

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for the LGBTI situation in Egypt. The number of individuals arrested by Egyptian authorities for their perceived sexual orientation has risen to 76, with at least 32 individuals sentenced to prison. Meanwhile, the Egyptian parliament is debating a new draft law which would criminalize by law same-sex relationships if adopted.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, quash all sentences and drop all charges against them, and stop any further arrests.

I also call on you to immediately halt forced anal examinations which amount to torture or other ill-treatment, and order a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the examinations that have already taken place.

Finally, I call on you to reject the new bill criminalising "homosexuality" and any future legislation which fails to recognise and protect the rights of everyone, regardless of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, to freedom of expression and assembly, freedom from discrimination and equality before the law.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,