



Egypt

Torture: A Systematic Practice

Second Follow-up Report

**Report to the Committee against Torture under Article 20 of the
Convention against Torture**

19 April 2013

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1. Introduction

This is our second follow-up report for the Committee Against Torture (CAT) to be considered alongside our first follow-up report of September 2012 and our original communication entitled "Egypt, Torture: A Systematic Practice" of March 2012. [REDACTED]

It has been one year since our initial submission, and we reiterate our submission that torture is being practised in a systematic manner in Egypt, despite ongoing political change. As we demonstrate in our substantive section on the systematic nature of torture in Egypt, while there have been some political changes, indicating some political will to end torture, the situation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment remains the same – committed with the same techniques by the same forces, for the same purposes, throughout the country.

In support to this statement, we provide further examples of cases of torture we have documented since the submission of our original communication in this report. This concerns nine cases relating to 47 individuals, covering the period of March 2011 to the present day, including one case from March 2013. These cases serve to highlight some of our priority concerns relating to torture in the country, and the long-term consequences these acts have – deaths caused by torture, unfair trials based on confessions made under torture leading to arbitrary detention, and of course, the issue of widespread impunity, which have not been sufficiently addressed despite some positive political changes.

In addition, we provide as an annex two recent reports on the question of torture in Egypt prepared by Egyptian organizations, the Al Nadeem Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, and the United Group's Legal Aid Unit for Torture Victims, in support of the information presented in this report.

We believe that intervention by the Committee in the form of an investigation, as permitted by article 20 of the convention, into the systematic nature of torture in Egypt, would provide an opportunity for the Egyptian authorities to undertake the deep-rooted and necessary changes required to end this scourge.

Alkarama therefore once again urges the Committee to find that reliable information has been received which contains well-founded information indicating that torture is being systematically practiced in all places of detention in Egypt and that it should decide that a confidential enquiry be initiated, as per article 20.2 of the convention. We also urge you to remind Egypt of its reporting obligations under the convention, namely to provide its long-overdue sixth periodic report.

2. Update and summary of situation in Egypt since last report

Although the country has engaged in the process of democratic transition with parliamentary and presidential elections and the lifting of the 30 year-old state of emergency since 2011, significant human rights violations continue to be committed, including torture.

Since our first follow up report six months ago, the situation in Egypt remains unstable. A number of violent protests have taken place, with violent acts committed by both protestors and security forces.

This has included protestors setting fire to some buildings, including the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo in December 2012, and the killings of 42 individuals, including two police officers in January 2013. Violent arrest of civilians by the police continue to take place, as well as the use of citizens' arrests, torture, and regularly, the complete absence of the police in the street has led to a feeling of generalised insecurity for the Egyptian population.

On 19 November 2012 several thousand protestors gathered in Mohamed Mahmoud Street in central Cairo to commemorate last year's clashes with police and army forces, which left more than 40 dead and hundreds injured. This time, clashes continued for five consecutive days between protestors and security forces. These clashes resulted in the killing of 3 people and 310 injured, according to the

Health Ministry. The Interior Ministry stated that 648 protesters were arrested and 292 officers wounded.

On 18 November 2012 an armed intervention by the Military Police aiming to displace residents of an Island in the Nile River took place. This intervention left three civilians dead and five others wounded. To recall briefly, the first Constituent Assembly (responsible for drafting Egypt's new constitution), elected by parliament, itself elected democratically in November 2011 through January 2012, had been suspended by a court in April 2012. In June, a new constituent assembly was formed, following negotiation with all of parliament's major parties, Islamist and non-Islamists alike. However, some opposition forces in the constituent assembly boycotted the assembly from September 2012, accusing it of forcing through an Islamist agenda.

On 22 November 2012, President Mohamed Morsi makes a presidential declaration granting himself special powers. He appoints a new Prosecutor General, grants two more months to the Constituent Assembly to complete its work and forbade judicial bodies from dissolving it or the Shura Council, Egypt's upper house, or senate. The declaration also announced that all of the former regime figures accused of crimes during the 18-day revolution in 2011 will be re-tried. The declaration also announced greater compensation for those injured in the 25 January revolution to match compensation paid to families of those killed.

This declaration resulted in clashes between supporters and opponents of President Morsi, leaving 3 people killed and many injured. The opposition set fire to the headquarters of the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), the largest party supporting the president, and during these incidents, Islam Massoud aged 15, was killed while attempting to defend the FJP headquarters. In Tahrir Square, security forces used tear gas to disperse the protesters, resulting in the death of a man in his 40s due to respiratory problems.

In a sudden twist, on 30 November 2012, only eight days after Morsi's surprise declaration, a 234-article draft constitution is finalized and approved article by article during a 19-hour meeting broadcast on-air starting on 29 November, by the 100-member Constituent Assembly, and proposed for adoption by referendum on 8 and 11 December 2012. Following this, President Morsi announced dates for a referendum on the constitution to be on those dates.

On 5 December 2012 clashes erupted between opposing and supporting groups in front of the presidential palace, resulting in the use of tears gas, Molotov cocktails and birdshot shells amid the complete inaction of the police. These clashes left at least 10 dead and more than 650 injured. The referendum went ahead regardless.

On 25 December 2012, Egypt's High Election Commission announced the final results of the 2012 constitutional referendum. With a turnout of 33% of eligible voters, the draft constitution was passed with 64% approving the document and 36% voting against it.

On 26 January 2013, forty-two people, including two police officers, died during a protest which began on 26 January 2013 in reaction to a court sentencing 21 Port Said residents to death for murders committed at a soccer match a year earlier. In protest at this sentencing, people gathered in front of Port Said Prison. Unidentified individuals shot at the police in the prison, to which the police responded by shooting at those who had gathered in front of the prison in an indiscriminate manner, including at ambulances which came to provide assistance to shooting victims. Clashes between the police and protestors continued for three days, causing the death of 40 civilians and two policemen, as well as injuring 847 others.

On 11 February 2013, following the resignation of eight members of the National Council for human rights on 28 November 2012 in objection to a press statement issued by the council, the Shura Council appointed eight new members, through Decree No.2 of 2013 which was published in the official state gazette.

On 21 February 2013 a presidential decree announced the holding of parliamentary elections in four stages beginning from 22 April 2013. To recall, parliament had been suspended on 14 June 2012 following a ruling by the Supreme Constitutional Court that found it was unconstitutional. On March 6, however, the Supreme Administrative Court decided to suspend the implementation of this presidential decree and postpone the elections. A new date for parliamentary elections has not yet been set.

In absence of the parliament, legislation is currently being adopted by the Shura Council. The Shura Council is composed of 270 seats, of which 90 are appointed by the head of State, and 180 elected by the population, for a six-year term. The last elections took place in January 2012.

On 22 March 2013 members of the Muslim Brotherhood gathered outside their headquarters on Friday in the Cairo suburb of Al-Moqattam in anticipation of opposition marches to the building, as opposition forces had announced their intentions to burn down the headquarters. Clashes broke out that same day between opposition protesters and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood. The clashes resulted in 260 injured, and the burning of eight buses belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood. White arms and Molotov cocktails were used by opposition protesters who also surrounded dozens of Morsi supporters inside a mosque and locked them inside for many hours.

In addition to these violent incidents, and despite the end of the emergency law in May 2012, many cases are still being treated by the Supreme State Security Emergency Courts, which should have been abolished following the end of the state of emergency in May 2012. Civilians also continue to be referred to military courts.

On a positive note, the use of administrative detentions has completely ended and arbitrary detentions have been reduced significantly during the second half of 2012, although not completely, as some cases continue to be reported, particularly after being sentenced in trials that do not meet international fair trials standards.

As demonstrated by the numerous violent events which have taken place over the last six months, the situation in Egypt remains perturbing, increasing the likelihood of the perpetration of acts of torture.

3. Obligations under International Human Rights Mechanisms

As we set out in our original communication, Egypt ratified the Convention against Torture (CAT) on 25 June 1986 but has not ratified its Optional Protocol (OPCAT) to date. While accepting the article 20 complaints procedure provided for in the convention, it has not recognised the competence of the Committee to receive individual complaints under article 22, or inter-State complaints under article 21. It has furthermore failed to submit any reports to the Committee against Torture since the review of its fifth periodic report in 2002, meaning its sixth report is long overdue.

With regards to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Egypt on 14 January 1982, it has still not ratified either optional protocols relating to the use of the death penalty and the submission of individual complaints. Its fourth State report was due on 1 November 2004, but has still not been submitted.

In terms of its cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the Egyptian authorities have failed to accept visit requests by key special procedures mandate-holders since the 2011 revolution, including the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances. We also refer you to the more detailed information provided about this in our original communication.

In addition, the Egyptian authorities have failed to respond to numerous letters of allegations by the special procedures when it comes to individual cases. When they have responded, their replies are often summary and not always very accurate.¹

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism was able to carry out a country visit to Egypt in 17 to 21 April 2009. In the report he issued after his visit, he noted the persistence of complaints about torture and other ill-treatment, particularly by State Intelligence and Security Services (SSI) officers. He noted the findings of both the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee that these practises were systematic.² In the June 2012 follow up report to the visit, the current mandate-holder, Ben Emmerson, reported that the Egyptian authorities had not provided any response to the 29 June 2011 letter sent by his predecessor, one year after it had been sent. This letter again referred to 'widespread and systematic violations' by the SSI, allegations supported by the finding of torture devices and secret underground prisons cells by protesters in 2011. Mr Emmerson also referred to a culture of impunity³, which continues to the present day. Questions relating to the revision of national legislation on the definition of torture also remain unanswered to this day.⁴

4. Systematic Nature of Torture in Egypt Remains Despite Political Change

In its original communication in March 2012 and first follow-up report in October 2012, Alkarama provided the Committee with first-hand information regarding the systematic practice of torture in Egypt. We also provided information on torture published by other credible organizations as supporting evidence. Cases of torture in Egypt have continued to be reported since the submission of these two reports, and we therefore submit to you that it continues in a systematic manner.

Given the evolving political situation, although the Egyptian authorities have expressed the will to put an end to the practise, they have not taken any steps to implement this decision. Torture therefore still continues on a systematic basis, as before without any real change in the reality on the ground.

To recall, the Committee has provided a definition of the systematic practise of torture:

Torture is practised systematically when it is apparent that the torture cases reported have not occurred fortuitously in a particular place or at a particular time, but are seen to be habitual, widespread and deliberate in at least a considerable part of the territory of the country in question. *Torture may in fact be of a systematic character without resulting from the direct intention of a Government.* It may be the consequence of factors that the Government has difficulty in controlling, and its existence may indicate a discrepancy between policy as determined by the central Government and its implementation by the local administration. Inadequate legislation which in practice allows room for the use of torture may also add to the systematic nature of this practice.⁵ (our emphasis)

According to this definition, regardless of the stated political will of the authorities, torture may still take place on a systematic scale, that is to say, if it takes place in habitual, and deliberate manner and is widespread.

The cases documented for this report and in our first follow up report support this statement. Cases were reported throughout the country, committed by a variety of different forces. Torture is practised for various reasons, but often as a punishment, or to obtain confessions. We have, however, noticed the evolution of several other trends reported in our original communication, as we detail below.

¹ See for example the case of Mr Abul Magd below.

² *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Martin Scheinin, Mission to Egypt, A/HRC/13/37/Add. 2, 14 October 2009, para. 30.*

³ *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson, Addendum, Follow-up report to country missions, A/HRC/20/14/Add. 2, 19 June 2012, para. 10*

⁴ *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson, Addendum, Follow-up report to country missions, A/HRC/20/14/Add. 2, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Emmerson, Addendum, Follow-up report to country missions, A/HRC/20/14/Add. 2, para. 10, para. 12.9.*

⁵ Report of the Committee against Torture, Geneva, 9 July 1996 (A/51/44), para. 214.

4.1 No Change in Torture Legislation

Egyptian legislation with regards to torture remains inadequate, as relevant laws that were scheduled for review remain in place, and no timeframe has been given for their review. We cite here as an example the penal code, which restrains the definition of torture to acts that aim to extract confessions. The criminal procedure code has not been modified, leaving decisions to investigate and prosecute allegations of torture completely up to the prosecution. It is assumed that these laws will not be reviewed before parliament is elected, the timeframe of which remains vague.

The concerns raised in our initial complaint concerning legislation on torture therefore remain valid. In this context, Alkarama provided suggested language for modifications that would render legislation, namely the criminal code and code of criminal procedure, in compliance with international law to the parliament that has since been suspended.⁶ If it undertook an article 20 investigation, the Committee would be able to provide concrete recommendations in terms of legislative reform, as other ways of providing such recommendations, such as a periodic review, are not possible due to lack of Egypt's periodic report.

4.2 Forces Implicated in the Practise of Torture

In our 2011 report, we described the role played by the SSI, the intelligence services as well as police forces and central security forces. The role of prison authorities and other security forces were also commented.

There have been incidents of acts of torture, and other violations, perpetuated by various political groups, some opposed to President Morsi, but also including some supporting him, in the context of increasing generalised societal violence. Although the authorities have begun to investigate these events, investigations are in the very early stages, and it is unclear what the final outcome of these will be.⁷

As illustrated by the cases provided below, various security forces continue to practise torture in the country. Prison authorities are also responsible for some of the cases we have documented, as in the past.

While the SSI was replaced by a new service, the National Security Agency, in an attempted overhaul, this new service has already been implicated in cases of torture – namely the **Al-Arish** case, described below, which has led to the deaths of at least one individual, Mohamed Said Mosleh (aka Mohamed Al-Tihi). Mr Mosleh was aged 42 at the time of his death on 3 February 2012. He was already ill at the time of his arrest on 13 November 2011 by National Security forces, and he died at Tora Prison due to acute circulation failure (as set out in his autopsy report). His situation had significantly worsened in prison due to his ill-treatment and lack of medical care. Torture was reported by numerous others implicated in the case, leading to unfair trials before special tribunals. We had already brought this situation to your attention in section 4.4.1 of our first follow up report, and we have obtained new information regarding another one of the 25 individuals found guilty in this case.

██████████ year old ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ is one of a group of 25 individuals suspected of attacking Al-Arish II police station and killing two members of the security forces and injuring others on 29 July 2011. Following these events, a number of the suspects were arrested in a violent manner over the winter of 2011 under emergency law provisions, without arrest warrants being shown by the National Security Forces, responsible for the arrests. They were all charged by the Military Prosecution at various times following their arrests.

⁶ We would be happy to provide this draft text to the committee (available in Arabic only for the moment), at your request.

⁷ See for example Ahram English Online, *Egypt Prosecutors Question Brotherhood Member over Abuse Claims*, 16 April 2013 <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/69402/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-prosecutors-question-Brotherhood-member-over.aspx> (accessed 17 April 2013).

Of the 25 individuals implicated, one individual died while in detention. Fourteen other individuals were sentenced to death on 14 August 2012; eight of them in absentia, as fugitives. On 24 September 2012, a further four individuals were sentenced to life imprisonment, including ██████ who was tried in absentia, as a fugitive, while the remaining six were acquitted. The death sentence handed down to the six men who had been present for their judgement on 14 August 2012 was also confirmed that day.

As for ██████ he was finally arrested on ██████ 2012 and made confessions under torture which are currently being used against him during his retrial before the Supreme State Security Emergency Court, which is still operational despite the end of the state of emergency on 31 May 2012.

On ██████ 2012, National Security Forces dressed in uniform raided ██████'s house in ██████. They arrested ██████ after searching his house, without showing an arrest warrant. He was however informed that the reason for his arrest was to implement the Supreme State Security Court's decision which sentenced him in absentia on 24 September 2012 to 25 years imprisonment.

Given his arrest and as per the normal procedure, ██████ was due for a re-trial, and was charged with affiliation to an outlawed group aiming to overthrow the government, and of attacking Al-Arish II Police Station and the Bank of Alexandria.

Following his arrest Mr ██████ was taken to the headquarters of the National Security forces in Al-Arish where he was beaten and tortured for three consecutive days from ██████ 2012 until ██████ 2012. He was kicked, punched, raped with a wooden stick and electrocuted by members of the National Security forces. The purpose of his torture was to extract confessions confirming his participation in the attacks and the deaths of the two officers. Mr ██████ was further insulted throughout the three days.

On ██████ 2012 Mr ██████ was transferred to Tora Reception Prison in Cairo where he is detained to date, while on trial. Mr ██████ was further tortured in Tora Reception Prison until he confessed under duress. His confession was used against him during the first hearing in his re-trial on 25 February 2013 before the Supreme State Security Court. He informed the judge that he made confessions under torture and requested investigations be opened into his torture, which has not yet been done.

In protest at these events, on ██████ 2013 Mr ██████ and three other detainees began a hunger strike for 23 days in objection to the torture and ill-treatment they have received in prison, which has severely affected Mr ██████'s health: his family informed Alkarama that during their visit on ██████ 2013 Mr ██████ was unable to walk on his feet and had to be carried by prison guards to meet them. His family has only been able to visit him three times since his arrest on ██████ 2012.

Mr ██████ informed his family that the prison authority have cut the water and electricity from his cell which makes it impossible for those detained there to receive fresh air or to have a shower. This has resulted in many of them suffering from skin diseases.

Mr ██████ also said that the prison authorities punished him and the three other detainees for their hunger strike by forcing them to stay in their underwear, and taking away their winter duvets despite the cold weather. The prison authorities also moved them all on ██████ 2013 to a 2x1 meter cell without ventilation or access to toilets where they remained for a week.

Neither Mr ██████ nor his fellow detainees have been examined by doctors or sent to the prison hospital since their arrests. They remain without access to medication or medical treatment to date, and at present, the water in Mr ██████'s cell has been cut off, and he has not been able to leave this cell for some time now.

It might be of interest to the Committee to note that the majority of cases we have documented for this report have been cases of torture and ill-treatment by the police, sometimes accompanied by members of the Central Security Forces.

4.3 Places Where Torture is Practised

To recall, in our initial submission, we had referred to a number of locations notorious for the torture taking place there. This included SSI centres in Madinat Nasser and Cairo-Place Lazoghli in Cairo, as well as the other SSI centres of investigation in the 26 governorates of Egypt. Prisons, especially Tora Prison were cited, as were military detention centres. Police stations and public places were also concerned.

Despite the 2011 revolution, and the May 2011 presidential elections, victims continue to describe torture in a number of places under the control of various forces. In the cases documented for this report, the majority occurred in prisons and police stations, alongside a few examples in prisons, and one in a National Security headquarters.

With regards to geographical location, reports of torture have come from all over the Egyptian territory. Cities cited in our cases include Cairo, Alexandria in northern Egypt, Daqahlia approximately 100km north of Cairo, Menufia some 80km north-west of Cairo, Damanhour 150 north-west of Cairo, and Bani Mazar, 200km south of Cairo. Even further, individuals in the Al-Arish case reported being tortured at the National Security Agency headquarters in Al-Arish, close to the border with Israel in the north-east part of Egypt.

Many individuals were tortured or ill-treated in several different places – for example in a police station and a prison, or on the street and in a police station. A minor was tortured in a police station and suffered cruel treatment in a care home (see case of ██████████ below).

Nineteen-year-old ██████████ ██████████ was a university student in Cairo. On ██████████ 2012, Mr ██████████ met a group of friends in front of the Syrian embassy in Cairo where they peacefully protested to condemn the Syrian regime for its attacks against the Syrian people and expressed their solidarity with the Syrian population.

Clashes started between the protesters and the Central Security Forces protecting the embassy, who attempted to disperse them. While leaving the protest, Mr ██████████ heard a woman screaming for help as she fell to the ground, and returned to help her. He was then caught by the security forces who cursed him and started beating him with batons on his head.

He was also dragged on the ground by the neck of his clothing, choking him. During the beating, M ██████████ blacked out twice for several minutes after bleeding from his head. The beatings also resulted in deep injuries on his back and left shoulder. Denied medical care, the wounds bled for a long time following his arrest.

*The police later joined in the beating of Mr ██████████ and the **14 individuals arrested with him**, threatening them and telling them they would be tortured in the police station. The 15 individuals were then driven to Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Police Station. Upon their arrival at the police station, the 15 protestors were all beaten up by police officers, including on the face and neck.*

Inside the police station, a First Lieutenant by the name of Ramy ordered the arrested protestors to face the wall for five minutes, then took them down to the cells and ordered that they be strip-searched. First Lieutenant Ramy and other police officers not only preformed a full body search, but sexually assaulted a number of those arrested. They were also beaten on sensitive areas of their bodies.

The 15 protestors were placed into cells. On the way to his cell, the police officers and soldiers hit Mr ██████ as he passed them. A police officer called Hussein further ordered Mr ██████ to pass by each prisoner in each cell and to insult himself, by repeating "I'm not a man" and other insulting words against himself.

First Lieutenant Ramy furthermore ordered the person sharing Mr ██████'s cells to attack him. The First Lieutenant then ordered Mr ██████ to confess to participating in the protest, attacking the police and burning a police vehicle when he appeared before the prosecution.

The next day, 5 September 2012, Mr ██████ was taken to the General Prosecution for an interrogation. While there, he had a panic attack and fainted. The Prosecutor transferred him to Qasr Al-Aini Hospital, where he underwent a medical exam. The medical report from this visit states that he was subject to torture and beatings as well as bruising in his bones. Mr ██████ was returned to Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Police Station later that day, and remained in detention for two more days.

Given what had happened, on ██████ 2012 Mr ██████'s lawyer submitted a complaint against police officers in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar Police Station and accused them of torturing Mr ██████. No response was received to date despite naming the police officers who tortured Mr ██████.

On ██████ 2012, Mr ██████ was sent to the Prosecution a second time, where he was informed of the accusations against him, which included attempting to break into the embassy and attacking civil servants. However, the Prosecution determined he was not guilty and ordered his release. Mr ██████ was then returned once again to the police station and subsequently released on ██████ 2012.

Following his release Mr ██████ remained at the Abbaseya Mental Hospital for treatment, where he has been for three months since 24 September 2012.

The Special Rapporteur on Torture sent a letter of allegation to the Egyptian authorities on ██████ 2012. The Egyptian authorities replied on ██████ that "No information has been obtained concerning the veracity of the allegations of verbal or physical assaults against him or that he was subjected to psychological and physical torture, as every measure was taken in the framework of the law, in addition to the appearance before the judicial authorities."⁸

4.4 Groups targeted by Torture

In contrast to the situation prior to the fall of the Mubarak regime, torture and ill-treatment is reported in a majority of cases for ordinary citizens, rather than opposition figures including members of Islamic Jihad, Jama'ah Islamiya and the Muslim Brotherhood that were targeted previously. Other dissidents, members of NGOs, and journalists were also mentioned as being targeted in our original report, but this has become much rarer, and we have not documented any cases in the last six months as being committed by officials. However, as we set out above, various groups of different political affiliations, have committed violations against those who do not share their political views, particularly during demonstrations. In sum, those formerly detained and tortured or ill-treated for the exercise of their political rights – the majority of which belonged to the opposition – have been released, and are not being targeted for arrest, detention, and torture as before. Instead, it is ordinary individuals are being subjected to torture and ill-treatment. This indicates the widespread and habitual nature of torture in the country – that it is a normalised practise for security forces to resort to torture and ill-treatment against detainees and those they arrest, be it as a punishment or to exert confessions, or for other reasons.

⁸ This information is available in the Communications Report of the Special Procedures, presented to the Human Rights Council's 22nd session (A/HRC/22/67), p. 136, relating to EGY14/2012. The Egyptian response is available directly at [https://spdb.ohchr.org/hrdb/22nd/Egypt_11.12.12_\(14.2012\)_Trans.pdf](https://spdb.ohchr.org/hrdb/22nd/Egypt_11.12.12_(14.2012)_Trans.pdf) (accessed on 18 April 2013).

We are especially concerned by reports of minors continuing to suffer torture, as illustrated by the case of Salem El Abd.

██████████ aged 15, was arrested during riots outside Damanhour Police Station and detained at Damanhour Care Home for seven days.

On ██████████ 2013 Mr ██████████ was arrested by police forces dressed in uniform during riots in which a group of men attacked Damanhour Police Station with rocks and Molotov cocktails.

Mr ██████████ was arrested with a group of others while he was waiting for a friend on a street corner close to Damanhour Police Station. The group was taken to Damanhour Police Station where he remained in detention for a day until ██████████ 2013. While there, he was punched and kicked, slapped on the face and hit with a baton on different parts of his body by police officers. Regardless of his status as a minor, he was placed in a cell with adults.

On ██████████ 2013 Mr ██████████ was presented to Damanhour General Prosecution which charged him of attacking state properties and civil servants while on duty, and participating in riots. The Prosecution ordered his detention pending investigations for seven days at Damanhour Care Home, where he was further ill-treated and humiliated, namely through verbal abuse.

Mr ██████████ was finally released on ██████████ 2013 after the prosecution determined he was not guilty. His family have decided not to lay a complaint about his ill-treatment as they fear potential reprisals for doing so.

4.5 The Objectives of Torture

As we recalled in our original communication, torture is not only employed to obtain information or extract confessions, but also as a form of retaliation, to intimidate and frighten the victim and his family and community.⁹ We had identified the extraction of confessions, acts of reprisals, obtaining information on third parties and harassment and dissuasion as the key objectives of torture. The reasons that torture is employed have not significantly evolved since our initial submission, as Amr Abelgayyed's case illustrates.

On ██████████ 2013 28-year-old day-labourer ██████████ ██████████ was arrested near his house by General Investigation Forces dressed in uniform, without an arrest warrant being shown. On the way to Bani Mazar Center Police Station, he was kicked and punched by the arresting forces.

Inside the police station he learnt that the General Prosecution issued an arrest warrant for him and accused him of robbery which had taken place on 28 February 2013.

Mr ██████████ was detained and tortured for five consecutive days starting from ██████████ 2013 at Bani Mazar Center Police Station. The head of investigations at the police station tortured Mr ██████████ and forced him to confess to committing a crime he did not do. Mr ██████████ tried to convince the head of investigations that it was a case of mistaken identity, but the head of investigations continued to torture him regardless.

Mr ██████████ was blindfolded and stripped of his clothes. Two police officers handcuffed his hands behind his back and beat him severely. They then tied his handcuffed hands to the window without being able to touch the floor and raped him. Police officers then put him on the floor and forced Mr ██████████ to lick their shoes. They then hit him with a thick wooden stick on his feet until they started bleeding and he passed out.

⁹ Report of the Committee against Torture, Geneva, 9 July 1996, (A/51/44), para. 204.

On 6 March 2013, his lawyer submitted complaint No 384 of 2013 to the North Minia General Prosecution in which he requested that Mr ██████ be examined by doctors to issue a medical report proving that he had been severely tortured at the police station and made confessions under torture. Mr ██████ was detained at Bani Mazar Police Station until his release on ██████ 2013.

Investigations into his allegations of torture, supported by a medical report which stated he had been tortured, are still ongoing.

4.6 Different Methods of Torture

In our 2012 original submission, we had described in great detail the methods employed as torture. In this regard, there is no discernible change. Insults and beatings are the most-frequently reported method. Stress positions and the placing of detainees in conditions that expose them to the cold are frequently employed, while electrocution and sexual abuse, including rape continue to be reported, although to a lesser degree, due perhaps to the requirement for specialised equipment and the severity of this type of torture.

We again express our concern at the regularity of extrajudicial executions due to the brutality of the torture. For example, two of the cases reported in this report were of individuals who died due to the torture inflicted on them. Rape also remains a particularly humiliating form of torture.

*On Wednesday 26 December 2012, security forces from Al-Dekhela Police Station dressed in civilian clothes surrounded the workplace of **Mohamed Hassan Mostafa Youssef** (محمد حسن مصطفى يوسف), aged 33 and his brother **Ahmed Hassan Mostafa Youssef** (أحمد حسن مصطفى يوسف), aged 22, and arrested them, only informing them that they were being arrested for robbery. The arrests were violent: they were hit with batons and kicked. Security forces then took them directly to the General Prosecution in Alexandria which interrogated them, accused them of robbery and ordered their detention pending further investigations. On the same day the prosecution ordered they be transferred to Al-Hadra Prison in Alexandria for trial. In Al-Hadra Prison they were severely tortured by prison guards and police officers.*

Messrs Youssef informed their mother, Mrs Bodour El-Kafrawy, who came to visit them on 6 January 2013 during one of their hearings, that they had been tortured in prison, including being punched and kicked on different parts of their bodies. Mr Mohamed added that he had been raped with a wooden stick in front of detainees in his cell, police officers and prison guards. Mr Mohamed later attempted to commit suicide because of the shame he feels at what has happened to him. Neither Mr Mohamed nor his brother were examined by a doctor or received medical treatment following their torture.

On 13 January 2013 their lawyer filed complaint No. 85 of 2013 with the East Alexandria Prosecution against the Interior Minister, the Head of prisons in Egypt, the Head of Al-Hadra Prison, and officer Sherif Shalaby and Officer Mahmoud from Al-Hadra prison who participated in the torture of both men.

4.7 Impunity

The question of impunity remains wide open, and is a key priority for our organisation. In addition to the impunity of those who were operating during the Mubarak period, recent media reports have exposed the impunity of the military authorities who were in power during the transition period.¹⁰ We are currently preparing a public report in this regard, as we are concerned at the lack of response by the authorities to this issue.

A number of the cases documented for this follow up are also concerned by this question of impunity. Due to a number of issues with the judicial system, including corruption, cases of torture are rarely investigated, and even less likely to lead to prosecution of perpetrators. When victims lay complaints

¹⁰ The Guardian, *Egypt's army took part in torture and killings during revolution, report shows* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/10/egypt-army-torture-killings-revolution>, 10 April 2013 (accessed 12 April 2013).

about torture, the prosecution does not take these complaints seriously, particularly when the individuals are defendants in other cases, considering that this complaint is being put forward simply to avoid being found guilty. They will therefore often try to prove that the victim is lying. This means that it does not carry out proper investigations as it should. When investigations are launched, they are extremely slow, and so slow that it allows for the physical marks of the torture to fade. Furthermore, there is a lack of forensics expertise, with departments poorly equipped and under-resourced.¹¹ In many cases, lawyers do not consider it useful to lay torture complaints, even when their clients have complained to the court directly about their torture, as they do not believe that these will be taken seriously by the court, demonstrating a general lack of awareness of international law in the matter, and the unfortunate reality of the systematic nature of torture in Egypt. This has happened for example in the case of Ahmed Hefny described above.

The case of Mr Sameh Farag's death under torture is particularly illustrative of this important problem.

At 8 am on Tuesday 15 January 2013 Sameh Ahmed Farag (سامح أحمد فرج), aged 48, went to Al-Warrak Police Station to seek information about the arrest of one of his employees. At 3pm, only seven hours later, a group of 8 police officers went to his house and informed his family that he had died in a car accident and that his body had been transferred to Embaba General Hospital.

Mr Farag's family went to the hospital to see him and found him without his pants and wearing a different t-shirt than that he had wearing in the morning, and with his shoes and socks missing. Witnesses told his family that the police had tortured Mr Farag and stripped him of his clothing, kicking and beating him on different parts of his body.

His family members saw traces of blood and blows on his hands and legs as well as traces of handcuffs. They also saw a wound at the back of his head, another one on his shoulder and a bruise under his left eye. His neck was very swollen, and according to witnesses, he had been strangled by police officers.

On the same day, Mr Farag's family met with an inspector from the Ministry of Health, who assured them that he had died in an accident and gave them a burial permit, without informing the prosecution of the death. However, the report provided by the health inspector set out that the reason for Mr Farag's death was acute circulatory failure due to internal bleeding in the skull caused by high blood pressure, contrary to what the police had informed them of Mr Farag dying in a car accident.

On 16 January 2013, the Prosecutor General at Al-Warrak Prosecution ordered the transfer of the body to be examined by a forensic doctor from Zeinhom Morgue, who issued a medical report on 17 January 2013 which set out that Mr Farag had been severely tortured.

On 20 January 2013 the Prosecutor-General of the North Giza Prosecution ordered an investigation into the complaints submitted to them by the family of the victim on 19 January 2013. No results of any potential investigations have been communicated to the family.

This type of incident is not unique – there are many examples of torture complaints which are not investigated, a problem which an article 20 investigation could address through appropriate recommendations.

_____ and _____, tw _____ aged _____ and _____ respectively, were riding their motorbike on _____ 2012 when they were stopped on Talaat Harb

¹¹ The report "Impunity", by the United Group, provided as annex 2 provides many more details on these issues. United Group Legal Aid Unit for Supporting Torture Victims, "Impunity", 28 February 2013, also available in English on <http://www.ug-law.com/downloads/impunity-en.pdf> (accessed 17 April 2013) – also available in Arabic from www.ug-law.com.

Street by a policeman who asked for their driver's licence. A dispute arose between the two brothers and the policeman who called for police forces to come and arrest Messrs ██████ They were taken to Shebin El-Kom Police Station.

Messrs ██████ were subjected to cruel treatment inside the police station, accused of attacking a civil servant while on duty. They were beaten and kicked all over their bodies, dragged on the floor, cursed at and insulted, and had their hands handcuffed behind them while in their cell.

On ██████ 2012 they were presented at Shebin El-Kom Prosecution which charged them with attacking a civil servant while on duty in case No. ██████ of 2012. During their interrogations Messrs El-Sayed filed a complaint in which they accused Shebin El-Kom police officers and the Head of Investigations Magdy Sabeq of torturing them.

The two men were not released, but were rather returned to Shebin El-Kom Police Station despite the obvious bruises on their faces and bodies, after their presentation to the prosecution. They were further tortured and mistreated for having filed a complaint against police officers of Shebin El-Kom police station. Beaten with shoes and kicked all over their bodies, they had their hands handcuffed behind their backs throughout their detention period. They were also dragged on the floor and insulted by police officers.

They remained in detention pending investigation for over a month, in violation of Egyptian law which does not allow detention pending investigation of defendants at the police station.

Both men were finally released on ██████ 2012 from Shebin El-Kom Police Station, without any further legal proceedings.

On ██████ 2012 their family submitted complaints to Al-Monofeya Prosecution against the Head of Security Department, Interior Minister and President of the Republic about the torture and ill-treatment suffered by their family members. Their complaint was closed by the prosecution, who refused to investigate the complaint.

4.8 Torture leading to further violations

As demonstrated in the cases above, there are numerous cases of individuals who are tortured in order to make coerced confessions. In numerous cases, this leads to unfair trials and therefore to arbitrary detention, in violation to a number of international human rights norms. Cases similar to that of Bashar Abu Zeid are only too common. Juan Mendez, the current UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment addressed this issue in a press release about the Taba bombing case on 12 September 2012, stating his "deep concern about the continuing use of so called state security courts in Egypt in the case of three men sentenced to death on terrorism charges based on their confessions, which were allegedly obtained through torture". He recalled that "a State's obligation to ensure that any statement made as a result of torture should not be used as evidence in any proceedings, must apply in all circumstances, including in the context of military courts."¹²

██████████ aged 33 and employed by an international call centre in Cairo, was arrested at his home on ██████ 2011 by the General Investigation Forces and National Security Service who raided and searched his house, citing the emergency law. The arrest, which took place while Mr Abu Zeid, his mother and wife were at home, was carried out in a violent manner.

¹² We had referred to this case in our first follow up report at section 4.2.2. To recall, case concerns three men sentenced to death by the Supreme State Security Court, accused of participating in the 2004 attack in the city of Taba in the Sinai peninsula (in which 34 people died), based on their confessions obtained under torture. The African Commission ordered their re-trial, but this decision has not been implemented by the Egyptian authorities. Special Rapporteur on Torture, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Egypt: "Evidence obtained through torture, inadmissible in any court and in all circumstances"* – UN expert, 12 September 2012. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12505&LangID=E> (accessed 15 April 2013).

From █ March to █ September 2011, Mr █ was interrogated by the Supreme State Security Prosecution. He was detained incommunicado and kept in secret detention without his family or lawyers being informed of his whereabouts. He was tortured and mistreated during this detention: the investigating prosecutor himself threatening and participating in the torture of Mr █ to force him to make false confessions to be used as evidence against him in his trial. Mr █ was transferred to Tora Prison on █ 2011.

Mr █'s torture has been extensive: he has been electrocuted and forced to take narcotic drugs. He has also been beaten on a regular basis, including when being taken to the court, and even inside the court room, in front of the judge. Despite this, the judge has not ordered a medical exam, nor documented this in Mr █'s case.

On 6 August 2011, the Supreme State Security Investigations charged Mr █ with spying for a foreign country and receiving incoming international calls before obtaining permission from the National Agency for the Regulation of Telecommunications to do so. On the same day, the Prosecution ordered the transfer of the case to the Supreme State Security Emergency Court, a special court whose verdicts cannot be appealed, contrary to international fair trial standards.

The first hearing of the trial was held on 2 October 2011. Further hearings continued to take place until 3 July 2012, when Mr █ presented a complaint to the State Security Criminal Court that his trial was unfair, pausing the trial. His complaint was rejected by the Cairo Appeal Court; however on his next hearing scheduled on 5 November 2012 the judge decided to suspend the trial and to refer it instead to the Appeal Court. On 18 November 2012 the Appeal Court decided to refer the case to the South Cairo Criminal Court and scheduled the first hearing on 16 December 2012. On 16 December 2012 the South Cairo Criminal Court decided to postpone the hearing until 17 February 2013 due to the absence of one of the judges. On 17 February the court decided to postpone the hearing once more to 22 April 2013.

By █ 2012 Mr █ had completed 18 months in detention on remand, in violation of article 143 of the Egyptian Code of Criminal Procedures which states that a person cannot be held in custody for more than 18 months while investigations are carried out. His current detention also violates article 35 of the Egyptian Constitution which states that: "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".

At present, he remains detained at Tora Prison, despite having completed two years of detention on remand. His next hearing is scheduled for █ 2013.

In addition, the question of deaths caused by torture is extremely preoccupying, as it continues to happen more frequently than suspected, as demonstrated by the following case.

*Forty-six-year-old **Atef Mohamed Ibrahim El-Mansi** died as a result of torture at the hands of police officers from Mit Ghamr Police Station.*

In the evening of 16 September 2012, security forces from Mit Ghamr Police Station raided shops and cafes in the Wesh El-Balad neighbourhood of Mit Ghamr City (located 90 km north of Cairo) with the purpose of implementing court verdicts which ordered the closure of unlicensed cafes and the removal of stalls encroaching on the footpath. While carrying out arrests in this context, security forces acted violently, hitting individuals and breaking equipment in cafes and shops. They attacked a lady of a certain age, Mrs █ the owner █ café.

At 9pm, Mrs █ went to the police station to file a complaint against the officers who had attacked her. Mr El-Mansi, a customer from the café, offered his help and insisted on going with her.

According to witnesses, upon their arrival to the police station, police officers started beating Mr El-Mansi with the back of a rifle on different parts of his body including his head before he had

even entered inside. Police officers then dragged him inside, along with Mr [REDACTED] who had been standing outside with him.

Police officers continued beating Mr El-Mansi and Mr [REDACTED] inside the station until Mr El-Mansi fainted, and then released them.

Given his state, Mr El-Mansi was taken by motorbike to Health Insurance Hospital, close to the police station. However, he died while on his way to hospital as a result of the injuries inflicted on him by the police.

As we have demonstrated above, despite the political will that the authorities can be considered to have, torture continues to be perpetuated. As it is one of Egyptian civil society's key priorities, other organizations have also prepared reports on the issue.

5. Other Reports about Torture in Egypt

As in our original communication, we also provide additional information supporting our assessment that an article 20 inquiry is required, given the systematic practise of torture in Egypt. The following reports have been prepared by credible organisations working on the issue of torture in Egypt. Full versions of their reports are provided as annexes to this report.

“Testimonies of Mohamed Mahmud” by the Al Nadeem Center

The Al Nadeem Center, whose work we described in our first follow up report, published “Testimonies of Mohamed Mahmud”¹³ on 19 January 2013, describing the clashes which took place on Mohamed Mahmoud Street in central Cairo from 19 November to 23 November 2012, when several thousand protesters gathered. These left more than 40 dead and hundreds injured. The report provides testimonies of the torture and other violations to which protesters were subjected to by the authorities (police, Central Security forces, Armed Forces, Military Police, etc.).

On 19 November 2012 several thousand protesters gathered in Mohamed Mahmoud Street in central Cairo to commemorate last year's clashes with police and army forces, which left more than 40 dead and hundreds injured. This time, clashes continued for five consecutive days between protesters and security forces. These clashes resulted in the killing of 3 people and 310 injured, according to the Health Ministry. The Interior Ministry stated that 648 protesters were arrested and 292 officers wounded.

“Impunity”, by United Group’s Legal Aid Unit for Supporting Torture Victims

United Group is an Egyptian law firm, one of the first established by a woman in 1941. Their Legal Aid Unit for Supporting Torture Victims received funding from the Finish and Swedish cooperation agencies for a project of ‘Fostering Rights and Empowering Egyptians – FREE’, in cooperation with Egyptian bar associations. The project, which led, *inter alia*, to the establishment of 13 legal aid units throughout Egypt, aims to raise awareness of the right to physical integrity, help grassroots organisations report on torture cases, and undertake awareness-raising campaigns on torture issues with lawyers, judges and members of the prosecution.

The report “Impunity”¹⁴, published on 28 February 2013, is the first published by the Legal Aid Unit, and covers the period from December 2012 to February 2013. It details 73 individual cases of torture for which lawyers have laid complaints with the authorities, but have not seen any results, some of which are mentioned above. It also provides an analysis as to why impunity is so wide-spread in Egypt, focusing on the role of the public prosecution, forensic reporting, and providing recommendations as to how to move forward on addressing this issue.

¹³ The full text of the report is available from the Al Nadeem Center’s website: <https://alnadeem.org/en/node/423> (accessed 3 April 2012), and is also provided in annex 1.

¹⁴ See annex 2 for the full-length English version of the report. The Arabic version is available here <http://www.uq-law.com/downloads/impunity-ar.pdf> (accessed 17 April 2013).

6. Conclusion

It is our view that torture continues to be systematically practiced in Egypt according to the definition of systematic torture provided by the Committee against Torture. We believe that intensive measures need to be undertaken to reverse the entrenched nature of the problem.

We also believe that the Committee is best placed to provide comments and suggestions to Egypt through the undertaking of an inquiry in accordance with article 20(3) of the Convention due to its expertise and independence. It is our strong belief that for the systematic practice of torture to be discontinued in Egypt, a meaningful reform process needs to be engaged upon with rigorous monitoring, such as can be provided by the Committee.

We consider that article 20 can, and should be viewed and used as a constructive mechanism in order to monitor and promote human rights in Egypt rather than it being considered a 'punitive' or 'discouraging' exercise.

As stated in our introduction, we urge the members of the Committee to recommend to the Committee that reliable information has been received which contains well-founded information indicating that torture is being systematically practiced in Egypt, and the Committee should decide, according to Article 20 (2) that a confidential inquiry be initiated.

*Bear witness,
Mohammad Mahmoud
Lest we never forget*

قائمة الأبطال

تهنئة محمد محمود

أبراهيم سليمان محمد سليمان

أبراهيم عبد الناصر قطب

محمد سمير أحمد رمضان

محمد السيد سرور

محمد صديق

محمد طارق

محمد عبد الرؤوف

محمد فاروق حسين

محمد محمد أحمد عبد العليم

محمد محمد محمد عبد الحميد

محمد محمود أحمد

محمد أحمد عبد الرؤوف

محمد أحمد عبد العليم

محمد محمد بدري

محمد السلوسي

محمد مشحوت محمد إبراهيم

محمد السيد صابر

محمد محمد خليفة

محمد جابر محمد سليم

محمد خالد سيد

محمد الدين أحمد إبراهيم

محمد جاد كريم

محمد محمد داود

عزت عبد الواحد

عصام السيد صابر

علي صلاح خضر

محمد سعيد امام

محمد سمير رمضان

محمد صلاح محمد

عمرو محمد أحمد عبد الخالق

عمرو محمد البحيري

عمرو محمود محمد

محمد يوسف

محمد أحمد السيد العباوي

محمد الحسيني البرعي

محمد السيد محمد عبد الفتاح

محمد أنور محمد عبد الله

عبد الرحمن عبد الحميد سيد

يحيى زكي

عاطف محمد محمد عوض

عاطف محمد محمد فاروق

عبد الخالق السيد عبد الخالق

محمد بشر أنور

محمد بشير تعامي

محمد ربيع نبيل شحاته

محمد عبد النبي مصيلحي

محمد محمود

مصطفى محمد عبد المنعم

مصطفى محمد عمر السيد

ملتصر مكرم عبد الرحمن

Martyrs of Mohamed Mahmud

*Abdel Rahman Abdel Hamid Sayed
Abdelkhalek El Sayed Abdelkhalek
Adel Imam Gad Karim
Ahmed Abdel Raouf
Ahmed Farouk Hussein
Ahmed Mahmud Ahmed
Ahmed Mohamed Abdel Hamid
Ahmed Samir Ahmed Ramadan
Ahmed Sayed Sorour
Ahmed Seddik
Ahmed Tarek
Ali Salah Khedr
Amr Mahmud Mohamed
Amr Mohamed Ahmed Abdelkhalek
Amr Mohamed El Beheiry
Atef Mohamed Daoud
Atef Mohamed Mohamed Awad
Atef Mohamed Mohamed Farouk
Ayman Ahmed Abdel Raouf
Ayman Moh. Ahmed Abdel Halim
Badri Hamad Badri
Bahaa El Senousi
Essam El Sayed Saber
Ezzat Abdel Wahed*

*Hazem Mashout Mohamed Ibrahim
Hossam El Sayed Saber
Hossam Hamdy Khalifah
Ibrahim Abdel Naser Kotb
Ibrahim Soliman Mohamed Soliman
Maged Yucef
Mohamed Abdel Nabi Messelhi
Mohamed Ahmed El Sayed Elabawi
Mohamed Anwar Moh. Abdallah
Mohamed Beshr Tohami
Mohamed El Hussein El Borai
Mohamed El Sayed Abdel Fattah
Mohamed Mahmud
Mohamed Rabie Nabil Shehata
Mohamed Said Imam
Mohamed Salah Mohamed
Mohamed Samir Ramadan
Montasser Makram Abdel Rahman
Mostafa Abdel Moneim
Mostafa Mohamed Omar El Sayed
Sayed Gaber Mohamed Selim
Sayed Khaled Said
Shehab El Din Ahmed Ibrahim
Yehia Zakj*

To them, to their families and to their friends.

To those who dedicated the light of their eyes to light the Revolution's path.

To those who chose insight over sight.

To those who chose martyrdom over life in indignity.

To those who defeated the torturers in their fortifications.

To those who pledged that the martyrs' blood will not have been spilled in vain.

To those who remained in Tahrir Square when political deals were being made behind closed doors.

To those who stood their ground in the prisons and torture chambers of the State Security Police.

These are some of your words bearing witness over their crimes that not only included the murdering of at least 48 martyrs, totally destroying the eyes of tens of people and injuring the eyes of hundreds, but extended to their favorite pastime - torture ... they tie their hands, blindfold them, and hide behind hundreds of soldiers armed with rifles, batons and tear gas to practice their "cowardice" in an attempt to break those who defeated them on the streets by torturing them in closed dungeons.

These are some of your words awaiting the day of judgment, which will come sooner than the torturers hope.

Nadim Center

On the first anniversary of the battle of "Liberty Martyrs Street" (previously known as Mohammad Mahmoud Street)

November 2012

You Doctors are sons of [...] who treat the [...] baltageyya

Dr Ahmed Hussein, member of the board of the Egyptian Doctors Syndicate and of Doctors without Rights:

At around four o'clock in the morning of Monday 19/12/2011, one of the doctors from the field hospital set up in the Omar Makram Mosque close to Tahrir Square telephoned me. He was distressed. He told me that military forces were attacking the square and that they had been forced to close the field hospital from the inside and turn the lights off.

He said that they were surrounded and unable to get out. He said that there were a number of doctors and injured in the hospital and that the ambulances had pulled out. He asked me to try to do something to help get the doctors and the injured out.

So, I went to Tahrir Square. I stopped by the Egyptian Museum where I heard the sound of gunfire and saw demonstrators advancing towards Omar Makram Mosque and Mogmaa el Tahrir, then pulling back due to the Army's attack. I, then, passed through the Cornice street and towards the back side of the Semiramis Hotel.

There, I found a roadblock manned by forces wearing military uniforms and others wearing uniforms of the Interior Ministry. When I approached them they suddenly attacked me. I tried to explain to them that I had only come to talk with them, but they arrested me. I told an officer that was close by that I was a syndicate member and that I had come to go to my colleagues at the field hospital who were there to do their duty helping the wounded regardless of which side they were on.

He cursed me and told the soldiers to "take me to my colleagues". The soldiers beat me and held me for about a quarter of an hour. I saw personnel from the military police attacking demonstrations going towards Tahrir Square. I was led towards Magles el Shaeb (Parliament) street.

There, six people were lined up in front of Majles el Wozara (Cabinet Building) and were being beaten. They made me join them. They were blindfolded. I was blindfolded as well.

All of a sudden, I was beaten on my back and shoulders with a cane. Then, they led us into some place, probably Majles el Wozara. We were all in one room. They removed my eye cover and asked us to remove our clothes. We did. They piled our clothes in a corner of the room and beat us with batons, kicked us with their shoes, threw us on our backs and then scorched us using something I could not make out. Three of the arrested were under eighteen. I fainted as a result of the beatings and repeated scorching.

They threw water at me while I was lying on my back to wake me. A person wearing military attire was swearing at me and holding my phone. He told me to answer it and warned me against mentioning any names. I answered. The doctor from the field hospital that had called me before was on the line. He told me that the military had withdrawn from in front of the hospital, but that there were still no ambulances. He asked me to try calling the paramedic services or some one responsible to help provide emergency care. I promised to try and I calmed him.

Afterwards, a MP asked me about the telephone conversation. I told him. He asked me to call the paramedic services and I did. He then called someone from outside.

Two men entered the room. The three of them swore at me and hit me on my back and shoulders with their shoes and with a cane.

Then, they threw a bucket of water on me and left me to myself. I was assaulted again two hours later by two who swore at me and said "you are sons of [...] treating the [...] baltageya (thugs) and resuscitate them." I said, "We treat you as well!" They swore at me and continued kicking me. Then they went out.

A short while later a Major accompanied by a soldier came in to me. He told me, "Doctor, you are a respectable person and must have come to us by mistake. What got you mixed up in this mess? Those in Tahrir are baltageya. They are mercenaries. Do not let what happened to you upset you. They thought that you were one of the sons of [...] who are trying to destroy the country. Stand up and get dressed. Your colleagues have turned the world upside down looking for you. You turned out to be one of them."

He took out my phone from his pocket and told me, "You will call them and calm them down, but of course you will not tell them anything about the misunderstandings that happened here. Tell them that you are fine and that you will get to them in a short while. You will not stay long here."

I called a colleague and told her this, but she insisted I come at once. The phone's speaker was on and the officer signalled to me his approval. So I replied, "Okay, I will come to you now."

Afterwards he said, "Doctor, you will be released, but I hope you turn out to be a man and not a child and that we do not come to hear anything about all this. You know those who are childish with us we make sure will remain childish all their lives, because their lives will end while they are being children."

I told him that I understood. He signalled to the soldier beside him who blindfolded me and led me to a car. I was driven for a while until they uncovered my eyes on the ringroad and let me out. It was a private car.

More than fifty people beat a man until he died and until the inside of his head came out.

Mother:

It was ten in the morning. We were in the roundabout. We were about fifteen. The others were about the same. They attacked us in the roundabout with more than twenty central security trucks. Within a few seconds, thousands of soldiers came down from the trucks and ran towards us with their stun batons and police officers in the lead. They started beating us. "Take this you son of a [...]". The foulest swear words. I was standing with a girl that had been wounded on the 25th of January and an old woman who was not related to any of the martyrs. She had a pension of around LE 100 (\$20) and had come to us believing that we could help her in some way. They attacked us and beat me with a baton on my back (her back is wounded) and on my left ribs. They hit the girl on her feet, hands and in her face. They swore at her using the dirtiest of words. Even the poor old woman was beaten. They beat the wounded. They arrested six. Fifty people beat a man until he died and until the inside of his head came out.



The officer was aiming at my face

Mohammed, 25 years old:

I passed Tahrir square by chance on my way to work. I found a group of people gathered in front of Hardee's at the beginning of Mohammed Mahmoud street. Some were elderly. An empty Central Security truck was there. I discovered that Central Security forces had attacked the martyrs' families' sit-in with help of the Armed Forces.

While I was standing there, Central Security forces and police armoured vehicles arrived firing gas bombs without warning. We started defending the wounded and the elderly, hit and run, trying to throw the gas canisters back at them. The situation remained like this until the end of Sunday.

The shooting of shotgun pellets started on daybreak on Saturday. Usually, there is a sort of ceasefire during which there is a change of forces and ammunition.

I was hit on Saturday in front of the American University. The officer was aiming at my face. I turned my back towards him quickly. The shotgun pebbles hit me. I did not see the wounds before the evening. I continued, aware that I was wounded, but did not think about it. The wounds were superficial. They left clear wounds, but did not pierce the muscle. The wounds were cleansed the same day.

We have empty shells, used tear gas grenades and rubber bullets to prove this

Mohammad Hassan Abdel Fattah 26 years old, merchant of plastic utensils:

The Central Security forces were assaulting the demonstrators. I joined the people throwing stones in Mohamed Mahmoud street, because the security forces were trying to occupy the square. They managed to do so and expelled us from the square by sunset on Saturday.

We entered the side streets of Talat Harb and stood there. They fired tear gas grenades, rubber bullets and shotgun pellets at us. We have empty shells, used tear gas grenades and rubber bullets to prove this.

We returned to the square and were able to retake it Saturday evening. The gunfire continued in Mohamed Mahmoud. They would stop firing for a while, then all of a sudden start firing again. Even Abdel Rahman's hospital was attacked again on Sunday. They would trick us by promising not to fire, then start firing all of a sudden.

After sunset they attacked, pushing my comrades back. They trapped us and we fell. My hand landed on a broken bottle. My middle finger was cut at the second joint. A deep wound. Later, I found out that the tendon was cut. They sowed it and tied my whole arm to prevent my moving it.

I went to the field hospital. They transferred me to the Kasr el Aini Hospital. They said there was no doctor there that could perform the operation. They transferred me to Ahmed Maher Hospital. No doctor there either. I returned and they sent me to the makeshift hospital at the Dohara Church. There they performed first aid and

contacted their colleagues at the Sahel Hospital. The operation was performed in the afternoon.

Had I been an Israeli, they would not have treated me this way

Ahmed, 24 years old, Technical Diploma, kidnapped from Mohamed Mahmoud Street:

They kidnapped me in broad day light. There were many of them and they were all hitting me. They dragged me by my upper clothes. I kept telling them, "Even if I were an Israeli, you would not be treating me this way."

They took me to an office made of wood and kept beating me inside it. We were around sixty three people in the office and from time to time more people would be brought in. They were beating us with their hands.

When we were getting into a truck, they swore at us using the foulest words and beat us with heavy canes. There were about eighteen people in our truck and there were many trucks. The trucks drove off and we arrived at the Abdeen police station at around 10 PM. They kept us there until about 2:30 Monday morning.

They kept saying, "It is your fault! What brought you to Tahrir?"

Three kids aged between 15 and 16 and a dark, thin girl were with us.

They took us to the Prosecutor's office and put us in a holding cell. They took five to ten people at the time to the office. When I entered the Prosecutor's office, he told me to remove my clothes. He wrote down, "A broken knee" and then photographed me.

They brought me a car at 6:30 in the evening. It took me to the Darb el Ahmar police barracks. They checked our criminal record and let the ones with no priors leave after making them sign that they will go to the Forensic Medical Authority. I did not dare to go to the Forensic Medical Authority the next day. I still have not gone.

(X-ray image: Fracture in left knee).



Their hands were on nearly every part of my body

Sanaa, 33 years old, arrest 5:30 pm, Saturday November 19th:

I was seized in a street parallel to Mohamed Mahmoud. Top brass from the Ministry of Interior and people in civilian clothing were in one end of the street. Central Security forces were in the other. When they caught me I was fine. When they brought me to the top brass, I was finished. I was not able to take my breath. The smell of gas was filling my nostrils. I asked them to revive me first. Nothing! They splashed water in my face.

Some of the people wearing civilian clothing came over and started slapping my face. Then, two officers came over and started hitting me. While hitting me, they kept telling others, "No one is to come close to her".

Afterwards, I found 15-20 people pulling my hair and scarf. They were pulling my scarf from both sides. I resisted so that it would not strangle me. They molested me. Their hands were on nearly every part of my body. The two officers were holding me while the others abused me. They also kept hitting my head.

In the end, I fell to the ground. I could not resist or scream. They dragged me on the ground. An officer said, "Unless you stand up, I will not be able to get you out of their hands and they will definitely knead you."

I do not know what happened the following couple of minutes. I may have fainted. When I came to myself, they were telling me to enter a vehicle. I was unable to. They put me onto the truck. They were beating me. They had taken my bag. I found it with those driving the truck. I do not know how they got it off me, but there was no money in it.

When I arrived at the Abdeen Police Station - top floor - they told me I would not be released, but that I would be transferred to the military prosecutor's office.

They made me sit in a separate room. An officer wearing civilian clothing, and whom the others addressed as Pasha, came in. He had been in another room. They took me to it. He asked me, "Where are you from Ms Sanaa." I answered. He asked me, "What brought you there?" I said that a friend had called me and I had gone to see her. He said, "You are a liar. I saw you making petrol bombs." I told him, "Show me proof! A photograph! Anything!". He said, "When I say something there is no need for evidence."

He started asking me personal questions. "Whom do you live with? Where is your mum and dad?" When he found out that they were deceased, he started swearing at me. He said, "Since you are an orphan, why don't you just stay put in your house." He started swearing unbelievably. I told him, "There is nothing wrong with being an orphan. I am a decent human being."

He said, "Do you know what they are saying about you downstairs? Do you know why they did those things to you? It is because you are a mercenary!" I asked him, "What does that mean?" He said, "It means you have been paid to do the things you did.". He continued being vulgar and I realised that there was no point talking with him. I kept quiet.

Twelve other people were brought in while I was there. Two of them were girls.

They made me search them. They said, "If it turns out that they have anything and you do not find it, we will know that you are one of them." One had a USB flash drive. The other had nothing.

They brought in another batch of people. We became 28 or 29 people. Many more detainees were brought in. They made them stand facing the wall. They hit them on their necks and swore at them and their parents.

They then took our mobile phones from us. They took out the batteries and the sim cards. They told us they will take them for safekeeping and that we will get them back in the end. Of course they did not give us anything back.

We asked for water and to use the bathroom. Nothing! They mocked us and treated us with contempt. They transferred us. I was the last one out, and as I was leaving, a man called Karim said, "Just wait and see, Miss Soso, you mercenary, what they will do to you." We did not get to know where we had been sent to except on the second day. It turned out to be a training camp for the Central Security forces in El Salam. We arrived there at around 9:30/10.

They took us to a place with cells. I was with the two girls and a fourteen year old boy called Yousef. There were four or five people interrogating the detainees. They were seated on tables in a large hall and the detainees would be sent from one to the other to be questioned. But no one questioned me until a Police General came and started interrogating me. The interrogation lasted from two to three hours. The last one who questioned me was a colonel called Nabil Mostafa. I was also interrogated by two other officers whose names I do not know. They kept asking me about my political affiliation and which party I belong to. I told them, "I am just an ordinary citizen and I go to these protest just like everyone else and that my primary interest is in human rights". They kept saying, "Politics is nothing to be ashamed of. Are you still afraid of talking about these things?"

Then the colonel stayed with me until 2:30 in the morning telling me his life story. He told me about the things he liked and did not like as a child and about all the things he used to do. In the end he said, "You have to find a way out of this mess. I need something that I can use to get you out of here." I asked, "Have you already made up charges and just want me to say what you want to hear?" He said, "People have gotten their cars smashed and you are accused of this. I have evidence against you. What do you have to say in your defence?"

I asked him to show me the evidence and told him that I had done nothing wrong. I stared him in the face and did not change my story. He kept talking and talking and kept changing the subject. I was exhausted and I was barefooted on the tiled floor. I asked for something to put on my feet. He said, "Take this piece of wood and put it under your feet." I told him I needed to go to the bathroom. He made someone take me there. He wrote everything down. This was the first night. Two more nights followed.

The treatment in the camp was tolerable, unlike that in the Police Station.

Yesterday they took me out twice. Each time they said they were going to take us to the Forensic Medical Authority, but they did not. Yesterday at 6 pm, they said they would take us there, but after we arrived all the way to the Sayeda Zeinab tunnel

they drove us back again.

Then, at 8:15 they checked our police records and made us sign a statement saying that we will go to the Forensic Medical Authority for a medical investigation. My injuries were visible from the beginning and my lawyer got them written down in the investigation record.

They led me into the torture chamber in the end of the corridor

Alaa Thabet, 18 years old, last year secondary trade school:

I was standing by Mohamed Mahmoud street. Two men wearing civilian clothing came up to me. I understood that they were from the military. They led me, without beating me or anything, to the beginning of Majles el Wozara street. There, they searched me and took all my belongings. They then took me into the Shura Council. It was midday.

Two rows of army soldiers from the commandos, the paratroopers and from Unit 777 were standing on opposite sides of the hallway. The Unit 777 people are distinctive. They wear black and have very large bodies. They cover their faces like the hooded people of Hamas, except their hoods are black. They told me to run between the two rows. The beating was from both sides using the large black canes of the Central Security forces, stun batons and very thick pipes. The guards of the Shura building, the soldiers and the officers were all hitting.

They led me into the torture chamber in the end of the corridor. We were ten detainees. By the end of the day we had become fifty. The girls were in another room. Every time a new detainee was brought in they would beat everyone in the room. I was tortured until two in the morning, when we were handed over to the military police. Before leaving with the Military Police, a high ranking army officer came in and said "Have mercy, let them go", but they replaced us with other people. They told us to sit. We did. The place was very small.

They told us to stand on one foot with our hands in the air. I was injured and had a hole in my head, so I fell to the ground. But I did not lose consciousness. They beat me with stun batons. I stood, but just barely, holding on to a pipe or something on the wall. They told us to lie down. We lay on our stomach on top of each other. The soldiers and officers stood on top of us. When they wanted to get someone from the inside, they would walk on top of us.

Later, we were handed over to the military police. We were kept an hour in the van before it moved.

There was a room in the Shura Council. Those who entered it did not come out. They say, one was killed there and they threw his body outside.

We will wind the tent ropes around our necks. If you want to remove us you must kill us.

Ibrahim Megawer Mohamed:

We will wind the tent ropes around our necks. If you want to remove us you must

kill us.

On the morning of Saturday 19/11 at around half past ten we found someone pulling down the canvas from above us. "Get up!" "Over our dead bodies", we said. "Then beat them on their heads!"

Around three thousand surrounded the roundabout. They started dragging us and beating us with canes and with their arms and legs.

I went to the other group and found them beating a man. I tried to protect him with my body. I was badly beaten and my shoulder was dislocated. They beat him as well. They dragged us and threw into the middle of the street. Those who wronged have not been punished and we have not gotten retribution

My face was covered with blood and, my forehead was open and my nose was broken

Mohamed Ali Fangary, 31 years old, Civil Engineering, Consultant (pleb)

Around midday on the 20th of November I went to Tahrir square. I had medicines, surgical masks and mucogel with me. From twelve to four, I was resting with my friends by the Mogamaa. Suddenly, at around 4:30, everyone started running. I stepped aside. I saw armoured cars approaching. Everyone ran. I stepped onto the walkway and got stuck there. Army soldiers were hitting us. As a result of the crowding, we all ended up on the ground. They were beating us with stun batons. I heard the sound of the batons. I covered my head with my hands to protect myself. I had glucose solution with me. We started running towards Tahrir square and towards the corner. There, a soldier hit me on my face with his baton. I remained on the ground for a while. I must have lost consciousness. A kind man took me with him and we got onto the metro. When we got off, we found an ambulance. He helped me onto it and I was taken to the Hilal Hospital. My face was covered with blood, my forehead was open and my nose was broken. I had fractures in my left and right fingers, broken teeth and bruising all over my body from the beating and fall. (Medical reports are available.)

I was beaten by canes on every part of my body

Nada:

On Sunday at around 4:30 in the evening, I was in one of the side streets of Mohamed Mahmoud. I was filming what was going on. Suddenly, Central Security forces entered the street I was in. Everyone ran, but I did not have time to escape. About seven soldiers and a man in civilian clothing carrying a walkie-talkie started beating me with batons on every part of my body and on my head. They beat me and dragged me by my hair until the beginning of the street. They took my camera and handed me over to another group that included a police captain from the Special Operations Unit. He had a stun baton. He beat me with it. The others were punching me. They left me to a man in civilian clothing who tried to strangle me and hit me. We passed in front of the Interior Ministry and outside a Central Security shack in Sheikh Rihan. There were about 40 Central Security soldiers in front of the

shack. They took me into the shack. The beating and molestation continued. As I entered an officer stood up, raised his hands and said, "Don't hit her. She is a woman." They opened my bag and searched it. They took my ID card and the mobile phone battery. A guy stood in front of me and protected me. He said he would protect me. There were around 30 young men in the cabin. They were all hitting me very hard. Central Security soldiers and officers were banging on the shack sides and shouting, "Give us the girl so we can beat and [...] her. As I was leaving the shack, they beat me all the way to the police truck.

They drove me to the Abdeen Police Station, where I was handed over to a public prosecutor officer who's name I can not remember. He was calling me dreadful names and said, "You will be hung up here." They took me up and left me in the security office. An officer, the others called Karim Bey, came and swore at me. They kept me in a narrow corridor in the police station until one in the morning. There was no toilet, nor any food. All together we were around forty people. All around us, there was blood on the walls. They took my bag again and removed the mobile sim card. They put us in a prisoner transport truck and took us to Masr El Gedida courts complex to the Prosecutor's office. There they kept me in a holding cell. I was all alone. It was extremely filthy.

We were questioned by the Prosecutor at 5 am. They did not allow me to call any of my friends or relatives. But, I found a soldier who agreed to telephone one of my friends and tell her what was happening. They put us in a prisoner transport truck at around 5:30 on Monday. It was supposedly going to take us to the Abdeen Police station where we were going to be released. We were in two trucks. One was going to Moski. The other to Abdeen. We drove around and around and did not take the road to Abdeen. Later, I heard someone say that we had been taken to a military camp (El Gabal el Ahmar). At ten, I found out that they had decided to release me. They did so at eleven.

They were molesting her as if they had gone berserk.

A.R., 19 years old, student:

Sunday morning, a friend called and told me that there was fighting. I went down to Mohamed Mahmoud in the afternoon. I was in the front line facing an Interior Ministry armoured vehicle firing shots. I found two friends. I bent over to see my friend. They fired at me. I was very close and I was hit by a large number of shots. I bled. They took me to a passage close to a building right by Mohamed Mahmoud Street. A group of girls and Botheina Kamel were there. They started treating me. Suddenly people retreated towards Tahrir.

A Central Security soldier came in. He looked at me and at those treating me. They stopped him, calling out "Hospital! Hospital!". He returned a bit later with many other soldiers and with some generals. A general came in and said that everything will be done according to the law. He kept calling people. There were many injured. Many had burst eyes. The general said everything would be done according to the law.

They made Botheina Kamel leave. I do not know where they took her to. They then

collected all our ID cards. We were all terrified because the soldiers said they would do "so and so" to us. (I can not even tell you what these things are.) They swore at us. There was a 23 year old girl called Nada there. She was wounded. They called her a terrible name.

Two soldiers took each of us all the way to the ministry of interior. They beat us with batons and rifle butts. They pulled down my trousers and said "We will do [...] to you, Sheikh". They sexually assaulted the girl that was with us in front of our eyes. They were molesting her as if they had all gone berserk. They pulled us by our beards. They took my trousers completely off. We saw some military armoured vehicles. I ran towards them. The military police beat us. The military armoured vehicles were close to the Interior Ministry. I could not see if they were surrounding it or not. In front of the ministry a police officer shouted, "Sit on the ground with your arms behind your backs!". Later, he led me into a shack in front of the Ministry of Interior. Forty others were forced into the shack with me. The shack was very small and we were on top of each other. He brought in some people in civilian clothing. They took down our names and addresses. One shouted, "I am dying! I am dying!" We tried to make some room for him. He opened his mouth. A sound like snoring! foaming! He was bleeding and went completely quiet. He probably died. The soldiers took him out. I do not know where to. They kept us inside the shack while they got a truck to transport us. They brought in other people who had not been with us in the field hospital. They were totally battered. Some had serious head wounds. Others had wounds in their faces. They did not have shotgun injuries. They had just been beaten up. The man in civilian clothing started calling up our names one by one. Every time someone was let out we heard screaming, beating and very hard thumping. I was let out. Central Security soldiers beat me all the way to the vehicle. It was small. About the size of this carpet and smelled of excrement - I mean toilet.

We were taken to the Abdeen Police Station and were let out of the truck. Beatings again. I was still bleeding. An officer standing by the station entrance saw me and said, "Bring me the Sunni son of [...]. You guys play tough for the TV stations and when we catch you, you pretend to be mice." They took us up to the second floor to a place called the Criminal Investigation office. They made us stand facing a wall for about 6 hours. We had come to be around fifty people. Everyone was bleeding and in pain. Anyone who sat down was beaten on his feet. Our number increased to sixty three. There were girls with us too. They took our names, addresses and everything. They told us to stand in pairs in the corridor. They cuffed two and two together and divided us into two groups of around thirty. Each group was put onto a truck. They drove us to the Masr el Gedida Prosecutor's office. We were taken down into a hall. They assembled us all together again. They asked who was wounded and took down their names. I asked two police officers for medical treatment. They replied, "It was your own guys who fired on you."

They brought in a male and a female doctor wearing white coats. They said they were from the Medical Forensic office. They registered the injuries. Their questions were not medical at all. All this, without any food, drink or access to toilets.

When they first put us inside the prisoner transport truck we took turns putting our faces to the window to breath. We were suffocating.

They gathered us all together again - wounded and not wounded. They took ten of us at the time into the Prosecutor's offices. Each office had two prosecutors and two secretaries. They brought us in two by two.

The prosecutors would come with accusations. Why did you do it? Why did you vandalise and terrorise? The same story as with the soldiers and officers earlier. They wrote down everything about me. What is he wearing? His social status? His reasons for being in the Square? Charges: Burning an armoured vehicle using petrol bombs. Assaulting security personnel in execution of their duties. Obstruction of traffic. Destruction of public property. And all these grave things. "How do you respond to these charges?" "I deny them all." "Swear." "I swear by God Almighty to tell the truth."

An aside before I forget. The officers had a 9 year old called Karim. Both his eyes had burst and he had been hit by shot pellets. They were mocking him. He faced the same charges as us. The prosecutor asked me about my injuries. He wrote that I had been hit by shot pellets. He did not register the beatings. He did not ask and I did not dare mention them. He was exactly like the policemen. They took us down to the hall. We spent the night there, all sixty two of us. A huge hall. No food, drink or toilets until morning. Just swearing and insults.

Our families came. They were standing outside. Chanting for us.

They put us on to the prisoner transport vehicles. There were not enough handcuffs. The officer said "Armbar" (it means that he twists my arm behind my back and leads me in front of him.) I told him I was injured. He swore at me. The officers said they will take me to the Abdeen Police Station to be released. They swore they would. Liars! The Ultras kids sang all the way and chanted "Ya rab" (Lord help us!). We were taken to the Gabal el Ahmar camp. Two rows of soldiers. They took us down from the truck and beat us. The officer said this is so that you never say "Ya Rab" again. He swore at us.

They took us down from the vehicle just to beat us. Then they put us on it again. They may have been afraid of our families who were following the vehicle. They drove us the Kerdasa camp. The soldiers prayed the Isha prayers before beating us. Obviously, they were godly men!

There were two halls ("administrative" and "convicted"). They took us into the "administrative" one. We asked them for food, but they refused to give us any. They said they would release us soon. The officer called up a group of people. He made them stand in a row in front of him and held a plastic bag with mobiles, money and belts so that they could collect their things. There was an office close to the hall. They took our fingerprints and checked our police records there.

He brought an A4 paper, like this one. It said "General Security Department - Criminal Record".

I think even Israelis would have shown us more mercy. They would, at least, not have undressed us.

If you are going to Tahrir, do not get caught. They will beat you. They want to kill us all. The State Security police were more humane. You can not talk to these people.

They returned us to the prison transport vehicle. It drove to a bus stop by the highway. They ditched us there.

I remember very well the faces of the officers and soldiers who beat me

Sayed, 17 years old, arrested Sunday evening, the 20th of November close to the American University by Central Security Forces and transferred to the army:

They blindfolded me and led me away. They took me into a dark hall. They kicked my head with their feet. There were around sixty two others inside, not counting the dead bodies. They had started to stink. We were kept there for three days. Our things were stolen - keys, mobiles, my wallet with LE 180. Beating! We got out by sunset when the Grand Sheikh of el Azhar came for us. They only emptied one hall. There are still other people inside. I remember very well the faces of officers and the soldiers who beat me. When I was transported to the hospital I was naked. Some kind people gave me these clothes.

A new soldier appeared. He thought I had not been beaten yet.

Osama Saber Mostafa, 31 years old:

I was in one of the streets off Mohamed Mahmoud street. A military formation was approaching us from the left with batons in their hands (army not military police). People ran. I waited a bit to avoid the stampede. Suddenly, another formation came from the right. I was trapped in the "double pincer". We were trapped between a wall and the soldiers forming a semicircle, beating with batons, swearing and shouting, "You are killing our comrades!" They beat me on my head. I fell. They beat me all over my body. I tried to stand up. They beat me again. A new soldier appeared. He thought I had not been beaten yet. So he started beating me. They shoved us all the way to a travel agency. The next door agency was called Ramses. It is the same place where the video with the dead bodies thrown in the garbage was filmed. They pushed us inside it. We were around forty. There were girls with us. The square, in front of us, was empty. We became terrified. They had cut the electricity from the square except for some lamp posts. The buildings surrounding the square were all dark. A new group of army officers arrived. They thought we had not been beaten yet. A girl had a nervous breakdown. She kept screaming. They said "Okay. We will let you out because of the women." They started letting us out in batches. Injuries: Stitches in the head. Fracture in the fifth right hand metacarpal. The next day I had to go to a private hospital because they had set the cast incorrectly. They inserted a splint that must be removed later.

The guy standing next to me got half of his face blown off

Mustafa Abdel Bary Musa, 32 years old, programmer and owner of a real estate agency:

We were wandering around the square. When we arrived at Mohamed Mahmoud, we saw people running towards us. "Help! There are people falling and no one is able to get them out." I was with three of my friends. We heard people screaming

behind them. Some people were helping those closest to us and carrying them out. We went to try to help some of those further in. I heard someone fire a gun. The guy standing next to me got half of his face blown off. He did not make a sound. He died instantly right beside me. He had been hit in the face. It was as if all the muscles of his body let go and he fell to the ground. I looked, shocked and confused, towards the source of the bullet. The person who had fired had moved away from behind the metal shield. A captain, three stars, had taken his place. I saw a lamp post and hid behind it. The bullet came. It entered here and exited from behind. The doctors said it has touched the nerve and lamed my right leg. I can not feel half of my leg. I felt an intense electric shock in my leg. I fell. People picked me up and carried me to the hospital. The bullet had entered and exited so there was nothing to extract. They cleaned away the swarf, in the field hospital that is, and told me that I had to go to a hospital since I could not feel my leg. I went to Al Salam International Hospital.

As a result of the crowding I actually fell on top of those who had died

Maha:

I went to Tahrir square on Sunday 20th of November at around a quarter to five. I moved towards the Mohamed Mahmoud Street exit. Suddenly, a full battalion of military police attacked the people standing by the exit hitting them viciously with the batons. People tried to get away from the military police. It got very congested. There was a field hospital there. The people running it were trying to stop the flow of the people so that they would not trample on the wounded. Several of the wounded were trampled to death as the result of the Military Police attack. As a result of the the crowding I actually fell on top of those who had died. But a citizen pulled me from on top of them and helped me over the metal fence. I lost my shoes and handbag. I ran towards Tahrir Street which leads to Bab al Louq. A military police soldier followed me and hit me with the baton he was carrying. I ran to the Asaer el Tahrir (juice shop) and hid inside it. A plain clothes detective came and told me he will get me out of the area. I told him that I had lost all my belongings including my passport. He went to the place where the demonstrators had been trampled and started moving around and turning the bodies using his feet searching for my handbag. I shouted at him not to. We went towards Omar Makram Mosque. The security forces fired gas grenades at us. I choked. The doctors in the field hospital there treated me. Then the detective put me in a taxi and took me home. This is my testimony about what happened. It was the Military Police that attacked the demonstrators.

By the Interior ministry people were being dragged on the ground and people had broken arms

Motaz:

We were in Tahrir Square, close to Mohammed Mahmoud Street, after the Asr prayers. We were trying to fight off the police and prevent them from entering Tahrir Square. Half an hour before sunset the army attacked. They surrounded us by

a wall and started beating us viciously. They were hitting us on our heads and of course on the rest of our bodies. An army soldier took me to Mohamed Mahmoud Street and handed me to a Central Security soldier. Another Central Security soldier hit me with a rifle butt in my chest. My head was bleeding. A police officer saw me. My head was bleeding profusely. He protected me from the beatings. There, by the Interior Ministry people were being dragged on the ground and people had broken arms. In detention I felt dizzy. I asked for medical treatment. They replied, "What brought you to Tahrir?"

I was wearing a red sweatshirt so the blood was not visible

Ahmed, 20 years old, student:

On the 20th of November, I heard about what was going on in Mohamed Mahmoud Street. It provoked me. I could not believe it was as bad as people said and decided to go and see for myself. I arrived between 9:30 and 10 PM. I walked until the first crossroad. There was an armoured vehicle there. It looked like a military armoured vehicle. The police and the military were shooting. I went and sat on a wall to get a better view. They turned the lights off from the whole area. The lights of the armoured vehicle was blinding me. I was hit by a bullet. It entered my right upper arm and exited from my back close to my spine. I did not know that I had been hit by a bullet. I did not see it because it was dark. I felt dizzy and tired, but did not lose consciousness. A doctor from the square came. He said there was nothing. I was wearing a red sweatshirt and the lights were off so the blood was not visible. I asked them for juice or anything with sugar, but there was nothing. I asked that someone take me home. A guy on a motorbike took me behind him until the Egyptian Museum and helped me onto a microbus to Ramses station. I told the guy beside me what had happened. He asked if there was a hole in my T-shirt. He looked and found one. He took me to a pharmacy. They took off my shirt and found that my singlet was drenched with blood. They took me to Al Hilal Hospital. I was there until Tuesday evening. They said I did not need surgery. There were many wounded youths at Al Hilal. I found my friend and university classmate there. He was also wounded. The medical investigation showed that there was a hole in the front and a hole in the back.

We refused to leave before we had put out the fire from the whole flat.

Mohammad, from Beni Suef:

I work in a security company in Maadi el Gedida. I was on duty until around 7 am on the 21/11/2011. I finished and went straight to Tahrir. I was in a side street behind the American University. The beating and firing of gas grenades, shotgun pebbles and bullets was ongoing. We heard that there was a fire in Mohamed Mahmoud Street. A flat was burning. We went to call the fire department or anyone else who could come to put out the fire.

They fired at us even more. We gathered fire extinguishers from cars and went up to the fire on the second floor. The fire was huge. We were not able to put it out. About an hour and a half later the firefighters arrived. The whole flat was in flames.

We stayed with the firefighters till they were able to put out the fire from the whole flat.

As we stood there, the police fired tear gas at us to make us leave. We refused to leave before we had put out the fire from the whole flat.

Everyone returned to the square. I entered a side street. Police were stationed on the building tops. I took a bullet in my left shoulder. It exited through my back. I ran. I hid. I fell to the ground and lay there until I was carried to the field hospital. I was given first aid. They looked for an ambulance for me. They found no ambulance. After more than a quarter of an hour an ambulance came and took me to the Qasr el Aini Hospital.

They said, "What brought you to Tahrir?"

Motaz, 24 years old, from Alexandria, two wounds to the head and bruises all over the body

We were in Tahrir Square, close to Mohammed Mahmoud Street, after the Asr prayers. We were trying to fight off the police and prevent them from entering Tahrir Square. Half an hour before sunset the army attacked. They surrounded us by a wall and started beating us viciously. They were hitting us on our heads and of course on the rest of our bodies. An army soldier took me to Mohamed Mahmoud Street and handed me to a Central Security soldier. Another Central Security soldier hit me with a rifle butt in my chest. My head was bleeding. A police officer saw me. My head was bleeding profusely. He protected me from the beatings. There, by the Interior Ministry people were being dragged on the ground and people had broken arms.

They parked us aside. Later they took our ID cards and took us to Abdeen police station. In the holding cell I started feeling dizzy. I asked for medical treatment. They said, "What brought you to Tahrir?"

At 1 am we were sent to the Amreya Procecutor's office in Heliopolis. The interrogations started at 4 am. My turn was at 7 am. No lawyers of course. The Prosecutor's officer asked questions and answered himself. We said we were onlookers. The prosecutor wrote something of this sort in the record in return for us not mentioning the beating and injuries in our statements. If we did not agree we would have to stay the night there.

They took us down to the holding cells. Next day around sunset they transferred us to Abdeen Police Station. Monday. But we were actually taken to a Central Security forces camp. Our families were following us in cars. Soldiers were waiting outside. It looked as if they were there to beat us, but when they saw the families the truck turned and we went to the Gabal el Ahmar. They took our phones. The SIM cards had already been taken in Abdeen police station. We were put in a large furnished room, with blankets. In a while, at around 9, a new group joined us. Monday evening they checked our records and let us go.

After the gunfire subsided the ambulances came and removed the dead bodies

Father of the martyr Mostafa Mohamed Abdel Muniem, 20 years old:

On Monday 21/11/2011 at around 11 am his friends contacted us. They told us that Mostafa was in the Qasr el Aini Hospital. They called from his phone. I was out. They called me from home telling me that he was in the hospital. On my way to Qasr el Aini, Dr Ayad called me and said, "We are in the Zeytoun Morgue." He was crying.

I was barely able to get in. They opened it up for me. His name was on the refrigerator door. I saw him and identified him.

My son and his friends were volunteering with Tahrir Doctors. A fire had started in the third floor of a building. They heard children screaming. They ran to the entrance of the building. It was closed with a lock and chain. They found another entrance and were able to rescue the people from the fire.

Then they saw firing of live ammunition in Bostan ibn Qoraysh Street off Tahrir square by the Shabrawi restaurant. The buildings and rooftops where the snipers were stationed are visible from the street and the bullet holes are still there. Some shopkeepers saw everything.

They saw a doctor take a bullet and fall to the ground. My son ran to the doctor to save him. He bent down to help him and was hit by a bullet in his arm. The Prosecutor has kept it as evidence. In spite of the bullet in his shoulder he carried the wounded doctor on his shoulder. He got hit by a bullet in the back of his head. It exited from his left cheek. He fell to the ground. He was below and the wounded doctor was above him. A third man tried to save them, but got hit by a bullet in his thigh. He kept bleeding til he died. The doctors wound was fatal. The three died. After the gunfire subsided, the ambulance came and removed the dead bodies.



I want the country to be cleaned up and I want justice according to the law

Bassam, 15 years old, 1st year secondary school pupil:

I go to el Saedeya Secondary School. On the 22nd they let us out early. My friends and I went downtown to Tahrir. I was looking for my friends. I entered Mohamed Mahmoud Street to see if they were there. People were wounded, bleeding and dying. When I saw these brutal scenes I entered the street. I found a guy with his face covered with blood. As I looked at him they hit me. They were Central Security forces. I lost consciousness. When I opened my eyes I was at the field hospital by Hardee's. Two nurses carried me to the hospital set up in Qasr el Dohara church. Later, my mum took me to the military hospital. I want the country to be cleaned up.

I get a headache when I try to concentrate or try open my eyes fully. In the beginning the pain was in both eyes, now only in my left eye. The left side of my face, including my eyes, was swollen. In the beginning both pupils were hurting me. Now, only the left one.

Sometimes I think about what happened. I want the country to be cleaned up and I want justice according to the law. After I sit down for a while I am unable to straighten my back. I walk bent over or cannot walk at all. If I put pressure on my back, by sleeping for example, it hurts.

He was blaming me for getting beaten up, but did not see that it was wrong of him to beat me

Saleh:

We were in Sheikh Rihan, a side street of Mohamed Mahmoud Street, on Sunday 22/11 at 9:30. We had been attacked and ran into this side street. As we were running my clothes got caught in barbed wire. A Central Security person came up and started beating me with his baton on my head, on my feet, and on the rest of my body. I fell to the ground. Two other soldiers came and took over beating me. They took my stuff: my blackberry, my money, my whole wallet. They stopped and talked with someone. While we were walking anyone of them we passed would hit me. When they met someone they would tell him that I was throwing petrol bombs and that I was on drugs. They covered my head with my scarf so that I would not see anything. They led us into a 2m x 2m shack. More and more people. We reached 21 persons. Beating, swearing, humiliation, insults and then soft talk and soft treatment. They brought us water to drink. I was bleeding heavily from my head. Lots of blood was coming from my head.

The manner of speech started to change a bit. People started asking "When will we be getting out?" On the way they started saying you guys are just plain folks. It is not your fault. The country is starting to get in order."

A mixture of sarcasm , ridicule and soft talk. We started getting out our phones so as to call our families. I fell asleep as a result of exhaustion. I woke up at 3 in the morning. I said I needed to go to the bathroom and that I wanted to contact my family.

Ten minutes later the prison transport vehicle arrived. The officer said, "I do not want to hear a sound from you. If you are silent I may let you out. And by the way, we did not attack you. You attacked us. The soldiers who beat you have been working hard for days. Consider the stuff they took from you a reward for all their hard work."

We were put onto the prisoner transport vehicle and they took us to another place. Tora Central Security Forces camp.

A captain there swore at me, hit me and pulled me by my scarf. They put us in some sort of cell with blankets on the floor.

They began searching us. "Take off all your clothes except your boxers." They took me to a room where a man behind a desk registered my personal information.

Leaving the office the officer, kept repeating the same questions. "Are you happy with this situation? You, an educated man, allowing yourself to be beaten by an ignorant soldier?" I said, "I am a journalist and this is my job". He kept arguing with me about the revolution. "The Egyptian people are barbarians. They don't behave unless they are beaten. Do you not feel like hiding by yourself in a corner and crying. Don't you feel violated. How can you look yourself in the mirror again?" He was blaming me for being beaten up, but did not see that it was wrong of him to beat me.

They looked happy to see me bleeding

Majed el Batr:

I was with Mona Eltahtawy in Mohamed Mahmoud Street when the police started firing intensely. Two people in civilian clothing surrounded us. They shoved us into a side alley, by the Bon Appetit restaurant, claiming that it was a safer place. While shoving us, one of them sexually assaulted Mona Eltahtawy. Mona Eltahtawy slapped him and tried to hit him. The other man tried to protect him. I tried to pull Mona by her arms and escape from the gun fire, but they did not let her go. I heard her shouting, "My mobile phone, you animal!" After less than ten seconds we were surrounded by Central Security Forces soldiers. They pulled us apart. I did not see Mona Eltahtawy after this. I was surrounded by five soldiers. They beat me with heavy canes on every part of my body and particularly on my head. They dragged me on the ground all along Mohamed Mahmoud street. Two were beating me with heavy canes, one was kicking me, one had his finger in my behind and one was searching me until we reached the top of the street. They were also hitting my testicles. They handed me over to two police officers. They punched me twice and pulled me behind them.

I told them they could check my ID papers. One answered, "I do not do ID papers. You cannot speak Arabic." I answered "My mouth has been hurt. I cannot speak at all, let alone Arabic." He handed me over to two soldiers. They punched me in the chest. I saw a number of army officers. I cried out for help. They looked happy to see me bleeding.

Then a man in civilian clothing appeared in the crowd. He stopped us and asked, "What is going on here?" I said, "They are beating me." He said, "Where are you

from?" I said, "Alexandria." He said, "Take him!"

They took me to a shack with around 28 detainees including a doctor. They brought me to an ambulance. They bandaged my bleeding hand. They put us in a car and took us to the Central Security camp in Tora. At 8 am they returned us in the same car to Mohamed Mahmoud and let us go. But they did not give us back any of the belongings they took from us in prison.

(Statement copied from twitter account)

My political stance is "Bread on the table". This was the political stance that made me go

Mohammed, 31 years old, Bab el Shareya, arrested on Tuesday 22/11, released on Tuesday 29th of November.

Teargas makes you drool and makes your eyes run then you fall to the ground. They said I went to Tahrir to get paid. I do not understand anything about politics. My only political stance is "Bread on the table." This is what made me go. I went to demand bread. I spend 6-7 pounds on transport everyday. I am single and my pay is not enough for me alone. How will I be able to cope when I get married and have children? I have no idea! All I know was that people were getting killed and wounded. I went to carry. They were firing gas grenades, shot gun pellets and live bullets at us. The night of Tuesday 22/11 was the first time I went to Tahrir. The gas was killing me. They were firing gas grenades from Mohamed Mahmoud. The grenades were reaching the roundabout. They were firing 15 canisters at the time.

The Central Security forces surrounded us. They took me to some school. The school had two entrances. I was taken in from one of them and taken out from the other, probably in el Falaky.

They beat me till I fainted. They brought me back to consciousness. They took all I had - my phone, my ID papers and my wallet. They took me to the offices behind the barbed wire in the street. They were Interior Ministry and Military Police. They laid me on my face and tied my hands behind my back. The Interior Ministry people and the army beat me with all that they had - with their feet and with their weapons. An army officer kept standing on my back with his boots. They were trying to frame me. They put LE 300 in my pocket, then asked me where I had gotten the money from. They kept beating me so that I would tell them what they wanted to hear. I did not alter my statements. They got nothing out of me.

They took me to the Interior Ministry. "Who is funding you?" They made us face the wall. A police car with computers and water bottles they pretended to be petrol bombs came. These were supposedly the things they had caught with us.

They took us to the Abdeen Police station. They made us stand together and placed the things they had stolen around us and took photographs. There were three of us - Sameh, Bassem and I. The officer kept beating us. We spent the night in the police station.

By Wednesday we had come to be twenty. They took us to the Prosecutor's office. They did not bring the PCs. The head of the Abdeen Prosecutor's office oversaw the

investigation. "Why did you go to Tahrir amongst the peaceful demonstrators? Why did you go into the school?" "I did not know that there was a school. I was just helping the wounded." It was as if he did not want to hear anything I said. He wrote down "In possession of petrol bombs."

I had never been to a police station before, except once to make my ID card. I knew nothing and was shaken up. Why all this? Is it because we chanted "Selmeya, Selmeya!" (We are peaceful). One of us was over 50 years old. He was old. There was also a man with a broken arm.

They took us to a camp called Gabal el Ahmar. We were received well there - food, drink and blankets. They next day they took us to the Prosecutor's office again, then back again to the camp and then to the police headquarters.

The television came and filmed us. I told them the truth, but they portrayed us as baltageya. I was made into a fifth column. I did not even know what that meant at the time. I do now. Many TV networks filmed us.

They returned us to the camp. At two in the morning on Friday, they took us to a prison called Wadi el Natrun. I did not know where it was at the time. Later, I got to know that it is somewhere close to Alexandria. They undressed us. It was cold. We were left in our boxer shorts. They made us stand facing the wall and beat us.

They made us wear the blue clothes with the word "Inmate" printed on from Friday until Sunday. On Monday, we were taken to the court house. We were acquitted. They said we had to return to the police station so as to be released from there. They left us there until midnight. They made us sign statements. They sent us to the first floor to be released. From 12 pm to 12 am we were supposedly waiting for the local police chief to come and sign us out. All lies! They took us to the police headquarters. They put us in a cellar. Tiled floors. No blankets. No food. No drink. As if we were dogs. In their eyes we are nothing. We are insects. If we live we live. If we die we die. One of us started having convulsions. We banged on the cell door.

They said, "You are lying" and kept repeating the same old questions. A general asked me, "Why did you go to el Tahrir?" My wedding is in two weeks. "You will not enter into a marriage, we will make sure that you exit this life altogether. We will detain you administratively. We will detain your siblings". I said, "I will not return to Tahrir again."

I was taken on Tuesday. I heard that they had burnt down a school. They are the ones who burnt it! They are the ones who stole! I do not understand why they do these things."

Central Security soldiers kept beating us and then handed us over to the police and army officers. The officers pressured us to say that we had been paid to be there. The same old story. They have learnt it by heart and keep reciting it. They know no other.

My sister was burnt to death. I want justice for her. I do not know where to go. Should I go to the Interior Ministry? There, I saw a man who had been beaten on his back with a bayonet. It was a machine gun bayonet. I know about weapons. I have been in the army. Even if all humans and jinns gang up to hurt me, only what has been predestined for me will happen.

There are Baltageya out everywhere. Where is the police? If they are not needed on the streets, why don't they go and fight the Israelis.

I saw him right after I was hit. He was laughing

Ahmed, 28 years old:

I was in Tahrir with my motorbike between 6am and 12pm on Wednesday to help with transporting the wounded. I was hit at 12pm and taken to the French Qasr el Aini Hospital. First, an operation was performed on my left eye to stop the bleeding. Then two other operations were performed: retinal detachment and fitting of glass eye. I checked in to the hospital on 23/11 and left on the 5/12. I have still not been discharged, because there is still an operation which they will perform on the 15/12.

They say there is a foreign body in my eye. Probably a shotgun pebble.

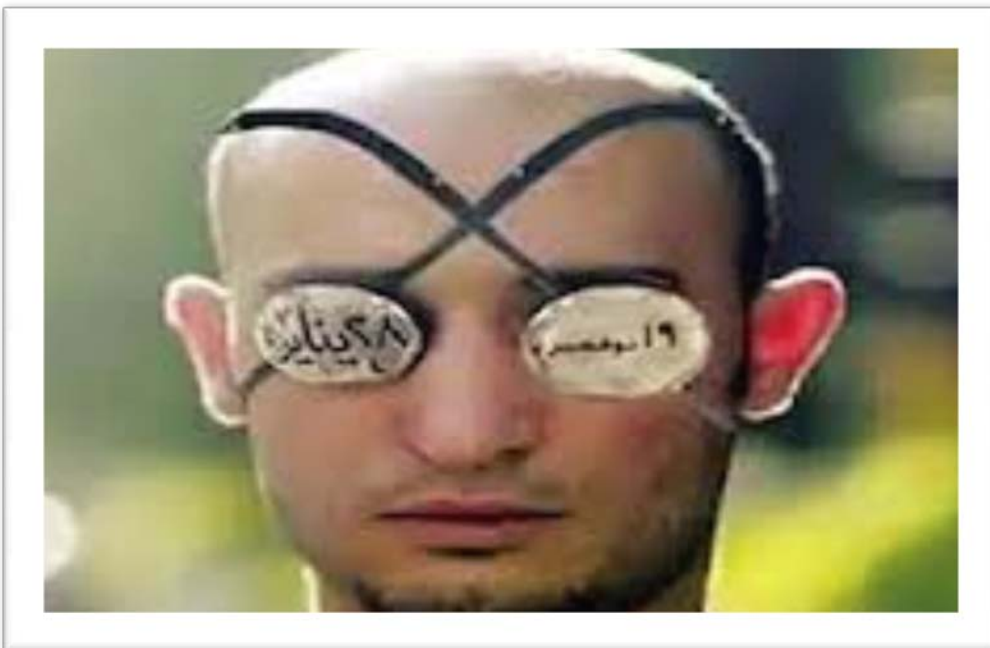
I was hit as I was lifting a wounded person off the ground and onto my motorbike. The man who hit me was a three star officer, a captain. He was about 30 meters away. I saw him right after I was hit. He was laughing.

I do not blame him personally. I blame the Interior Ministry. The injured person I was helping off the ground was hit in both eyes. After I was hit, people carried the both of us onto an ambulance which took us to the French Qasr el Aini hospital. My brother brought a policeman from the police station to make a report. He had to do this. The hospital had sent for the police, but they did not send anyone over.

Translated by Tarek Yucef



Malek Mostafa



Dr. Ahmed Harrara: lost one eye on the 28th of January; Lost the second eye on the 19th of November in Mohamed Mahmud street



Mahmud Sobhi El Shenawi: The eye sniper





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"Impunity"

A report prepared by the legal aid unit for supporting torture victims

Covering the period from 1st of Dec. 2012, until 10th of Feb. 2013

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Introduction:

This report comes in the framework of the Project "Frosting Rights and Empowering Egyptians – FREE" implemented by United Group in cooperation with Bar Associations in targeted governorates and with the support of Finland Embassy in Cairo and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the project aims to provide legal support for victims of torture and cruelty through follow up torture cases and file complaints on such violations by a group of trained lawyers. The project also aims to raise awareness on the right to physical integrity, enable local NGOs to publish information about torture cases, in addition to raise the judges and members of public prosecution awareness on Human Rights principles and related laws to insure a fair and effective treatment for this kind of cases.

The project started in September 2012 with training 183 lawyers in 14 governorates on the methods to provide legal support for torture victims, and 83 lawyers were trained intensively on mechanisms to defend victims of torture and cruelty. 70 NGOs were trained on how to raise awareness and organize campaigns against torture crimes; these NGOs will organize and hold 1,250 meetings in targeted governorates to raise awareness on torture crimes.

Through this short period of time, 13 legal aid units were established to support torture victims in 13 governorates (Qalybia – Behira – Gharbia – Alexandria – Dakahlia – Port Saied – Fayoum – BeniSuef – Menia – Sohag – Luxor – Aswan – Matrouh) These units perform the following tasks:

1. Receive and file complaints and take all the legal procedures to defend victims of cruelty and torture free of charge, the units' members receive complaints through meetings, emails and calls on the hotline (01110044600) 24/7.
2. Attend investigations and court hearings with the victims, file civil lawsuits for victims to partially compensate them for the damage they sustained and submit legal memorandums.
3. Raise citizens' awareness on torture crimes and how to take legal procedures if they were exposed to any violation through organizing awareness meetings in the targeted governorates in cooperation with 50 NGOs and CSOs.
4. Provide legal consultations to victims of torture and cruelty.

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Methodology of the report:

This is the first report issued by the legal aid unit, and it covers the period from December 2012 until February 2013, it contains all the complaints received by the unit, and what the unit detected from different media means. The report provides quantitative and qualitative analysis for the complaints received by legal aid unit and analysis for the crime itself and the geographic scope for such crimes. The report also briefly mentions the reasons for escaping of the torture and cruelty crimes offenders from punishment.

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Chapter one

Torture crimes based on citizens' complaints

1. Number of complaints and type of the crimes:

The legal aid unit received 73 complaints from 16 different governorates since it started working on December 2012, in these complaints almost 127 persons suffered from different types of violations such as (torture, cruelty, being arrested and detained without justification and even being killed by live bullets). The majority of the complaints were received from Cairo governorate with total 25 complaints, but the majority of victims were from Port Saied governorate with total 43 victims, Giza and Alexandria governorates come in the second place with total 8 victims, Ismailia and Minya governorates come in third place with total 5 victims, then Behira with total 4 victims of torture and cruelty.

Governorate	Number of cases
Cairo	25
Giza	8
Qalubia	2
Fayoum	2
Beni Suef	1
Minya	5
Qena	2
Assyout	1
Aswan	2
Gharbia	3
Sharkia	1

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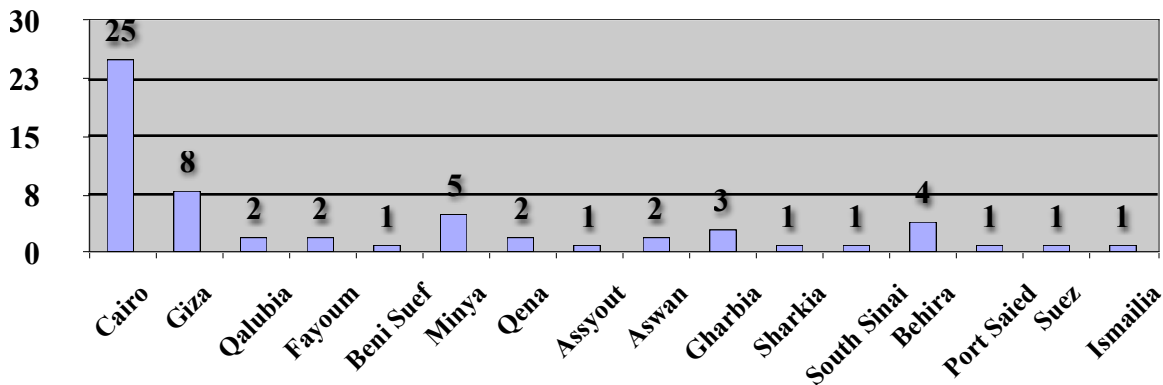
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South Sinai	1
Behira	4
Port Saied	1
Suez	1
Ismailia	1

Complaints' distribution and Geographic scope



The number of the victims increased in the Suez Canal cities following the violence which three cities witnessed with the second anniversary of the 25th of Jan. revolution, and after issuing a verdict in the case known as “Port Saied Massacre” to request the Mufti’s opinion on executing some of the defendants, the violent incidents after this verdict resulted in the death of 53 persons and the injury of almost 2028 persons, the primary reports stated that most of the victims were shot, and that the police forces used cartouche shots and most of the injuries were in the head, neck and chest areas.

The legal aid unit formed a legal committee to support the families of the victims in these governorates, and until the issuing of the report the final forensic reports have not been issued yet.

As for the type of the crimes stated in the complaints received by the legal aid unit, it varies from killing, neglection or all means of torture such as suspension, electric shocking, burning, dragged,

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beatings, insulting and sexual assault, in addition to arrest and detention without reasons and in non suitable places.

The following table shows types of violations committed by security forces, please note that one case may contain different types of violation, and one complaint may contain many victims

S.	Crime	Number of cases
1.	Killing	63
2.	Beating, insulting and injuries	28
3.	Arresting and detention without reasons	6
4.	Electric shocking	2
5.	Whipping	1
6.	Sexual assault	29
7.	Head shaving	4
8.	Dragging	4
9.	Torture	29
10.	Detention in non suitable places	28
11.	Destruction of property	2

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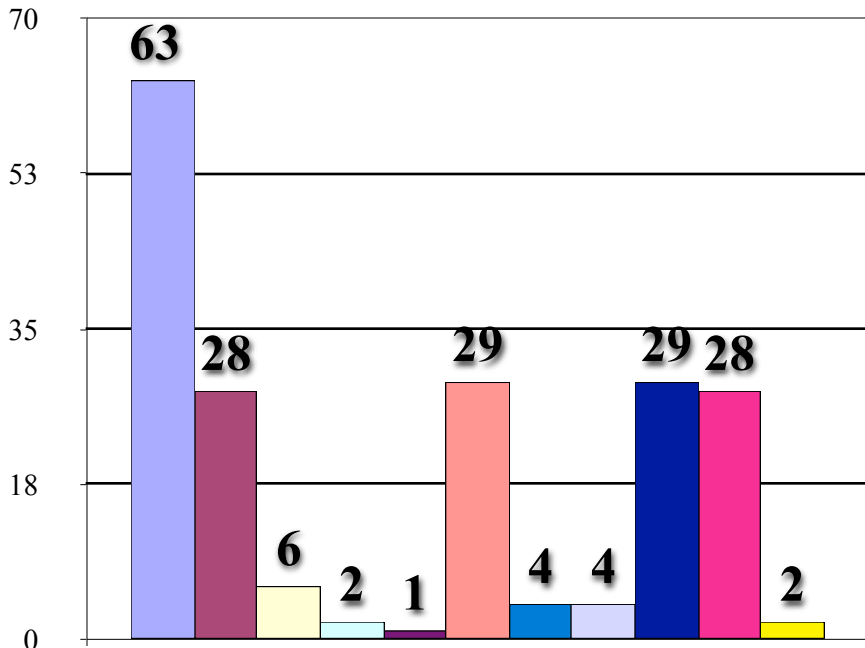


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Types of violations



Number of Cases

- Murder
- Beating, insulting and injuries
- Arrest and detention without reasons
- Electric Shocking
- Whipping
- Sexual assault
- Head shaving
- Dragging
- Torture in front of policemen
- Detention in illegal places
- Destruction of property

All the above mentioned proves that security forces are using all means of repression to return to regain the same power they had before Jan. 25, the police forces used live bullets during the recent uprising and that result in the death of 53 citizens and the injury of 2000 persons, around 10 citizens filed complaints stating that members of their families were killed in police stations and prisons by gun shots, medical neglect or run over them by police cars, around 92 persons

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were sexually assaulted in prisons or even in the streets. This behavior proves the desire of policemen to humiliate these victims and there is no doubt that the policemen committing such crimes are suffering from psychological problems.

Most of the complains were about crimes of beating with bare hands or sticks, whipping and causing deformities to the victims, 28 complaints of such crimes were received by the legal aid unit.

During the uprising, policemen were arresting protesters and detaining them in Central Security camps which is considered as a violation of the law, the legal aid unit detected 28 cases that were detained in Central Security camps after being arrested and before going to the Public Prosecution, these cases were in Cairo and Behira governorates, after receiving those complaints, the legal aid unit filed reports and official complaint to General Attorney. As for the crimes of arrest and detention without reasons, the legal aid unit received only 6 complaints regarding those crimes.

The Security Forces participated in torture crimes committed by citizens, 29 citizens were tortured in front of Ettahadeya Palace by Morsi's supporters and the Security Forces didn't interfere, but some of the policemen were helping Morsi's supporters in torturing protesters, it is worth mentioning that the Public Prosecution is still investigating this incident and didn't issue a decision yet.

2. Cases of violation of the right to physical integrity according to legal aid unit's files:

This part of the report shows cases of violation of the right to physical integrity according to the legal aid unit's files, and the unit will issue a full report by the end of April 2013:

2-1. Cases of murder:

- **Canal cities events on 25, 26, 27 and 28 January 2013:**

Suez Canal cities witnessed -during the period from 25 until 28 of Jan., 2013- the death of about 56 people, including 3 policemen and the injury of 2018 citizen. Most of the murder cases are from Port Said Governorate about 43 were killed after protests accompanied issuing the verdict on the case known as "Port Said massacre case" and referral the files of about 21 defendants to

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Mufti to issue a decision on the judgment of executing them¹, hospitals received many victims who were injured in the events, and these hospitals indicated that most of the victims died from

¹ On Saturday, January 26, 2013 the police forces fired live bullets and cartridge on the people of Port Users in the area of Port Said prison and Mohamed Ali Street from the top of the prison and top of buildings, and used snipers to target fatal areas in their bodies, the police forces used excessive power in the area surrounding Al-Arabs Police Station, one of the largest neighborhoods in Port Saied and a highly populated area, police forces shot live bullets from armored vehicles toward civilians directly and randomly, and armored vehicles started chasing citizens in the streets with continuous firing, the first day ended with the death of 31 citizen due to fatal injuries resulted from direct shooting in fetal areas such as "head, neck, chest", and the injury of more than 322 citizen. On January 27, 2013 police forces attacked common funeral of 22 civilians who died in the events on Saturday 26 of Jan., police forces used tear gas, bullets and cartouche without any justification or warning, which led to the death of many civilians due to suffocation and lethal injuries and the rest of the citizens had to run and hide in the buildings' entrances nearby. These events have resulted in the death of seven people who were shot by live bullets in fatal areas and injuring more than 630 people. On the third day January 28, 2013 police forces attacked citizens in Maryum Mosque area, who were waiting for the funeral of the people died the day before, the police used tear gas and bullets without any reasons, and clashes continued between policemen and citizens in the area of Al-Arab police station throughout the day, police forces was firing live bullets to face stones that the angry civilians were thronging at them, and police forces continued to fire live bullets over the three days.

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live bullets and cartouche². While Suez governorate has witnessed the death of 9 citizens³ as well as the injury of about 29 citizens⁴, the events started on January 25, 2013 when the first demonstrator was killed in clashes between security forces and demonstrators in front of the governorate building, after that one of the policemen was killed which ignited the situation and raised the anger of the soldiers, they started using live bullets and cartridge aiming at the demonstrators, they also broke and destroyed some shops and stores including “Fishawi” Café, “Number One” Salon, “Abdul Hamid Faraj Contracting Office”, “Aqua Trade” store, “New Syria” Café, “Al-Ashgar” Cafeteria, “Om Kalthoum” Café and “El-Pasha” Dry Clean.

² For example, the cases which Ismailia University Hospital received:

1. Amr Mohammed Abdel Kerim, 32 years old, he was injured on Sat. 26th of Jan., he was shot in the right arm.
2. Ahmed Mohammed Abdel Gawad, 43 years old, shot in the abdomen.
3. Waleed Fouad El-Morsi, 38 years old, shot in the chest and lower back.
4. Mohammed Hosni, 30 years old, fracture in the right femur.
5. Mohammed Farouk Ahmed, 24 years old, shot on the chest.
6. Medhat Kassem, 21 years old, shot in the left thigh.
7. Saaed Hosni Mustafa, 28 years old, shot in the chest.
8. Mohammed Ahmed El-Saeid, 30 years old, shot in the chest.
9. Mohammed Kamel Ahmed, 19 years old, shot in the abdomen.
10. Yasser Hassan, 21 years old, shot in the neck.
11. Salah Mohammed Abdel Azzem, 40 years old, shot in the chest.

Cases from Port Saied:

12. El-Said Tareq Abdel Wahab, 24 years old, shot in the right thigh.
13. Mustafa Mahmoud Amen, 17 years old, injury in the left hand.

³ Names of the citizens killed in Suez:

Ali Soliman Hegab (19), Waleed Soliman (30), Mustafa Eid Soliman (15), Hussein Mahmoud Okasha (30), Mohammed Ghareb (36), Mahmoud Nabil Mohammed (27), Hussein Ibrahim (27), Mahmoud Ashor, Maged Mohammed Abdel Samad.

⁴ Citizens who were injured, for example:

1. Amgad Farouk, 21 years old, he was shot in the abdomen near “New Syria” Café, and the doctor removed a part of his small intestine.
2. Ahmed Sharaf, 18 years old, he was shot in the chest near Mobinile Shop, during the anniversary of 25th of Jan. revolution, he suffered from internal hemorrhage and still under treatment.
3. Fathi Hassan Abdel Azziz, 28 years old, he was shot with 3 bullets in his testicles while sitting in Khedr Square selling bread.

Note: all the above mentioned cases were shot near to the governorate building.

4. Basem Ghazy El-Shahat, 28 years old, he was shot in the right arm and a gas bomb hit him in the left arm, in front of Suez police station, he suffered from right arm fracture, and disability 5%, and now he will not be able to work as he was a construction worker.

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Perhaps Ismailia was least affected by the events , only one citizen was killed “Nasr Mohammed Yamani” in the clashes between security forces and citizens at Al-Mamar Square, the victim died of a gunshot wound, also about 18 citizens were injured over the three days of clashes, mostly by cartridges and live bullets shots⁵.

The Legal Unit formed a committee of lawyers in Port Said and Ismailia governorates to take legal action and provide legal support to the families of the victims, and the committee is now following up the issuance of the final medical reports of the victims.

- **Complaint No. 378/2013 in front of the General Attorney (Mohammed Al-Guindy):**

Mohammed Nabil Abdel Aziz Al-Guindy was one of the peaceful demonstrators in Tahrir Square, then he disappeared and his family and some friends reported his disappearance and accused policemen of kidnapping him, the legal aid unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney regarding this incident, before he was found by some of his friends in “Al-Saleib Al-Ahmar” hospital in a coma, he suffered from a number of fractures in the ribs and a number of bruises, he died shortly after he was found, and until now the final forensic report has not been issued yet.

⁵ Names of the injured on 25 and 26 of Jan. 2013:

1. Ahmed Adel Mohmamed, 20 years old, shot in the left thigh.
2. Ahmed Adel Abdo, 24 years old, cartilage shot.
3. Ragab Shaban Abdel Moteleb, 22 years old, cartilage shot.
4. Kareem Nafady Wadee, 21 years old, cartilage shot.
5. Hassan Mohammed Hassan, 23 years old, cartilage shot.
6. Mohammed Zakaria Ahmed, 25 years old, cartilage shot.
7. Amr Salah Mohammed, 27 years old, cartilage shot.
8. Yhyia Zakaria Ahmed, 20 years old, cartilage shot.
9. Islam Azmy Azazy, 24 years old, cartilage shot.
10. Khaked Hossni El-Said, 16 years old, cartilage shot.
11. Youssef Mustafa Youssef, 24 years old, cartilage shot.

Names of the injured in 27th of Jan. 2013:

1. Ahmed Mohammed, 17 years old, cartilage shot.
2. El-Said Taha Zakaria, 31 years old, cartilage shot.
3. Ramadan Gharib Gad, 19 years old, cartilage shot.
4. Dawood Mustafa Mohammed, 19 years old, cartilage shot.
5. Ahmed Abdel Aziz Hassan, policeman, 28 years old, cartilage shot.
6. Mahmoud Hafez Monuir, policeman, 30 years old, cartilage shot.
7. Anwar Mohammed Amen, policeman, 24 years old, cartilage shot.

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- **Case No. 16485/2012, Giza section (Saad Said):**

On 21st of Nov. 2012 a fight occurred in “Al-Ezba Al-Kadema” area, during this fight the victim was arrested along with many other citizens who were arrested randomly, during the arrest of the victim he was tortured and severely beaten and dragged, he was held in the police station and then referred to the Public Prosecution, which ordered the renewal of his detention for 4 days to continue the investigations and ordered the recall of a doctor to his detention place, but he wasn't seen by any doctor and didn't receive any medical treatment, on the third day after being arrested, he died in the prison.

- **Complaint (3) the second section, Aswan (Osman Mohamed Gamee):**

On the 2nd of Jan. 2013 the victim was killed due to several injuries happened as a result of a car crash as the police car which was deporting him crashed and police neglected his treatment, the victim was accused of committing the crime of digging and searching for gold in a restricted military area for 15 days (case no. 133 military) and during his deportation the car driven by one soldiers overturned in the desert, the victim suffered from multiple fractures and wounds, he was taken to Aswan military hospital, after several days he was dismissed from the hospital after issuing a report stated that his condition is stable and he may be imprisoned police station, the policemen refused his return to hospital for treatment, he died in the police station, and a complaint on the accident was filed.

- **Complaint No. 366/2013 Administrative Department Warraq (Sameh Ahmed Farag):**

On 15th of Jun. 2013 at 8:00am the victim Sameh went to Warraq police station to inquire about the reasons for the detention of his friend Hassan Hamdi Abdel-Hamid, a few hours later Sameh's family found out that his mobile phone was switched off until 3:30pm, and after that some policemen and detectives went to the house of the victim and told his family that he died in a car accident, his family went to Imbaba police station to make sure the accident really happened, but in the police station they told the family that there is no one was in the accident by that name and that they might find him in Warraq police station, the family of the victim went to Warraq police station and found a large crowd of security forces, they told the family that Sameh is in Imbaba General Hospital, the family did find Sameh in Imbaba Hospital but they also found marks on his hands and feet which indicates that he was tied up, and swelling abrasions on his neck, which

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shows that he was tortured, the legal aid unit is now following the investigation conducted by Public Prosecution and the issuing of the final report of the autopsy.

2-2. Sexual assault cases:

- **Complaint no. 377/2013 in front of General Attorney:**

The legal aid unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney General on the incident of hitting and dragged citizen “Hamada Saber” which was broadcasted by many TV channels, complaint was transferred to the investigating Judge, this incident happened on 1st of Feb. 2013, during the clashes in front of Ettihadya Palace, the Ministry of Interior forces hit Hamada, dragged him on the ground and stripped of his clothes.

- **Complaint No. 455/2013 to General Attorney:**

On February 5, 2013, “Tahrir” newspaper published an issued on front-page under the title "Morsi’s Police Crimes" the newspaper revealed crimes of torture and rape of 27 citizen in Red Mountain prison after being arrested on last January 28, and there was a doctor inside Al Salam prison supervising torture just to stop the offenders before they reach the stage of Death, Bassiouni one of the prisoners said “the policemen took off all our clothing in the police vehicle expect the underwear, and police officer told the newspaper reporter “ We are all here belong to the Muslim Brotherhood” the newspaper on the same day presented in two full pages (page 4 and 5) a number of attacks of the police forces on some citizens, the press release included testimonies and photographs of a number of victims of torture and detention in security forces camps of Al-Salam and the Red Mountain areas and others, the legal unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney to investigate this press release and the crimes mentioned in it.

- **Complaints of the prisoners in Wadi Natrun Prison:**

The legal unit received a complaint from the mother of one of the prisoners “Tariq Saeed Abdul Ghaffar” stating that on 19th of Oct. 2012 she received information from her son stating that he was tortured in Wadi Natrun prison, he was raped, electrically shocked, tied up, beaten and insulted, he said that the policemen tear his clothes, dragged him to the prison yard and ordered him defecate in front of the prisoners, his mother sent many telegrams to the Minister of Interior

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and the prisoners entity, and legal Unit filed a complaint to the Ministry of Interior and it's being followed up.

- **Case No. 85/2013 petitions Eastern General Attorney, Alexandria Prosecutions, the case is listed under the number 83/2013:**

The legal unit received complaint from the prisoner (Mohammad Hassan Mustafa) imprisoned in Al- Hadra prison on the case No. 39619/2012 Al-Dekheila (robbery), and stated that he was beaten him, sexually assaulted and that the policemen ordered him to defecate in front of the prisoners, as well as threatened him to be separated from his younger brother "Ahmed Hassan Mustafa" who is imprisoned in the same case, and after filing the complaint, public prosecutor heard the victim's testimony and saw the injuries, and until now the Prosecution is still investigating the incident.

2-3. Cases of torture and the use of cruelty within police stations and detention places:

- **Complaint no. 4723/2012 in front of General Attorney (Mohammed Saeed Mahmoud):**

Victim Mohammed Saeed Mahmoud was assaulted by a police officer and a number of soldiers, he was beaten inside Mokattam police station, he was verbally abused and kicked in his abdomen on the evening of Sunday, December 25, 2012 after he return from a court hearing, the victim stated in his complaint that the Sheriff and another group of officers assaulted him brutally with sticks, electric shocks, and they cursed, then the victim was transferred to Al-Khalifa police station after the spread of a video that reveals the incident, also a number of detainees beat him, the victim said that the reason why he was tortured is because he threatened a police officer that he is going to file a case against him after his brother "Ahmed" was tortured in the same police station, the legal aid unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney.

- **Complaint no. 336/2013 in front of General Attorney (Abadeia Prison):**

12 of the demonstrators arrested in the no. 742/2013 Damanshour and imprisoned in Abadeia prison were tortured; the prison's officers shaved their hair, and beat them on their feet as a punishment for demonstrating. Earlier the Public Prosecution issued an order to arrest "Mohammed Mahmoud Aoun Abdul Ghani" born in 1979, "Islam Ahmed Hassan" 16 years old,

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“Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamed” born in 1986, “Mohammed Farooq Abdullah” born in 1985, “Mohamed Nabil Anwar” born in 1980, “Mohamed Mokhtar Hussein Dowidar” born in 1997, “Walid Ibrahim Abdul Majid Ali Saleh” born in 1982, “Ahmed Mahmoud Hanafi Abdul Latif” born in 1991, “Ibrahim Eid Ibrahim” 17 years old, “Osama Saeed Kahla” born in 1997, “Naji Qassim Mohammed” 25 years old, and “Wael Mahrous Mohammed Eid” born in 1982.

After they were accused of carrying weapons, disrupt traffic, occupation of a governmental building, assaulting a public officer and injuring some soldiers during their attack on Damanhor police station on 27th of January 2013.

The Legal Unit informed the public prosecution with the incident and some of the victims’ statements were taken, and the case is still under investigation.

- **Case no. 594/2012 (Ibrahim Ahmed Mohammed):**

Ibrahim was arrested in front of his own shop beside Gomrok police station by the officer (S.S) investigation officer, at the police station the police officer asked the victim for information about a fugitives and when the victim told him that he doesn’t know, the officer beat him with his shoes in the face, then he hung the victim up from his arms, and the victim was detained for more than 10 hours without reasons. After that the officer gave the victim 200 pounds and asked him to treat his wounds, the victim approved so he can go out. The legal Unit filed a complaint no. 594/2012 in which the officer was accused of using cruelty, a medical report was issued and the legal unit requested from the Public Prosecution to send the victim to the forensic department and nothing happened so far, until now the officer is still threatening the victim.

- **Alexandria’s events, cases no. 1999/2013 Attarin, 2006/2013 Attarin, 1553/2013 Manshia:**

Demonstrators arrested on 21, 26, and 27 Jan. 2013 were beaten and abused by security forces during being arrested and detained, the number of defendants in those cases was about 74 defendants, a representative of the Legal Unit attended all investigations conducted by the Public Prosecution, which ordered in three cases detention of all defendant for four days, the strange thing was that the public prosecutor conducted investigations at the Security Directorate of Alexandria although all the lawyers objected on this thing.

- **Complaint no. 37901/2012 Nasr City:**

On the 3rd of Oct. 2012 a conflict occurred between Hani Mohammed Nabil and police officer (h. A), who is working in tourism’s police forces, the officer beat the victim and insulted him in front

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of his neighbors, he took the victim to Nasr City police station, and he was detained although he is a psychiatrist and a very respectful person, he was beaten and insulted by police officers in the police station then he went to the Public Prosecution, which proved the assault incident and the case is still under investigation.

- **Complaint no. 3849/2012 Bab Al-Shaireia police station:**

On 15th of Oct. 2012 a police officer (M.G) broke into the house of the victim “Yasser Hashem Khalil”, he beat and dragged the victim in front of his neighbors in order to arrest the victim’s brother Wael Hashem Khalil Abdul Rahman who is a fugitive escaped from implementation of a court ruling, the victim was arrested and they took him to Bab Al-Shaireia police station, the police officer claimed that the victim was and distributing heroin with his brother, which is not true, the victim interrogated as a defendant in a drug felony, and as a victim in the assault incident, the victim was referred to the forensic department.

- **Complaint no. 12077/2012 administrative Matarya:**

On Wednesday 18th of Sep. 2012 at 7:00pm in Matarya Square, the victim “Mohamed Saad Abdel Fattah” went to talk with a traffic police officer to complain about minibuses drivers because they were trying to take more money, the victim asked the officer who is responsible for determining the amount of money that they should take, but the officer refused to answer, at the same time a police car was in the area, an officer called Tariq stepped out of the car and asked the traffic officer “what’s going on?” the traffic officer said “he is one of Tahrir Square guys” referring to the victim, immediately the officer started to insult the victim and slapped him on the face, then the other police officers searched the victim and took his money, then they took the victim to the police station and started beating him again until his relatives arrived and they managed to get him out after being detained for 6 hours without reasons.

- **Complaint no. 7659/2012 Waili:**

The complaint stated that the victim “Fouad Mohammed Mahmoud” who works as a taxi driver while he was leaving his home at 11:45am, he found a police officer and 2 thugs who are well known in the area coming towards him, the thugs received an order from the police officer and started to beat the victim, the victim filed a complaint stating the incident and a medical report on his condition was issued, the legal unit followed the case until the court issued a verdict against the offenders, the verdict stated that the 3 offenders will be imprisoned for 6 months and they

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have to pay 100 LE fine. Also the legal unit filed a complaint no. 12076/2012 in front of General Attorney, and the investigations are still running.

- **Case no. 2521/2012 Ismailia (Rami Mamdouh Ahmed Selim):**

On 26th of July 2012, the police officer (M.M) working in Ismailia police station assaulted the victim Rami Mamdouh and beat him using his weapon and that was after a verbal fight between the victim and the police officer's father, the police officer came with four soldiers and started beating the victim using their weapons, they dragged him to the police car then took him to Ismailia police station, the victim filed a complaint no.2521/2012 stating the incident, the public prosecutor heard the victim's statement of the victim and then transferred him to forensic department, the forensic report stated the victim suffered from hysterical symptoms which led to losing the ability to speak because he was exposed to traumatic shock, and the case is still under investigation.

- **Complaint No. 365/2013 in front of General Attorney (Hend Rizk Attia) college student:**

The legal unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney stating the incident of the exposure of Hend Rizk to cruelty by central security forces, the incident happened on 27th of Jan. 2013 when the victim was at Tahrir Square to provide medical assistance and first aid to the injured demonstrators in the square, when the central security officer started beating the victim on her face and they beat her with sticks, then they took the victim to Kasr El-Nile police station with officer (Mustafa Barakat), at the police station the officers claimed that she attacked police officers in the square. And the case is still under investigation.

2-4. Arrest, search and detention without reasons in illegal places:

- **Complaint no. 106/2013 Al-Salam police station:**

On Friday 28th of Dec. 2012 at 5:30am, Nora Yahya and her family were surprised when some police officers broke into her home, they broke the apartment door, and destroyed the furniture, they assaulted her and her two brothers, then they took some golden jewelry, her brothers were taken to the Directorate Security of Cairo, Office for Drug Control and they were detained for 6 hours without legal reasons, during this period the brothers were beaten, humiliated and insulted,

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and the policemen kept threatening the victims that they are going to accuse them with crimes they did not commit. Then the victims were released from the headquarters of the Directorate without any official investigation or accusations. The victim (Nora) called rescue police forces, they came saw the apartment and the damages, the victims then filed a complaint, and the legal aid unit filed a complaint no. 3191 to the office of citizen complaints at Directorate security of Cairo.

- **Complaint no. 23/2013 south of Minya prosecutions:**

The victim Saied Abdul Hakim Hussein was detained by Investigation officers at Abu Qurqas police station for two days without reasons and they beat him, the legal aid unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney, South Minya Prosecution, and the complaint was referred to Abu Qurqas Prosecution to be investigated, but the investigation officer still chasing the victim to force him to withdraw the complaint against him.

- **Guard's complaint, Dirout Police Station:**

The legal unit received a complaint from a soldier at Dirout police station stating that he was accused by stealing the station's safe, he was detained for more than 24 hours, and the officer tortured, beat and kicked him, he was severely injured, before they discovered how was the real thief, and the legal aid unit is following the case.

- **Complaint no. 12078/2012 in front of General Attorney (Mohamed El-Sayed Abdullah Hassan):**

On Wednesday 19th of Sep. 2012, at about 3:00am, the victim was surprised when policemen broke into his home in Ezbet Abu Bakhit, Abu Sawyer Center in Ismailia, the policemen broke the door of his apartment, they searched the entire apartment then destroyed furniture and electrical equipment, and once the victim tried to ask the policemen why they entered his apartment, they started beating him, they insulted him and the officer (A.A) and his force took the victim to Abu Sawyer police station, he was detained without reasons until 10:00am the next day, then they let him go after threatening him that they will accuse him of crimes he did not commit, after his release, the victim filed the complaint no. 1054/2012, and the legal aid unit filed a complaint to the General Attorney no. 12078/2012, the complaint was referred to Ismailia prosecution under no. 5509 on 31/10/2012 and still under investigation.

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Chapter two

Offender impunity in cases of torture

After reviewing the above mentioned complaints and reports on torture crimes, and also the cases provided through media, we thought that the government will arrest the offenders, put them behind bars and accuse them of killing and torturing innocent civilians, but this didn't happen due to many reasons such as punitive legislations and its failure to identify elements of the crime of torture as these legislations only acknowledge torture crime if the victim was a defendant and the offender was trying to force him/her to admit committing the crime, the law gives the policemen authority to use excessive power to face demonstrations and also the victim can't file a case and go to court directly but he/she has to wait for the Public Prosecution to file a case.

But there are more important reasons that help the offenders' impunity in cases of torture, If the law only recognize the crime of torture in the framework of taking confessions, but it considers the use of cruelty as a crime, but we have not seen any offenders accused of using cruelty, and although the law prohibits detention without reasons or in illegal places, no offenders were accused by detaining citizens inside the camps Central Security, and although the law prohibits the crimes of sexual abuse, no one was punished in the indecent of sexually assaulting Hamada Saber in front of Etehadia Palace.

But why the offenders always escape punishment? The reality shows clear reasons for the impunity of the offender, including:

1. The way Public Prosecution is dealing with torture crimes:

The way the Public Prosecution is dealing with torture crimes is one of the reasons helping offenders to escape punishment, and this can be proved through the following:

First: The Public Prosecution doesn't take citizens' complaints regarding torture crimes seriously; it usually doesn't investigate the incidents especially when the victim is a defendant in another case because they think that the victim claims being torture to escape punishment in the other case, so the Public Prosecution doesn't investigate the incident although it has been reported, but tries to prove that the victim is laying, and then

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refer the victim's original case to court without even documenting and reporting the torture incident as a separate case, and that led to waste the rights of the defendants who has been subjected to torture or cruelty during being arrested or detention.

Second: Public Prosecutors don't take the necessary procedures that should be taken in crimes of torture and cruelty, as the law gives the Public Prosecution the right to seize the equipments used in the crime of torture, as well as hearing the testimonies of the detained citizens who witnessed the torture incident, it also has the right to order a list with the names of the police officers who were present when the torture incident happened, but the Public Prosecution does not take any of these procedures, but also we can say that the Public Prosecution deals with torture crimes in the same way it deals with issuing a check without balance, as it only takes the victim's statement and send him/her to forensic department which usually plays a role in the escape of the offenders from punishment , this role will be mentioned in details later.

Third: Public Prosecution doesn't play one of its most important roles to stop torture crimes, which is the supervision on the detention places, even when lawyers and the victim's family files complaints stating that a crime has been committed that is either torture or detention without reasons, in the case the Public Prosecution only calls the police officer and asks him to release the victim and also asks him if he committed such crime or not! And of course the police officer denies all the accusations. The poor response of the Public Prosecution to the complaints leads to death cases in detentions and prisons.

Forth: The Public Prosecution help in the escape of the offenders from punishment by working very slow on the investigations in cases that need the investigation to be conducted in a very rapid way, because evidences in crimes such as torture or cruelty such as beating which doesn't cause permanent disability, and but to this very slow actions the offenders can easily remove evidences or even deny their presence in the crime senses, especially because the Public Prosecution uses police officers to investigate torture crimes, so it's literally investigating the crime by the offender who committed it! So, can we expect the offenders to be punished?!

2. Forensic reports:

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Forensic reports also help offenders to escape punishment, although they suppose to be evidences against them, and this is due to the following:

First: the slow issuance of forensic reports and the weakness of capabilities of the forensic department, also the government did not respond to repeated requests of the forensic department to reform it and provide it with necessary equipments, for example, on September 4, 2012 Al-Ahram newspaper⁶ published a distress call from Pharmaceutical Laboratories Administration Department in the Forensic Medicine entity in Upper Egypt to the Minister of Justice requesting their support with modern equipments, in the request they also mentioned that all the work is being done only by naked eye and they never had any equipment since the establishment of the department in 1965, and that they are working on very important cases related to toxins and drugs, they also said that the headquarters is very small and there no place for all the employees and the experts. In a recent statement of the director of forensic department in Egypt “Dr. Kmiel Georgi” on ONTV, he said that the forensic department needs almost 10 million pounds to buy equipments and to raise capacity of its work, and the government only gave them 400,000 Pounds⁷.

Second: Forensic Medicine Department is a part of Ministry of Justice: After the revolution the Forensic doctors demanded to be independent from Ministry of Justice administratively and financially, there is no doubt that the independence of the Forensic Medical Department from the executive power might gives it freedom, integrity and credibility in the reports it publish, for example the case of Mohamed Al-Gindy and what accompanied it made everyone question the integrity of the forensic reports, as the Ministry of Justice statements which stated that Mohammed died from a car accident came before issuing the forensic report which stated the same thing.

3. Media and community Follow-up on issues of torture:

It is true that the media have highlighted several cases of torture and the use of cruelty and murder in some cases by security forces but follow those issues after its detection does not rise to the level of the hype of the media accompanying the discovery of such

⁶ Al-Ahram electronic newspaper on Sep. 4,2012: <http://digital.ahram.org.eg/articles.aspx?Serial=1013048&eid=3987>

⁷ <http://www.el-balad.com/390156>



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- crimes, and this gives the impression that we are all stand at detecting the torture incident and don't wait for the offenders to be punished, the follow up of the media and the press on the torture cases is considered as a side of the culture of the society that does not care about the punishment of the offenders.
4. **The way the Ministry of Interior is dealing with the officers who committed such crimes:**
Although the Ministry of the Interior contains Human Rights Department of department for complaints against the police officers but these complaints are still considered administrative, which means that if the investigations proved that the crime really happened, the Ministry punishes the officers administratively without informing Public Prosecution about the incidents, which are originally considered as criminal offense, and all investigations conducted by the Ministry of Interior with its officers are confidential and the complainants cannot even see the results to gain their rights, even by civil compensations if the acts didn't rise to a crime punishable by law. But we can say that the Interior Ministry encourages the use of cruelty towards citizens when they say that a specific torture crime didn't happen although thousands of citizens saw of Egyptians via satellite⁸.
5. **Culture of Egyptian society sometimes allows torture** if committed against a criminal or defendant, and does not recognize the principles of justice that say "the defendant is innocent until proven guilty" and that the defendant has the right to a fair trial, and policemen don't have the right to punish, torture or use cruelty towards defendants. But we find sometimes in rural areas, citizens might taking revenge from some criminals by killing or torturing them, In our opinion we think that citizens in these areas are very desperate of justice applications, but this also proves that the community sometimes allows there kind of actions.

In the end of this report our recommendation is to avoid the reasons for impunity in the crimes of torture and cruelty, and the following are some practical solutions in our opinion:

⁸ <http://tahrirnews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=02022013&id=3920afcf-3287-4b4b-93d1-cc9f1e1a7e45>



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1. The Ministry of Justice should train General Attorney's assistants in cooperation with CSOs on how to investigate torture crimes, and the immediate procedures that should be taken to insure that the offender will not escape punishment, and the Ministry should also train them on international agreements related to the right to physical integrity and how to be used in torture and cruelty crimes.
2. The general prosecution should conduct periodically inspections on detention places to make sure that they are suitable and to make sure that all detained citizens are there for a reason and being treated properly.
3. Train many lawyers on handling torture and cruelty cases and the legal procedures that should be taken if the Public Prosecution didn't fulfill its responsibilities.
4. Establish a judicial committee within the Ministry of Interior to be responsible for detecting and investigating police men violations, and submit reports on these violations to the Public Prosecution, and also receive complaints from citizens.
5. The Journalists Syndicate in cooperation with CSOs should train journalists working in accidents' section on how to detect and document torture and cruelty crimes and follow these crimes until it reach courts.
6. Encourage forensic doctors request to be independent from the Ministry of Justice and to be considered as a separate entity subject to judicial supervision technically and the supervision of the Central Auditing Agency (CAA) financially, and we hope that the medical reports will be issued faster, also suggest that the public prosecutors should take medical reports issued by Doctors in government hospitals into consideration after they swear as experts, this will facilitate the work of public prosecutors and reduces pressure on Forensic Medicine Department regarding detection of simple assault which does not require specialized expertise.
7. All Civil Society Organizations should work on changing the community culture towards the defendants and convicted citizens in criminal cases, and acknowledge that they have rights and duties that should not be affected even if they committed crimes that require punishment, this should be done through seminars, discussions and use of technical means to raise awareness about this issue.

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Finally we demand prompt and transparent investigations of complaints and cases mentioned in this report and all complaints filed by the Legal Aid Unit to the General Attorney, we also request from the Minister of Interior to reveal what was done in the submitted complaints against officers of the Ministry Interior.

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