



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة

The Arab Center for Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP)
Centre Arabe de l'Indépendance des Avocats et de la Magistrature

(يتمتع بالصفة الاستشارية الخاصة بالمجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي للأمم المتحدة)

In Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Il a un statut consultatif auprès du Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies (ÉCOSOC)

The statement of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives

exposes the extent of oppression within the draft Criminal Procedures Law

The **Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** vehemently condemns the statement released by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives following the conclusion of discussions on the draft Criminal Procedures Law. The ACIJLP also deplores the Committee's resort to intimidation tactics and threats against critics of the proposed law, as well as the Committee's use of incendiary language targeting the rights of opponents to uphold their rights and freedoms. This behavior is disgraceful and falls short of the standards of the Egyptian Parliament, the oldest parliament in the Arab region.

ACIJLP notes that the Committee's statement effectively reveals the underlying philosophy of the draft law, asserting concerns about its enactment in a manner that is deemed unconstitutional and in violation of the principles of criminal justice and fair trials. If the committee that drafted the law employs intimidation and instills fear in its detractors, it is evident that such domineering and oppressive conduct has influenced the formulation of the law's provisions, disregarding constitutional provisions and criminal justice standards, and risking the encroachment upon the rights and freedoms of citizens.

ACIJLP affirms that the Egyptian Constitution upholds the people's right to monitor the work of all branches of government—executive, judicial, and legislative—and emphasizes that citizens have the authority to scrutinize and critique their decisions and actions and that the authorities are not at liberty to enact legislation without being subject to public scrutiny. Given the critical importance of safeguarding rights and freedoms, especially in the case of the draft Criminal Procedures Law, it is imperative that this legislation undergoes widespread critique and discussion.

ACIJLP stresses that the use of threatening and intimidating language in the Committee's statement will not dissuade us from unequivocally rejecting the draft law and the underlying principles guiding its formulation. The ACIJLP remains committed to the critical perspective articulated in the legal papers it has provided over the years concerning the draft law. The Center insists on its fundamental demand for the withdrawal of the draft and its resubmission for a genuine and transparent societal dialogue.

Furthermore, **ACIJLP** reiterates its call for the release of individuals currently in pretrial detention in violation of the existing Criminal Procedures Law. The Center's campaign against this draft legislation will persist until its legitimate appeals are addressed.

Cairo, 12 September 2024