



UPR - 2024

Sinai Foundation For Human Rights



Agenda

Introduction

Issues & Recommendations

- Forced Evictions
- Child Recruitments in the Armed Conflict
- Attacks on Education

#FREE_THEM_ALL



Introduction

- In 2013, an armed fight erupted between the Egyptian government forces and ISIS, in Egypt's North Sinai lasted for 10 years.
- The conflict was marked by gross human rights violations that brutalized residents, included hundreds of extrajudicial killings, thousands of enforced disappearances, and thousands of arbitrary detentions, attacks on schools, home demolitions and forced evictions of tens of thousands of residents. Many of these violations amounted to war crimes.
- Hostilities subsided around 2022, Despite the serious abuses, the recommendations to Egypt at the 2019 UPR did not include any mention of the situation in Sinai. I highly recommend you seize the opportunity to speak up and address the legacy of the horrors and war crimes that were committed during the last decade.

Issue 1: Forced Evictions

The unlawful home demolitions and forced evictions by the military have resulted in the displacement of around 150,000 indigenous people, roughly a quarter of the population of Northern Sinai.

Despite the official announcement of the end of the hostilities in 2022, the Egyptian authorities are yet to allow the indigenous people to return to their land.

Recommendations: Forced Evictions

1. Halt all ongoing abusive home demolitions and forced evictions in North Sinai.
2. Promptly, fairly and fully compensate all families evicted from their homes, land, and farms and those who lost sources of income. Allow recourse through independent judicial review.
3. Fully investigate and hold accountable government and non-government forces involved in serious crimes, including systematic abductions, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Issue 2: Child Recruitment

In a 2023 report, Sinai Foundation documented military forces and Pro-government tribal militias were involved in child recruitment. Between 2013 – 2022, children were recruited with tasks such as spying or delivering food supplies. The ISIS group chased these children and brutally killed them later.

in late September 2023, the US government listed its Egyptian counterpart for the first time in the annual human trafficking report issued.

Later in June 2024 the UN Child Right Committee issued its concluding observation, as part of its ninety-sixth session. The CRC experts analysed rigorous evidence provided by Sinai Foundation and issued the following recommendation which we adopt too.

Recommendations: Child Recruitment

- (a) To prevent the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by state or non-State armed groups.
- (b) To prohibit children below the age of 18 years from joining the armed forces and to consider raising the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the armed forces to 18 years.
- (c) To provide monitoring institutions, including international organizations, with access to North Sinai and to carry out investigations.

Issue 3: Attacks on Education

In a 2024 report, The Sinai Foundation documented the attacks on education including at least **73** schools that had been demolished fully or partially by the Egyptian Military and at least **48** schools that had been used for military purposes by the Egyptian armed forces, some of them still serving as a military outpost till now.

Later in June 2024 the UN Child Right Committee issued its concluding observation, as part of its ninety-sixth session, and issued the following recommendation which we adopt too.

Recommendations: Attacks on Education

1. To consider endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration.
2. To ensure that schools in North Sinai are not used as military bases;
3. Uphold the rights of children in North Sinai, including the right to education, by repairing and rebuilding schools damaged or destroyed during the armed violence.



These are some of the most basic recommendations, but I invited all esteemed audiences to find more in our reports and push the Egyptian government to open Sinai for independent reporters.

Thank you