

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Ref.: UA EGY 4/2026

(Please use this reference in your reply)

18 June 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 58/14, 54/14, 52/9, 59/4, 59/20 and 59/14.

We would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the initiation in Egypt of terrorism-related proceedings against Ms. Mariam Mohamed El-Sayed Abdelbasette, who is presently in Oman, in connection with her online expression and peaceful association with the "Egyptian Generation Z" movement; the alleged enforced disappearance of her husband, Mr. Ahmed Moussa, following his deportation from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026; reported threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family; and allegations that terrorism-related proceedings and cross-border cooperation measures are being used to pursue Ms. Abdelbasette while she resides outside Egypt, including the risk of imminent arbitrary expulsion and refoulement from Oman to Egypt where she is at risk of serious human rights violations.

According to the information received:

Ms. Mariam Mohamed El-Sayed Abdelbasette is a 30-year-old Egyptian national. In 2021, she left Egypt lawfully through official border controls and, at that time, was not subject to any travel ban, wanted notice, or pending judicial proceedings. She had also not previously engaged in political activity.

Since 2021, she has lawfully resided in Oman together with her husband and three children under work-based residence permits.

Arrest, deportation and enforced disappearance of Mr. Ahmed Moussa

On 26 March 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette's husband, Mr. Moussa, was arrested by Omani authorities in connection with allegations of "terrorism financing" and "membership in a terrorist organisation". He was detained for approximately two weeks before being deported from Muscat to Cairo on 9 April 2026.

During his detention, Omani authorities reportedly informed him that his deportation was being carried out at the request of the Egyptian authorities and referred to an alleged INTERPOL listing or request in that connection. However, no written notice, judicial order, extradition request, INTERPOL notice, diffusion, or other documentation has reportedly been disclosed.

Since his arrival in Cairo on 9 April 2026, Mr. Moussa's whereabouts, fate and legal status have remained unknown. Despite making numerous inquiries with the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme State Security Prosecution, and officers of the National Security Agency, his family has received no information concerning his place of detention, legal status, or physical condition, and has been unable to establish contact with him.

Travel restriction, interrogation and threatened deportation

Following the enforced disappearance of her husband, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly became increasingly active online in seeking information concerning his fate or whereabouts and sharing content associated with "Egyptian Generation Z", an online political movement critical of the Government of Egypt.

On 15 April 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette attempted to travel from Muscat to Türkiye but was prevented from boarding her flight by Omani authorities who informed her that she was subject to a travel restriction because she was "listed on INTERPOL".

She was subjected to interrogations on 15 and 16 April 2026, during which officials informed her that she was wanted by the Egyptian authorities in connection with terrorism-related proceedings and that, if she left Oman, she would be deported to Egypt. At no time was she provided with any written documentation concerning the legal basis for the travel restriction, the threatened deportation, or the allegations reportedly brought against her.

In the days that followed, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly received photographs of selected pages of an Egyptian case file from third parties. Through those photographs, she came to understand for the first time that she had been identified as a defendant in terrorism-related proceedings before the Supreme State Security Prosecution. She has never been formally served with any summons, indictment, arrest warrant, judicial decision, or other procedural document by the Egyptian authorities.

Around late May 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette reportedly received a call while in the hospital from a representative of the Ministry of Justice in Oman, who told her that she would be deported once her health condition stabilized, and that the authorities had been waiting for her to give birth before proceeding with this measure. The representative reportedly stated that Oman is required to hand her over under an international agreement, claiming that she is listed on INTERPOL, and that the authorities are bound to implement these procedures.

Terrorism-related proceedings against Ms. Abdelbasette

According to the photographs of the charges against Ms. Abdelbasette, she is listed as Defendant No. 4 in Case No. 1871/2026, Al-Waili Police Department, also registered as No. 109/2026 Total North Cairo and, in the parallel State Security registers, as No. 988/2025 State Security Docket and No. 124/2026 State Security Felonies, before the Supreme State Security Prosecution.

The allegations against Ms. Abdelbasette are reportedly framed in collective not individualized language and include allegations of membership in a terrorist organisation, the use of violence, threats and intimidation to disrupt public order, undermining State institutions, spreading false news, and incitement through social media.

The proceedings against Ms. Abdelbasette are reportedly connected to her non-violent online expression and peaceful association with “Egyptian Generation Z”. Her activities consisted of commenting on, sharing, and assisting in the administration of social media content while residing outside Egypt. She neither engaged in nor advocated violence.

Threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and her family

In April 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette began receiving threats and intimidation through a messaging application channel targeting individuals associated with “Egyptian Generation Z”. The messages reportedly included direct threats against Ms. Abdelbasette and her family, including statements that “you and your loved ones will suffer a lot in the coming rounds”, references to “Anubis” (the Egyptian god of the dead) in the context of punishment and retaliation, and repeated warnings that an “episode” concerning Ms. Abdelbasette would soon be released. The threats reportedly included photographs of Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family, and references to her children and (at the time) unborn child.

Ms. Abdelbasette was also reportedly subjected to gender-based discrimination, harassment and degrading smear campaigns, including the use of the term “jihad al-nikah” (“sexual jihad”), a phrase reportedly used in Egypt in connection with campaigns targeting women perceived to be associated with political opposition movements. These statements appeared to be intended to stigmatise, intimidate, and incite hostility against her.

The threats apparently formed part of a broader pattern of intimidation directed at individuals associated with “Egyptian Generation Z”, in which persons were identified individually and threatened sequentially. In light of the enforced disappearance of Ms. Abdelbasette’s husband following his deportation to Egypt and the reported invocation of INTERPOL-related measures against her, it appears that Ms. Abdelbasette is being actively targeted for forcible return to Egypt.

Other members of Ms. Abdelbasette’s immediate family have previously been subjected to serious reprisals and coercive measures by the Egyptian authorities.

One family member was allegedly convicted in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment after fleeing Egypt. Another family member has reportedly remained in prolonged pre-trial detention in Egypt since 2019 following mass arrests connected to anti-Government protest calls. In these circumstances, there are well-founded and credible fears that Ms. Abdelbasette may face similar treatment if returned to Egypt.

Childbirth and continuing risk of return to Egypt

On 25 May 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette gave birth at the Medical City of Military and Security Services in Oman. Following the birth, she was deprived of her liberty for almost two weeks in the hospital together with her newborn child and informed that she remained subject to deportation measures. Photographs from Ms. Abdelbasette's hospital file reportedly indicate that she was registered within the hospital system as a "prisoner".

Authorities subsequently informed Ms. Abdelbasette that she would be deported to Egypt once her medical condition stabilised. She was also informed that the authorities were required to proceed pursuant to an international agreement because she was "listed on INTERPOL".

On 7 June, Ms Abdelbasette was authorized to leave the hospital after approximately two weeks and remains in Oman with her newborn child and two other minor children. She appears to be at risk of imminent arbitrary deportation to Egypt, where she would face a real risk of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture or other ill-treatment, or other serious human rights violations in connection with the proceedings reportedly initiated against her. She is also at risk of separation from her children and reprisals against members of her family.

On 10 June 2026, Ms. Abdelbasette attempted to obtain a birth certificate for her newborn child from the Omani Civil Status Authority. However, the authorities required the presence of the father to proceed with the registration. Ms. Abdelbasette explained that she does not know his current fate and whereabouts as he was subjected to enforced disappearance after being forcibly deported to Egypt by the Omani authorities. She was then instructed to obtain a "no objection certificate" from the Egyptian Embassy in Oman and to provide a copy of her marriage certificate, which is in the possession of her forcibly disappeared husband. In light of serious and well-founded protection concerns, Ms. Abdelbasette is unable to approach the Egyptian Embassy and is therefore unable to register her newborn child.

Without wishing to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we express serious concern that the terrorism-related proceedings initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette may be linked to her peaceful online expression and association with "Egyptian Generation Z" and may have contributed to measures aimed at securing her return to Egypt from abroad. We are additionally concerned by the enforced disappearance of Mr. Moussa following his deportation from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026, the apparent absence of information concerning his fate, whereabouts or legal

status since that time, and the threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family.

These allegations raise concerns regarding Egypt's compliance with international human rights law, including the rights to non-discrimination and equality (articles 2 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Egypt on 14 January 1982), life (article 6), liberty (article 9), recognition before the law (article 16), freedom of expression (article 19) and freedom of association (article 22), to take part in public affairs (article 25), as well as the requirement of legality in criminal law (article 15). They further raise concerns regarding the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under article 7 of the ICCPR and articles 2 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), ratified by Egypt on 25 June 1986, and under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Egypt on 18 September 1981. We are additionally concerned that Mr. Moussa may have been the victim of enforced disappearance in violation of articles 6, 7, 9 and 16 of the ICCPR, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3), also affecting the right to family life (ICCPR, articles 7 and 17, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3), as well as article 9 to 12 of the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances). We are furthermore concerned that terrorism-related proceedings and related cross-border measures may have been used to target Ms. Abdelbasette while residing abroad in connection with her peaceful political expression and association. Finally, we are concerned by the impact of these measures on Ms. Abdelbasette's children, including her newborn child, and the implications for their rights and best interests under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), ratified by Egypt on 6 July 1990.

Terrorism-related allegations, freedom of expression and legality

We are concerned that the terrorism-related proceedings initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette appear to target the exercise of her rights to freedom of expression and association, including online, and her right to take part in public affairs. The conduct attributed to Ms. Abdelbasette appears to consist primarily of commenting on, sharing, and assisting in the administration of online content critical of the Government of Egypt while residing abroad. She neither engaged in nor advocated violence. We are additionally concerned that the allegations appear to have been formulated in broad and collective terms that do not clearly identify the specific conduct attributed to Ms. Abdelbasette or explain how her online activities are connected to the commission of terrorist acts, suggesting that the charges are not substantiated and are instead aimed at silencing criticism of the Government. We remind your Excellency's Government that the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association are protected under articles 19 and 22 of the ICCPR and may only be subject to restrictions that are provided by law and necessary for the protection of national security or public order (*ordre public*), public health or morals, and for the protection of the rights of others, and proportionate for those objectives.

In addition, we are concerned that some of the charges do not appear to satisfy the requirement of legality under article 15 of the ICCPR. The alleged offences include membership in a terrorist organisation, the use of violence, threats and intimidation to

disrupt public order, undermining State institutions, spreading false news, and incitement through social media. Such offences appear to be framed in vague and overbroad terms that lack legal certainty and foreseeability, and that are accordingly prone to abuse, including to suppress the legitimate exercise of human rights. Given the severe consequences that may flow from terrorism-related accusations, including arrest, detention, prosecution and restrictions on liberty, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that such offences are formulated and applied with sufficient precision and are not used in a manner that captures conduct protected under international human rights law. In this regard, we reiterate serious concerns raised previously regarding the vague and overbroad scope of Egypt's terrorism definition and terrorism offences and the use of counter-terrorism provisions to investigate and prosecute individuals for non-violent conduct including peaceful political participation, online speech, and human rights advocacy (see, e.g., [EGY 11/2015](#), [EGY 13/2019](#), [EGY 6/2020](#), [EGY 7/2023](#), [EGY 3/2024](#), [EGY 7/2025](#), and [A/HRC/13/37/Add.2](#)).

Reported enforced disappearance of Mr. Ahmed Moussa

We are seriously concerned by the reported enforced disappearance of Mr. Moussa following his deportation from Oman to Egypt on 9 April 2026 and the apparent absence of any information regarding his fate, whereabouts and legal status since that time. More than seven weeks after his deportation, his family and legal representatives have reportedly been unable to obtain any information concerning his fate, whereabouts, legal status, place of detention, or physical condition, despite having made numerous inquiries with Egypt's Public Prosecutor's Office, Supreme State Security Prosecution and National Security Agency. We are concerned that the apparent failure of Egyptian authorities to acknowledge his detention or disclose information concerning his fate and whereabouts may amount to an enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention.

We recall that enforced disappearance constitutes a particularly serious human rights violation that places individuals outside the protection of the law. It may give rise to multiple violations of the ICCPR, including the rights to life (article 6), prohibition against torture (article 7), liberty and security of person (article 9), to recognition as a person before the law (article 16), and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (article 7), read alone and in conjunction with the right to effective remedy (article 2(3)). The prohibition of enforced disappearances is a peremptory norm of *jus cogens*, which establishes obligations applicable *erga omnes*. Furthermore, we draw your Excellency's Government's attention to the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which provides that no State shall practice, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances and that each State shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance in any territory under its jurisdiction (articles 2 and 3). In addition, articles 9, 10, 11 and 12 recognize the rights to a prompt and effective judicial remedy to determine the whereabouts of persons deprived of their liberty; of competent national authorities to access to all places of detention; to be held in an officially recognized place of detention, and to be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention; to accurate information on the detention of persons and their place of detention being made available to their family, counsel or other persons with a

legitimate interest; and to the maintenance in every place of detention of official up-to-date registers of all detained persons.

Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

We are concerned that the reported enforced disappearance of Mr. Moussa and the continuing absence of information concerning his whereabouts, legal status, or physical condition may place him at heightened risk of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, contrary to article 7 of the ICCPR and articles 2 and 16 of the CAT. The Committee against Torture has repeatedly emphasised that incommunicado detention and the concealment of a person's fate or whereabouts create conditions that facilitate torture and ill-treatment and undermine essential safeguards against abuse. Mr. Moussa's enforced disappearance may also have deprived him of fundamental safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, including access to legal counsel, family contact, judicial oversight and independent monitoring.

Transnational repression and cross-border measures

We are concerned that the terrorism-related proceedings against Mr. Moussa and Ms. Abdelbasette, as well as the absence of formal extradition proceedings, judicial orders or the disclosure of alleged INTERPOL notices, viewed together with the measures taken against Ms. Abdelbasette while residing in Oman, may form part of a broader pattern of transnational repression targeting Egyptian nationals residing abroad in connection with their rights to freedom of expression, association and to take part in public affairs, as protected under articles 19, 22 and 25 of the ICCPR. Informal or opaque forms of cross-border security cooperation may thus have been used in a manner inconsistent with legality, due process, and international human rights law. Such measures risk chilling the exercise of these rights by other Egyptians residing abroad, including human rights defenders, journalists, political opponents and other members of civil society. We are concerned that Ms. Abdelbasette was unlawfully and arbitrarily detained in a hospital in Oman, contrary to article 9 of the ICCPR, apparently on the basis of the unsubstantiated terrorism-related proceedings originating in Egypt. She appears to have learned of the proceedings only through photographs of selected pages of a case file shared by third parties, raising serious concerns regarding her ability to understand the nature and basis of the allegations against her and to effectively challenge her detention under article 9(4) of the ICCPR.

The reported enforced disappearance of Mr. Moussa following his deportation to Egypt is particularly relevant in this context. Viewed together with the proceedings initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette, the threats and intimidation directed against her and members of her family, the reported conviction in absentia of one family member, and the prolonged pre-trial detention of another since 2019, these circumstances raise concerns as to unlawful retaliation against family members in connection with their perceived political activities or associations and the use of coercive measures extending beyond Egypt's borders. We also refer to the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on enforced disappearances in the context of transnational transfers (A/HRC/48/57), which observes that transnational transfers of individuals embody a denial of justice because secret detention removes them from the

protection of the law, and cautions States against transnational transfers which disregard the rule of law and legal safeguards.

Threats, intimidation and gender-based discrimination and harassment

We are concerned by the reported threats and intimidation directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family in connection with her peaceful political expression and association with “Egyptian Generation Z”. The threats reportedly included references to retaliation against Ms. Abdelbasette and her loved ones, the publication of photographs of family members, references to her children and unborn child, and repeated warnings that she would be publicly targeted. We are concerned that such conduct may have been intended to intimidate, silence or punish Ms. Abdelbasette for the exercise of rights protected under articles 19, 22 and 25 of the ICCPR.

We are additionally concerned by the reported use of discriminatory and gendered smear campaigns against Ms. Abdelbasette, including the use of the term “jihad al-nikah” (“sexual jihad”). This term appears to have been used in Egypt in connection with campaigns targeting women perceived to be associated with political opposition movements. In this context, we are concerned that the use of such language may constitute a form of gender-based discrimination and harassment intended to stigmatise, humiliate and discredit Ms. Abdelbasette on account of her perceived political views and associations. We are further concerned that threats, intimidation and gender-based harassment of this nature may discourage not only Ms. Abdelbasette, but also others, from exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, for fear of reprisals.

We recall Egypt’s obligations to prevent discrimination against women under article 2 of the ICCPR and CEDAW. We further recall the obligation under article 5 of CEDAW to eliminate discrimination specifically in the political and public life of the country (article 7), and to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct with a view to eliminating prejudices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women (article 5). The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has emphasized the redefinition of gender-based violence, which constitutes discrimination against women, “through technology-mediated environments, such as contemporary forms of violence occurring in the Internet and digital spaces”, noting that “gender-based violence against women can result from acts or omissions of State or non-State actors, acting territorially or extraterritorially” (general recommendation No. 35, para. 20). The obligation of due diligence under article 2(e) of CEDAW requires States to “adopt and implement diverse measures to tackle gender-based violence against women committed by non-State actors” (ibid). As noted by the Committee, “States parties will be responsible if they fail to take all appropriate measures to prevent as well as to investigate, prosecute, punish and provide reparation for acts or omissions by non-State actors which result in gender-based violence against women” (ibid). We also recall the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances’ general comment on women affected by enforced disappearances (A/HRC/WGEID/98/2) and its study on new technologies and enforced disappearances, in which it raises concern with regards to targeted and mass surveillance used to threaten relatives of disappeared persons (A/HRC/54/22/Add.5).

Rights of the child and protection of family life

We are concerned that the proceedings initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette, the reported disappearance of Mr. Moussa, and the threats directed against members of her family may have serious consequences for the rights and well-being of their three young children. We highlight in particular that the threats reportedly referred to their children and (then) unborn child and that the children continue to be affected by the uncertainty surrounding their father's fate and whereabouts, and the continuing uncertainty surrounding the family's future. Article 24 of the ICCPR and article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child require that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration in all actions affecting children. We are concerned that the cumulative impact of the proceedings initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette, the disappearance of Mr. Moussa, and the threats and intimidation directed against the family may adversely affect the rights, protection and wellbeing of their three children, as well as the rights of the family under articles 17, 23 and 24 of the ICCPR.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response as soon as possible on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the above-mentioned persons in compliance with international instruments.

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 also be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and any comments you may have on the above allegations.
2. Please provide detailed information regarding the factual and legal basis for the proceedings reportedly initiated against Ms. Abdelbasette, including the specific conduct attributed to her, the evidence supporting the allegations, and the measures taken to ensure compliance with Egypt's obligations under articles 9, 14, 15, 19, 22 and 25 of the ICCPR.
3. Please provide detailed information concerning the fate, whereabouts, legal status and state of health of Mr. Moussa, including whether he is currently detained, the legal basis for any deprivation of liberty, and the measures taken to ensure his access to legal counsel, family contact and judicial oversight. Please provide detailed information regarding the factual and legal basis for any proceedings against him and explain how the measures taken against him comply with your Excellency's Government's obligations under international law.
4. Please provide information regarding any requests, notices, alerts, diffusions, extradition requests or other forms of cooperation sought by Egyptian authorities in relation to Mr. Moussa or Ms. Abdelbasette, including through INTERPOL or bilateral security cooperation mechanisms.

5. Please provide information concerning any investigations undertaken in relation to the threats, intimidation and gender-based harassment reportedly directed against Ms. Abdelbasette and members of her family. Please detail measures taken by your Excellency's Government to eliminate discrimination against women, including gender-based violence, as well as any measures taken to eradicate prejudices, stereotypes and practices that are the root cause of gender-based violence, including in the public and political sphere.
6. Please provide information concerning the measures taken to ensure that counter-terrorism legislation and procedures are not used to restrict or criminalise the rights to freedom of expression, including online expression, freedom of association, and to take part in the conduct of public affairs.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) at the 60 days mark. Should your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

We would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government that should sources submit the allegations concerning individual cases of enforced disappearances for the consideration of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances under its humanitarian procedure, the case will be examined by the Working Group according to its methods of work, in which case your Excellency's Government will be informed by separate correspondence.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to prevent any irreparable harm to the life and personal integrity of Mr. Moussa, to 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 responsible of the alleged violations.

Please be advised that a related communication has been sent to the Government of Oman.

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

Ben Saul

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

Gabriella Citroni

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

Irene Khan

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Gina Romero

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Reem Alsalem

Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Claudia Flores

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls