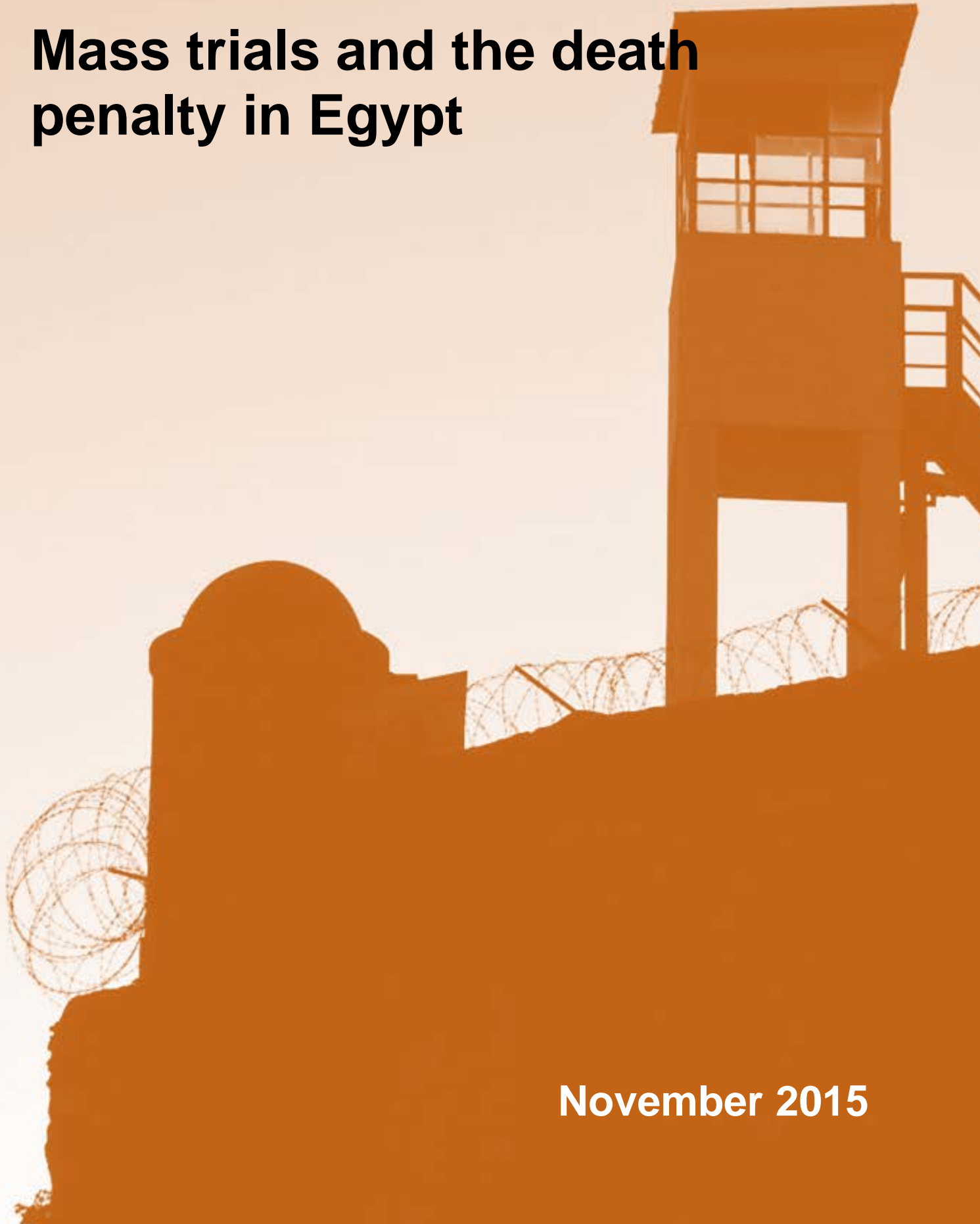


Justice Denied: Mass trials and the death penalty in Egypt

November 2015



Executive Summary

- **588** people have been sentenced to death in Egypt since 1 January 2014.
- **72%** of these sentences were handed down for involvement in political protests.
- Executions are on the rise: between 2011 and 2013, only **one** execution was carried out. Since 2014 to date, at least **27** people have been executed.
- At least **15** mass trials have taken place since March 2014.

Reprieve has confirmed that at least 588 people have been sentenced to death in Egypt in less than two years. Our findings show that 72% of these people were sentenced to death for attending pro-democracy protests. The majority of the condemned have been sentenced in patently unjust mass trials, where tens, if not hundreds, of co-defendants are tried on near identical charges. The number of executions is also increasing, with at least 27 people having been executed by hanging in the last two years, compared to only one in the preceding three years. President Sisi has promised that the rate of executions will only increase as he aims to change the law to speed up executions¹.

Egypt's system of mass trials defies international standards of due process and judicial independence. As part of a brutal crackdown on political opposition, thousands of people are being arrested. Many are then subjected to brutal prison conditions and torture, with scores of people dying in detention².

Reprieve calls on the Egyptian government to stop political mass trials and death sentences. Egypt's policy of repressing those exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly must end, and the rule of law must be upheld.

Methodology

This report sets out the statistics and information relating to the use of the death penalty in Egypt under the current administration led by President Sisi. The information has been collated and analysed under Reprieve's EC project, which is mandated to identify all individuals facing the death penalty in the Middle East and North Africa region. The data comes from publicly available sources, information made available to Reprieve by lawyers in Egypt, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations.

A request for full details regarding the number of individuals sentenced to death in Egypt was submitted to the Egyptian Ministry of Interior at the end of 2014; as yet, no response has been forthcoming.

Due to the secretive nature of Egypt's system of mass trials and the fact that death sentences are being handed down daily, it is impossible to arrive at precise figures on the death row population in Egypt. It should be noted that of the 588 death sentences we believe to have been handed down, some may have been successfully appealed, however, a lack of transparency in the Egyptian legal system means that the status of each death sentence is unclear. The figure may also be greater considering that death sentences are handed down

¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/30/egyptian-president-al-sisi-change-law-faster-executions-death-penalty>

² <http://humanrights-monitor.org/Posts/ViewLocale/17274#.VjDcVbfhCJA>

so regularly. Death Penalty Worldwide has estimated that there are at least 1,700 people in total under sentence of death in Egypt³.

Reprieve has also assembled data concerning the cases of 89 people who have been sentenced to death since January 2014 but are now awaiting re-trial. For them, the death penalty remains a real possibility. The majority were charged with taking part in political protests.

Part 1: Political Mass Trials and Death Sentences

The Egyptian government is currently employing a policy of mass incarceration, mass trials and mass death sentences as a tool of political repression. Amnesty has estimated that 41,000 people are currently imprisoned in Egypt for supporting pro-democracy movements.⁴

The majority of prisoners sentenced to death have been charged in the mass trials that have become prevalent in Egypt's criminal justice system. In less than two years, at least 15 mass trials⁵ have been carried out. The current government has even adapted part of the prison facility at Wadi Natrun to enable vast swathes of defendants to be tried and sentenced at once. Thousands of people have been convicted on what Reprieve has found to be near identical charges, such as "protesting without authorization", taking part in political violence and committing public order offences. In these mass trials, little or no evidence is produced against the accused, and justice, fairness and judicial independence are rarely exercised.

Mass Trials Commence

The world was shocked by the first two mass trials to result in hundreds of death sentences, in the spring of 2014. Some 1,212 people were tried *en masse* by the Minya Criminal Court for their involvement in political protests. The Egyptian authorities decided to conduct two separate trials. The first, in March 2014, tried 529 people collectively, all of whom were facing death sentences. Of these, 492 received life sentences; 37 are being re-tried, and again face the death penalty. In the second trial, a month later, 683 people were tried, and 183 received confirmed death sentences, 150 of which have since been upheld on appeal. Each hearing lasted less than an hour, and many of the defendants were tried *in absentia*, having never been arrested.

Sultan Gomaa was 16 years-old when a judge recommended he receive a death sentence in a mass trial in Minya. The judge, Saeed Youssef^A, only realised his error – a recommendation that the death penalty be handed to a juvenile – after a local newspaper reported Sultan's age. The judge abandoned his recommendation, and Sultan was acquitted. This luck has not extended to other juveniles in Minya, such as Islam Abdel Basset and Hatem Zaghloul; both sentenced to death despite their young age.

^A <http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/minya-judge-reads-newspaper-discovers-he-sentenced-child-death>

³ <http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/country-search-post.cfm?country=Egypt®ion=&method=>

⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/1853/2015/en/>

⁵ The term 'mass trial' is not defined in international law. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has condemned the trials in Egypt where multiple people are jointly convicted as incompatible with international human rights standards, on the basis that they fail to comply with due process and fair trial guarantees. Defendants are not sentenced individually and are refused the opportunity of any meaningful participation in their trial. Reprieve has therefore categorised trials of multiple people that have been found to be lacking in due process as a 'mass trial'.

According to Reprieve’s investigation of these trials, many of the defendants were arrested at random, based on eye-witness accounts of their attendance at protests. Some were recorded as being absent despite being present, and vice versa. During the trial, 78 people were held in the dock. They could not hear the trial and were not given a chance to speak.

Many of the defendants had been tortured on arrest, with one man dying in custody. Medical examinations were denied by the prosecutors on the basis that there were too many defendants, and therefore medical treatment would have caused an unacceptable delay.

Collectively Condemned

The first trials in Minya garnered widespread condemnation, but Egypt’s policy of unlawful detention, mass trials, and mass death sentences continues.

In a mass trial in February 2015, 188 anti-government protesters were condemned to death based on vague allegations that they were involved in the deaths of 13 members of the security forces, in the unrest following the security forces’ violent dispersal of protests in 2013.⁶

At the time, the military regime had dismissed charges brought against former President Mubarak in relation to the deaths of hundreds of protesters in 2011. As a result, hundreds of protesters staged sit-ins, but they were attacked by the military, who killed some 700 people⁷. Angry at this, the protesters then went to the police station at Kerdasa, where a riot resulted in loss of life on both sides, although only the protesters were charged.

On appeal – again conducted *en masse* – two of the 188 were acquitted, and one juvenile had their sentence reduced. A further two defendants died in detention whilst awaiting the outcome of their appeal; the charges against them were subsequently dropped. Some 183 people still face execution, 40 of whom are thought to have been tried *in absentia*.

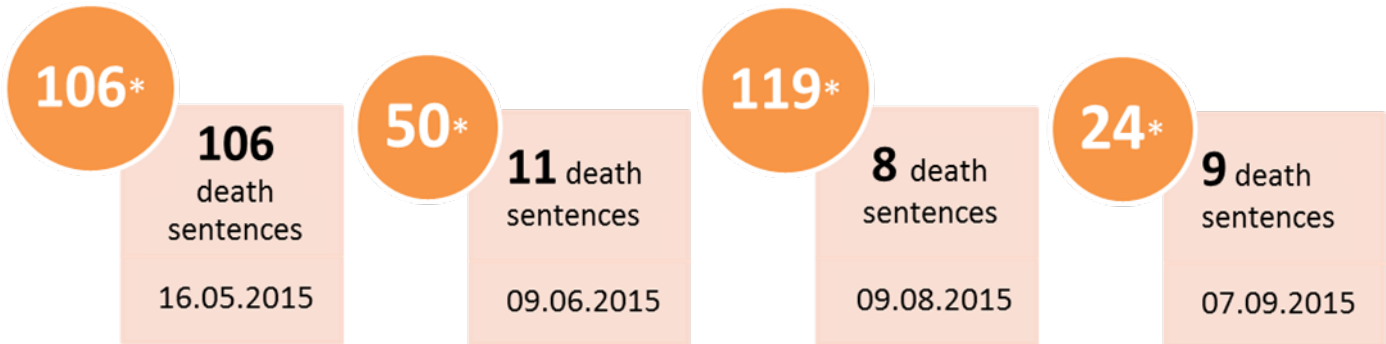
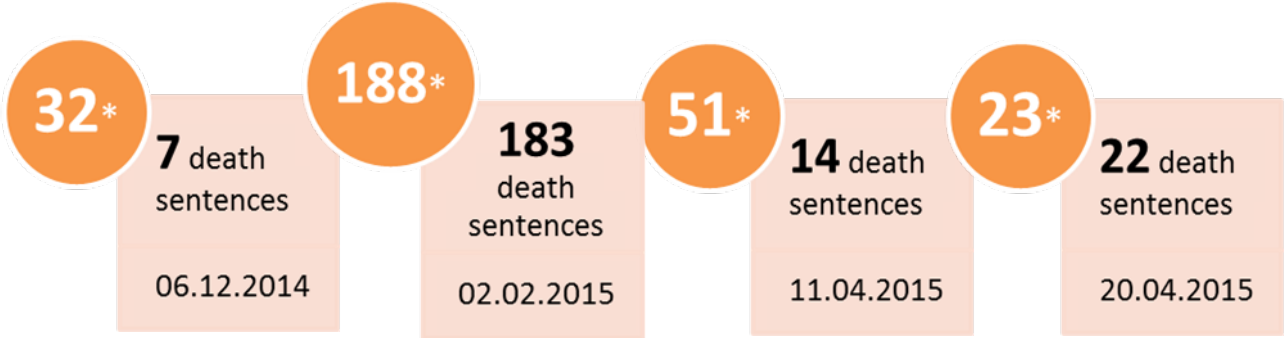
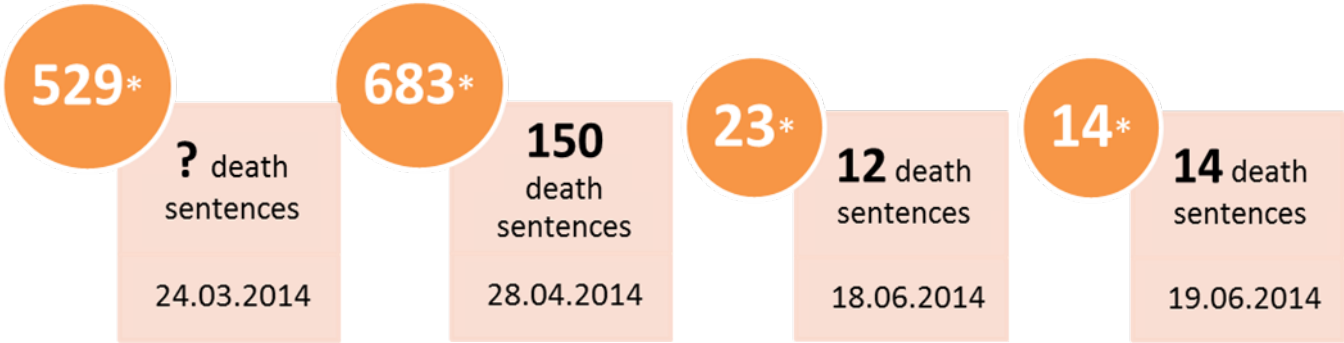
This year, 106 people, including ousted President Mohammed Morsi, were sentenced to death after being convicted on charges of “colluding with foreign militants” to organise a mass prison break during the 2011 uprising against Mubarak.⁸ When Morsi tried to use the trial as an opportunity to protest his treatment and the treatment of his supporters, he was placed in a sound-proof cubicle – now routinely used for defendants in Egypt’s mass trials.

Death sentences continue to be handed down on a weekly basis by Egyptian courts in trials where multiple people are tried together. The following diagram indicates the number of defendants in mass trials since 2014 and the number of death sentences that were handed down. For further details on these trials, see the Appendix.

⁶ <http://en.abna24.com/service/africa/archive/2015/02/02/668839/story.html>

⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/08/12/all-according-plan/raba-massacre-and-mass-killings-protesters-egypt>

⁸ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24772806>



*Number of defendants convicted at the same hearing



In addition to these mass trials, a further 37 people have been sentenced to death during this time in smaller trials.

These mass trials see tens to hundreds of people being tried on nearly identical charges. Judges routinely refuse to consider evidence produced by the defence, or to hear testimony

from the defence witnesses. As a result, some defence lawyers have boycotted the trials⁹, refusing to take part in proceedings that they consider to be a travesty of justice.

One Trial, 494 People

494 people are currently part of an ongoing mass trial in Egypt. According to the charging documents at least nine of the accused were children in August 2013, at the time of the protest they are charged with attending. In at least one case – that of Ibrahim Halawa, discussed below – a defendant was wrongly recorded as being 18 years old when he was in fact only 17. The defendants face a range of similar charges, including incitement or participation in violence, membership of a banned organisation and illegal public assembly. For many of the accused, there is a lack of any material evidence to indicate that they are guilty of anything more than exercising their right to peaceful protest. The primary evidence relied upon by the prosecution consists of video footage, photographs and witness statements. Only a few of the accused have been individually named or identified in this evidence as having been involved in any acts of violence, and even fewer were found in possession of weapons upon arrest.

The trial, which began in August 2014, has been dogged by constant delays. Defence lawyers have, at times, been denied access to the court and, when permitted, have been unable to make effective representations due to the vast number of co-defendants. Often just a few of the lawyers are picked to represent all the defendants present in what amounts to a 30 minute hearing every 2 months.

According to Reprieve sources, at the initial hearings, the defendants present (many are tried *in absentia*) were held in three soundproof glass cages. The only way to communicate with them was via a

Irish teenager **Ibrahim Halawa**^B was on holiday in Egypt when he was arrested for attending a pro-democracy protest in August 2013. At the age of 17 he was detained in an adult prison, and is still held as a prisoner today. Ibrahim has been beaten by police and held in solitary confinement in a cell with no light and no toilet facilities. In other cells, he has been held with hundreds of others in an area meant for 80 people which was full of mice and insects. Throughout this, he has been denied access to his lawyer and to medical treatment for the bullet wound in his hand sustained during the protests, causing him permanent disfigurement.

Despite the serious concerns of Ibrahim's case, the Irish government have yet to call formally for Ibrahim's immediate and unconditional release. They have stated that they are not able to "interfere with cases before foreign courts." Australia^C and the US^D took a different approach when their nationals, one of whom shared a cell with Ibrahim, were arrested in Egypt for similar offences: they intervened strongly and secured their release. The only way in which Ibrahim is likely to be released in a penal system void of any due process is by political pressure exerted by the Irish government and the EU.

^B <http://www.reprieve.org.uk/case-study/ibrahim-halawa/>

^C

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/world/middleeast/mohamed-soltan-us-citizen-imprisoned-in-egypt-is-released.html?_r=1

^D <http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/sep/26/tony-abbott-and-barack-obama-raise-peter-greste-case-with-egypts-president>

⁹ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/04/29/egypt-fresh-assault-justice>

microphone over which only the judge had control. As he refused to press the button to allow the defendants to be heard, the defendants did not have the chance to speak at their own trial. Large numbers of police and security forces attend the hearings and on one occasion they attended wearing masks, which defence lawyers and families found extremely intimidating.

As the court room and cages could not physically accommodate all 494 defendants, a purpose-built court in a separate prison, Wadi Natrun, was constructed especially for this mass trial.

On leaving the courtroom, families of the prisoners have witnessed security forces beating defendants with their fists and batons. Some were taken away, apparently to be tortured.

Part 2: Executions

Between the years of 2011 and 2013, only one person was executed in Egypt (in 2011). However, the number of executions has been on the rise since 2014, with at least 8 people executed that year (Amnesty International puts the number at 15 as a minimum¹⁰) and 12 people executed in 2015 to date.

Six men who were executed by hanging in May 2015 were all found to have been tortured in order to extract ‘confessions’. Furthermore, it has been reported that three of the men could not even have participated in any of the attacks for which they were sentenced; they had been arrested months earlier, and were still being held in detention at the time. Neither their families nor lawyers were informed of their executions until after the event.¹¹

In June 2015, President Sisi made it clear that the number of executions in Egypt will only increase. Speaking at the funeral of Egypt’s lead prosecutor, Sisi spoke of his aim to change the law to enable faster executions:

“The arm of justice is chained by the law. We are not going to wait for this. We are going to amend the law to allow us to implement justice as soon as possible.... If there is a death sentence, a death sentence shall be enforced”¹².

Part 3: The Legal Context

Since the military seized power in 2013, they have enacted various pieces of legislation which have expanded the scope of criminal offences in Egypt, apparently with the aim of stamping out political opposition and pro-democracy voices.

¹⁰ https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/death_sentences_and_executions_2014_en.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/06/08/egypt-year-abuses-under-al-sisi>

¹² <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/30/egyptian-president-al-sisi-change-law-faster-executions-death-penalty>

Protest Law

Enacted in 2013, the Protest Law criminalises any form of protest or public assembly that has not first been authorised by the Ministry of the Interior. Non-compliance with this law enables security forces to use excessive force to disperse demonstrations and arrest participants. Those charged under the law have included young activists who played a role in the 2011 uprising and in the years beyond, as well as supporters of Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Counter-Terrorism Law

The more recent ratification of a new Counter-Terrorism Law includes a range of vague, imprecise and ill-defined crimes and increases the scope of criminal offences. Peaceful exercise of freedom of expression may be considered illegal, as will the publishing of any information about “terrorist organisations” that is contrary to statements made by the authorities.

The law affords state officials immunity from criminal responsibility for any force used in the line of duty, grants sweeping surveillance and detention powers to prosecutors and awards President Sisi far-reaching, discretionary powers to “take the necessary measures” to maintain public security where there is a “danger of terrorist crimes”.

The Egyptian government has labelled most opposition parties and human rights groups in Egypt ‘terrorist’ organizations. This includes the Muslim Brotherhood Freedom and Justice Party and the ‘6th of April Youth Movement’, an activist group of young people that emerged in the years ahead of the 2011 uprising. A Cairo court ordered the Movement’s headquarters to be shut and they were banned on the basis of “espionage” and “activities that distort Egypt’s image”.

‘Terrorism’^E is not defined in international law, thus permitting the term to be misused, as in Egypt where the number of activities considered ‘acts of terrorism’ has broadened in line with political will. Under international standards, the death penalty must only be imposed for the ‘most serious’ crimes. ‘Most Serious’ has been defined by international experts as intentional killing^F. Very few acts fall into this strict definition and it is unarguable that ‘most serious’ does not cover protesters exercising their right to freedom of speech. In July 2013, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights^G expressed ‘serious concern’ about the use of the death penalty in counter-terrorism cases where the acts being prosecuted commonly “may not meet the threshold of ‘most serious crimes’”.

^E <http://www.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/death-penalty-terrorism-v3-web.pdf>

^F <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12698&LangID=E>

^G <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/157/38/PDF/G1315738.pdf?OpenElement>

Egypt’s Penal Code

Under the 1937 Penal Code^H, still in force today, any individual accused of attending an “illegal assembly” can be held jointly liable for any acts alleged to have arisen as a result of that assembly. Consequently, the majority of those sentenced to death in protest-related cases have been sentenced despite the fact that there is no evidence linking them to any individual act of violence.

Under Article 40 of the code, the three judge panel - there are no juries – may convict and impose a death sentence on a “person who gives the doer(s) an arm, device, or any other object that has been used in committing the crime while being aware of it, or helps them by any way, in the deeds preparing for, causing or completing its commitment.” In other words, if 500 people go to a protest, realising that there’s a possibility a riot may take place, and a death subsequently occurs, a broad reading of this provision allows them all to be convicted of murder.

^H https://www.unodc.org/tldb/pdf/Egypt/EGY_Crim_Liability_1937_EN.pdf

The Sisi regime has also increasingly targeted lawyers. Over 200 Egyptian lawyers are currently detained, merely for representing political detainees¹³. Three lawyers were investigated on 3 September 2014, for “disrupting and causing trouble” during trial proceedings for insisting that their client, the human rights activist Ahmed Douma, seated in a sound-proof glass cage, should be heard¹⁴. At least three lawyers are known to have died in detention after either having been beaten, tortured or refused medical attention.

Part 4: Torture and Death in Detention

Whilst awaiting trial, many of those arrested are detained incommunicado for prolonged periods. In some cases this has amounted to enforced disappearances. ‘Freedom for the Brave’, an advocacy group campaigning to advance the rights of Egyptian prisoners, and the ‘6th of April Youth Movement’, have reported members being arrested by security forces and imprisoned where they are permitted no contact with their family or lawyers¹⁵.

Basma* talked to Reprieve about her brother, **Omar*** who was arrested for taking part in pro-democracy protests in 2013. Omar has been moved to different detention centres on several occasions, without his family being informed of his location. The family travel from prison to prison, trying to find him, and are frequently lied to by prison officials about his whereabouts. On occasions where they have discovered where he is, they are often refused the “permit” needed to visit him.

*Real names concealed for security purposes

Torture, ill-treatment and death in custody are rife in police stations and prisons. According to Human Rights Monitor, more than 300 detainees have died in prison since the coup in 2013. The cause of death is principally due to medical neglect and torture inside prisons. In

¹³ <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/10/22/uk-egypt-lawyers-specialreport-idUKKCN0SG1CB20151022>

¹⁴ <http://www.icj.org/egypt-authorities-must-effectively-investigate-deaths-of-lawyers-in-custody/>

¹⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde12/1853/2015/en/>

August 2015 alone, 79 extra-judicial deaths were recorded in Egypt, most occurring in prison and detention facilities¹⁶.

Reprieve has interviewed a number of people who have visited friends and family members incarcerated in Egypt's prisons. They talked of relatives who have been stripped and beaten with whips, chains and sticks, subjected to electric shocks and show marks of torture on their bodies. They have heard people being tortured during visits and detainees have begged "get me out of here; they're going to kill me".

Amnesty has reported that the methods of torture include the use of electric shocks, rape, sexual humiliation, handcuffing detainees and suspending them from open doors. Another hanging method, known as "the grill" involves handcuffing the person's hands and legs to an iron rod and suspending the rod between two opposite chairs until the detainee's legs go numb – security forces then apply electric shocks to the person's legs¹⁷.

Part 5: Acquiescence by Egypt's Allies

President Sisi's wave of repression has been met with little robust criticism from Egypt's allies in Europe and elsewhere. Governments including the UK are increasingly turning a blind eye to abuses in Egypt, and adopting a 'business as usual' approach to dealings with Sisi's government.

For example, in January 2015, Tobias Ellwood, UK Foreign Office Minister for the Middle East, led a trade delegation to Egypt of 40 British companies looking to do business in the country. The trip was apparently intended to profile companies from the energy, construction and retail sectors. However, Reprieve has discovered through Freedom of Information requests that British security firm, G4S, was included among the delegation.

The promotion by the UK government of a firm that is heavily involved in security and custodial services is alarming, given the ongoing abuse in Egypt's prisons. It also appears that the Chair of G4S Egypt is a retired Egyptian general¹⁸, raising further concerns over the firm's links with the Egyptian security forces. Given that these forces are responsible for scores of ongoing abuses, the UK government and British companies must take serious care to ensure they are not complicit.

Part 6: Recommendations

Egypt today offers one of the most extreme examples of the death penalty being used as a form of political repression in the Middle East. Activists, journalists, juveniles and many others deemed to be opponents of the current government are being handed death sentences in a manner that is inconsistent with even the most basic standards of due process.

¹⁶ <http://humanrights-monitor.org/Posts/ViewLocale/17274#.VjDcVbfhCJA>

¹⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2014/07/egypt-anniversary-morsi-ousting/>

¹⁸ <http://www.madamasr.com/sections/politics/us-based-company-workers-assaulted-besieged-alexandria>

The Egyptian government must urgently:

1. Commute or vacate all death sentences handed down in flawed and politically motivated trials;
2. Impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty;
3. Discontinue its policy of trying people *en masse* and uphold each defendant's right to a fair trial;
4. Immediately review its policy of detention and release all prisoners arrested simply for attending political protests;
5. Take steps to guarantee the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
6. Ensure that prisoners and detainees are treated in accordance with the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The international community – in particular, those countries that are closely allied with Egypt, such as the UK and the US – must:

1. Encourage Egypt to adopt a moratorium on executions in line with UN Resolution 69/186 'Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty'¹⁹;
2. Call on Egypt to conduct a full independent review of all sentences handed down in mass trials;
3. Call on Egypt to release all defendants against whom there is no evidence, or where the charges clearly relate to freedom of expression;
4. Raise concerns about Egypt's abuses of human rights during the next session of the UN Human Rights Council;
5. Encourage Egypt to comply with all the recommendations of international bodies, including the provisional measures granted by the African Commission and others.

¹⁹ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/186

Appendix: Trials *en masse* and death sentences

- 24 March 2014: In the first mass trial, **529** people were tried at the Minya Criminal Court. All were recommended death sentences. 492 received life sentences and **37** are being re-tried and may receive death sentences.
- 28 April 2014: In the second mass trial in Minya, **683** people were tried collectively. **150** received death sentences.
- 18 June 2014: **12** people were sentenced to death in a trial consisting of **23** co-defendants.²⁰ The 23 were jointly charged with the killing of General Nabil Farrag as well as attacking soldiers, police, Christians, places of worship, and public facilities. Only 9 defendants were present at the trial and were held in a cage during the hearing.
- 19 June 2014: **14** people, including the Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie, received death sentences relating to fatal violence that was sparked by security forces' use of lethal force in August 2013 to disperse the Cairo sit-ins. The defence lawyers condemned the sentences, stating that the court did not differentiate between the defendants who were not even present during the hearing.²¹
- 6 December 2014: **32** people were convicted for the killing of 25 policemen. **7** were sentenced to death.²²
- 2 February 2015: **188** pro-democracy protesters were condemned to death for their involvement in protests in Kerdasa. **183** of the death sentences were upheld.
- 8 February 2015: **4** people were collectively tried for apparently spying for al-Qaeda.²³ **3**, who were tried in absentia, received death sentences.
- 25 February 2015: **8** people received death sentences for apparently embracing jihadist ideologies.²⁴
- 24 March 2015: **7** were sentenced to death for allegedly belonging to a Sinai-based militant group that bombed a military checkpoint in Northern Cairo.²⁵ **9** people were tried together – the other 2 receiving life sentences.
- 4 April 2015: **9** people were tried collectively in a military trial for attacks on security forces, despite the fact that some were incarcerated at the time of the alleged attacks. **7** were sentenced to death, 1 of whom was sentenced in absentia.²⁶

²⁰ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/21/egypt-183-death-sentences-confirmed-minya>

²¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/12/us-egypt-court-brotherhood-idUSKBN0N206A20150412>

²² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/06/us-egypt-sentence-idUSKBN0JK0AJ20141206>

²³ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/WriterArticles/NewsContentP/1/122490/Egypt/Search.aspx?Text=%20Egypt>

²⁴ <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/123894/Egypt/0/Egypt-Sinai-militant-Habara-receives-second-death.aspx>

²⁵ <http://www.turkishweekly.net/2015/03/25/news/egypt-military-court-upholds-death-sentences-on-7-militants/>

²⁶ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/04/egypt-halt-executions-six-men>

- 11 April 2015: **14** were sentenced to death in the Rabaa Operation Room case for their roles in opposing the military coup – they were part of a trial of **51** people which included at least 14 journalists and media workers. Charges ranged from publishing allegedly false news to conspiring to overthrow the self-elected government.²⁷ Evidence against the accused was apparently based on the testimony of one officer. An investigation by Human Rights Watch found that the defendants did little more than spread news about a mass sit-in opposing the coup or organize and publicize peaceful opposition to Morsi’s removal.
- 20 April 2015: **22** people were sentenced to death for their apparent involvement in an attack on a police station in Kerdasa. 8 were sentenced in absentia. Another defendant, a juvenile, was given a 10-year sentence.²⁸
- 16 May 2015: **106** people were sentenced to death for “colluding with foreign militants” to organise a mass prison break.
- 9 June 2015: **11** death sentences were upheld following a trial in January 2013 in which 21 were initially sentenced to death after violence during the Port Said football riot in 2012. 1 person was tried in absentia. They were tried alongside **39** other people.²⁹
- 9 August 2015: **119** people were convicted of joining a “terrorist group” – the Muslim Brotherhood – the political party to which President-elect Mohamed Morsi belonged. They were charged for their alleged involvement in the deaths of a security sergeant during a protest at the Samalout police station during the August 2013 clashes. **8** received death sentences while the other 111 received a variety of sentences ranging from 5 years to life imprisonment.³⁰
- 7 September 2015: **24** Muslim Brotherhood supporters were convicted of killing a police officer. **9** were sentenced to death, 14 to life imprisonment and 1 to 10 years’ incarceration.
- 12 September 2015: An Egyptian court ratified the death sentences of **12** people convicted of joining ISIS: **6** are in custody and **6** were convicted in absentia.³¹
- 29 September 2015: **28** people were charged for their membership of the banned Muslim Brotherhood and for violence following security forces’ efforts to clear the pro-

²⁷ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/19/egypt-scant-evidence-mass-convictions>

²⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/egypt-sentences-22-death-attack-police-150420105312825.html>

²⁹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/port-said-stadium-disaster-11-men-sentenced-to-death-for-their-involvement-in-riot-that-killed-over-10308639.html>

³⁰ <http://www.thecairopost.com/news/163444/news/8-brotherhood-members-sentenced-to-death-over-2013-riots-in-minya>

³¹ <http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=19305919&srcday=0&srcmonth=0&srcyear=0&move>
r=

democracy sit-ins. **3** were sentenced to death and the 25 others received life sentences.³²

- 29 September 2015: **9** people were sentenced to death, after being convicted for allegedly setting up a “Takfiri Group” and communicating with Daesh.
- Ongoing: **494** people are part of an ongoing trial for their participation in pro-democracy protests. At least 9 of the accused were children at the time of the protests in 2013 including Reprieve client Ibrahim Halawa.

³² http://www.handsoffcain.info/archivio_news/index.php?iddocumento=19306229&mover=0



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