

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Statement of the Egyptian Senate
on the Statement of the Finnish Ambassador to the United Nations in
Geneva on behalf of 31 Countries
before the UN Human Rights Council on March 12, 2021 (Session46)
on
Egypt's Human Rights Path

The Egyptian Senate considers that the statement has gone far from transparency and objectivity, dealt with the files it referred to superficially, and dealt with allegations in broad terms that do not exist in its general meaning on the ground.

The Egyptian State has only used anti-terrorism laws against those who have already committed terrorist crimes - as universally agreed upon - and has not applied such laws to any of the groups that the statement claimed to have been subjected to, as no lawyer, journalist or human rights lawyer or human rights activist is in custody unless he has committed a crime justifying the actions taken against him - whether through a fair trial or fair investigations conducted by a judiciary fully independent from the executive branch - as evidenced by the fact that the statement did not mention a specific case of abuse in the manner described in it. The Egyptian State has repeatedly challenged all those who claim to have proved something of what is claimed, and has confirmed that only those who have committed a terrorist crime in its global sense have been placed on the terrorist list.

The Senate, as part of the legislature, also asserts that the State has guaranteed freedom for the media by law and action, it has not been proved that a single person has been arrested or prosecuted for an opinion he has expressed, nor has a legitimately functioning media website been blocked.

The Senate noted from its reading of the statement that it deliberately failed to pay tribute or to refer to Egypt's recent remarkable efforts in the past years on the human rights file in accordance with international standards, although it has timidly praised the NGO Act (The Law Governing the Pursuit of Civil Work) and it noted that Egypt was developing a new legal framework more suited to the work of civil society organizations.

While the Senate affirms the right of friendly countries to pay attention to Egyptian internal affairs because of the political weight of the Egyptian State – both at the global and regional levels - and the role Egypt plays in maintaining the security and stability of the region, this attention should not be used as a pretext to make accusations that are not based on facts, nor should such accusations be based on mere allegations that contradict reality, thus turning into interference in the internal affairs of an independent state, contrary to the Charter of the United Nations.