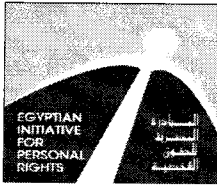


2

2



NGO Joint Statement

**Human Rights Watch
International Federation for Human Rights**

**With the support of
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights**

UPR outcome report of Egypt

11 June 2010

Thank you Mr. President

I am making this statement on behalf of Human Rights Watch and FIDH, in partnership with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.

The Council's review of Egypt could not be more timely, in light of the continuing deterioration in the human rights situation since the review took place last February.

We welcome the UPR report on Egypt, which includes important recommendations on revising the penal code's definition of torture to bring it in line with international law, guaranteeing freedom of religion and responding to sectarian violence against Christians, and consulting NGOs when drafting any new NGO law.

In February, the Egyptian government accepted three recommendations on ending the state of emergency, which has been in effect without interruption since President Mubarak took office in 1981. We can only deplore the recent renewal of the state of emergency on May 11 for two more years. We stress that all administrative detainees, estimated between 5,000 and 10,000, should be immediately charged or released. As a first step, the government should immediately release individuals detained for peaceful activism such as Mus'ad Abul Fagr, and members of the opposition Muslim Brotherhood. We also urge the release of Hany Nazeer, a blogger detained under the emergency law since 2008 solely for posting a link to a novel perceived as insulting to Islam.

The repeated renewal of the state of emergency and the reliance on its sweeping repressive measures sends the message that the government sees itself and its powerful security apparatus as being above the law. The result has been a pervasive atmosphere of impunity

for human rights violations, particularly with regard to the systematic and widespread practice of torture in places of detention.

We are also concerned about the continued crackdown on independent political activists and the violation of freedom of assembly, such as, most recently, the quashing of a demonstration and arrest of 102 peaceful protestors on April 6 in Cairo who were calling for an end to the state of emergency and amending the constitution to allow for free presidential elections next year. Additionally, we are concerned that the Shura elections that took place on June 1 were marred by reports of fraud, security forces' prevention of voters from accessing polling stations, arrest of supporters of opposition candidates and incidents of violence.

Finally, we remain concerned by the policy of shooting migrants attempting to cross the Sinai border into Israel. Since the February session, at which Egypt accepted two recommendations on upholding the rights of refugees, Egyptian border guards have shot dead at least 12 migrants, bringing the total number of all those killed since 2007 to 74.

Thank you.

* * *