

Committee: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The unresolved internal crisis in Egypt

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Fani Kantzavelos, and I have the honour of serving as one of the Deputy Presidents of the Security Council in this year's ACGMUN. This will be my 12th conference overall, and my 6th time chairing.

MUN is not just an extracurricular activity. MUN is an immersive experience, where you have the opportunity to debate on global issues and form friendships. MUN is not always glamorous, but being a delegate and starting from "zero" is ultimately fulfilling. The hours we put in as delegates, eventually chairs, and even secretariat members, do pay off. If it wasn't for MUN, I wouldn't have some of the people I have known to grow closer to and cherish. All the adventures, the signing-ups, and the papers that come out of participating in MUN conferences are fulfilling, if you let them be. There always are pros and cons, but I like to believe that the positives outweigh the negatives. MUN is a chance that you should definitely explore.

This study guide is meant to help you understand the topic and form constructive resolutions. However, you are highly encouraged to conduct research on your own, since you will be able to have a better grasp on the topic, especially on your delegation's policy and involvement on the issue. The bibliography at the end of the study guide can be a steppingstone in that direction. If you have any questions during your preparation, please do not hesitate to send me an email at fkantzavelos@athenscollege.edu.gr. I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Kindest regards,

Fani

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Egypt is a state which has undergone many political events since its independence from the British. Since 1954, Egypt has only seen 4 presidents, with the brief intermission of President Mohammed Morsi, the first “democratically” elected president. After being ousted by Egypt’s current President, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, “Egypt’s political stabilization process has passed through a mix of police/military and legislative repression, which has led to a new autocratic government”.¹ Because of Egypt’s turbulent political past, it finds itself in an inherent internal crisis, due to authoritarian tendencies tying the country down. Corruption, political manipulation, and economic fragility have plunged Egypt into a crisis which has disturbed its citizens deeply.

Egypt’s first and most hard-hitting crisis, is its economic one. “Egypt's budget deficit is 14 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and its overall debt, which is the result of accumulated deficits, is more than the country's economic output”.² 32.5 percent of Egyptians live in poverty according to available reports in 2018. This comes to be a devastating 5-point increase from 2015.³ Most of the annual national expenditure goes to fortifying the Egyptian arsenal. Egypt is the third biggest weapons importer, and still dedicates a great amount of national assets to an already developed military. The increased attacks of Islamist groups and Islamist militants have also driven many civilians into a less-than-ideal way of living. Egypt’s economic handling has somehow been regulated by the billion-dollar (USD) International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan in order to relieve some of its overall debt.

Egypt’s crisis also seeps into society and its political affronting. Human rights violations are frequent, almost a habit as seen in the past few years of al-Sisi’s term. Political and human-rights activists, NGO members, and even journalists are imprisoned due to the strict legislative rules in place. “A restrictive NGO law also discourages advocates of human rights from volunteering as board members for these organizations for fear of becoming legally liable”.⁴ For example, Ramy Shaath, a well-known political activist in Egypt, became a prisoner due to his democratic views and his opposition to the serving government. He was recently freed, as of January 6, 2022. However, after 900 days of

¹ Melcangi, Alessia, and Giuseppe Dentice. “Challenges for Egypt's Fragile Stability.” *Atlantic Council*, 3 July 2019, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/challenges-for-egypt-s-fragile-stability/>

² Cook, Steven A. “Egypt's Solvency Crisis.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 9 Apr. 2014, <https://www.cfr.org/report/egypts-solvency-crisis>

³ Dunne, Michele. “Egypt: Trends in Politics, Economics, and Human Rights.” *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 9 Sept. 2020, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/09/egypt-trends-in-politics-economics-and-human-rights-pub-82677>

⁴ Shahin, Yara. “Unsolved Dilemmas: Issues of Internal Governance in Egypt's Human Rights Ngos.” *Arab Reform Initiative*, Arab Reform Initiative, 26 Oct. 2017, <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/unsolved-dilemmas-issues-of-internal-governance-in-egypts-human-rights-ngos/>

arbitrary detention, he is an example of the limited freedom which highlights Egypt's internal crisis of accepting information other than what is regulated by the government.

All in all, Egypt is a country which surely finds itself in turbulence due to its current leader. Egypt has been characterized as an autocracy by many analysts in the recent years, which exemplifies the tight-lipped tendencies of the government to control all aspects of its national standing. The Muslim Brotherhood and the strict opposition against these extremist groups certainly affects Egyptian policy. But it is extremely concerning that "Sisi's government has been accused of committing serious human rights abuses against both secular and Islamist opponents (Sharp, 2016, p. 3). Forced disappearances have been on the rise since he came to power".⁵ It seems as though Egypt is re-establishing its former oligarchic pillars and seething from corruption.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Autocratic

"Demanding that people obey completely, without asking or caring about anyone else's opinions".⁶ An autocratic government, with some going as far as saying "autocracy", is heavily influenced by the state military, and/or even militia groups. In general, a state led by an autocratic government undergoes legislative suppression.⁷

Coup d'état

A coup d'état, otherwise known as a coup, is a dictatorial regime imposed on a state illegally and with violence by a group of individuals involved in politics, usually backed by its military power. Coups are the result of political instability in a state, leading to an opening of undemocratic actions. Coups are known for their dismissal of human rights, basic freedoms, and the strict regulation of the press and associated press statements. They are inherently unlawful, and unfair towards the citizens it is imposed on.⁸

⁵ Strachan, Anna Louise. "Conflict Analysis of Egypt - Reliefweb." *K4D*, UK Department for International Development, 27 Feb. 2017, <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/048%20Conflict%20analysis%20of%20Egypt.pdf>

⁶ "Autocratic." *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/autocratic>

⁷ Melcangi, Alessia, and Giuseppe Dentice. "Challenges for Egypt's Fragile Stability." *Atlantic Council*, 3 July 2019, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/challenges-for-egypt-s-fragile-stability/>

⁸ "Coup D'état." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat>

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

“GDP measures the monetary value of final goods and services—that is, those that are bought by the final user—produced in a country in a given period of time (say a quarter or a year). It counts all of the output generated within the borders of a country. GDP is composed of goods and services produced for sale in the market and also includes some nonmarket production, such as defense or education services provided by the government”.

Instability

“Uncertainty caused by the possibility of a sudden change in the present situation”.⁹ When it comes to political instability, this usually signifies many sudden changes in a state’s government, mostly coups or prolonged terms. Political instability can also occur during a state’s journey to democracy, due to previous conservative principles embedded in the state’s executive power.

Interim

“Temporary and intended to be used or accepted until something permanent exists”.¹⁰ Specifically, in political context, there are interim governments. An interim government can take charge after an unstable elected government, or simply take action after an attempted coup in order to ensure safe and fair elections to the people. There are even interim administrations, which take care of previously extremist constitutions, by forming constitutions which grant the people their rights and freedoms, as a constitution should, under an ideally democratic regime.

Junta

“A government, especially a military one, that has taken power in a country by force and not by election”.¹¹

Multinational Force and Observers

“The Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) is an international peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The MFO generally operates in and around the Sinai peninsula”.¹²

⁹ “Instability.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/instability>

¹⁰ “Interim.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/interim>

¹¹ “Junta.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/junta>

¹² “Definitions for Multinational Force and Observersmulti-Na-Tional Force and Observers.” *Definitions*, <https://www.definitions.net/definition/multinational+force+and+observers>.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

“A non-profit organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue”.¹³

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Egypt’s turbulent transition to a military junta

In 1953, Gamal Abdel Nasser declared the Republic of Egypt. He imposed a military junta on the country, in hopes of establishing a socialist-authoritarian agenda. He did so, by eliminating all political opponents through the removal of all political parties. Although this action certainly did not point towards a democratic direction, it prioritized Egyptians’ rights and standing in the country. In general, Nasser’s policy wanted to uplift the Egyptian population, and gain control of the Suez canal, which was still in British hands.

In 1954, Nasser had managed to fortify the government’s hold on external affairs as well and brokered a deal which obliged all British troops to evacuate the canal. However, the Muslim Brotherhood made an assassination attempt against him, which in turn brought a full crackdown on the Islamist organization. Many members of the Brotherhood were subject to extreme torture, and even death. Sayyid Qutb, a Muslim theorist who took charge of the movement during Nasser’s reign was radicalized due to the severe measures against the Brotherhood. Although the strict policy against the Muslim Brotherhood was meant to restrict them in their activities and fade them out in good time, Nasser achieved quite the opposite. Global jihadism was considered to be a threat to his attempt of contributing to Egypt’s due evolution and caused many human rights violations in his efforts to eradicate a growing organization. In 1966, Qutb was hanged, as a form of execution. Nasser’s torturous affronting of the uprising of the Muslim Brotherhood planted the seed for more radical interpretations of many Islamic teachings, which are the foundations for the organization even today.¹⁴

¹³ “NGO: Meaning & Definition for UK English.” *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries | Oxford, <https://www.lexico.com/definition/NGO>

¹⁴ Perego, Elizabeth. “Clampdown and Blowback: How State Repression Has Radicalized Islamist Groups in Egypt.” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, May 2014, <https://origins.osu.edu/article/clampdown-and-blowback-state-repression-egypt>



Figure 1: The Suez Canal¹⁵

Nasser's policies ensured domestic stability. However, Nasser did not always engage in international relations with the same care, and maybe even success. Nasser had made efforts to reconcile with both Western and Soviet fronts. He made an arms deal with Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic and Slovakia today) in 1955, which was a front to work with the Soviet Union. In 1956, Nasser called upon the US and Britain for financial aid for a state project. Nasser certainly did not expect such a reaction from the two parties. He decided to privatize the Suez Canal company, which angered the French and the British who were its major stakeholders. This resulted in the Suez crisis. The two powers decided to install their troops, in the name of the UN resolution asking for both fronts to solve the issue diplomatically. Israel, France, and the United Kingdom (UK) decided to strike again in October, causing damages to Nasser, which were not predicted. In spite of Nasser's military shortcomings, the control of the Suez canal remained in Egyptian hands. Nasser even considered the canal to be a buffer zone between Egypt and Israel, especially after the tensions between Gaza, Israel, and his own state. The June War certainly had severed ties between the two nations, but the US and the United Socialist Soviet Republic (USSR) established themselves as main negotiators in affairs of international importance.¹⁶ Overall, Nasser's policy uplifted Egyptians, but did not uplift Egypt as a state in the international scene. His failed attempt at creating a Pan-Arab autocracy had already been seen in the United Arab Republic in partnership with Syria. Nasser had encountered many military failures, but the people were thriving in comparison to British colonial times.

¹⁵ The National Archives. "Suez Crisis." Cabinet Office 100, The National Archives, 29 Nov. 2016, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinet-office-100/the-suez-crisis/>

¹⁶ History.com Editors. "Suez Crisis." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/suez-crisis>

Nasser's successor was Anwar Sadat, who was the Vice President of his regime. Anwar's policy was completely different to Nasser's. Sadat was set on seeing more military successes in his term to come. He launched the Yom Kippur War in 1973 alongside Syria. Although he certainly had no hopes of terminating Israel's involvement in Middle Eastern affairs, he wanted to prove that Egyptian presence was not to be overlooked. The Israeli forces were taken aback by the sudden attack and its success. However, Israel quickly recovered, and the two sides agreed to a ceasefire aided by the US. Sadat sought for peace with Israel and signed and advanced number of treaties. The Camp David Accords were signed between the two countries in order for them to reconcile and work on the West Bank and Gaza, meaning that the rights and safety of Palestinians would be ensured. This did not happen, due to the closed-minded Israeli approach and interpretation of the Accords. Consequently, Egypt was expelled from the Arab League, since it was not able to prove that Palestinians would be sufficiently protected.

Initially, Sadat's regime seemed to break the glass ceiling. Nasser's strict policy and authoritarian rule had been overridden with pillars of a new inclusive constitution to political parties. This transition was short-lived, seeing as the seeming democratization did not create any platforms that could reform the economic turmoil the country was going through. Poverty rates were skyrocketing, creating a huge gap between socioeconomic classes. Political oppression in an uprising in 1977 were starting to show signs of influence from Nasser's methods. The only large, antithetical difference between Sadat's predecessor was his tolerance of the Muslim Brotherhood. Although the activities outlined by the Islamic organization were illicit, they were given much more freedom than before. There were "signs of rising Muslim extremism throughout the country".¹⁷ Throughout Sadat's regime, more and more efforts were made to eventually overthrow the State of Egypt, in the name of Muslim practices and radicalized beliefs. Sadat's takeover had started out in much hope, but later on knocked down the very pillars it built. Sadat's assassination in 1981 laid the foundation for President Mubarak's term, which had a lengthy threshold over the Egyptian population in the years to come.

¹⁷ "The Revolution and the Republic." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/The-revolution-and-the-Republic>

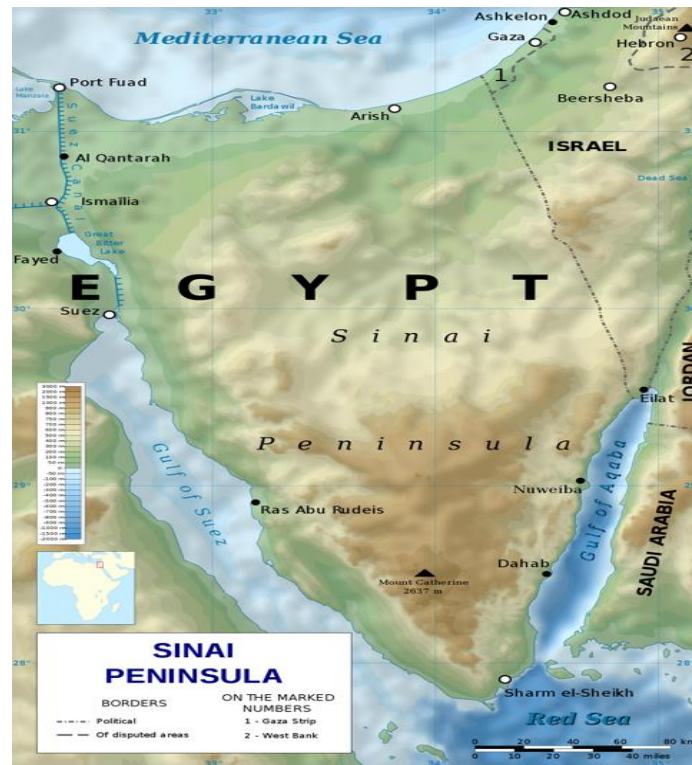


Figure 2: Map of the Sinai Peninsula¹⁸

President Hosni Mubarak’s overdue term

President Mubarak was the Vice President for Sadat’s regime. In his first year of rule, he decided to stay on a steady path of maintaining neutral and diplomatic relations with the US and Israel, mostly to delay any turbulence in the Sinai peninsula. Mubarak removed the threshold Sadat had placed over the Egyptian private sector, and he released many political prisoners from the previous reign. He did however, fight against the Islamic militants who were responsible for planning and executing Sadat’s assassination. In 1982, Egypt’s economic situation still gravely impacted and devastated its population. Mubarak did target the economy’s main issues, in efforts to reassure Egyptians.

In 1985, Israel invaded Lebanon, which strained the ties between the two states. Egypt perceived the Israeli invasion as an attempt to step on the national Palestinian sentiment which was growing. Egypt did not act but did not communicate with Israel until it started to withdraw its forces later in the year. An Arab summit took place two years later, which in turn allowed the members of the Arab league to reconcile with

¹⁸ “Sinai Peninsula.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 Jan. 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinai_Peninsula

Egypt in whatever way they wished. This resulted in Egypt's reinstatement in the Arab League in 1989.

The economic crisis in the 1980s was quite serious. Oil prices were dropping drastically, the Egyptian pound was plummeting due to its constant devaluation, interest rates were rising, and Egypt heavily relied on foreign aid. As a result, the IMF had to actively intervene alongside the World Bank in Egyptian economic affairs. In the 1990s, Egypt participated in the Persian Gulf War, by supplying troops to fight with the US and its allies. This was a difficult choice for the Egyptians, but in the end, the state was pardoned by billions of dollars because of its involvement in the war. This did unfortunately affect Egyptian employees in Iraq, who lost their job due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Mubarak was desperately trying to prioritize internal development, but at a high price. "Its independence was being curtailed by interference from international lenders such as the IMF, and a growing disparity in income and access to resources was straining relations between its rich and poor citizens as well as contributing to the erosion of unity between its Muslims and Copts".¹⁹ Mubarak was not able to have a handle on the Egyptian economy on his own, leading the people further away from him. The population started to resent Arabs who were able to spend their funds in luxury facilities in Egypt, while they suffered under Mubarak's authoritative governance.

Because of Mubarak's choosing to involve the IMF and foreign powers, namely the US, the Egyptian people became wary of the real reason behind this disastrous crisis. A large part of civilians decided to fall victims to the Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood could now support political parties since it couldn't be one itself. Despite their efforts, Mubarak's party would always come on top. Terrorism was a widespread phenomenon at this point, and the lives of government officials, foreign tourists, and even the President himself were at risk. Mubarak resorted to torturous practices, imprisonment, and alleged killings. Terrorism inside of Egypt's borders was thwarting whatever stability was trying to be salvaged.

Freedom of press was no longer allowed, by law. Party leaders or journalists would be imprisoned if they published information which was defamatory to a member of government. However, political pressure later on called upon Egypt's Constitutional Court to render the law null. The said manipulation of Egypt's industries was the real motive behind the fronts of peace between Israel and the US. Seeing as the US was offering Israel much aid in weaponry, as much as economically, this was a belief shared among many Egyptian citizens who were aware of the technological advancements taking place in Egypt. Mubarak's regime lasted more than both of his predecessors',

¹⁹ "The Revolution and the Republic." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/The-revolution-and-the-Republic>

and in turn created and planted a rift in Egypt, which only contributed to it becoming a fragile state.

The Arab Spring

Pro-democracy movement

In 2011, a revolution sparked in Tunisia, by the name of the Jasmine Revolution, which ousted the Tunisian President at the time. On January 25th, 2011, protests eroded in Egypt, in the name of democracy and the removal of President Mubarak from power. The increased instability and oppression against the Egyptian population caused these mass protests across the country, in order for democratic foundations to be put in place. At this point, the Muslim Brotherhood had garnered most of the Egyptian people's support. The movement was large, and it flooded the streets of Egypt for 18 days straight. The younger population outpoured onto the streets with hopes of democracy and freedom of speech. "That was also its downfall. (...)Years of authoritarian rule meant they were starting from scratch".²⁰ Mubarak desperately tried to keep his position, by acknowledging the Egyptians' need for social reforms. He even tried to elect a Vice President and fortify his ties with senior military officials. The protests became even more loud and violent, leading to the imposition of martial law. Mubarak's assembly was dissolved, and his cabinet was meant to be a transitional body to democracy. Travel bans were imposed, and investigations were launched, in seek of political corruption in the past three decades.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) took charge of installing a new cabinet. It was initially criticized for retaining many of Mubarak's allies. However, the prime minister was replaced, due to the controversial and ill-received interview that he gave. Throughout the coming weeks, civilians discovered and raided public buildings with documents proving the existence of human rights violations and corruption. The previous constitution was being amended, allowing for the political procedure of voting, the activity of all wished political parties, and the formation of a new People's Assembly. So, elections took place for the People's Assembly. The majority of seats were taken by the Muslim Brotherhood, which as backed by the people, was to be expected. The SCAF held elections in 2012, but disqualified a previous member of Mubarak's cabinet, and a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. In that manner,

²⁰ Bowen, Jeremy. "Arab Spring: How the Uprisings Still Echo, 10 Years On." *BBC News*, BBC, 12 Feb. 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-56000950>

the Muslim Brotherhood's party, with Morsi as its candidate, and a former minister from the Mubarak administration were allowed to run, after the first round of voting. However, for fear of losing control, the SCAF expanded its authority, in order to reduce the influence of Islamic policies on Egypt. In the end, on June 24th, 2012, Morsi was declared the new, democratically elected President of Egypt, seemingly marking a new era in Egyptian politics.

President Morsi's brief term

Despite the fact that Morsi had been elected by the people, he quickly alienated the few who didn't vote for him, and slowly, the people who did. The Constituent Assembly, responsible for drafting a new constitution, was also arbitrarily comprised of members of the Muslim Brotherhood. This raised concerns of whether the constitution would ignore non-Islamists concerns, due to the radical ideas based on the religion that had been thoroughly cultivated throughout the years. Morsi was receiving much backlash for the opposition, the population, and some parts of the military as well. Morsi decided to succumb to the people's wishes and remove some of the strict and Islam-oriented constitutional policies he had proposed. However, he kept the article which prohibited the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly. On December 9th, 2012, he declared martial law, plunging the country in torturous killings and disappearances. The economic crisis, the utter devastation, and the dissatisfaction of Egyptians came to sharpen even more. The protests, specifically the June 30 Revolution, the destruction, and the defiance to President Morsi's rule led to Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, a general in the Egyptian military, to invoke military intervention in the name of the people. The heightened extremism since Nasser's time to 2013, truly showed how the Egyptian population shied away from the Muslim Brotherhood once it came to power and showed its true colours.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and his political trial and error

Sisi, as a general in the military, was responsible for the transition from an interim government, to a constitutional one. He led all efforts to relieve the Egyptian people during an extremely turbulent time, seeing how Morsi had quickly turned against the very people who voted him. Sisi started an intense crackdown on members of the Muslim Brotherhood, which for an initial time period, caused many violent reactions from Islamists, thus inciting domestic terrorism in the country. Although Sisi's suppression was needed, it did not ensure the stability he had tried to promise to Egyptians. However, he was able to bring together a new Constituent Assembly, from various groups and institutions, except for the Muslim Brotherhood. The constitution which was voted for by Morsi and his administration was greatly amended, seeing as all Islamic provisions were either altered or removed completely. The only issue with

this new constitution, was that it titled the police and the military as “autonomous bodies”²¹, not to be overlooked and overstepped by civilians.

Despite his initial denial to be a presidential candidate, he decided to step down from his military duties in order to run for President. Sisi had garnered the nation’s support, and expectantly won the elections against his only opponent. He promised for the alleviation of poverty, economic reform, and stability. These statements were quickly forgotten. The people had voted Sisi for him not to run the country as Mubarak once did. Instead, he embraced authoritarianism. As supported by many critics, Sisi was creating an autocracy. His new policies up until 2016 were fragrant of political corruption and manipulation. He drafted many laws which restricted political opposition and legitimized “the government’s control over protests, the media, and nongovernmental organizations”.²² He also started many flamboyant projects which upgraded infrastructure, such as the Suez Canal, but did not offer much support to the people. A new IMF loan in 2016 was pulled in order to save face on austerity measures and increase economic turmoil. However, Sisi managed to start two things: the building of the largest Mosque and Cathedral in Egypt, allowing for 50,000 new jobs, and a new housing project, in a new capital of Egypt, in order to tackle the increased poverty rate. It is important to note that among the many members of the Muslim Brotherhood that were either prosecuted and/or killed, Morsi was sentenced to death in the summer of 2015.

In 2017, a terrorist attack was carried out against worshippers on Palm Sunday. Sisi took immediate action and imposed a state of emergency. Although the initial state emergency was meant to last for about 3 months, it was increased in intervals of three months, in order to ensure security. The security situation improved, and fought off Islamic militants, but it also “granted authorities sweeping powers to make arrests and crack down on what they call enemies of the state”.²³ In the second half of 2017, Egypt’s economy started to pick up in its energy sector in the tourism sector and in its constructions sector. “At the same time, the pick-up in private consumption (+4.2 percent in 2018) and the growth of GDP (+5.3 percent in 2018) are the greatest results of Sisi’s first presidential term”.²⁴ Poverty has been at an all-time low, considering the fact that all of Sisi’s actions have pertained to a macroeconomic scale. “The World

²¹ “The Revolution and the Republic.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/The-revolution-and-the-Republic>

²² “The Revolution and the Republic.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/The-revolution-and-the-Republic>

²³ Reuters. “Egypt’s President Sisi Ends State of Emergency for the First Time in Years.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 26 Oct. 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/egypts-president-sisi-ends-state-emergency-first-time-years-2021-10-25/>

²⁴ Melcangi, Alessia, and Giuseppe Dentice. “Challenges for Egypt’s Fragile Stability.” *Atlantic Council*, 3 July 2019, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/challenges-for-egypt-s-fragile-stability/>

Bank estimated youth unemployment in 2019 to be above 30 percent”.²⁵ The investments made are mostly due to the internal security issues Egypt faces, alongside the political terrorism, which is completely separate to the Islamist attacks it is obliged to fend off. Sisi’s inability to address the constant devaluation of the national currency, the Egyptian pound, the rise of prices of goods and transport, the meek opportunities for professional development, and the lack of housing, all lead to social discontent. Initially, he was wanted as a leader, but now, he is unable to sustain any form of stability in the country, as he leans to reduce the freedom of the press, of speech, and of political opposition.

In 2019, Sisi proposed constitutional amendments. The public reaction was far from positive. Large protest and boycotts flooded the country and led to major crackdowns by the military and the police force. “Given the ongoing repression, and that political opposition in Egypt has dwindled to a nominal presence, a free and fair vote will be impossible”.²⁶ The amendments gave more freedom to the military to intervene in judicial processes, essentially undermining Egypt’s legal system. The amendments also extended Sisi’s term after the 2018 elections for an extra 2 years (from 4 years to 6 years in total). More so, the new amendments allow for him to run for the Egyptian presidency one more time. The public’s opposition to Sisi’s opportunistic policies has led to even more strict government intervention. The government is completely involved in civilian affairs, allowing for very few forms of free expression. Even before these amendments, the trials against civilians for “crimes against the state” have increased massively. Unfortunately, civil trials have been largely replaced by military trials. The military officials who try civilians because of their rightful expression of their opinion, do not have the same education in comparison to judges practising law. “Military trials are closed to the public, and the use of “confessions” or other information obtained through torture or other ill-treatment as evidence is routine”.²⁷ The handling of the situation in Egypt is surely not securing much-needed stability among its population, but it is instead funneling the constant unsustainability flowing throughout the country.

²⁵ Dunne, Michele. “Egypt: Trends in Politics, Economics, and Human Rights.” *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 9 Sept. 2020, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/09/egypt-trends-in-politics-economics-and-human-rights-pub-82677>

²⁶ “Egypt: Constitutional Amendments Entrench Repression.” *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/20/egypt-constitutional-amendments-entrench-repression>

²⁷ “Egypt: Constitutional Amendments Entrench Repression.” *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/20/egypt-constitutional-amendments-entrench-repression>

Current situation in the midst of a new world era

The COVID-19 pandemic struck the whole world. When it comes to Egypt, the drop in prices of natural gas and the decreased number of tourists impacted the Egyptian economy. Despite the dire national economic situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Egypt had been predicted to see an economic growth of 2%, according to the IMF. Inflation has slightly fallen, but as outlined by the Egyptian Prime Minister, socio-economic reform is necessary for the Egyptian population in these times.²⁸

The political situation in Egypt has also been extremely alarming. Over the past two years of the pandemic, there has been a sharp rise in extrajudicial killings, military trials, terrorism accusations, and disappearances. It has been extremely alarming to see civilians be prosecuted and trialed because of the strict policy against free expression Sisi has imposed and upheld. Systematic repression in the form of torture and harassment has become a norm to Egyptians. Unfair imprisonment has also led to abuse in prisons as forms of additional punishment.²⁹

Egypt is clearly still in a blatant political, economic, and social crisis. Seeing that Egypt has continued to use authoritative methods to regulate the activities of its population, no real progress has been made for the people of Egypt. Surely, the pandemic adds a threshold which is restrictive to civilians, but the already existing limitations to basic freedoms, and the constant humanitarian violations are all aspects of the Egyptian autocracy which oppress the people. It seems as though the Sisi administration has neglected the fact that the people, at least initially brought him to a position of power. Naturally, the political corruption has no need for the people, but it is essential for the Egyptian people to fight for their rights. More importantly, the UN Security Council should be able to tackle and discuss the hardships Egyptians face, by issuing an official resolution obliging Egypt to stop exercising its power in harsh manners to the people. The protests are a first step in that direction, but avoiding the military intervention and violence, especially against women, is a question of legitimacy, which needs to be addressed. Otherwise, political, economic, and social transformation will be hard to achieve, reach, and last but definitely not least, sustain.

²⁸ "How Is Egypt Handling the COVID-19 Pandemic?" *Oxford Business Group*, 16 Feb. 2021, <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/overview/weathering-storm-recent-economic-reforms-should-help-it-mitigate-worst-effects-covid-19-pandemic>

²⁹ "Egypt." *Egypt | Country Page | World | Human Rights Watch*, <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/n-africa/egypt>.

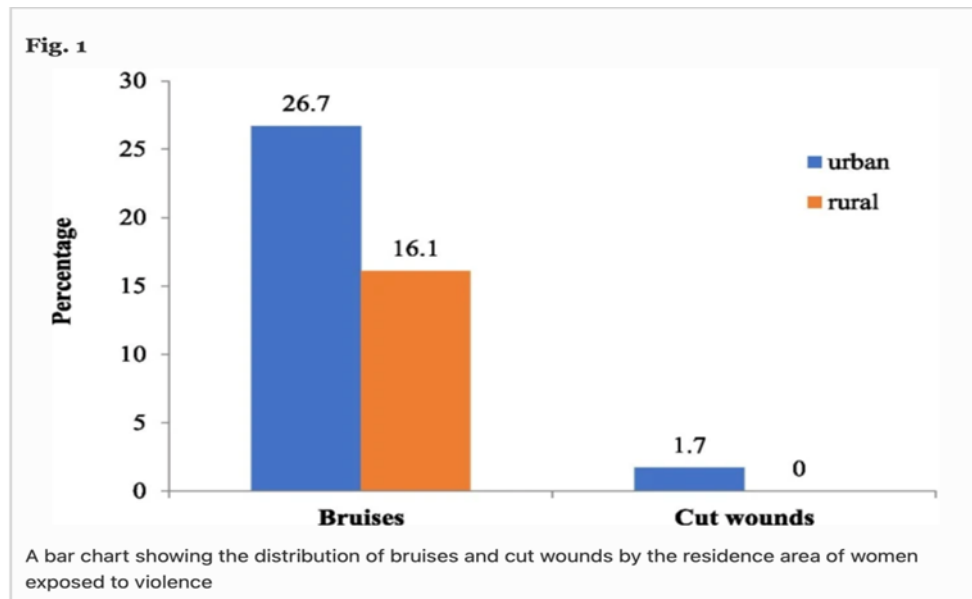


Figure 3: Graph Depicting Crimes against Egyptian Women³⁰

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Israel

Israel and Egypt have had a turbulent history. During the June (Six-day) war, Israeli forces completely ruined the Egyptian military, on almost all of its bases. Despite Nasser's desperate attempt to claim otherwise, he felt utterly humiliated and almost resigned because of the incident. As an ally to Syria, the two both launched a second attack against Israel, this time under Sadat's regime. Despite the initial devastation Israel underwent, it managed to recover quite quickly and drove Egyptian and Syrian forces way back. This second defeat by Israel was once again devastating for the Egyptian people. Sadat saw it in his best interests to sign a peace agreement with Israel, creating tension between its relations with Syria. Thus, the Sinai I and Sinai II were signed in 1974 and 1975 respectively. Later on, the two states signed an official peace treaty, through the Camp David Accords, which also won President Sadat and Begin the Nobel peace prize. They also agreed in granting Palestinian autonomy and withdrawing forces from the Sinai peninsula.³¹ Unfortunately, the Israeli interpretation of the Accords led to Egypt's expulsion from the Arab League. Up until today, most of Egypt's interactions on all fronts are with Israel, at least since Sisi's autocracy was set in place. Despite certain turbulence between Morsi's term, he did

³⁰ Moawad, Asmaa Mohammad, et al. "Violence and Sociodemographic Related Factors among a Sample of Egyptian Women during the Covid-19 Pandemic - Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences." SpringerOpen, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 18 Oct. 2021, <https://ejfs.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41935-021-00243-5>

³¹ "The Revolution and the Republic." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/The-revolution-and-the-Republic>

manage to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Israel has allowed for Egypt's increased militarization of the Sinai peninsula due to the surge in terrorist movements and attacks. Issues concerning security or oil are certainly discussed between the two states.³² Their relations remain strong and steady.

United States (US)

The US and Egypt have had relations from early on. Up until 1966, the US offered financial aid to Nasser's regime. The Soviet arms deal in 1955 led to US and western financial aid decreasing. However, the US did not engage in the Suez Crisis, but later on provided aid to Israel, thus severing ties between the two states. After Sadat took over, Soviet experts staying in Egypt were ousted, thus allowing a new era of foreign diplomacy to take over. The US managed to establish ties with Egypt after Sadat's wishes to come to terms with Israel. In 1978, the Camp David Accords were being finalized. This allowed for the US to start aiding Egypt economically that same year. The relationship between Egypt and the US was steady, considering the fact that Egypt joined the American effort against Iraq. In 2003, the US incited the Iraqi war, in hopes of exploiting the country's geographical location and natural resources, specifically oil. Despite the negative reactions the Egyptian population had to the sudden invasion, President Mubarak supported the US efforts. When President Obama assumed the presidency, he made a speech later on, focusing on the importance of the relations between the two states.³³

Trade is practised among the two countries, which mostly boosts the Egyptian economy. The IMF loans given have also been looked over by the US, seeing as the dollar is the currency the loans are valued at. The US unfortunately, has supported the military in its endeavours to funnel the economic development in Egypt. These actions do not necessarily mark the US's stance to Egypt, but the blatant oppression and suppression of human rights seen in Egypt, alongside the laws and constitutional amendments that have been made, show that the US undermines the actual stability of the Egyptian state. According to the US Department of State, "Promoting a stable, prosperous Egypt, where the government protects the basic rights of its citizens and fulfills the aspirations of the Egyptian

³² "A Review of Relations between Israel and Egypt." *TeachMideast*, 10 June 2016, <https://teachmideast.org/articles/review-relations-israel-egypt/>

³³ Al Jazeera. "Timeline: US-Egypt Relations." *News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 19 Aug. 2009, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2009/8/19/timeline-us-egypt-relations>

people, will continue to be a core objective of U.S. policy”.³⁴ Regardless, strict US policy in regard to Egypt has yet to be seen.

Syria

“Since the formation of the modern regional system, Egypt–Syria relations have been dogged by the twin extremes of cooperation and conflict”.³⁵ Syrian-Egyptian relations were heightened when Nasser proposed the idea of the United Arab Republic. The two parties agreed to the union of their respective states. Although this would greatly benefit both parties, it was clear that Egypt was more in control of Syria and the Republic. They parted ways in 1961, which effectively created a crisis between the two. In the following years, both parties engaged in the Yom Kippur war of 1973 against Israel, and in the US-led mission in 1990. The relations between both countries were not the best, but they were satisfactory considering the circumstances. In the early 2000s, the conflicts in the Middle East, such as the Iraqi War and the Iraqi invasion of Lebanon sparked opposing views from both states. However, in recent years, it seems as though Egypt has made substantial efforts to establish better communication with Syria. Since Sisi’s rise to power, the Syrian state has shown more tolerance to Egypt. Egypt has even attempted to re-introduce Syria to the Arab League, but not successfully. It has been alleged that Egypt has been present via its military in Syria amidst the Syrian Civil War, but Egypt has denied all such rumours. Egypt also led a discussion in 2020 with the other members of the Arab League on how to affront Turkey’s military interests in the Syrian region.³⁶ Relations have remained stable, and seem to have a fruitful path ahead, seeing the progress of the Arab League.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International has called out Egypt on its humanitarian crimes multiple times. Egypt is known to have strict policies concerning basic freedoms. However, Amnesty International has not been afraid to shy away from condemning Egypt for its unlawful

³⁴ BUREAU OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS. “U.S. Relations with Egypt - United States Department of State.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, 5 Jan. 2021, <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-egypt/>

³⁵ Youssef, Ahmad. “Egypt-Syria Relations: An Attempt at an Understanding.” *Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research*, 30 Dec. 2008, https://www.ecssr.ae/en/reports_analysis/egypt-syria-relations-an-attempt-at-an-understanding/

³⁶ Mikhail, George. “Egypt Mobilizes Gulf, Arab Support to End Syrian Crisis.” *AL-MONITOR*, 9 Dec. 2020, <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2020/12/egypt-jordan-saudi-arabia-uae-end-syria-war-turkey.html>

actions. Journalists who have expressed the political reality of living in Egypt have been detained and Amnesty International has reported on people who represent the press being imprisoned for expressing their views. Furthermore, the organization has managed to track the unacceptable conditions of unjust detention centres, which “remained cruel and inhuman and prisoners were denied adequate health care, which led or contributed to at least 35 deaths in prisons or shortly after release”.³⁷ Amnesty International has pointed out the torture, the discrimination towards women, refugees, and religious peoples, and the imprisonment of activists, defenders, and figures who fight the Egyptian autocracy. The most important work the organization has done, has been seen in its letter calling upon the UNDP to revise its 2021 report on Egypt and acknowledge the political and economic turmoil surrounding the Egyptian population. Amnesty International has shown integrity in opposing Egypt, exposing the state for its multiple crimes to humanity.

Arab League

The Arab League was founded in 1945, with Egypt being a founding member. Since then, the organization has strived to put the collective Arab opportunity ahead in foreign relations. The organization has specifically been a coalition in favour of the recognition of Palestine as an independent state. The headquarters, as of today, are in Cairo. The Arab League even has an Arab Charter on Human Rights, signed, and ratified by all member states. It has been subject to criticism however, for not being able to oblige its member states to comply with the documents they draft and sign. It isn't always able to promote an initiative collectively, seeing as certain states may take over in order to lead negotiations and/or agreements.

The Arab League has had a tumultuous history with Egypt. Egypt decided to come to peace with Israel in 1974-1980. Unfortunately, this resulted in its expulsion from the league until 1989. Palestinian rights and protection are important for the organization, seeing as it promotes Arab opportunity and rights. “The Arab revolts throughout the Middle East and North Africa that began in 2011 offered the league a historic opportunity to redefine itself”.³⁸ Egypt has played a significant role in trying to re-assimilate Syria in the Arab League, after President Assad's election. However, the Arab plan drafted by US President Donald Trump in 2020 did cause a slight ruse between the states. Although it did not allow for the Palestinians to exercise their rights to self-determination, many states did attend the presentation of this plan. It is predicted that the Arab League will not be able to make joint efforts in order to tackle

³⁷ “Egypt.” *Amnesty International*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/egypt/>

³⁸ Masters, Jonathan, and Mohammed Aly Sergie. “The Arab League.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 19 Feb. 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/arab-league>

issues in the Middle East unanimously. The Arab League does intervene in subjects involving its member states though, leaving room for the question of whether the organization will question its member states' choices, or simply put the Arab "collective" forward.

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc A

This bloc supports the development and democratization in Egypt, thus advocating for the evolution of Egyptian policy, specifically its economy, its autocratic laws and regulations, and its humanitarian development. These may be countries which have placed sanctions on Egypt but have been in support of seeing the new government make progress in light of UN resolutions and reports. Countries in this bloc may include members of the EU, and the broad Western coalition.

Bloc B

This bloc supports the already existing stance Egypt has as a sovereign state, or simply tolerates it instead. This coalition trades with Egypt, conducts arms deals if the opportunity occurs, and does not point out the human rights violations seen in the Egyptian state. This bloc may include members of the Arab League who are wary of Egypt's presence in the Middle East, Russia, or China.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1980	President Sadat allowed for Sharia law to become the main source of law in Egypt.
Oct. 7, 1981	Vice President Hosni Mubarak was allowed to succeed President Sadat after his assassination, with the Egyptian parliament's approval. He tolerated the Muslim Brotherhood.
1989	"Pres. Mubarak's lobbying culminates in majority of Arab League foreign ministers endorsing Egypt's readmission to the league after 10 year absence caused by Arab rejection of Sadat's peace treaty signing with Israel". ³⁹

³⁹ "Internal Crisis in Egypt." *TIMELINES*, TIMELINES, 2022, <http://www.timelinesdb.com/listevents.php>

1991	The IMF granted loans to President Hosni Mubarak's government. Egypt was pressured to sell-off state owned enterprises.
1992	Many Muslim militants launched attacks in protest to the government, with plans to overthrow President Mubarak.
1994	Schoolgirls are now allowed to not wear the niqab, the full length hijab, to school.
May 1, 1994	Israeli and PLO delegates opened a final round of talks in Cairo, Egypt, on Palestinian autonomy prior to the signing of an agreement on self-rule.
Sep, 26, 1999	"In Egypt a 79% turnout in weekend referendum gave Pres. Mubarak (71) 94% support for a further 6-year term. Opposition groups boycotted the vote and called for democracy and the lifting of the state of emergency in force since 1981". ⁴⁰
Jul. 30, 2002	A military court in Egypt outlawed 16 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, for allegedly conspiring against the government.
Dec. 14, 2004	The US, Israel, and Egypt signed a joint trade accord.
Jun. 30, 2005	"The Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest Islamic group, launched an alliance devoted to the peaceful removal of President Hosni Mubarak, who has been in power since 1981. Several other opposition groups promptly lent their support to what the Brotherhood has called an alliance intended 'to exercise peaceful pressure on the regime, through legal and constitutional means, to make it respond to democratic change.'" ⁴¹
Mar. 14, 2007	Mukbil Shakir, head of the Supreme Judicial Council appointed 31 women to judge or chief judge positions in Egypt's courts, despite the opposition he received from conservative Muslims.

⁴⁰ "Internal Crisis in Egypt." *TIMELINES*, TIMELINES, 2022,

<http://www.timelinesdb.com/listevents.php>

⁴¹ "Internal Crisis in Egypt." *TIMELINES*, TIMELINES, 2022, <http://www.timelinesdb.com/listevents.php>

Jan. 25, 2011	Protests are held in Cairo, Egypt, as part of the mass pro-democracy movement, the Arab Spring, which surged in Northern Africa.
Feb. 11, 2011	President Mubarak steps down.
Nov. 28, 2011	“Egypt holds first democratic elections for parliament. In June 2012, Morsi is elected president, but is removed from power by coup in July 2013”. ⁴²
Apr. 10, 2013	The Egyptian authorities shut down a campaign encouraging voters to vote “no” against the existing regime’s referendum. ⁴³
Nov. 2016	The IMF loans Egypt 12 billion dollars in hope of soothing the economic turmoil rampaging around the country.
2018	President Al-Sisi establishes a new minister of defense without the public approval of the Supreme Council of Armed Forces.
Oct. 19, 2021	President Al-Sisi lifts the Egyptian state of emergency after many years, bringing hope to the international community of less autocratic policy.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

A/RES/60/288

Resolution A/RES/60/288 is meant to counter terrorism, by providing a strategy all member states can use and adapt to their situation in case of terrorist attacks or threat of terrorism. The resolution is meant to encourage member states to adopt all conventions possible when it comes to countering terrorism, but also allow them to implement a strategy which would be reviewed in 2 years (2008). Having been signed on September 8th, 2006, this resolution was a steppingstone in affronting

⁴² History.com Editors. “Arab Spring.” *History*, A&E Television Networks, 10 Jan. 2018,

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/arab-spring>

⁴³ “Egypt: Constitutional Amendments Entrench Repression.” *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020,

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/20/egypt-constitutional-amendments-entrench-repression>

terrorism early on.⁴⁴ Egypt, being a country with a strong presence of Islamist groups, namely the Muslim Brotherhood surely benefits from this resolution. Apart from the regular Egyptian crackdown on members of the aforementioned organization, this resolution proposes a more diplomatic and collected approach to forms of terrorism. However, this attempt is highly theoretical, meaning that it can be implemented, but is quite generic when facing the Muslim Brotherhood in this case. Finally, it is a general assembly resolution, meaning that it is not legally binding for any member state, but solely a suggestion.

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact is an effort adjacent to A/RES/60/288, which stretches across three important bases of the UN: “peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian affairs”.⁴⁵ This coordination compact was established to support member states when implementing the Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in 2006. It is an initiative initially led by Antonio Guterres in order to transform the UN’s stance on terrorism and fortify it. The compact comes out with two-month reports, depicting the discussions that have taken place, courses of action, and how this is all interconnected to the UN’s pillars. The compact discusses many topics, as recent as the effect of terrorism on Malian civilians, inserting gender in counter terrorism, and the question of Afghanistan in light of the Taliban’s strict threshold over the state. In spite of the remarkable handling of multiple issues of utmost importance, the compact has not exactly managed to counter terrorism. The discussions that take place discuss focal points of the issues. Obviously, with many global conflicts arising frequently, it is difficult for the compact to be able to report and analyse the strategy preferred in detail for each and every incident. This compact mostly deals with military conflicts or aggression, and has omitted political corruption and prisoners, as seen in Egypt. It is not exactly easy for this compact to turn heads in the international scene with the workload it faces and the strategies it is required to develop or further establish. All in all, this compact is a step towards countering terrorism effectively, but more hands-on action is certainly needed.

⁴⁴ United Nations General Assembly. “Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006.” United Nations, 20 Sept. 2006, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/terr-ares60288.php>

⁴⁵ “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/global-ct-compact>

UN Egypt Human Development Report 2021 (UNDP)

This report, having been published in 2021, assessed Egypt's political, economic, and humanitarian situation covering the years 2011-2020. This is the 12th report published about Egypt since 1994. It covers the following aspects: health, education, adequate housing, economic reforms, social protection, women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, strengthening governance, and Egypt's response to covid-19.⁴⁶ The UN claims that Egypt has progressed in all the following sectors, by notably establishing a national strategy to help empower women in 2017, and seeing a higher enrollment in all school fields, such as university. Seeing as this report covers the span of around 10 years, it would seem as though Egypt has kerbed many difficulties it had to overcome. However, this report "whitewashes"⁴⁷ the many human rights violations committed by the state in this time window. A joint letter submitted by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the CIHRS defames the sayings of this report. "The UNDP report, instead of incorporating these serious concerns, celebrates the Law Governing the Pursuit of Civil Work (Law No. 149 of 2019), stating that it serves to 'strengthen the role of NGOs' in Egypt. The UNDP's statement is at odds with the public communication by three UN special mandate holders in July 2021, which urged the Egyptian government to review this law and ensure its conformity with Egypt's international human rights obligations, considering that the law and its regulations 'limit civil society's access to funding and enable the executive to...regulate and dissolve civil society organizations.'"⁴⁸ All in all, the report submitted by the UNDP has omitted many crucial concerns raised by the UN throughout the years this report has had the time to be formed. The questions raised by these NGOs are certainly alarming, seeing as the UN had raised similar ones, only to contradict itself later on in the publication of this report.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The letter in reply to the 2021 UNDP Report on Egypt

On November 1st, 2021, Amnesty International, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights, and Human Rights Watch submitted a letter to the UN, condemning the UNDP Report

⁴⁶ "Egypt Human Development Report 2021: UNDP in Egypt." *UNDP*, UNDP, 20 Sept. 2021, <https://www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/launch-of-egypt-human-development-report-2021.html>.

⁴⁷ "Egypt: UNDP Report Whitewashes Human Rights Violations." *Human Rights Watch*, 22 Nov. 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/22/egypt-undp-report-whitewashes-human-rights-violations>.

⁴⁸ "Egypt: Letter: UNDP Report on Human Development in Egypt." *Amnesty International*, 22 Nov. 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/5012/2021/en/>.

on Egypt's affairs in the span of around one decade. All three organizations stated the flaws of the following report, in order to try to hold Egypt accountable for its immeasurable crimes. "The undersigned organizations wish to stress that when a UN agency lends credibility to false claims by a government, responsible for crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations and whitewashes the systemic nature of the gross violations taking place, it facilitates the repetition of similar violations and further encourages impunity".⁴⁹ This letter aimed to call Egypt out on its multiple crimes throughout the time span this report covers. Especially during the end of Sisi's first term, the crimes against the Egyptian population were many, and devastated many families and civilians. The letter did manage to not only put Egypt on the pedestal, but also the UN, for not publishing a credible report. All in all, this letter managed to tackle an important issue which concerns Egypt. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that this letter changed much for the UNDP. The report remains published and unchanged. This attempt elicits the honest work made by these.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Launching quarterly investigations in Egypt

Unfortunately, the reports drafted by the UNDP have not proved to be entirely credible, considering the indiscrepancies noticed by human rights organizations. Egypt is a country which has been on a tight leash since the 1950s, meaning that corruption, human rights violations, and political oppression have engulfed its population. The reports are certainly a step in the right direction, but they overlook the grave concerns that still seem to be raised yearly. It is evident that Egypt is not able to strive for change by itself, meaning that it needs an overlooker which is in charge of carrying out quarterly investigations in Egypt.

The MFO is a body which overlooks the peace between Israel and Egypt itself. A similar body should be formed by the UN, in hopes of Egyptians being able to come to know democracy and its freedoms, to overlook the overall civil situation of the state. The body should be comprised of UN officials which come from the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, the Human Rights Council, and the Special and Political Decolonization Committee. These officials should mostly derive from Arab states, but with other Western states which have played a big role in Egyptian internal affairs, such as the US and France. The body will visit Egypt and have access to files from its various departments in order to access the necessary information needed to assess

⁴⁹ "Egypt: Letter: UNDP Report on Human Development in Egypt." *Amnesty International*, 22 Nov. 2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/5012/2021/en/>

the stability of the state. The information should be organized and reported back to the Security Council.

The Security Council, having this information in its possession, should be able to analyze it and choose to act accordingly. Egyptian actions which violate UN documents, International Humanitarian Law, and its people, should be punished with the power vested in the SC. These quarterly investigations are meant to aid Egypt make its democratization and stability process more steadfast. They are meant to keep Egypt on track and ensure growth in periods of time which are persistent to a humanitarian goal. It is important however, for the UN body responsible of investigating to be protected, not only through their immunity, but from Egypt's legal domains. As seen, the laws on NGOs are extremely strict and unfair to them, so their protection must be taken care of in the case of any of their missions.

Involving the International Criminal Court (ICC)

The ICC "is a permanent international court with jurisdiction over crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity".⁵⁰ The court only has jurisdiction if the country in question has signed the Rome Statute. However, there is a provision allowing the ICC to try a state with the approval of the SC. Since Egypt has only attempted to become a signatory party to the Rome Statute, it would be necessary for the SC to grant permission for the ICC to put Egypt to trial for its crimes against humanity. Considering the fact that Egypt is a party to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and has acted against the articles of the very document, the ICC should have enough merit to funnel a research on the country, in order to later put Egypt on the stand. Egyptian policy is already quite obstructive to foreign and/or international intervention, so the SC itself would need to intervene.

There has been a form of precedent allowing the SC to enforce its powers. The situations in Libya and Darfur allowed for the ICC to be referred to upon the respective SC resolutions on both. This should be enough for the SC to make a referral to the ICC concerning Egypt. The crimes against civilians, former government officials, journalists, and foreign NGO members has been extremely high, especially during Sisi's term as acting President. This is why it is necessary for the ICC to act against Egypt, and use its findings to penalize the state for its crimes and violations of International Humanitarian Law.

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