

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO EGYPT- ADD.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does Egypt consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment? How is ensured independent monitoring of conditions in detentions and prisons and conduct of the staff?
- How is ensured the freedom of expression, in particular media independence and freedom from censorship, including for bloggers on internet? How is ensured free access to internet?
- Noting number of pending requests for visits of human rights special procedures, we would like to ask whether and in which time frame would these visits take place. Would Egypt consider issuing a standing invitation to the human rights special procedures?
- What human rights education and training is provided to members of the police, security services, prison and detention staff and judiciary? Does it include specific focus on protection of human rights of women, children, national and other minorities, refugees and persons with disabilities? How is ensured accountability of security and other state personnel for possible violations of human rights? What complaint mechanism is in place for victims of torture?
- Has Egypt considered reviewing legal provisions as e.g. that criminalizing “habitual debauchery” which are open to abuse for persecution and intimidation of persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity or of persons with HIV/AIDS? What specific programmes are in place to promote tolerance and eliminate discrimination based on sex and gender?

GERMANY

- The "Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism" has expressed his concerns about the continued existence of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the law-enforcement personnel. Similar comments were made by the anti-Torture Committee in 2002. How does Egypt respond to these concerns?
- As indicated by Human Rights Watch and various other Non Governmental Organisations, the Emergency Law (Law No. 162 of 1958) has been in continuous effect since 1981. Implications of this Emergency Law are the possibility for the government to suppress political activities and critics through emergency legislation, or to allow the authorities detentions without a charge. The German Delegation would be interested to know whether the Government of Egypt intends to suspend this Emergency Law in the run-up to the upcoming presidential elections?

- Reports by Non Governmental Organisations such as the « Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme » have indicated the need for a further genuinely participative approach towards civil society organisations in Egypt, in order to make full use of their consultancy and contribution to public policies (para. 6 of the OHCHR summary A/HRC/WG.6/7/EGY/3 referencing FIDH, p. 3). Germany would like to know to what extent these organisations have been consulted during the preparations of this UPR?

NORWAY

- How did The Arab Republic of Egypt involve civil society organisations in the elaboration of its national report?
- What steps will The Arab Republic of Egypt take to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council? How will the civil society be involved in the process?
- There has been a call from national NGOs for amendments to Law No 84 of 2002, to secure the rights to organise and freedom of association. Will The Arab Republic of Egypt assure a transparent and constructive consultative process with the civil society on this issue?
- Will The Arab Republic of Egypt assure a transparent and constructive consultative process with the civil society organisations on the draft of the counter-terrorism law, which is supposed to be finalised before the end of the term of the state of emergency in May this year?
- Norway appreciates the 2006 amendments to the Penal Code with regard to crimes of opinion. However, there are still criminal penalties for acts of opinion and expression in Egypt, and journalists and bloggers risk several years of imprisonment. Does The Arab Republic of Egypt consider further steps to decriminalize acts of opinion and expression?
- Norway appreciates that 64 seats of the People's Assembly are reserved for women in this year's parliamentary elections. What further steps does The Arab Republic of Egypt consider to assure a higher number of women in decision-making positions?
- Despite protective provisions in the Penal Code, violence against women is a serious concern, whether occurring in the home, at the work place, or in the public sphere. What concrete steps are considered to increase the protection of women in Egypt?

- Does The Arab Republic of Egypt consider withdrawing the reservations to CEDAW articles 2, 9 and 16, and ratifying OP-CEDAW?

SWITZERLAND

Torture

- Allegations of torture committed by security and police officers are systematically ignored. Does Egypt plan to investigate all allegations of torture in the future and bring the perpetrators to justice?
Which measures are foreseen to bring the definition of torture in Egypt's Penal Code in line with the international standards?

Emergency Law

- Which measures is Egypt going to undertake in order to guarantee fundamental human rights – specially for prisoners in administrative detention – under the Emergency Law, respectively under the counterterrorism law?

Death Penalty

- The death penalty is prescribed for a wide range of offences under Egyptian law and has still been used extensively in 2009.
Does Egypt envisage to impose a moratorium on executions and progressively reduce the number of crimes punishable by death with a view to the abolition of the death penalty?

Liberty of Expression

- Does Egypt consider reviewing the national law (the corresponding articles of the Penal Code) that allows the imprisonment of journalists and bloggers for their writing in order to be in conformity with international law?
