



### [Egyptian Government Authorities Execute 15 Political Prisoners](#)

Authorities in Egypt recently executed 15 political prisoners, sparking outrage among human rights activists in the country. Protests against authoritarian strongman Abdel Fattah el-Sisi have sprung up across Egypt in preceding weeks, and observers have suggested that the executions were a ruthless response to suppress these demonstrations. Since taking power via a military coup in 2013, el-Sisi has ruled the country with an iron fist, and government authorities have engaged in a brutal crackdown against the basic freedoms of Egyptian citizens. The high level of repression under the regime has included the mass arrest and torture of protesters, human rights activists, journalists, and political figures. Like those, the latest unjust executions are part of ongoing efforts to deter dissent and intimidate the population. In fact, according to data from Amnesty International, el-Sisi's government was one of the five worst executioners in the world last year, a list that includes other repressive regimes such as the ones in Saudi Arabia, China, and Iran.

Under the rule of el-Sisi, Egypt has experienced a significant escalation in repression and human rights violations. Thousands of political opponents have been jailed since the military's removal of former President Morsi in 2013, and the el-Sisi regime has gone as far as criminalizing human rights activism and hindering civil society groups. Furthermore, in addition to perceived political threats, security forces have routinely rounded up demonstrators and activists, often subjecting these detainees to torture in order to obtain false criminal confessions. On top of the widespread use of torture, authorities have also had no reservations regarding the use of lethal force to quell public dissent as well. Overall, the increased level of human rights violations by the current government has led subject experts to contend that these abuses exceed those that existed prior to the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

The latest execution of political prisoners comes as anti-government demonstrations continue across Egypt, and analysts have pointed out that these killings appear to be an attempt to intimidate the ongoing protests. The recent demonstrations against the el-Sisi regime sprung up in mid-September, around the September 20th anniversary of last year's rallies which were violently put down by security forces. At that time last year in 2019, exiled Egyptian actor and dissident Mohammed Ali, who was also a former government contractor, called for widespread protests against the el-Sisi regime and its corruption practices. Ali, speaking from first-hand experience in his work with them, alleged that the government had taken part in lavish development projects and misused public funds at the expense of the country's poorest citizens. Large-scale demonstrations erupted again this year around the same time, in addition to some that were already ongoing in response to the controversial demolition of thousands of supposedly illegal homes. The outrage over illegal demolitions, continuing human rights violations, and economic grievances have resulted in intensified anti-government sentiment, leading the regime to take drastic and ruthless measures to try and suppress dissent.

While human rights activists have tried to promote awareness regarding the el-Sisi regime's repressive behavior, many are fearful that these abuses will continue unless foreign governments and international actors take actions to deter it and are more vocal in their condemnation. Groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented the rising level of violations under the current government, and the latest killings are just another example of the regime's desperate attempt to silence critics and retain power.