



[Egyptian Court Sentences Activists to Terms of up to 15 Years](#)

The recent sentencing of the 14 individuals, some of whom were political activists, in Egypt under terrorism charges is a blatant violation of human rights and a clear indication of the authoritarian tactics employed by the Egyptian government. The Egyptian court system has long been a subject of controversy and criticism. Its legitimacy both domestically and internationally. The Emergency State Security Court, which handed down the punishments, is a prime example of this. Most recently this court, which handed down punishments to these 14 individuals, has been widely criticized for its lack of legitimacy and failure to uphold the fundamental right to a fair trial. The government's use of torture and forced disappearances is a grave concern that threatens the safety and well-being of anyone who dares to challenge the status quo. The government's tactics of intimidation create a chilling effect on those who would oppose the government. The 14 individuals who are now in jail are a clear example of this. International observers have reported that these trials were in violation of the human right to a fair trial.

Government suppression is not a novel occurrence in Egypt. Many political activists are under constant threat. Among those most recently tried, they have all been subjected to forced disappearance for up to three months, leaving their loved ones in a state of perpetual fear and anxiety. During their detainment, they were subject to torture and physical and mental abuse. This type of behavior is a clear violation of international human rights. The Committee for Justice, a human rights organization, has documented these abuses, but it seems that the government is beyond the reach of accountability. This impunity only emboldens the government to continue targeting human rights activists, dissidents, and opposition figures. The country is in desperate need of reform, and the court system is no exception. The lack of legitimacy and accountability must be addressed, and the government must be held responsible for its human rights violations.

The lack of due process and disregard for the right to a fair trial is a grave threat to democracy in Egypt. In a democratic society, the rule of law should be paramount, and every citizen should be afforded the same legal protections and rights. However, the arbitrary nature of the charges and the lack of investigations, fair trials, and defense leave citizens vulnerable to the whims of those in power. The use of "terrorist lists" to target human rights activists is particularly alarming. These lists are often used to stifle dissent and suppress political opposition, without any concrete evidence of wrongdoing. People should be allowed to peacefully organize and mobilize, voice their thoughts without fear of retaliation, and hold their government accountable in a democratic society. The targeting of human rights activists, in particular, is a clear attempt by the government to silence those who are speaking out against injustices and abuses of power. This not only has a chilling effect on free speech but also undermines the fundamental principle of the rule of law. A functioning democracy requires the free flow of ideas, the ability to dissent and criticize, and the right to hold those in power accountable. Without these rights, democracy becomes hollow and meaningless, and the people lose faith in their government and

institutions. Moreover, the sentencing of human rights activists to sentences of up to 15 years is an effort to dissuade other activists from speaking out. The government's message is quite clear: you will suffer serious repercussions if you speak out against us. This fear-mongering tactic is a tool of authoritarian regimes and has no place in a functioning democracy.

The international community must take action against these abuses of power. Governments around the world must look into the sentencing of the activists in Egypt and call on the government to release them immediately. They should also pressure the Egyptian government to respect the rights of its citizens and to ensure that the court system operates fairly and transparently. Furthermore, the international community should consider imposing targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for human rights abuses in Egypt. This could include freezing assets and banning travel for those responsible for the sentencing of the activists and the broader crackdown on dissent. In conclusion, the sentencing of the activists in Egypt is a clear violation of human rights and a prime example of the authoritarian tactics employed by the government. The use of "terrorism" charges to silence dissent is a common tactic employed by authoritarian regimes.