

General allegation

113th session (11 – 15 September 2017)

Egypt

14. The Working Group received information from the source concerning reported obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in Egypt.

15. According to the information received, the following 10 individuals have been forcibly disappeared and later either killed or sentenced to death:

(a) Mr. Lotfy Ibrahim Ismail Khalil, 23, whose death sentence was upheld on 19 June 2017;

(b) Mr. Ahmed Abdul Hadi Al Sehemy, 28, whose death sentence was upheld on 19 June 2017;

(c) Mr. Sameh Abdullah Mohamed Youssef, 32, whose death sentence was upheld on 19 June 2017;

(d) Mr. Ahmed Abd Al Moenem Salama Ahmed Salama, 41, whose death sentence was upheld on 19 June 2017;

(e) Ms. Samia Mohamed Dawood Shanan, 56, who was sentenced to death on 2 December 2014;

(f) Mr. Tarek Saad Hassan Shanan, 37, who was sentenced to death on 2 December 2014;

(g) Mr. Abdulsalam Shoaib Abdulsalam Shoaib, 59, who was sentenced to death on 20 May 2014;

(h) Mr. Ali Sami Fahim El Far, 27, who was executed on 9 July 2017;

(i) Mr. Imad El Din Sami El Far, 21, who was executed on 18 July 2017;
and

(j) Mr. Omar Adel Mohamed Abdelbaki, 20, who was executed on 23 July 2017.

16. It is alleged that, after a terrorist attack on 15 April 2015 that left three military college students killed and two others injured, the Egyptian Security Police Force abducted nine individuals and placed them in different detention centers around the country; such as Al Sheikh Police Station 1 and the Lazoughly Headquarters of the State Security Police in Cairo. Of these nine individuals were Mr. Lotfy Khalil, Mr. Ahmed Al Sehemy, Mr. Sameh Youssef and Mr. Ahmed Salama. Their whereabouts were unknown for periods of time ranging from 70 to 90 days. When family members inquired about their disappeared relatives, police officers allegedly denied that their relatives were being held.

17. The source argues that on 1 February 2017 these four individuals were sentenced to death in violation of the international fair trial guarantees, in particular they were not allowed to provide exculpatory evidence to prove their innocence, and the basis to sentence them collectively to death was their confessions to which they were reportedly forced through subjecting them to prolonged acts of torture during periods of their enforced disappearances. The source further asserts that the dates of arrest of Mr. Lotfy Khalil and Mr. Ahmed Salama were fabricated by indicating that they have been arrested on 30 June and 1 July 2015 respectively, whereas they have been disappeared since 19 April 2015.

18. Regarding the cases of Ms. Samia Shanan and her son Mr. Tarek Shanan, it has been alleged that, following the Raba'a Square demonstrations on 14 August 2013, Ms. Samia Shanan was abducted from her home on 19 September 2013 in the

course of a violent raid conducted by members of the State Security Forces. She was taken to the “Kilo 10.5” detention facility located on the Cairo-Alexandria Highway, where she was held incommunicado for four months and tortured into confessing to the killing and mutilation of police officers’ bodies during the riot. After she refused to confess, on 6 October 2013 her son Tareq was abducted from his home following a raid conducted by the State Security and Special Forces. He was taken to the “Kilo 10.5” detention facility, held there incommunicado for three months and tortured in front of her mother. Following brutal torture and fearing for her and her son’s lives, Ms. Samia Shanan confessed to mutilating the body of the police officer, confession that she later denied in Court. Both Ms. Samia Shanan and Mr. Tareq Shanan were prosecuted before the Criminal Court of Giza and sentenced to death. They currently await further decision regarding their death sentences.

19. As for Mr. Abdulsalam Shoaib, it is contended that, since July 2013, he has been harassed by State Security Forces, until he was arrested on 20 May 2014 in front of his workplace in Fayoum. Following his arrest, Mr. Abdulsalam Shoaib was held incommunicado for several months in different locations, including the National Security facility in Fayoum, the Bandar Police Station in Fayoum, the Fayoum Public Prison, and the Qasr Al Nil Police Department. Reportedly, he was tortured into confessing to “belonging to a banned group.” Thereafter, he was charged accordingly and with “organizing a gathering of more than five people”, and sentenced to death on the basis of his forced confession. He is currently held at the high security wing of the Minya Prison pending appeal.

20. In the cases of the brothers Imad and Ali El Far, both individuals were abducted from their home by State agents on 4 and 22 April 2017 respectively and taken to unknown location. Their fate and whereabouts remained unknown in spite of several complaints filed by their relatives with the Attorneys General of Damietta and Cairo, as well as the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Interior announced their death on 9 and 18 July 2017 respectively, reportedly as a result of an exchange of fire during anti-terrorist operations. The source, however, claims that family members identified several signs of torture upon examining their bodies.

21. Concerning Mr. Omar Abdelbaki, he was abducted on 13 July 2017 in front of his football club, nearby his house, by several members of State Security Forces. He was surrounded by the officers, forcibly put in a car and taken to an unknown location. Following the incident, relatives of Mr. Omar Abdelbaki inquired about him at different police stations, but the police officers denied holding him. No information about his fate and whereabouts was received after filing complaints with the Attorney General and General Prosecutor of the Al Shaqiyia governorate and the Ministry of Interior, either. Shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Interior released a statement that Mr. Abdelbaki was killed during an exchange of fire between State Security Forces and a group of terrorists belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood. When relatives examined Mr. Abdelbaki’s body, they identified several marks of torture.

22. The source emphasizes that the common characteristics of all above cases are an absence of arrest warrants for arrests carried out by the State Security (Amn Al Watany or Amn Al Dawly) and Police Forces, followed by secret or incommunicado detentions which placed arrested individuals outside the protection of the law, for days and weeks. During their detention, all victims were subjected to sever forms of torture and ill-treatment.