

10 STEPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS MANIFESTO FOR EGYPT



In parliamentary elections beginning on 28 November, Egyptians will ask whether the demands and promises of the “25 January Revolution” will finally be fulfilled. Those contesting seats in the People’s Assembly have the chance to break a cycle of repression that has continued for three decades under the state of emergency and that has eroded the rule of law.

Egypt under the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces seems miles away from

the promises of the uprising. The end of the state of emergency has been promised, but the Emergency Law has been fully re-enacted and even expanded. The abusive State Security Investigations Service has been abolished, but thousands of civilians have been unfairly tried by military courts. Freedoms of expression, association and assembly have been promised, but criticism of the authorities has been suppressed, activists targeted, NGOs threatened with criminal investigation, and demonstrators arbitrarily arrested and forcibly dispersed. Greater political participation has been promised, but women have been marginalized. New trade unions have been permitted, but striking banned. Millions of people in slums are still waiting for their voices to be heard.

Real rights reform must begin now. Here, Amnesty International sets out 10 pledges for candidates to show they will fight for human rights in the next parliament.

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AHEAD OF THE ELECTIONS, I PLEDGE TO:



1. END THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND REFORM THE SECURITY FORCES

Repeal the Emergency Law. Fundamentally reform the security forces in line with international law and standards. Their structure and chain of command must be made public, and an oversight body established to independently and impartially investigate reports of abuse.



2. END INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION AND COMBAT TORTURE

Detainees must have access in law and practice to the outside world, regularly and without delay, including to their families, lawyers of their own choosing and independent medical care. Torture and other ill-treatment must not be tolerated, and must be criminalized in line with international law. Reports of torture and other ill-treatment must be investigated. Places of detention must be publicly listed and subject to regular, unannounced, unrestricted and independent inspection.



3. ENSURE FAIR TRIALS

Everyone charged with an offence must have a fair trial by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Military trials of civilians and trials before emergency courts must end; those convicted must be retried before civilian courts or released.



4. UPHOLD THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION

Laws criminalizing the peaceful exercise of these rights must be repealed or brought in line with international law and standards. These include several articles of the Penal Code, the Law on Associations and Law No. 34 of 2011, which criminalizes demonstrations and strikes.



5. INVESTIGATE PAST ABUSES

There must be an independent, thorough and impartial inquiry into human rights violations under the rule of President Hosni Mubarak. It

must make recommendations to prevent future abuses and to provide truth, justice and reparation to the victims.



6. REALIZE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

People must have access to essential public services, including water, sanitation and health care, regardless of their place of residence or income. Workers' rights, including the right to strike and the right to a fair minimum wage, must be upheld.



7. UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN SLUMS

People living in informal settlements must be meaningfully consulted and able to actively participate in decisions affecting their future. They must have legal security of tenure. Forced evictions, which are dangerous, humiliating and illegal under international law, must end. There must be a comprehensive plan to address inadequate housing conditions that threaten lives and health.



8. END DISCRIMINATION

Legal provisions discriminating against individuals on the basis of race, colour, religion, ethnicity, birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or other status, must be brought in line with international law and standards or abolished. This includes Presidential Decree 291/2005 on Christian places of worship. Sectarian attacks must be prevented and fully investigated and perpetrators brought to trial.



9. PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women must be full partners in the process of political and human rights reform. Women and men must be accorded equal rights in law to marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance. Women must have legal protection from domestic violence, including marital rape, and sexual harassment. Penal Code articles 260-263 must be amended to allow abortion for women and girl survivors of rape and incest – or when a pregnancy poses a grave risk to health. Law No.126 of 2008 must be amended to prohibit female genital mutilation in all cases.



10. ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

A moratorium on executions must be imposed pending abolition of the death penalty.

SIGN HERE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

EGYPT HAS THE FIRST REAL CHANCE IN 30 YEARS TO EFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM. PLEDGE YOUR COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN EGYPT'S NEXT PARLIAMENT.



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Cover: An Egyptian woman cries as she celebrates the news of President Hosni Mubarak's resignation, Cairo, 11 February 2011.

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ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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