



# Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Egypt – July to December 2024

31 December 2024

**08 July 2024**

## **Arrests for statements on LGBTIQ issues on the internet**

On 04.07.24, it was reported that the authorities had arrested a gender nonconforming person on charges of disseminating indecent content. The person is accused of promoting LGBTIQ issues on social media and inciting immoral behaviour.<sup>1</sup>

**15 July 2024**

## **Human rights organisation criticises continuation of travel bans**

In an article published on 09.07.24, Amnesty International (AI) calls on the Egyptian authorities to immediately lift the travel ban on human rights lawyers Hoda Abdelwahab and Nasser Amin. During investigations that lasted from 2011 to 2024, the authorities froze the assets of at least seven NGOs and eleven of their employees and imposed travel bans on at least 31 human rights activists. When the proceedings were closed in March 2024, the travel ban was lifted for 29 people, but not for these two lawyers.<sup>2</sup>

**22 July 2024**

## **More than 100 people arrested for calling for peaceful protests**

According to a report by the human rights organisation Amnesty International, the authorities have detained a total of 119 people in several provinces of the country since the beginning of July 2024. The people concerned were arrested in connection with calls on social media for protests on 12.07.24 and for the removal of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi due to the rise in prices and regular power cuts. The charges against the arrested include spreading false news, misuse of social media and membership in a terrorist organisation.<sup>3</sup>

**29 July 2024**

## **Two media professionals arrested**

According to media reports, the authorities arrested the journalist Khaled Mamdouh after searching his house on 16.07.24, the same happened to Ashraf Omar, known for his anti-government cartoons, on 22.07.24.

The authorities detained both media professionals without disclosing any information about their whereabouts, after several days the public prosecutor's department responsible for state security launched an investigation into

membership in or financing of a terrorist organisation, the dissemination of false news and the misuse of social media and ordered their pre-trial detention.<sup>4</sup>

## 12 August 2024

### Political activist arrested

According to media reports, Yahia Abdelhadi, an activist and former spokesperson for the political alliance Civil Democratic Movement, was arrested by security officials on 31.07.24.

The public prosecutor's office, which ordered Abdelhadi to be remanded in custody for fifteen days, accused him of membership of a terrorist organisation, spreading false news, misuse of social media and incitement to commit a terrorist offence, among other things. A few days earlier, he had criticised the government, the political opposition and the military on social media.<sup>5</sup>

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- 1 Al Bawaba: TikTokker pretends to be woman, gets arrested for promoting LGBT in Egypt, 04.07.24.
  - 2 Amnesty International: Egypt: Lift travel bans imposed on two human rights lawyers, 09.07.24; Middle East Monitor: Amnesty urges Egypt to lift travel bans on human rights lawyers, 10.07.24.
  - 3 Amnesty International: Egypt: More than 100 arbitrarily detained over calls for anti-government protests, 18.07.2024.
  - 4 Amnesty International: Egypt: Authorities escalate attacks on media freedom rounding up a journalist and a cartoonist, 25.07.24; The New Arab: Egyptian journalists to protest at syndicate HQ in solidarity with jailed colleagues, 26.07.24.
  - 5 The New Arab: Egyptian authorities arrest activist and former government official Yehia Hussein Abdel Hady, 04.08.24; Al Arabiya: Egypt opposition figure Yahya Abdelhadi detained two years after pardon, lawyer says, 01.08.24.

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