



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Egypt

Egypt – EGY36325 – Students – Military
service – Deferral documentation – Exit
procedures
12 March 2010

1. Please provide information on what sort of documentation/certificate a male student should possess if they have deferred their military service.

Note: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) advice of 3 March 2010 uses the terms “deferral” and “exemption” interchangeably.¹

Conclusive information on exactly what sort of documentation/certificate a male student would be expected to possess if they had deferred their military service was not found in a search of the available sources. The sources, however, do concur that a male student must obtain some form of paperwork/documentation to defer military service. Further, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW), “[a]dult Egyptian men must possess a certificate proving that they have served, or have been exempted from, their military duty”.² While HRW states that male students must clarify their military service status at 18 years of age³, Egyptian university websites indicate that students must clarify their military service status after 19 years of age.⁴

In a 2007 report HRW states that when male students reach the age of 18, the law requires them to either perform their mandatory military service or obtain a “red card” which defers their military service until they finish their university education. To get the red card for his student file, the student has to register with the military when he reaches age 18.⁵ No other information on a “red card” was found in the available sources.

The US Department of State (USDOS) 2007 human rights report states that “[s]tudents must produce a military draft postponement to complete their university education without interruption”.⁶

The American University in Cairo (AUC) website states that according to law, all students must identify their Military Service status within 30 days of their 19th birthday. The website gives instructions on the procedure for deferring military service or obtaining an exemption from military service (final, temporary, or being dual national). To defer

¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, *DFAT Report No. 1114 – Egypt: RRT Country Information Request – EGY36041*, 3 March – Attachment 1.

² Human Rights Watch 2007, *Prohibited Identities: State Interference with Religious Freedom*, November, p. 58 – Attachment 2.

³ Human Rights Watch 2007, *Prohibited Identities: State Interference with Religious Freedom*, November, p. 44 – Attachment 2.

⁴ ‘Military Service Policy for Egyptian Male Students’ (undated), American University in Cairo website <http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/policies/Pages/Military.aspx> – Accessed 6 January 2010 – Attachment 3; ‘FAQ’ (undated), Sinai University website

http://www.su.edu.eg/public_pages/view_pages.php?page_id=28 – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 4; ‘Admission’ (undated), Misr University for Science & Technology website <http://www.must.edu/admission.php> – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 5.

⁵ Human Rights Watch 2007, *Prohibited Identities: State Interference with Religious Freedom*, November, p. 44 – Attachment 2

⁶ US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 – Egypt*, 11 March, Section 2.c – Attachment 6.

military service, a student first obtains a Military Service Card (“Betaka 6 Gond”) from the “Civil Registration” office which issued their National ID card. (This is the office closest to their residence). The student then obtains a “Namouzag 2 Gond” from their “Military Service Area”. This is submitted, along with the Military Service Card, to the Military and Visa Services Unit at the Office of the University Registrar. The Military and Visa Service Unit then processes the student’s Military Service Status.⁷

Information on the AUC website also indicates that male students who have deferred their military service through the university can obtain an enrolment certificate which can be used to show their military status, issue or renew their passports, or obtain a travel permit.⁸

The Sinai University website states that students applying to the university require, among other documents, their Military status proof and the model (Form 2) military certificate for male students, and Military service card (Form 6) from the police station for those aged more than 19 years.⁹ Likewise, the website of the Misr University for Science and Technology (a private university in Egypt) states that applicants require a “military card for male Egyptians above nineteen years of age. For those above twenty-two an official document stating the military status should be submitted.”¹⁰

DFAT advice in February 2010¹¹ verifies an example of a certificate of temporary exemption from military service, although this is not issued for study reasons. The certificate appears to be issued by the Ministry of Defence.

2. Would they be able to leave the country without such a document?

Information indicates that an Egyptian male would not be able to obtain a passport and leave the country without in some way identifying their military service status.

The HRW report states that a passport can’t be issued without military service deferment papers, because (male) students aren’t allowed to leave the country while on reserve.¹²

According to DFAT advice of 2008, male travellers are requested to show their military exemption papers (or evidence of completion of military service) in order to depart Egypt.

⁷ ‘Military Service Policy for Egyptian Male Students’ (undated), American University in Cairo website <http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/policies/Pages/Military.aspx> – Accessed 6 January 2010 – Attachment 3.

⁸ ‘Request for enrolment certificate form’ (undated), The American University in Cairo website http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/forms/Documents/Enrollment_certificate.pdf – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 7.

⁹ ‘FAQ’ (undated), Sinai University website http://www.su.edu.eg/public_pages/view_pages.php?page_id=28 – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 4.

¹⁰ ‘Admission’ (undated), Misr University for Science & Technology website <http://www.must.edu/admission.php> – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 5.

¹¹ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, *DFAT Report No. 1110 – Egypt: RRT Information Request: EGY36099*, 16 February – Attachment 8; for the Tribunal request (and attached documents) which elicited this response, see: RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: ‘Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099’, 27 January – Attachment 9; Attachment 1 to RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: ‘Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099’, 27 January – Attachment 10; Attachment 2 to RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: ‘Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099’, 27 January – Attachment 11.

¹² Human Rights Watch 2007, *Prohibited Identities: State Interference with Religious Freedom*, November, p. 44 – Attachment 2.

DFAT states that “[i]f they do not have these documents, then they will not be allowed to depart Egypt.”¹³

DFAT advice of 2002 states that male citizens who have not completed compulsory military service may not exit Egypt unless they have formally deferred service, or are exempt due to particular circumstance. This DFAT advice does not indicate what documentation would be required to prove that an individual had formally deferred service or was exempt.¹⁴

Information on the American University of Cairo website suggests that a full-time student may use university enrolment certification to travel abroad.¹⁵

Attachments

1. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, *DFAT Report No. 1114 – Egypt: RRT Country Information Request – EGY36041*, 3 March.
2. Human Rights Watch 2007, *Prohibited Identities: State Interference with Religious Freedom*, November.
3. ‘Military Service Policy for Egyptian Male Students’ (undated), American University in Cairo website <http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/policies/Pages/Military.aspx> – Accessed 6 January 2010.
4. ‘FAQ’ (undated), Sinai University website http://www.su.edu.eg/public_pages/view_pages.php?page_id=28 – Accessed 12 March 2010.
5. ‘Admission’ (undated), Misr University for Science & Technology website <http://www.must.edu/admission.php> – Accessed 12 March 2010.
6. US Department of State 2008, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2007 – Egypt*, 11 March.
7. ‘Request for enrolment certificate form’ (undated), The American University in Cairo website http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/forms/Documents/Enrollment_certificate.pdf – Accessed 12 March 2010.
8. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, *DFAT Report No. 1110 – Egypt: RRT Information Request: EGY36099*, 16 February.

¹³ DIAC Country Information Service 2008, *Country Information Report No.08/84 – CRS Request No EGY9407: Egypt: Exemption from military service in Egypt; treatment of Coptic Christians*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 1 September 2008), 3 September – Attachment 12.

¹⁴ DIMA Country Information Service 2002, *Country Information Report No.116/02 – Entry/Exit Procedures*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 7 May 2002), 10 May – Attachment 13.

¹⁵ ‘Request for enrolment certificate form’ (undated), The American University in Cairo website http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/forms/Documents/Enrollment_certificate.pdf – Accessed 12 March 2010 – Attachment 7; ‘Military Service Policy for Egyptian Male Students’ (undated), American University in Cairo website <http://www.aucegypt.edu/currstudents/registrar/policies/Pages/Military.aspx> – Accessed 6 January 2010 – Attachment 3.

9. RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: 'Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099', 27 January.
10. Attachment 1 to RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: 'Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099', 27 January.
11. Attachment 2 to RRT Research & Information 2010, Email to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade: 'Refugee Review Tribunal Information Request: EGY36099', 27 January.
12. DIAC Country Information Service 2008, *Country Information Report No.08/84 – CRS Request No EGY9407: Egypt: Exemption from military service in Egypt; treatment of Coptic Christians*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 1 September 2008), 3 September. (CISNET Egypt CX209321)
13. DIMA Country Information Service 2002, *Country Information Report No.116/02 – Entry/Exit Procedures*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 7 May 2002), 10 May. (CISNET Egypt CX64426)