



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Violating Rights of Local Civilian

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Report Methodology

This report will discuss four components which are drinking water, draining services, environment services, and health services. The report will focus on those four components because there is a connection between them and because they are the more urgent and spread needs watched by Maat Institution. This report depended on three information sources:

- 1- Results of discussion meetings with citizens: there are 33 discussion meetings were held in some Egyptian governorates, in order to define problems and violations related to public utilities and essential services.
- 2- Citizens complaints: big number of citizens and their representatives in local public councils delivered written complaints to Maat Institution about specific violations they suffer regarding public utilities and essential services.
- 3- Journalism subjects published in Egyptian journals regarding violations of economical and social rights and depriving from essential services.

First violation regarding the right to have safe drinking water:

Egypt witnessed in the last three years increasing public anger because of shortage in drinking water available in many places of the republic. Thus, protest forms rose like demonstrations and stays-in strike to force executive managers to solve this problem. This period also witnessed many cases of water pollutions or mixing drinking water with draining water this is the problem which makes many people infected with hepatitis and renal failure.

The most important characteristics of violating the right to have safe drinking water in Egypt are:

1- Shortage in drinking water

Shortage of water spreads in Egypt and become present in many governorates as people are obliged to purchase water form cars walk around in these cities to sell water in packets named "Garaken", some times the price of one "Gerken" reached five pounds. Many people said that water spent about 25% of their monthly wedges. Following this case revealed that inattention to end water projects is the main cause for this case. The most important examples and proves about drinking water shortage is the following:

- People in villages of "Abd Al Kader Nour" and "Koshk Almoror" in Alfayoom governorate suffer form shortage in drinking water since 2004, they delivered about 36 complaints for mangers in vain, and they are obliged to purchase drinking water in packets for five pounds for the every one.
- People of "Alharrania" village in 6th October governorate suffer shortage in drinking water almost always, and projects to deliver drinking water to the village are always delayed. People told us that they purchase drinking water daily.
- People of "Atfeeh" center in Helwan governorate suffer the same problem and this center is deprived form a station to purify drinking water, also they purchase drinking water from near places.
- People of "Abo Alnomros" city, in 6th October governorate suffer sever shortage in drinking water, and the water station is being established many years ago without any signs that it will be finished.
- Some places suffer water cutout for more than two weeks, like water cutout in "Almaabda" village, Asyoot governorate for about two weeks in August 2009, also in the same period many places in Marsa Matrooh governorate suffer the same problem thus people record a report in police station against manager of Water Company in the governorate.
- Suffering of "Maazoor" village in Sharm Alsheekh governorate from shortage in drinking water 8 years ago.

2- Pollution of drinking water and diseases resulted:

In the last two years, many accidents were revealed about polluting drinking water in many governorates. Experts and specialists in water decided that pollution rates in Egyptian drinking water is unusual this is because of bad means of chemical treatment for water which still depended on Chlorine in big amounts and did not use other developed means like Ozone and ultraviolet radials. In addition, water net is wear because of negligence in maintaining it so it is become a good place for bacteria, also stations of water purifying is of low quality and its machines are wearing. While the most important source of polluting drinking water in Egypt is its mixture to draining water.

The most important examples of pollutions of drinking water and its mixture with draining water is the following:

- Doctors said that every year there are hundred thousands of infections of deceases of hepatitis and renal failure as a result of using polluted drinking water.
- There are more than "9300" Nile units get rid of its waste in The River Nile.
- About 30 million cubic meter of industrial waste are thrown in Nile water every year, while industrial draining contains materials and substances of high poisons. Also most draining projects in villages throw in The River Nile or in agriculture drains which went to the river at the end.
- Peoples of "Alghoraz" village in Qena governorate suffer form pollution in the water of their village, many people were infected and analyses reveal that the cause is the kind of water.
- In July 2009 more than 300 citizens in "Albaradaa" village were infected with Typhoid because of polluted drinking water.
- People of "AlZanneaa" village in Quena governorate suffer form polluting drinking water and high rate of salts in it to reach 65%.
- Peoples of "Masged Mousaa" village in Helwan governorate suffer form mixing drinking water with draining water, and high rate of salts as a result.
- People in some villages of "Basyoon" center in Al Gharabia governorate suffer form high rate of poisoning substances in water and this water is not correspondent to chemical and bacteriology standers.
- In August 2009, a report of health department in Asyoot governorate revealed that 43% of drinking water sources are not correspondent to healthier measures and standers.
- In August 2009, 20 citizens in "Tahway "village in Al Mounofya governorate suffer from diarrhea and vomit because of pollution in drinking water.
- In July 2009, samples' analyses of drinking water in some centers in Dakahlia governorate proved that it is not to be used.
- Villages affiliated to "Al Giza" center in "6th October" governorate suffer form pollution in water of wells they drink form, peoples said that pollution rate increased every year so it is important to have substantial sources for drinking water not to purify these wells.
- Peoples of "Al Marashda" in Quena governorate suffer form bad smell and black color in drinking which reveal its pollution but managers refused to analyze it.

Second: Violations Regarding Services of Draining

Services of Draining do not cover all places in Egypt; also villages suffer form depriving and severe shortage in draining services as for cities. Statistics mentioned that villages which have draining service are not more than 9% (373 out of 4500 villages) of villages in Egypt. The remaining villages depended on traditional methods like" pull tanks" which cause many dangers on health and on environment.

The most important examples of violations regarding the right to have draining service in Egypt are the following:

- 1- More than 7% of buildings in do not offer any means of draining whatever public net or healthier bathrooms.
- 2- There is a big gap between governorates regarding the percentage of buildings which offer draining system; for example this percentage in Giza reached 94%, while in Qena 5.4%, and in Asyoot 4.3, this indicate that there is no fair in offering this service in the republic regions.

3- In many accidents citizens fall in draining cesspools which left uncovered so victims died; for example the accident of July 2009 when three children fall in a cesspool in "Alhasfaa" village in "Alread" center.

4- Many places in Egypt suffer from inundation of draining water as a result of technical failings in the net and because of neglecting its maintenance. Thus residents of these places suffer environmental and healthier problems; examples of that is "Alsanafen" village in Sherkia governorate which suffer this problem many years ago so big number of residents are infected with renal failure, and gastritis. The same is in "Alharrania" village in 6th October governorate, in "Alsharrabia" region in Cairo, and region of "Alnaam" in Ain Shams which is affiliated to Cairo governorate, also in Masaken Alrai in "Alwaledia" quarter in Asyoot, and "Qoos" city in Qena governorate.

5- Residents in places of big cesspools of draining net complain repeatedly about inundation of these cesspools, so it flood on near places, farms and houses; for example villages near to the station of treatment draining water in Algabal Alasfar in Qalyoobia governorate.

6- In governorates of Upper Egypt more than 20 projects of draining water which are delayed and the government's excuse is shortage of financial support.

7- In many governorates wide agriculture areas are watered by draining water which did not have treatment and they are watched as following:-

- About 40 thousand acres are watered by draining water in "Alsaf" center, "Giza" center in 6th October governorate, and "Atfeeh" center in Helwan Governorate.

- About 10 thousand acres in governorates of Monofia, Sharkia, and Gharbia are watered by draining water and it vegetables products are sold in Cairo.

- The area known as the green belt around 6th October governorate which consists of 22 thousand acres is watered by draining water and its products are vegetables sold in governorates of 6th October, Giza, Cairo, and Helwan.

Third: Violations Regarding Environmental Services:

Rubbish gathering is a main source of diseases and epidemics in Egypt, and there is clear stumble in managing services of collecting rubbish and environment clearness. Also there is unfairness in distributing services of rubbish collect in districts and governorates of Egypt. We can mention the most important characteristics of violations regarding this matter:

1- In some big cities like Cairo and Giza there are many bodies to collect rubbish some of them are affiliated to the government and others are private companies, while in villages these bodies are absent and it is the responsibility of local units with its law financial sources.

2- There is a public complaint against high cleaning fees added to electricity bill while the service is not good.

3- According to official estimates there is about 70 million tons of hard rubbish every year in Egypt. In the same time there are no active plans and programs to get benefit from it or to get rid of it and it is left in streets and ways causing dangerous environmental problems.

4- Most rubbish dumps are inside residence blocs especially in governorates of Cairo, Giza, and Kalyobia. In addition pigs are breed and eat this rubbish without any healthy or medical care for pigs and those who breed them, and without regarding environmental conditions.

5- three years ago the parliament issued a recommend to remove pigs' barns out of residence blocs, but it never executed until the disaster of "Influenza H1N1" when the government forced to slaughter all pigs without any previous planning.

6- A big number of complaints and violations regarding absence of rubbish collectors are watched in Egyptian governorates; the most important examples are the following:

- "Barak Al Khaiam" village, in 6th October governorate suffer from rubbish gathering epidemically in village's streets even in front of its main marks. In addition a barns of cattle and livestock spread within residence blocs, while breeders get rid of animals' waste in streets. Citizens delivered many complaints to executive officers but in vain.

- Rubbish gathering epidemically is the main cause of many diseases spreading between residence in "Alharrania" village, which cause spreading of mosquitoes and other bugs to discomfort people and bring them many problems in their daily life.
- In "Qamnoura "village in Alsharkia governorate rubbish dumps spreads, and residences try to remove it with their self efforts but it was beyond their ability so they stop while executive body did not try to support their initiative.
- Residents of "Sohag" city complain that rubbish dumps are gathered nevertheless they pay high fees for cleaning. The same is in some places of "Asyoot" city especially "Alzahraa" area.
- in some districts rubbish are gathered around schools which cause a doubled problem and expose students to health problems; for example rubbish gathering watched around some schools in Giza governorate.

Fourth: Violation of Good Health Services

Many signs indicate bad health-service in Egypt; we watch most important violations in this concern in the following:

- 1- Until now there is no comprehensive health assurance in Egypt, the government issued a draft about this concern but it was judged to be unconstitutional because it dose not regard social classes.
- 2- Although the government is ready to present new draft of health assurance to parliament, but it never make a questioner about it or introduce it for social discussion.
- 3- According to official estimates about 17% of Egyptian are infected with hepatitis of B&C, while other medical estimates raise the rate to more than 30%, and there is about 100 thousand new infection of renal failure, and about 35 thousand new infection of cancer every year. Pollution of water and food is the main cause of this, but the most disturbing thing is that government does not pay attention to mention real numbers and statistics regarding this concern.
- 4- Percentage of governmental expenditure on health sector less than 4% of all governmental expenditure.
- 5- Lately many accidents, regarding law health service and negligence in some hospitals, are discovered, thus some citizens died and others were infected by other diseases inside hospitals.

Fifth: Recommends:

- 1- Government has to abide by specific date to end delayed projects of drinking water and draining, and to present enough financial sources for this.
- 2- Focusing on villages to offer safe service of draining in the coming period.
- 3- Provide suitable legislative frame to confront negligence in establishing draining net and in maintaining it.
- 4- Issuing legislation concerned about good drinking water, and good draining services, and appointing social mechanism to watch executing quality standers will stated in the law.
- 5- Present the health assurance law which is about to be issued to social discussion.
- 6- To rise the governmental paying for health sector to 10% of all its paying.
- 7- Give bodies of local governing and civil organizations in governorates enough authorities and offer suitable financial resources to them with good technical support, to get rid of rubbish safely, and support efforts of recycle.
- 8- Unit bodies which are responsible for cleaning to be one united civil body responsible for coordinating between governmental and civil sides in this field and to watch application of environmental quality standers.