

PREPARING AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION FOR CRITICAL ARTICLES IN THE DRAFT OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURES LAW



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



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

**Finalizing an alternative version
for critical articles in the draft of the Criminal Procedures Law**

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In light of the campaign launched by **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** since August 21 to unveil the hazards of the proposed Criminal Procedures Law, and to advocate for a pause in its issuance process for a genuine, public, and transparent community dialogue involving all sectors of civil society — such as unions, universities, political parties, human rights organizations, experts, and public figures — ACIJLP has finalized an alternative version for 50 critical articles of the draft law.

This alternative proposal is meant to be shared with legal experts and university professors, particularly those specializing in teaching the Criminal Procedures Law, affirming the necessity for extensive discussions and consultations. The objective is to ensure that the provisions of the Criminal Procedures Law strike a balanced approach between societal rights and individual rights, while adhering to international human rights norms.

ACIJLP stresses that ongoing discussions within the Legislative Committee of the House of Representatives underscore the government's commitment to shaping the bill with a security-oriented approach aimed at bolstering the authority of security agencies at the expense of the rights of defendants. This philosophy contradicts Egypt's international obligations and commitments to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, and do not adhere to the principles and standards of a fair trial from the moment of arrest through investigation to the trial phase.

ACIJLP reiterates the fundamental objective of the campaign, which is the withdrawal of the draft law presented by the Legislative Committee and its subsequent resubmission for a genuine community dialogue. Continuing its campaign activities, the Center initially issued a statement expressing its rejection of the draft. Subsequently, an expert-level workshop was organized by the ACIJLP, involving a group of legal experts. The workshop concluded with a recommendation to halt discussions on the draft law in its present form. Additionally, the Center released a legal analysis outlining the 10 most critical violations of the bill against constitutional provisions and fair trial standards.

ACIJLP reiterates its urgent call for the immediate release of all individuals in pretrial detention in contravention of the current Criminal Procedures Law, advocating for expediting amendments related to pretrial detention independently, without waiting for a comprehensive overhaul of the entire law.

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession