed in prison longer than two years as of December 2022? Please include in this number even those detained pursuant to multiple cases.
6. How many prisons, juvenile detention facilities, and other detention centers are there in Egypt as of December 2022? Please provide a breakdown by the type of the facility and the maximum capacity for each of these facilities. What is the actual detainee population of these facilities as of December 2022?

7. How many police stations are there in Egypt? What is the maximum capacity and what is the actual number of detainees in each of these stations as of December 2022?
8. Please provide the numbers of detainees kept in medical facilities, including those detained on mental health grounds.
9. How many refugees and asylum seekers are currently detained in Egypt? Please provide a breakdown by nationality, the names and locations of the detention facilities and age group (children vs adults) and sex (women vs men).

We would appreciate the response of the minister to this letter at your earliest opportunity.

We welcome your response at: 

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE)

Human Rights Watch

Sinai Foundation for Human Rights (SFHR)

Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR)

The Freedom Initiative (FI)

Committee for Justice (CFJ)

Egyptian Human Rights Forum (EHRF)

Democracy for the Arab World Now (Dawn)

EgyptWide – Egyptian Italian Initiative for Rights and Freedoms