

CRIMINAL PROCEDURES CODE BILL:  
**TEN YEARS** TO AMEND ONE ARTICLE,  
**TEN DAYS** TO AMEND AND PASS THE ENTIRE LAW



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة  
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION  
(ACILJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة  
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)



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Ten Days to Amend and Pass the Entire Law**

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**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** expresses its deep dissatisfaction and concern with the behavior of the Legislative Committee in the Parliament, which is represented in its insistence on issuing and amending all articles of the Criminal Procedures Code in a few days, rejecting all calls for public dialogue that is commensurate with the size and seriousness of the procedural legitimacy law, as it is a general law that affects the rights of all citizens and not specific professional categories.

The Center notes that the same Legislative Committee had a full 10 years to amend one article in the Procedures Code, which was a constitutional entitlement for citizens related to their right to appeal criminal rulings, and which was amended in the last week of the 10-year period set by the Constitution, after the Center issued a statement warning of the need to adhere to constitutional deadlines. The amendment was actually issued on the last day of the constitutional period, January 17, 2024, by Law No. 1 of 2024.

While the Legislative Committee wants to complete, finalize and amend all the more than 400 articles of the Procedures Code within ten days, the Center questions the philosophy and purpose of expediting the completion of the draft law, without an urgent need for this urgency, which will necessarily affect the content of these amendments, their legitimacy and their compatibility with the constitutional texts and international human rights standards related to guarantees of a fair and just trial.

**ACIJLP** stresses and renews its demand for the necessity of not rushing the issuance of the Criminal Procedure Law in such a manner, as it could negatively impact the reputation and status of the criminal justice system in Egypt. This could potentially lead to conflicts of jurisdiction between national and international courts in cases of disputes, especially if the criminal justice system of a country is



deemed inadequate according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is worth noting that one of the most important international standards for determining the ability of judicial systems to investigate criminal crimes is the extent to which the procedural and penal laws in that country adhere to international human rights standards and the rules of fair and equitable trials.

Therefore, **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession** calls on the Legislative Committee, Parliament, and the Egyptian government to quickly intervene in order to put the draft Criminal Procedures Law up for effective community dialogue, and to give society sufficient time to discuss it, following the example of the Legislative Committee and Parliament, which waited 10 years before amending a single article of the Criminal Procedures Law.