

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

EGYPT REPORTS: FACTS AND FIGURES [INTERNAL]

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ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S NEW REPORTS

The reports document events from October 2011 to late September 2012.

Brutality unpunished and unchecked: Egypt's military kill and torture protesters with impunity The 59-page report documents eight emblematic cases of unlawful killings and 12 cases of injuries; as well as 14 cases of torture and other ill-treatment, including sexual violence.

It details three key incidents:

- **The Maspero protest** of 9 October 2011, which left 27 mainly Coptic Christian protesters (and one soldier) dead, either killed by live ammunition or crushed by army armoured vehicles;
- **The Cabinet Offices events**, five days of violence between the military and protesters starting on 16 December 2011, during which 17 protesters were killed, mainly by live ammunition; and
- **The Abbaseya sit-in** from 28 April to 4 May 2012, during which up to 12 people were killed near the Ministry of Defence, most by live ammunition fired by men in plain clothes.

Agents of repression: Egypt's police and the case for reform

This 62-page report documents four emblematic cases of unlawful killings, 18 injuries and 14 incidents of torture and other ill-treatment – including cases where the torture resulted in death. It details three key incidents:

- **The Mohamed Mahmoud protests** in November 2011, which left over 50 dead near the Interior Ministry;
- **Protests follow Al Ahly Club killings** in February 2012, violently suppressed by the CSF, in which at least 16 people were killed; and
- **Protests and security forces' raids on Nile City Tower** in Cairo in August 2012, after a resident was killed by a member of the security forces.

The report also makes a number of recommendations for reform of the security forces.

KILLED AND INJURED

In its reports, Amnesty International documents six key incidents **since October 2011** where the army and Central Security Forces (CSF, riot police) were responsible for excessive and unnecessary use of force. The routine suppression of peaceful protests has led to the deaths of over 120 protesters and the injury of thousands more.

- Number of protesters killed: 121+
- Number of protesters injured: 3,484+

One of the main injuries documented was loss of sight due to shotgun pellets fired, including at close range; an issue also documented by a number of Egyptian human rights organizations.

- Number of shot pellets found in one protester: 74¹
- Number of eye injuries documented by Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights in one hospital during November 2011 Mohamed Mahmoud Street protests: 60²

MILITARY TRIALS AND IMPUNITY

Today, impunity continues for members of the army and security forces who have committed human rights violations, including the killings of protesters.

Egyptian law blocks accountability for abuses. The Code of Military Justice allows the military judiciary to determine its own jurisdiction, in effect allowing the army to investigate itself. Civilian judges have been unable or unwilling to prosecute military personnel. In practice, this has resulted in opaque investigations where victims and their families have not received truth, justice or reparation. Only a handful of officers faced trial before military courts. Furthermore, under the Police Act, members of the security forces might have to answer before “disciplinary boards”, rather than civilian courts – limiting opportunities for victims of human rights violations to obtain redress. Prosecutions of members of the security forces have often failed, or where they have led to convictions, the sentence has been lightened.

One of the hallmarks of the rule of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (the SCAF) was the sweeping use of military trials against civilians. Thousands have been unfairly tried before such tribunals while the SCAF was in power. Following his assumption of power, President Morsi created a committee to review such cases, and has pardoned a number of civilians.

- Number of civilians unfairly tried before military courts: 12,000³
- Number of civilians facing trial for their part in protests from October 2011: 1,007 (including around 300 facing military prosecution and trials)
- Number of civilians tried by military courts and pardoned by President Mohamed Morsi: 722⁴
- Number of police officer facing trial for protester killings from October 2011: 1⁵
- Number of army personnel facing military trial for protester killings from October 2011: 3⁶

In addition, reshuffles by the Ministry of Interior and Egypt's new President have seen a number of senior officials “retired” from service, in effect, escaping investigation for potential human rights violations. Some such officials have retained “advisor” positions to the new government.

- Number of security-force officials “retired” since “25 January Revolution”: 1051+⁷
- Number of security forces “re-assigned”: 4,000+⁸
- Number of army generals “retired” since Mohamed Morsi took power: 70+⁹

The sense of impunity for members of the security forces is also compounded by the fact that courts have often failed to convict members of the security forces for abuses during the “25 January Revolution”. Where courts have handed down heavy sentences, they have usually been overturned on appeal. Most recently in September 2012, a court in Shubra El Kheima acquitted former head of the Security Directorate of Qalyubiya, Farouq Lashin, and three of his assistants, of killing protesters during the uprising.

TORTURE

Torture in police custody has been systematic and widespread in Egypt for decades. Egyptian law continues to define narrowly, and not in line with international law. Despite ample and well-documented evidence, the authorities have refused to acknowledge that torture and other ill-treatment are endemic. UN human rights bodies have repeatedly expressed concern over the endemic nature of torture in Egypt. The former State Security Investigations (SSI) service, in particular, became a symbol of impunity for torture and other ill-treatment.

- Number of SSI officials tried and convicted for torture: 5¹⁰

- Estimated strength of former State Security Investigations: 100,000
- Number of former State Security Investigations personnel on trial for destroying records, likely to include evidence of human rights violations: 41¹¹
- The Egyptian authorities stated during the framework of the UN Universal Periodic Review in February 2010 that they were preparing legal reforms to render the definition of torture compatible with that in the UN Convention against Torture. No such reform has been proposed to date.

MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES

- Estimated strength of Central Security Forces: 325,000¹²
- Estimated strength of Egyptian army: 280,000 - 340,000 including conscripts¹³

ARMS TO EGYPT

Amnesty International has documented how deliveries of arms and equipment from abroad have continued to reach Egypt, despite violent crackdowns on protesters by the security forces and the army. In one case, a US shipment believed to contain tear gas was dispatched on 13 October 2011, just days after the suppression of the Maspero protest, and arrived on 26 November 2011, days after the crackdown in Mohamed Mahmoud Street.

- Countries which have supplied arms to Egypt over the last seven years: Cyprus, Germany, India, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA (the largest supplier)¹⁴
- Total value of arms to Egypt by US in period 2005-2011: US\$1,241,699,884¹⁵
- Expiry dates on US-made tear-gas canisters found in Mohamed Mahmoud Street: 1995 or 2008.

¹ Former protester Ahmed Harara told Amnesty International there were 64 pellet bullets in his head, six in his neck and four in his chest.

² Kasr el-Aini Hospital. See Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, "In an Investigation by the EIPR: Bullets of the Ministry of Interior Were Aimed to Leave Demonstrators Permanently Disabled", 26 November 2011: <http://eipr.org/en/pressrelease/2011/11/26/1294> . See also joint statement by NGOs: The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), EIPR, the Hisham Mubarak Law Centre (HMLC) and El-Nadim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture (NCRVVT), "After Three Days of Brutal Violence against Demonstrators: Egyptian Rights Organizations Demand Indictment of Leading Security Officers," 22 November 2011: eipr.org/en/pressrelease/2011/11/22/1288.

³ The military judiciary has only announced figures until August 2011. Hundreds more are believed to have been tried since then.

⁴ 572 in July; 150 in August. See for example *Al-Masry Al-Youm*, "Military injustice: Activists, lawyers deem military trial pardons insufficient", 19 August 2012: <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/military-injustice-activists-lawyers-deem-military-trial-pardons-insufficient>; *Ahram Online*, "President Morsi set to issue second wave of pardons to free civilians sentenced by military", 14 August 2012: <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContentPrint/1/0/50365/Egypt/0/President-Morsi-set-to-issue-second-wave-of-pardon.aspx>

⁵ One CSF officer, Mahmoud Sobhi Shannawi (known as the "eye-hunter" for targeting protesters' eyes), is the only officer known to have been charged for the killing and injuring of protesters in connection with the Mohamed Mahmoud Street clashes in November 2011. His trial is ongoing.

⁶ The three are being tried before a military court for "manslaughter" in connection with the deaths of protesters in Maspero, 9 October 2011. Lawyers and human rights organizations connected with the case have withdrawn, calling it a whitewash. A separate case brought against a military doctor by a woman protester subjected to a forced "virginity test" was dismissed by a military tribunal in March 2012.

⁷ Includes decisions by then Ministers of Interior in July 2011 and 2012 to retire 597 and 454 officials, respectively.

⁸ In July 2011.

⁹ Including the former head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and his second-in-command. The President announced that some of the retired generals would serve as "advisors", making any prospect of accountability elusive.

¹⁰ The five officers were convicted in June 2012 of torturing Sayed Bilal to death. Sayed Bilal died in custody on 6 January; he had been arrested in connection with an attack on a church. Four were convicted in their absence.

¹¹ In June 2012, following his acquittal in the trial of Hosni Mubarak in relation to the killing of protesters, Hassan Abdel Rahman, former head of the SSI, was remanded in custody to stand trial, together with some 40 officers, on charges of destroying SSI records.

¹² International Institute for Strategic Studies, "The military balance 2010", 2010, p250.

¹³ Figure excludes air-force and navy. See Reuters, "FACTBOX-Egypt's powerful military", 3 February 2011.

¹⁴ Including military weapons, non-military firearms, shotgun cartridges and tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles (AFV). Data from the UN customs database Comtrade includes arms deliveries over the value of US\$100,000 for each year of the broad categories identified under the classification SITC Rev.4. Comtrade data only pertains to commercial sales so does not include government-to-government transfers, gifts, loans or otherwise. Data for exports to Egypt in 2011 is only available from the USA and data for exports to Egypt in 2010 is only available for the USA and the Republic of Korea.

¹⁵ "Military weapons" US\$111,141,850; "non-military firearms" US\$3,059,392; "shotgun cartridges" US\$384,400; "tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles" US\$1,127,114,242. Comtrade.