



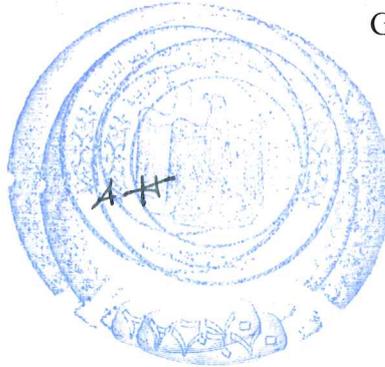
CHAN.2025.036

The Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch), and with reference to the joint communication REF: AL EGY 8/2024 dated 8 January 2025.

The Permanent Mission of Egypt has the honor to attach herewith the reply of the Government of Egypt to the above-mentioned joint communication (7 pages).

The Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch). — p

Geneva, 6 March 2025



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch) - Palais Des Nations, CH 1211, Geneva 10.
Fax: +41 22 917 90 08

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS
& OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

(Translated from Arabic)

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt
to the United Nations and other international organizations
Geneva**

Reply from the Government of Egypt

to the joint communication regarding

Aisha Mohamed Khairat Saad al-Shater, Hoda Abdel-Moneim Abdulaziz, and
Ibrahim Metwally Hegazy

On 8 January 2025, a joint communication was received from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

With this reply, the Government of Egypt affirms its sincere desire to engage positively with the communications of the special procedures of the United Nations and to fulfil its international obligations to safeguard human rights. It also views the reply as an opportunity to achieve transparency and rectify misconceptions that may be based on incorrect information.

- Legal and factual information and comments on the allegations received regarding the trial of Aisha Mohamed Khairat Saad al-Shater, Hoda Abdel-Moneim Abdulaziz, and Ibrahim Metwally Hegazy

On 31 October 2018, the Public Prosecution Service issued warrants against Aisha Khairat al-Shater, Hoda Abdel-Moneim and others, ordering their arrest and the search of their person and their dwellings. On 1 November 2018, the police were able to enforce the warrants, discovering documents and other printed matter in the possession of these individuals which indicated that they were active members of a terrorist organization. On the same date – thereby refuting the claim that they were forcibly disappeared – they were brought before the Public Prosecution Service, which issued a substantiated order to detain them for 14 days pending investigations. On 13 November 2018, the Public Prosecution Service authorized the continued detention of these individuals for a similar period of time, pursuant to article 40 (3) of Counter-Terrorism Act (No. 94) of 2015 in connection with Supreme State Security Case No. 1552 of 2018.

The Public Prosecution Service began interrogating these individuals, in the presence of their defence lawyers (within the deadline specified in article 36 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure). The investigator carried out an examination of each individual separately, in the presence of their defence lawyer, and confirmed that their bodies were free of any visible traces of injuries, indicating that they had not been tortured or ill-treated. Thus, any allegation of torture is unreasonable and implausible both substantively and legally.

The Public Prosecution Service then presented these individuals with the charges against them, the evidence resulting from the investigations, witness testimonies, statements from the other defendants, and the documents and other printed matter that had been found in their possession. They were permitted to give statements in their own defence, while their lawyers were permitted to make submissions and requests on their behalf and to have these recorded in the investigation file. The Public Prosecution Service then ordered that the persons concerned be held in custody pending further investigation.

The investigations carried out by the Public Prosecution Service showed that these individuals were members of a terrorist group and had helped to establish what is known as the Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms. This had involved preparing monthly reports on political events in the country, in which false news, data and rumours had been deliberately disseminated. In addition, they and others were involved in recruiting new members to the terrorist group via social media; engaging in subversive actions to obstruct the law and the Constitution and to prevent State institutions from operating in order to provoke chaos; and committing acts aimed at financing elements of the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood organization. Such actions are defined as crimes under the Counter-Terrorism Act No. 94 of 2015.

In August 2021, the accused persons in Supreme State Security Case No. 1552 of 2018, recorded as Emergency State Security Criminal [REDACTED], were referred to the Supreme State Security Criminal Court where their lawyers were able to make arguments and submit requests on behalf of the defence.

Ms. Aisha al-Shater was sentenced to 10 years in prison in connection with Supreme State Security [REDACTED], with the sentence to run from 31 October 2018 to 31 October 2028. Ms. Hoda Abdel-Moneim was sentenced to 5 years in prison in connection with Supreme State Security [REDACTED], from 30 October 2023. The two women are serving their sentences in the 10th of Ramadan Women's Prison.

The two women are also among the defendants in Supreme State Security [REDACTED] on charges of joining a terrorist group while being aware of

its purposes. They were referred to the First Settlement Criminal Court under [REDACTED] and New Cairo Criminal Court under [REDACTED].

As for Ibrahim Abdel-Moneim Metwally Hegazy, he assumed the leadership of a terrorist group and participated with some leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood organization who had fled the country in developing a plan to provide material assistance to the organization to ensure the continuation of its operations and armed movement with the aim of harming the country's national interests and economic security and carrying out terrorist operations. These members tasked others inside the country, including the individual in question, with activating the financial committees inside the country to support the armed wing of the organization. He and others developed a two-pronged plan to reactivate the role of these committees. First, a mechanism to distribute donations and funds received from the organization's leaders abroad would be established, with part of the funds being used to attract new members to the organization from various extremist factions. Second, financial support would be provided to the organization's revolutionary and armed wings to purchase weapons, ammunition, materials, tools, headquarters and vehicles used in the commission of their terrorist operations. Some members who were not monitored by the security services were assigned to carry out this plan. The Public Prosecution Service began interrogating him in the presence of his defence counsel and informed him of the charges against him. He was also allowed to give a statement and present his defence in relation to the charges against him. The Public Prosecution Service then issued a decision to detain him pending Supreme State Security [REDACTED] and Supreme State Security [REDACTED]. The Criminal Court decided to replace pretrial detention with a precautionary measure in the latter case. However, while he was imprisoned, he and several leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood imprisoned in connection with a number of cases drew up a plan to restructure the organization and escalate its hostile activities in order for it to continue its operations and pursue its armed revolutionary struggle and carry out terrorist operations with a view to overthrowing the existing regime. They use social media to spread rumours and fake news, recruit new members who are not being monitored by the security services to organize gatherings and riots and block roads, incite citizens to congregate on public roads and have the organization's members infiltrated among them, and carry out violent acts against State institutions to create a state of chaos in the country.

The individual in question is currently detained at Badr Prison 3 pending [REDACTED] on charges of joining a terrorist group while aware of its purposes, and has been referred for criminal trial before the Fifth Settlement

Division under [REDACTED] and New Cairo Criminal Court under [REDACTED].

The judicial action taken against these individuals was in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), which concerns criminal proceedings and their associated safeguards during investigations into cases of terrorism. In fact, Egypt applies ordinary criminal procedures, including safeguards relating to the accused person's right to defence. The action taken was also consistent with resolution 1624 (2005) which stresses the importance of States acting to prevent terrorists from exploiting sophisticated technology and communications to incite support for criminal acts. The case at hand relates to terrorist activities and their financing, which are crimes and direct threats to public security. Nonetheless, these individuals were not subjected to any extraordinary measures that might give colour to the allegations that their right to a defence was violated.

The communication states that the interrogation of defendants was invalid since it was carried out in the absence of their lawyers. We would like to underline that the safeguards guaranteed by law were complied with before the interrogation began, that the individuals were informed of the charges against them, pursuant to article 124 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that they had a full opportunity to present their defence. The investigator informed them of the charges then questioned them in detail having first told them that they were appearing before an independent judicial body. Prior to the interrogation, the investigator also asked them whether they had a lawyer to accompany them while being questioned. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] accompanied Ms. al-Shater, and the investigator sent a representative to the Bar Association to invite a lawyer to attend the interrogations for the remaining two individuals. The investigator interrogated them in view of the circumstances, the nature of the terrorist crimes with which they were charged, the urgency of the case and the fear of losing evidence. Lawyers were present for all subsequent procedures.

With regard to the allegations in the communication concerning the deteriorating health condition of the two women and the failure to provide them with the necessary medical care, we wish to point out that the Public Prosecution Service had examined the persons in question at the opening of the investigations in order to ensure that their bodies were free of any injuries, and had considered a request to have them examined by a specialized physician due to their chronic medical condition.

Ms. Aisha al-Shater received care from prison doctors who monitored her health, on an equal footing with other inmates. She was transferred to Al-Manial

University Hospital when medical tests revealed that she was suffering from [REDACTED]. Several virus tests were performed, with all the results returning as negative, and she was returned to prison and transferred to Al-Manial University Hospital again several times when a procedure was needed. She was returned to prison after all the necessary medical measures had been taken. A treatment plan was drawn up under the supervision of a haematologist, who continues to monitor her condition. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

She is provided with all the necessary medical care.

As for Ms. Hoda Abdel-Moneim, she is being held in a suitable room, in accordance with international standards, and receives regular medical care from prison doctors, who closely monitor her state of health, as they do for other prisoners. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and the results of medical analyses are within normal limits. She is under pharmacological treatment, has regular medical check-ups and her vital signs are within normal ranges.

A review of the medical file and results of the medical examination of Ibrahim Metwally Hegazy conducted by the doctor at the correctional and rehabilitation centre in which he is being detained shows that he is [REDACTED]. He was previously seen by an ophthalmologist and found to have poor vision; a vision test was carried out. He is not experiencing any other symptoms at the moment and his vital signs are within normal ranges and his general condition is stable.

The reports issued by the competent authorities also indicate that the individuals' general state of health is sound and stable, and their vital signs have remained at a normal level during their detention. They are provided with all kinds of health care, periodically and on request, on an equal footing with other inmates.

The allegation that they have been denied visits from their lawyers and families is untrue; during their periods of detention, they have received visits from family members, relatives and lawyers. They have been permitted to receive food and medicine authorized by the prison doctor from their families and to exchange correspondence and receive visits, on an equal footing with other inmates. As

previously mentioned, Ms. al-Shater's request to the Public Prosecution Service to sit her fourth-year university exams at the prison college was approved by the investigation authorities, and in coordination with the Faculty of Law at [REDACTED] she was able to receive study materials and sit exams.

Aisha Mohamed Khairat al-Shater receives regular visits from her family, most recently a visit from [REDACTED], on 4 February 2025.

Hoda Abdel-Moneim Abdulaziz Hassan receives regular visits from her family, most recently a visit from [REDACTED], on 26 February 2025.

Lastly, it is clear from the visitors' log in the prison where Ibrahim Abdel-Moneim Metwally Hegazy is being held that he receives regular visits from his family, most recently a visit from [REDACTED], on 22 January 2025.

Finally, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt emphasizes its commitment to promoting and protecting all human rights for all citizens without discrimination. No one may be prosecuted except for the commission of a crime that is punishable by the laws in force at the time of its commission. The provisions of the Constitution and the law are fully consistent with the obligations of Egypt pursuant to article 20 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law. Paragraph 2 of general comment No. 11 of the Human Rights Committee states that the provisions of article 19 of the Covenant should be taken into account when implementing article 20. Accordingly, the terms political activists and human rights defenders should not be treated as a means of securing legal immunity or immunity from prosecution for infringements or wrongdoing.

We wish to underscore that Egyptian law provides all necessary guarantees for a fair and impartial trial and for the filing of appeals against the judgments handed down. With regard to the issues addressed in the communication, it has been shown that the arrest of these individuals was consistent with the Code of Criminal Procedure and was based on a warrant issued by the competent Public Prosecutor's Office after it established that they had been involved, together with others, in committed the offences mentioned in the legal proceedings instituted against them. They were presented to the Public Prosecution Service within the legal deadline prescribed by Egyptian law, and they were able to seek the assistance of lawyers to defend and accompany them at all stages of the investigations.

In conclusion, the Egyptian Government urges the Special Rapporteurs to avoid being driven by politicized allegations submitted by some parties, who seek to undermine the reputation of the Egyptian State in the international community. Terrorist groups, for instance, are systematically and repeatedly engaged in producing false allegations, distorting the facts, and questioning the legal and judicial measures that have been taken as well as their outcome. The Egyptian Government reiterates that it is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens without discrimination. According to the Constitution, it is responsible first and foremost to the vigilant Egyptian people. The independent Egyptian judiciary is the sole authority with competence to ascertain the veracity of allegations of human rights violations, to hold the perpetrators accountable and to guarantee redress for the victims.