

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; 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 situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Ref.: AL EGY 9/2025
(Please use this reference in your reply)

22 December 2025

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 53/12, 60/8, 54/14, 60/10, 52/4 and 58/14.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the **continued detention of Ms. Hoda Abdel-Moneim since 2018, and re-arrest on 31 October 2023 under the same charges that she had already served a 5-year sentence for; as well as information on alleged ill-treatment and continued lack of access to timely and appropriate health care in detention leading to severe deterioration of her health.**

Ms. **Hoda Abdel-Moneim** is a lawyer, a woman human rights defender, a board member of the Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms (ECdRF), and a former member of the National Council for Human Rights.

She has been the subject of five previous communications sent by Special Procedures mandate holders to your Excellency's Government: [EGY 8/2024](#), [EGY 2/2023](#), [EGY 12/2021](#), [EGY 5/2021](#), and [EGY 6/2019](#).

In 2021, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that Ms. Abdel-Moneim's detention was arbitrary and called for her release and for her to benefit from compensation and other reparations ([opinion No. 45/2021](#)). Special Procedures mandate holders also communicated their specific concern regarding the health and conditions in prison of Ms. Abdel-Moneim in a communication sent to your Excellency's Government on 22 January 2024, [EGY 7/2023](#), in addition to EGY 8/2024. We thank your Excellency's Government for its replies to EGY 8/2024 and EGY 2/2023, received respectively on [6 March 2025](#) and [2 August 2023](#). We regret that no replies have been received to the remaining communications. We also note that the enforced disappearance of Ms. Hoda Abdel-Moneim is registered by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances under its humanitarian procedure and remains outstanding.

Ms. Abdel-Moneim is the winner of the 2025 International Bar Association (IBA) [Award for Outstanding Contribution by a Legal Practitioner to Human Rights](#).

According to the information received:

Ms. Abdel-Moneim, now 66 years old, has been detained since 2018, despite suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses that pose a direct risk to her life. She was arrested on 1 November 2018, forcibly disappeared for 21 days, during which she was denied contact with her lawyers and family, and was held in pre-trial detention for three years until she was finally brought to trial. On 5 March 2023, after having fulfilled a 5-year sentence, she was sentenced again to five years imprisonment on false charges of joining and financing a terrorist group and for spreading “false news” on human rights abuses by security forces.

On 31 October 2023, rather than being released, she was “rotated” into two new cases on the same charges. One year later, a third set of charges was brought against her, so she now faces three trial proceedings; with one of them on new charges – ‘joining an unnamed terrorist organisation’ – that are identical to that for which she had completed her sentence in 2023.

On 23 and 30 August 2025, Ms. Abdel-Moneim suffered two heart attacks. Neither her family nor her lawyers received any information about these emergencies until they were allowed a visit on 6 September 2025. Reportedly,

[REDACTED]

The information indicates that Ms. Abdel-Moneim’s family has submitted multiple requests for her release on medical grounds to the competent authorities, most recently on 9 September 2025, all of which have gone unanswered.

Ms. Abdel-Moneim was unable to collect the Award she won from the IBA in person as she remains arbitrarily imprisoned in Egypt despite completing a five-year sentence in October 2023. A statement from her could not be obtained due to her imprisonment and lack of access to her for her lawyer and family.

As it relates to the many proceedings against her, the first court session for Ms. Abdel-Moneim’s third trial was scheduled to take place on 16 December 2025, while the proceedings of the second trial are nearing an end, and its next session will be on 14 January 2026.

Without prejudicing the accuracy of the information received, we express serious concern at **the number of trials and proceedings Ms. Abdel-Moneim has faced, given her advanced age, and which appear to aim to castigate her through detention and legal proceedings;** as well as for the **continuing reports about the persistent deprivation of timely and adequate medical care and accommodation to Ms. Abdel-Moneim, who allegedly faces imminent risk of serious and irreversible harm to her health.** Past communications have already emphasized that Ms. Abde-

Moneim should not be detained in the first place and given that she is especially vulnerable, she should be given special measures to protect her health.

We are seriously troubled by the information received that Ms. Abdel-Moneim has been reportedly denied access to necessary medical care, which would prevent further deterioration, and that neither her lawyers nor her family were promptly informed about the deterioration of her health, which likely amount to a violation of the right of all persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Egypt on 14 January 1982. In this connection, we would like to reiterate that the State has a duty of care to individuals in their custody, as established by article 10 of the ICCPR, to ensure humane conditions of detention and respect for the dignity of individuals deprived of their liberty.

We draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to concerns we raised in previous communications regarding the arrest, detention and prosecution of Ms. Abdel-Moneim, including on the basis of vague and overbroad terrorism-related provisions. In particular, we reiterate our alarm at the continued practice of "case recycling" or "rotation of cases" in Egypt used to indefinitely detain individuals, including Ms. Abdel-Moneim (see [EGY 8/2024](#) and [EGY 5/2025](#)). We urge your Excellency's Government to review the cases against Ms. Abdel-Moneim in the light of Egypt's international obligations, including in relation to the principle of *non bis in idem*.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information on the measures taken by your Excellency's Government to ensure Ms. Abdel-Moneim's right to the highest standard of health through timely and adequate access to medical assistance and treatment.
3. Please provide detailed information on what steps have been taken to ensure that the conditions of detention of Ms. Abdel-Moneim meet the international human rights standards enunciated in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules), including the provision of timely adequate medical care where necessary, the information provided to her family members on her health status, and the ability to meet with family members, and lawyers and any other person of her choice.

4. Please explain how the continued detention of Ms. Abdel-Moneim on charges similar to those for which she has already served a five-year sentence complies with Egypt's obligations under articles 9 and 14 of the ICCPR, including the principle of non bis in idem under article 14(7) and effective independent judicial review of detention.
5. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure Ms. Abdel-Moneim's right to a fair trial by ensuring all due process guarantees.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to avoid any irreparable harm to the life and personal integrity of Ms. Abdel-Moneim, halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Margaret Satterthwaite
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Matthew Gillett
Vice-Chair on communications of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Gabriella Citroni
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Tlaleng Mofokeng
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Ben Saul
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to refer your Excellency's Government to articles 6, 7, 9, 10, and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), read alone and in conjunction with its article 2(3), which was ratified by Egypt on 14 January 1982. The provisions guarantee that no one should be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security of person, that all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for their inherent dignity, and the right to a fair trial and due process. Such rights are also provided for by articles 3, 9, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

We further recall Egypt's obligations under article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by Egypt on 14 January 1982, which guarantees the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Accordingly, States have the obligation to refrain from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, including prisoners or detainees, to health services (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general comment 14 para. 34). Further, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/70/175), establish States' responsibility to provide healthcare for prisoners (rules 24 to 35) and to particularly ensure continuity of treatment and care (rule 24.2). Furthermore, Rule 68 establishes the right of every prisoner to be able to inform immediately her family, or any other person designated as a contact person, about any serious illness or injury. In addition, Rule 6 of the Bangkok Rules which supplements rules 22 to 26 of the Mandela Rules, stipulates that: "The health screening of women prisoners shall include comprehensive screening to determine primary health-care needs".

We would like to refer your Excellency's Government to recommendations in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders focusing on the long-term detention of human rights defenders (A/76/143), in which the Special Rapporteur emphasized that States should desist from jailing human rights defenders for their legitimate human rights work, stop subjecting them to long terms in detention, and ensure their legal rights, including prompt access to their lawyers and their family (paragraph 158(a), (e) and (i)).

We would like to remind your Excellency's Government of the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as codified in articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), to which Egypt acceded on 25 June 1986. Article 1 of the CAT prohibits "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official

capacity.”

We also wish to recall that under the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which Egypt ratified on 14 January 1982; States must refrain from denying or limiting equal access for all persons, “including prisoners or detainees, to preventive, curative and palliative health services” (ICESCR article 12 and general comment No. 14 (para. 34).

We also recall that during the 2025 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle, Egypt accepted recommendations specifically addressing access to healthcare and family visits for detainees, including to ‘ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are able to communicate promptly and regularly with their legal representatives and families, and to benefit from necessary and appropriate healthcare and consular services’ (A/HRC/59/16, 42.116).

We further wish to recall that international human rights law and standards require States to treat all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person (article 5, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; principle 1, Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, and General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988). With regard to solitary confinement, we would like to recall the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), adopted by General Assembly resolution 70/175 (A/RES/70/175), which prohibits indefinite and prolonged solitary confinement (rule 43 with rule 44), and restricts its use for as short time as possible as a measure of last resort, to be used only in exceptional circumstances (rule 45). Due to the prisoner’s lack of communication and the lack of witnesses, solitary confinement enhances the risk of other acts of torture or ill-treatment.

We draw your Excellency’s Government’s attention to the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, which establishes that no State shall practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances. In particular we make reference to articles 9.1 and 10 which refer to the right to a prompt and effective judicial remedy as a means of determining the whereabouts or state of health of persons deprived of their liberty and/or identifying the authority ordering or carrying out the deprivation of liberty is required to prevent enforced disappearances under all circumstances and to ensure that any person deprived of liberty is held in an officially recognized place of detention and, in conformity with national law, be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention.