SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK
protection advocacy learning

Scholars at Risk's Submission to the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of

Egypt

48th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

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INTRODUCTION

1. Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education communities, and promoting academic freedom worldwide.[1] As part of its advocacy work, SAR monitors and analyzes attacks on academic freedom around the world, including within Egypt. During this UPR period, SAR has received reports describing ongoing violations and continuing attacks on higher education throughout the country.

2. This submission is the product of a joint effort between SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (AFM) and the legal clinic of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism at McGill University.[2] SAR gratefully acknowledges the substantial research and drafting work of McGill faculty and students.

3. This submission highlights a broad range of attacks on higher education, including killings, violence, and disappearances; wrongful arrests, detentions, and prosecutions; as well as restrictions upon travel. The violations that have occurred during this review period are part of a longer term pattern of repression of scholars, students, and higher education institutions, which collectively have led to Egypt being ranked in the bottom ten percent of states worldwide for protection of academic freedom for the past decade (see para. 13 below). The overall chill on the country's higher education spaces is undeniable, and should be addressed immediately by state and institutional authorities.

APPLICABLE LEGAL STANDARDS

4. Academic freedom is "the human right to acquire, develop, transmit, apply, and engage with a diversity of knowledge and ideas through research, teaching, learning, and discourse."[3] As both the Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education have noted, "'academic freedom should be understood to include the freedom of individuals, as members of academic communities (e.g., faculty, students, staff, scholars, administrators and community participants) or in their own pursuits, to conduct activities involving the discovery and transmission of information and ideas, and to do so with the full protection of human rights law.'"[4]

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[1] This submission may not reflect the views of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill faculty and students, or individual Scholars at Risk Network members, institutions, or participating individuals. Scholars at Risk invites comments on this submission or inquiries about our work at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.
[2] Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, "Academic Freedom Monitoring Clinic", https://www.mcgill.ca/humanrights/clinical/academic-freedom-monitoring-clinic
[3] Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom, A/HRC/56/CRP.2
[4] Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, A/HRC/56/58 (A/HRC/56/58), para. 9, quoting Report of the Special Rapporteur on the protection and promotion of freedom of opinion and expression, A/75/261, para. 8

5. Academic freedom is fully and independently grounded in rights to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to education, and the right to the benefits of science, as articulated, respectively, in ICCPR Article 19, and ICESCR Articles 13 and 15(3).[5]

6. With particular regard to ICESCR Article 13, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has clarified in General Comment No. 13 that "the right to education can only be enjoyed if accompanied by the academic freedom of staff and students."[6]

7. Violations of academic freedom also frequently result in violations of other rights, including the right to non-discrimination (ICCPR Art. 2), the right to liberty and security of person (Art. 9 ICCPR), freedom of movement (ICCPR Art. 12), the right to a fair trial (ICCPR Art. 14), freedom of assembly (ICCPR Art. 21), and freedom of association (ICCPR Art. 22).

8. The UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (1997) highlights in Paragraphs 18-19 that "[a]utonomy is the institutional form of academic freedom and a necessary precondition to guarantee the proper fulfillment of the functions entrusted to higher-education teaching personnel and institutions" and that "Member States are under an obligation to protect higher education institutions from threats to their autonomy coming from any source."[7]

9. Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) protects the right to receive information and to "express and disseminate…opinions within the law". The African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights has likewise highlighted academic freedom as a fundamental freedom in a democratic society.[8]

10. Egypt is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and is also a member of UNESCO and a State party to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

11. Egypt's Constitution protects the academic independence of universities, scientific and linguistic academies (Article 21) and the freedom of scientific research (Article 23).[9] The constitution likewise guarantees freedom of, *inter alia*, thought, research, artistic and literary creation, access to information, and freedom of publication. (Articles 65, 66, 67, 68, and 71, respectively).

DISCUSSION

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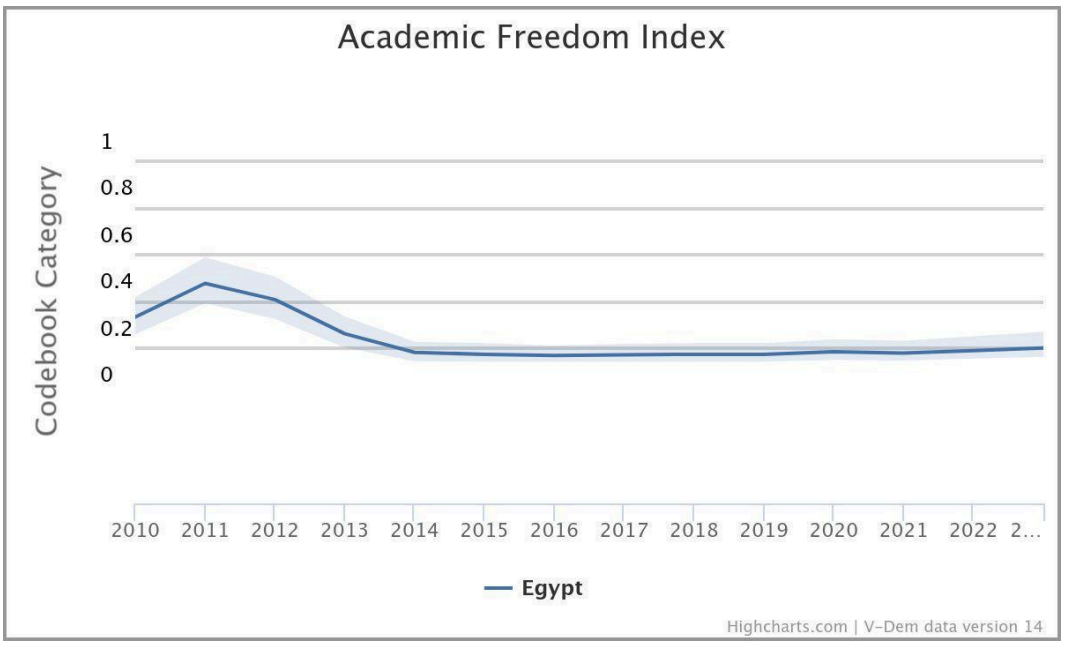
[5] R. Quinn and J. Levine, Intellectual-HRDs & Claims for Academic Freedom Under Human Rights Law, Int'l J. of Hum. Rts., Dec. 2014, Vol. 18, Issue 7-8, ISBN: 1364-2987
[6] CESCR, General Comment No. 13: The Right to Education (Article 13) (December 8, 1999), para. 38
[7] UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (1997); *see also* Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, A/HRC/56/57, paras. 48-50
[8] African Commission on Human and People's Rights, *Kenneth Good v. Botswana*, 313/05, available at https://achpr.au.int/index.php/en/decisions-communications/kenneth-good-republic-botswana-31305
[9] Comité Suprême Permanent des Droits de l'Homme (CSPDR), *La Constitution Egyptienne*, accessible via: https://sschr.gov.eg/fr/la-constitution-egyptienne/

12. Pressures on higher education spaces in Egypt have remained in a bleak status quo for over a decade. While the years immediately following the Arab Spring in 2011 saw the beginnings of steps toward liberalization and improvement, the 2013 military coup gave way to widespread, violent attacks on student protesters in 2013-2014. What followed was a series of emergency measures which dramatically eroded academic freedom, effectively placing the country's universities under military control. As one expert noted in 2020,

> Although student protests have died down and the scale of violent repression has consequently also abated since 2014, the situation in recent years has not improved with regard to any other facet of academic freedom. The [emergency laws have] entailed the expansion of military jurisdiction to events on and around campuses. Furthermore, reinstated presidential prerogatives and regular intrusions into universities by the security services have crippled the freedom to research and teach, institutional autonomy, campus integrity, and the opportunity for international academic exchange.[10]

13. The overall chill on academic freedom has persisted. According to the Academic Freedom Index, which assesses the level of respect for academic freedom in 175 countries and territories based on surveys of more than 2,000 country experts around the globe, based on an analysis of five indicators – freedom to research and teach; freedom of academic exchange and dissemination; institutional autonomy; campus integrity; and freedom of academic and cultural expression – Egypt has ranked among the bottom ten percent of countries worldwide since 2014.

[10] Saliba, Ilyas (2020): Academic freedom in Egypt, In: Kinzelbach, Katrin (Ed.): Researching Academic Freedom. Guidelines and Sample Case Studies, ISBN 978-3-96147-370-0, FAU University Press, Erlangen, pp. 141-142



14. Among the measures which have impacted universities the most was an emergency measure purporting to protect Egypt's "public and vital facilities" (including universities) by placing them under military jurisdiction.[11] The measure permitted military authorities to enter campuses at will, and subjected anyone accused of a vaguely defined "crime" or "attack" on such a facility to military jurisdiction, rather than civilian court. Under the measure, thousands of individuals – including many students protesting on-campus – were tried before military tribunals.[12] Originally written to last two years, the measure was repeatedly extended, and then made permanent in 2021.[13] An updated version of the law was passed in early 2024.[14]

15. One analyst describes the chill resulting from years of military control over Egyptian campuses as follows:

> The law regards universities as public facilities which allows the government to prosecute civilians as military personnel and to refer demonstrations that take place within universities to sanctions by military courts.
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> Egyptian universities are held in a vice-like grip by the security agencies, with electronic gates and surveillance cameras, directed by a control room in each institution.

[11] https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/11/17/egypt-unprecedented-expansion-military-courts
[12] For a detailed discussion of the provisions in question, *see* Joint Submission for the Third UPR Cycle by Scholars at Risk and the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression in Egypt, available at https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Scholars-at-Risk-AFTE-Egypt-UPR-Submission-1.pdf
[13] https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/05/egypt-emergency-provisions-made-permanent
[14] https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/05/egypt-new-laws-entrench-military-power-over-civilians

> This repression is reinforced by "birds", students who have been recruited as informants to spy on their classmates who might have political affiliations opposed to the regime. In exchange, the informants receive privileges from university administrators, student activists have confirmed.
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> Fear causes more silence, according to an Egyptian researcher requesting anonymity. He explained the unfolding scenario to be the result of a number of factors, including the lack of a democratic political environment; the student movement being nationalised since 2013; not allowing any margin for political manoeuvre; suppressing the student movement; and intimidating independent academics. Moreover, student activities have been reduced to matters of entertainment or patriotism as part of the suppression of any dissenting voices in Egypt, which is governed once more by a repressive regime during the Sisi era.[15]

Killings, violence, and disappearances

16. The 2016 murder of 28-year-old PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge, **Giulio Regeni** remains unresolved, despite apparently credible evidence tying a group of four security officials to his death. Regeni, an Italian national, was conducting research into Egyptian labor unions in Cairo when he disappeared. He was eventually found dead on the side of a highway, showing signs of torture. In December 2020, Egyptian officials announced the closure of an investigation, conducted jointly with Italian authorities, claiming no conclusion had been reached regarding the identity of the perpetrator(s). The Italian investigators, by contrast, concluded that there was a basis to charge four Egyptian security officials with the murder and indicted the individuals in Italy the same month the Egyptian authorities closed the investigation. In February 2024, after a series of delays, an *in absentia* trial of the four officials began in a Rome court. In June, Egypt reportedly banned key witnesses from traveling to Italy to testify. The trial is ongoing as of this report.[16]

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[15] Hassan, Mahmoud, Middle East Monitor, May 7 2024, *Why Are Egyptian Universities Silent About the Situation in Gaza?,* https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240507-why-are-egyptian-universities-silent-about-the-situation-in-gaza/

[16] Scholars at Risk, Academic Freedom Monitoring Project (SAR AFMP), January 25, 2016, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2016-01-25-american-university-cairo-university-cambridge/; Stephanie Kirchgaessner and Ruth Michaelson, "Why was he killed? Brutal death of Italian student in Egypt confounds experts" *The Guardian* (24 February 2016), https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/24/why-was-he-killed-brutal-death-of-italian-student-in-egypt-confounds-experts; Ruth Michaelson, "Egypt drops inquiry into murder of Italian student Giulio Regeni" *The Guardian* (30 December 2020), https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/30/egypt-drops-inquiry-into-of-italian-student-giulio-regeni; Al Jazeera, " Egypt clears officers in murder of Italian student Giulio Regeni" (30 December 2020),

17. On March 5, 2022, **Ayman Hadhoud**, an economist, researcher, and advisor to the Egyptian Reform and Development Party,[17] died after being detained by Egyptian authorities.[18] Hadhoud had been critical of the government's economic policies, and his research touched upon sensitive issues including the military's role in Egypt's economy.[19] Hadhoud was last seen on February 5, 2022. Family members were not informed of his death until April 9, 2022, and were not permitted to attend his autopsy.[20] Egyptian and international human rights groups referred to the death and investigation as "suspicious" and pointed to evidence of potential torture and ill-treatment.[21]

Arrest, Prosecution, and Travel Restrictions

18. On March 24, 2019, authorities at **Al-Azhar University** reportedly surrounded student protesters and prevented them from leaving campus, as they engaged in a peaceful demonstration over the university's response to the reported rape of one of their classmates. University officials had reportedly attempted to prevent students from discussing the incident on social media, threatening them with disciplinary or legal action if they did so.[22]

    The following day, the university launched an investigation of an Al-Ahzar professor of Islamic law, apparently in retaliation for his efforts to publicize information about the incident on social media.[23] On the same day, the professor was arrested, along with

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https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/12/30/egypt-clears-officers-in-murder-of-italian-student-giulio-regeni; BBC News," Giulio Regeni: Italy accuses Egypt agents over student's murder " (10 December 2020), https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-55266449; BBC News, " Giulio Regeni: Egyptian officials on trial over Italian student's death" (20 February 2024) https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-68345529

[17] *See* Middle East Eye, "Egypt: Authorities accused of covering up 'suspicious death' of economist" (15 April 2022), online: https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-suspicious-death-economist-ayman-hadhoud; Yolande Knell," Ayman Hadhoud: Questions over Egyptian economist's mysterious death," *BBC News* (11 April 2022), online: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-61068510.

[18] Middle East Eye, "Egypt: Authorities accused of covering up 'suspicious death' of economist" (15 April 2022), online: https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-suspicious-death-economist-ayman-hadhoud; Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, "Evidence of the abnormal death of economic researcher Ayman Hadhoud Involvement extends to National Security, the Public Prosecution, and Abbasiya Mental Health Hospital" (14 April 2022), online: https://afteegypt.org/en/advocacy-en/joint-statements-en/2022/04/14/30140-afteegypt.html

[19] The New York Times, "Photos of Egyptian Economist Who Died in Custody Raise Questions of Abuse" (27 April 2022), online: https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/27/world/middleeast/ayman-hadhoud-egypt-death.html

[20] Human Rights Watch, "Egypt: Flawed Investigation Into Death in Custody Missed Opportunity for Justice" (7 July 2022), online: https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/07/egypt-flawed-investigation-death-custody

[21] *See e.g.* Human Rights Watch, "Egypt: Flawed Investigation Into Death in Custody Missed Opportunity for Justice" (7 July 2022), online: https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/07/egypt-flawed-investigation-death-custody; Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, "Evidence of the abnormal death of economic researcher Ayman Hadhoud Involvement extends to National Security, the Public Prosecution, and Abbasiya Mental Health Hospital" (14 April 2022), online: https://afteegypt.org/en/advocacy-en/joint-statements-en/2022/04/14/30140-afteegypt.html

[22] SAR AFMP, March 24, 2019, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-03-24-al-azhar-university/

[23] SAR AFMP, March 25, 2019, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-03-25-al-azhar-university/

a journalist. Two days later, both the professor and the journalist were formally charged with "publishing false news and joining a banned group," and were ordered to be detained for fifteen days pending further investigation.[24]

19. On June 25, 2019, an economist and professor at **American University in Cairo** was arrested by Egyptian authorities while participating in a meeting concerning the formation of an opposition party in the lead up to 2020 parliamentary elections. The Ministry of Interior accused the professor of collaborating with the Muslim Brotherhood to plot a coup. The professor was held in pre-trial detention until August 7, 2023, when he was released following a recommendation by the Presidential Pardon Committee.[25]

20. On September 24, 2019, Egyptian authorities conducted mass arrests in response to political protests against President Sisi's rule, including two professors of political science at **Cairo University** who had publicly criticized the Sisi regime, alongside opposition figures, journalists, human rights lawyers, and other academics. One of the professors was charged with "participating in a terrorist group" and "spreading false news" after posting a Facebook message condemning Sisi's absolute rule and calling for protests. The second professor faced the same charges, in addition to "using his personal online profile to publish rumors which endanger public safety, spread terror among the population, and harm the public interest." The two were released, respectively, in March 2020 and February 2021.[26]

21. On February 7, 2020, a postgraduate student and human rights researcher with the Cairo-based Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, was arrested at the Cairo airport upon his return to Egypt after five months of study at the **University of Bologna** in Italy. The student was reportedly detained by members of the Egyptian National

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[24] *Ibid.*

[25] SAR AFMP, June 25, 2019, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-06-25-american-university-cairo/; Amnesty International, "Egypt: Chilling wave of arbitrary arrests as authorities intensify crackdown on critics and opponents" June 25, 2019, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/06/egypt-chilling-wave-of-arbitrary-arrests-as-authorities-intensify-crackdown-on-critics-and-opponents/; *Al Jazeera,* "Egypt arrests activists over alleged anti-government plot", June 25, 2019, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/6/25/egypt-arrests-activists-over-alleged-anti-government-plot; Ahram Online, "Egypt releases 33 pretrial detainees, including economist Omar El-Shenety", August 7, 2023, https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1233/506178/Egypt/Courts--Law/UPDATED-Egypt-releases--pretrial-detainees,-includ.aspx; Daily News Egypt, "Egypt's Public Prosecution orders release of Omar El-Shenety, 32 others", August 7, 2023, https://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2023/08/07/egypts-public-prosecution-orders-release-of-omar-el-shenety-32-others/

[26] SAR AFMP, September 24, 2019, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2019-09-24-cairo-university/; Freedom House, Press Release dated September 29, 2019, https://freedomhouse.org/article/egypt-freedom-house-calls-release-political-prisoners-including-hazem-ghonim ; Middle East Eye, "Over 2,000 arrested by Egyptian security forces after anti-Sisi protests" September 27, 2019, https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/over-2000-arrested-egyptian-security-forces-after-anti-sisi-protests; Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), "Academic Freedoms are dying… 'About arbitrariness, abuse, and prosecution of academics in Egypt'" December 6, 2021, https://www.anhri.info/?p=28049&lang=en.

Security Agency (NSA), and questioned about his human rights activism. According to reports, he was blindfolded, taken to an undisclosed location, and subjected to torture, including beatings and electric shocks, over the course of a 17-hour interrogation. Accused of spreading false news, inciting protest without permission, and other charges aimed at undermining state institutions, the student endured over 20 months in pretrial detention before a court ordered his release on December 8, 2021. He remained subject to a travel ban while the case against him was pending. On July 18, 2023, he was sentenced to three years in prison. The following day, he was given a presidential pardon and the travel restriction was lifted.[27]

22. On May 14, 2020, an Egyptian filmmaker and student at **CUNY College of Staten Island** was arrested at Cairo International Airport. A critic of the Egyptian government, the student was accused of "spreading false news," "disturbing public security," and "belonging to a terrorist organization." The status of the case has not been publicized.[28]

23. In May 2020, Egyptian authorities seized the passport of a **University of Washington** political science graduate student who was an Egyptian national, preventing him from returning to the United States to resume his PhD studies. The student had been detained in May of 2018 in connection with his academic research on the Egyptian judiciary, and accused of – although never formally charged with – "spreading false news" and "joining a terrorist group" to "undermine national interests," along with a group of bloggers, journalists, and filmmakers. He was released from detention in December 2018, and probationary measures against him were lifted in March 2020. Nevertheless, the restrictions on his travel continued. Roughly one year after the initial seizure of his passport, on May 24, 2021, the student was informed that he had been placed on a "no fly list." Multiple petitions by the student to the Public Prosecutor were rejected without explanation. In April 2023, the student was able to leave Egypt.[29]

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[27] SAR AFMP, February 7, 2020, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-02-07-university-of-bologna/; Philip Luther, "Egypt: Arbitrary arrest and torture of researcher studying gender in Italy" Amnesty International, February 10, 2020, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/02/egypt-arbitrary-arrest-and-torture-of-researcher-studying-gender-in-italy/; "'Prison without end' A report on the violations faced by academics released in political cases" Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, January 30, 2023, https://afteegypt.org/en/research-en/2023/01/30/33386-afteegypt.html

[28] SAR AFMP, May 14, 2020, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-05-14-college-of-staten-island-cuny/; The New Arab, "US-based Egyptian filmmaker detained in Egypt in 'outrageous' crackdown on artistic freedom", September 29, 2020, https://www.newarab.com/news/egyptian-filmmaker-detained-outrageous-crackdown-artistic-freedom; PEN America, Press Release, "Filmmaker, CUNY Student Detained Unjustly In Egypt" September 28, 2020, https://pen.org/press-release/filmmaker-cuny-student-detained-unjustly-in-egypt/

[29] SAR AFMP, May 24, 2021, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-05-24-university-of-washington/; Committee on Academic Freedom, "Letter regarding the deterioration of academic freedom in Egypt", Middle East Studies Association, June 15, 2021, https://mesana.org/advocacy/committee-on-academic-freedom/2021/06/15/letter-regarding-the-deterioration-of-academic-freedom-in-egypt; "Prison without end' A report on the violations faced by academics released in

24. On June 3, 2020, Egyptian authorities reportedly arrested an assistant professor of political science at **Alexandria University**, who has conducted research on pro-democracy movements and written articles critical of President Sisi. He was placed in pre-trial detention and charged with allegedly "joining a terrorist group, spreading false news and statements, and misusing social media." The charges apparently stem from an investigation into the professor's alleged connection to an Egyptian-American activist, who filed a lawsuit in the US against former Prime Minister Hazem Al-Beblawy over mistreatment in Egyptian prisons from 2013 to 2015. The professor was denied access to a lawyer or family during his first several months in prison, and as of this submission, he remains detained, his detention having been most recently renewed in January 2024.[30]

25. On December 15, 2020, an Egyptian national and graduate sociology student at **Central European University** was interrogated at Sharm El-Sheikh Airport upon his return from Vienna. Egyptian authorities subsequently raided the student's family home without a warrant on January 23, 2021. On February 1, 2021, the student was arrested and held incommunicado for five days before appearing before the State Security prosecutors to face charges including "joining a terrorist organization" and "spreading false news." During his detention, Egyptian officials reportedly beat the student and interrogated him regarding his research surrounding women's sexual and reproductive rights. On May 22, 2021, the Supreme State Security Prosecution launched an additional criminal investigation into the student's alleged social media posts critical of the government. One week later, he was charged with "publishing false news to undermine the state, its national interests and public order and spread panic among the people." Prosecutors questioned the researcher about his academic work on women's health and rights, including abortion. On June 22, 2021 the student was sentenced to four years in prison. The student was released from prison on July 30, 2022, pursuant to a presidential pardon. He remains unable to travel.[31]

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political cases" Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, January 30, 2023, https://afteegypt.org/en/research-en/2023/01/30/33386-afteegypt.html

[30] SAR AFMP, June 30, 2020, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2020-06-30-alexandria-university/; Middle East Studies Association Committee on Academic Freedom, "Letter regarding the deterioration of academic freedom in Egypt", June 15, 2021, https://mesana.org/advocacy/committee-on-academic-freedom/2021/06/15/letter-regarding-the-deterioration-of-academic-freedom-in-egypt;

[31] SAR AFMP, February 1, 2021, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-02-01-central-european-university/; Human Rights Watch, "Egypt: Scholar Unjustly Detained: Vienna Academic Faces Abusive 'Terrorism' Charges" March 24, 2021, https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/24/egypt-scholar-unjustly-detained; Amnesty International, "Egypt: Master's student sentenced to four years in prison for publishing 'false news'", June 22, 2021, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/06/egypt-masters-student-sentenced-to-four-years-in-prison-for-publishing-false-news-2/; Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), Academic Freedoms are dying… "About arbitrariness, abuse, and prosecution of academics in Egypt", December 6, 2021, https://www.anhri.info/?p=28049&lang=en

26. On July 11, 2021, a historian and postdoctoral research fellow affiliated with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany whose research focuses on popular resistance movements throughout history and, specifically, how their stories are told through song, was on vacation in Egypt with her family when she was detained by security services. She was subjected to a 17-hour interrogation by National Security Agency officials, before being released on bail (pending further investigation, which temporarily prevented her from leaving the country).[32]

RECOMMENDATIONS

SAR respectfully urges UN member states to call on Egypt to publicly affirm its commitment to academic freedom and related human rights by:

a. Repealing laws and policies which infringe upon academic freedom and university autonomy, including especially policies which subject university campuses to military jurisdiction;

b. Unconditionally releasing scholars and students currently in prison because of academic activity, nonviolent expression, or religious or ethnic identity, and, pending their release, ensuring due process, humane treatment, and access to family, counsel, and medical treatment;

c. Conducting full and transparent investigations of violent attacks on scholars and students;

d. Repealing policies and practices that restrict travel into and out of Egypt by scholars, students, or others, which effectively result in prohibitions on the international exchange of ideas;

e. Committing State resources to protecting academic freedom, including by implementing the Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom, per the recommendation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education in her report on academic freedom.[33]

[32] SAR AFMP, July 11, 2021, https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/report/2021-07-11-alexander-von-humboldt-foundation/; Khaled Fahmy, "The perils of conducting academic research in Sisi's Egypt," https://khaledfahmy.org/en/2022/01/16/the-perils-of-conducting-academic-research-in-sisis-egypt/; Middle East Observer, "Egyptian academic detained upon arrival at Cairo airport coming from Berlin", July 12, 2021, https://middleeastobserver.org/2021/07/12/egyptian-academic-detained-upon-arrival-at-cairo-airport-coming-from-berlin/

[33] A/HRC/56/58, para. 52.