

ARRESTING FEMALE PROTESTANTS IN FRONT OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN CAIRO: A DISGRACEFUL ACTION THAT MUST BE STOPPED



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The Justice Support Foundation affiliated with **the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** condemns the Egyptian security forces' arrest of a large number of women participating in a protest in front of the United Nations headquarters Tuesday.

On April 23, 2024, a number of Egyptian girls and women organized a protest in front of the United Nations headquarters in Cairo, in order to declare solidarity with women in Palestine and Sudan, and to call on the United Nations to undertake its mission to protect women there from widespread and gross violations in war zones, where women suffer from the scourge of war in light of an acute shortage of the basic elements of life, such as food, water, and secure shelter.

During the Egyptian women peaceful protest, the participants were subjected to an unjustified violence from the security forces with the participation of the United Nations office's special security guards, where a number of mobile phones of the participants were seized. There were continuous attempts to end the protest, which led to physical violence and ended with the arrest of 15 Egyptian women and two men, one of whom was a resident of the district, who were coincidentally present at the place when the participants were arrested. Among the participants were:

- Rajia Omran
- Eman Ouf
- Rasha Azab
- Mahinour Elmasry
- Mai Almahdy
- Farida Alhefny
- Hadeer Elmahdy
- Asmaa Naeem
- Lina Ali
- Esraa Youssef
- Lobna Darweesh
- Yusra Elklesly
- Roqaya Serageldin
- Arwa Marei
- Yara Alwardany
- Youssef Shaaban
- Mohamed Farag

Those arrested since Tuesday were taken to an unknown location, and deprived of contact with their families or lawyers, in clear violation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights specially article no 9/1 stipulating that "Everyone has the right to

liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law”.

Likewise, article no. 14, paragraph 3 stipulates: “In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:

(a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him.

(b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing.

The Justice Support Foundation affiliated with the Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP) affirms its condemnation of the arrest incidents that represent a violation to the right to peaceful assembly as one of most important rights associated with freedom of opinion and expression. The Justice Support Foundation calls on the Egyptian government to immediately release those arrested and investigate the incidents of assault on demonstrators during the process of dispersal and arrest.

Justice Support Foundation

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