

Statement by National Council for Human Rights – Egypt

Dr. Hossam Badrawi

Mr. President

We commend the government of Egypt for its acceptance of 119 recommendations, and its complete and partial acceptance during the current session of 21 out of 25 recommendations which were pending consideration.

However, NCHR has the following comments and recommendations.

1-First..... Despite the commitment by the Government in 2005 to end, within two years, the state of emergency, the STATE OF EMERGENCY has been extended again in 2010 for 2 years.

NCHR appreciates the limitations placed by law on the scope of implementation of the emergency law in the 2010 extension to crimes related to terrorism and trading with illegal drugs, **yet NCHR strongly calls for ending the state of emergency and all exceptional procedures associated therewith.**

2-Second..... NCHR expects the government to announce names, and release all detainees, political activists, bloggers and any other citizen detained under the emergency law outside the scope of the new limitations.

3-Third.....Acceptance by the government to eliminate all legal provisions and policies that discriminate against citizens based upon their religion is welcomed by NCHR.

However, **NCHR calls upon the Government to expedite the implementation of the principle of citizenship by promulgating the Unified Law for Places of Worship, and the Law on Equal Opportunities and the Eradication of Discrimination, which have been proposed by the Council.**

4-Fourth.....NCHR has also proposed necessary amendments to procedural laws to enhance the rights for the freedom of opinion, expression and scientific research, and limit abusive lawsuits against intellectuals, scholars, writers and journalists. We commend the Government for accepting this proposal and call for accelerated action in this respect.

5- Fifth...The Council also calls upon the Government to endorse the four recommendations to extend an open and standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs to visit Egypt.

6- Sixth...As regards the recommendation to amend the NGO Law 84 for 2002, the Council welcomes the Government's position regarding participation of the Council and NGOs, in preparing amendments to guarantee the freedom of association and establishing NGO's, facilitating their ability to obtain funding, abolishing the right of the Administration to dissolve NGO's by administrative decisions and confirming their right to voluntary and judicial dissolution only.

7-Finally It is of utmost importance , from NCHR's perspective, that accepting recommendations by the government should be followed by proper and prompt implementation. It is the intention of NCHR with active participation of the Egyptian civil society to monitor the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the government and we urge the government to establish a permanent mechanism whereby this independent monitoring would be more effective and transparent.