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Where are they ?



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El Shehab for Human Rights (SHR)

SHR is a human rights organization that works towards a world without violations. It was established in 2006 and received the formal approval of the British authorities to work in the Human rights field under license No. 10658421, London. SHR is an independent, non-political, and non-profit volunteer-based organization. The organization supports freedom and democracy, and denounces all forms of injustice and racism.

Enforced Disappearance

Enforced disappearance is considered one of the worst violations of human rights. It also counts as an international crime as victims of enforced disappearance are deprived of their rights, with no legal representation at all. Victims stay under the torturers' authority with no legal protection of their rights. Hence, enforced disappearance is a criminal's rejection of what a human (the victim) values the most; being a free human being.

Enforced disappearance causes severe suffering for the victim, his/her family, friends, and significant other. The endless waiting for the return of the disappeared person, the constant uncertainty and ambiguity surrounding his/her fate, and not knowing the whereabouts of the person they love is a form of continuing torment. Pain is greater for mothers, fathers, spouses, sons, daughters, and siblings of the person subjected to enforced disappearance.

The term "enforced disappearance" means detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty committed by state agents, or individuals/groups acting with the state's permission, support, or consent. This detention/abduction is usually accompanied by refusal to: a) acknowledge the victim's liberty or freedom, b) concealment of the victim's place and status, and thereby c) preventing the victim of the protection of the law. Thus, because of the seriousness and cruelty of this crime, the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance - issued by the United Nations - has considered it a crime against humanity.

Enforced disappearance usually begins with the arrival of a group of men who break into the house of a family. Those people usually wear civilian clothes -- or sometimes uniforms -- but carry weapons at all times. Then, after a thorough search of his house, they forcibly kidnap a member of the family. In some other cases, victims are kidnapped in their way to work or while travelling, after which they lose all communication with the rest of their family members.

In both cases, no form of communication between the victim and his/her family can be established and no state authority acknowledges the arrest or detention of the victim. This disappearance has a frustrating two-way effect on the victims and their families. On one hand, the victims are subjected to torture and they experience constant fear on their lives. On the other hand, families are unsure about the fate of their loved ones; their emotions oscillate between hope and despair.

The victims are Egyptian citizens whom no one knows where they are. Their families and relatives uselessly wander around in search of them. It is known that the victims were arrested by state forces or have disappeared in events where the arrest of protesters was widely administered. As time passes, family members, friends, significant others become more confused and eager to know the fate of the victims.

"Enforced disappearance" is one of the gloomiest phenomena in the world today. In Egypt, enforced disappearances have increased significantly during the last four years. Human rights organizations have received hundreds of complaints regarding victims who were subjected to enforced disappearance by security forces. In all of these cases, disappearances and lack of access to the victims' place of detention are confirmed.

The Current Situation of Enforced Disappearance in Egypt

Many citizens were subjected to enforced disappearance and were held in secret without official state authorization. They have been denied contact with their families and lawyers. They were held for extended periods without judicial supervision. They were tortured and ill-treated by police officers, National Security Service, and the Military Intelligence in order to extract "confessions" for acts they did not commit or have nothing to do with them.

The number of those who disappeared in Egypt in the last four years -- according to statistics of human rights organizations -- reached 5,500 cases. The number is distributed over all age groups and professions, but mostly in the youths regardless of their political affiliation. This confirms that this approach is escalating and is a phenomenon. This, in turn, shows that the Egyptian authorities continue to ignore the international agreements on human rights. In fact, the Egyptian authorities have taken this abduction and enforced disappearance as a means of suppressing and eliminating any opposition.

Dozens of complaints arrive daily to human rights organizations working in Egyptian. Most of these complaints state that Egyptian citizens have been subjected to enforced disappearance by security personnel. Victims' families report not being able to reach the disappeared place of

detention. This phenomenon has become very frequent and on a daily basis since July 3, 2013. Its frequency has witnessed a steady increase during the current year (2017).

Amnesty International stated in its report that it was clear that Egypt's signing of the Convention on Enforced Disappearance would not discourage police officers from their current crimes in forcibly disappearing citizens of the state. It also indicated that signing these conventions does not seem to deterrent. It has been mentioned that some of the international conventions previously signed by Egypt criminalized this phenomenon -- which is also criminalized by the Egyptian law -- but remained a dead letter and were never put into action. In 1982, Egypt signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which, in a number of its articles, stipulates that the dignity and freedom of the citizen must be protected and that he/she should never be unlawfully arrested. This means that, contrary to the reality, the Egyptian authorities have acknowledged the criminalization of this action (enforced disappearance) and vowed not to use it.

Scenarios Waiting for the Victims

If a victim finally appears, he/she is not brought home. Rather, they are sent to the prosecution that refuses to record any details about their abduction, disappearance, or torture. Some of the victims suffer are caused permanent disability. Others are totally or partially paralyzed. While others become unable to perform normal physical functions such as; talking and/or moving because of what they have experienced during their abduction.

In many cases, major charges are trumped-up against the victims. This is believed to show the strength of the security forces in arresting criminals, while real criminals go without punishment. Some of the charges against the victims were a) the case of the Attorney General, b) the case of Mansoura Youth, c) the case of Kafr El-Sheikh Stadium, d) the case of the Assistant Attorney General and other cases that found their way to mass media.

In other cases, victims may die either under torture or incarcerated on trumped-up charges after being murdered so that they cannot deny it while alive. For example, a student called Islam Atito was abducted from his course examination room and then shot dead. His name was then published as a member of a terrorist group. Dozens of others face the same fate.

Enforced Disappearance in Egypt is Systematic

Enforced disappearance and torture have been codified in the Terrorism Act No. 94 of 2015, which was passed without any legislative oversight. Then, the Act was approved, along with hundreds of other legislations, without any review by a parliament whose election is still questionable. According to this Act, article 40 allows the arresting officer and the Public Prosecutor to detain a person for a period of 7 days without any prior investigation by the Public Prosecution. This constitutes a legalization of unlawful arrest and detention with no prior investigation by the Public Prosecution. It also opens the door to random arrest, arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and physical and psychological coercion to extract confessions by force.

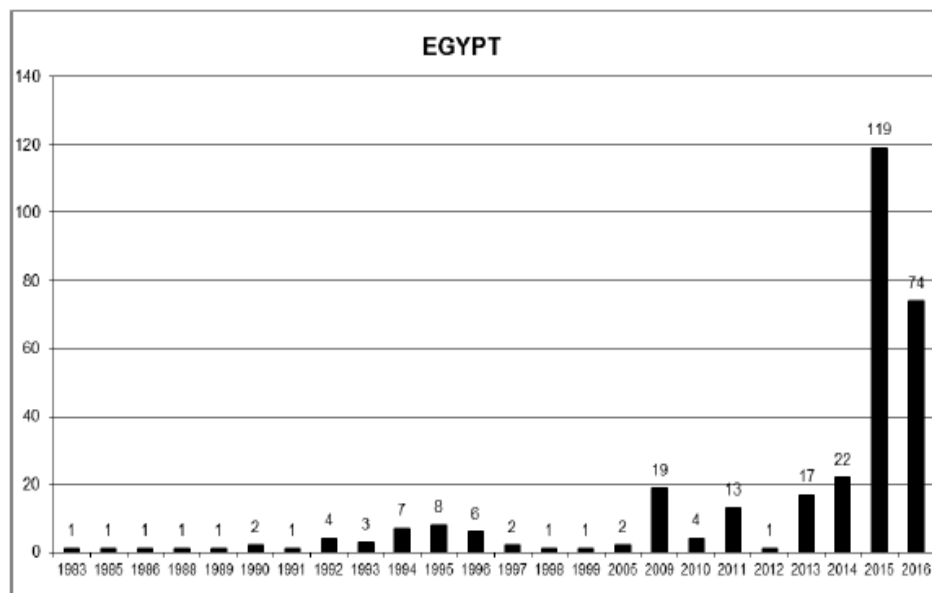
What is confirmed by the facts is that the role of protecting the citizens – as stipulated in the Constitution and the Egyptian law -- is not carried out by the police or the authorities. The authorities are responsible for the enforced disappearances of opposition in Egypt. This becomes evident in the dozens of reports on enforced disappearances that have not been investigated and the locations of the disappeared that have not been found. In some cases, the Ministry of Interior announces the deaths of some individuals in an exchange of fire. However, consulting witnesses and other evidences provided by the families of the victims show that the victims were previously arrested by the security forces and were subjected to enforced disappearances. None of these cases were further investigated by the authorities. This clearly shows that the authorities are aware of the crimes committed by police forces, but they are cover it up.

Enforced disappearance is a real challenge to human rights. It is a denial of the right of human to live and to have an identity. Enforced disappearance deprives man of his human beingness. It is also considered one of the highest levels of corruption and abuse of power that deprives a person of the right to life by killing him after being forcibly disappeared. No wonder then that, in its annual report for the year 2016, the United Nations Panel on Enforced Disappearances has stated its concern at the increasing enforced disappearances in Egypt, especially short-term enforced disappearances, which has become frequent from Egypt's police services.






The report noted that, in 2016, the Panel on Arbitrary Detention handled 131 new cases under urgent procedures and another 21 cases under normal procedures. In 2016, the Egyptian authorities



responded to 365 cases, while 226 active cases are still pending a decision by the UN General Panel on Enforced Disappearance. Although a delegation from the Egyptian government met with the United Nations Panel on Enforced Disappearances on the sidelines of the 109th session of the Panel, the panel remains concerned about the prevalence of enforced disappearances in Egypt.




The annual report of the United Nations Panel on Enforced Disappearances shows that Egypt is the primary Arab state about which the UN Panel has referred most cases of enforced disappearances. The report also shows that enforced disappearances in Egypt are reaching high levels that have not been reached since the Enforced Disappearance Panel started its mission in 1983. The following chart shows the unprecedented rise in enforced disappearances rate in Egypt in the years 2014, 2015, and 2016.





The following table includes information about some of the victims of enforced disappearance in Egypt. Until the moment of writing this report, no information can be found about their place of detention or whether they are alive.

	Name	Governorate	Occupation	Date of Birth / Age	Disappeared on	Personal Pic.
1	Amr Ibrahim Abdul-Monem Mutwali	Kafr El-Sheikh	Engineering student	07/01/1991	07/08/2013	
2	Khaled Mohamed Hafez Ezz El-Deen	Bani Sweif	Accountant	04/12/1971	07/27/2013	
3	Abdelhameed Mohamed Mohamed Ali	Daqahlia	Law Student	02/24/1992	08/14/2013	
4	Mahmoud Ibraheem Mustafa Atia	Tanta	Graduate of Arabic Language Studies	03/14/1976	08/14/2013	
5	Omar Mohamed Ali Ali Hammad	Sharqiah	Engineering student	01/07/1993	08/14/2013	

6	Mohamed Khedr Ali Mohamed	Port Saed	Engineer	08/15/1991	08/14/2013	
7	Mahmoud Ahmed Mohamed Ali Badawi	Cairo	Laborer	02/07/1978	08/14/2013	
8	Osama Rashad Abdelhaleem Mohamed	Suez	Clerk at Tango Ban Co.	11/03/1979	09/02/2013	
9	Adel Dardeeri Abdel-Jawad Mahmoud	Cairo	Laborer	08/29/1971	08/14/2013	
10	Mahmoud Mohamed Abdel-Samea Ahmed	Fayoum	Driver	11/05/1977	08/14/2013	
11	Mohamed El-Sayed Mohamed Ismael	Sharqiah	Surgeon	05/12/1957	08/24/2013	
12	Ezzat Saed Fouad Murad	Giza	Café Owner	07/14/1988	08/16/2013	
13	Mohamed Hussein El-Sayed El-Semman	Cairo	Engineer	05/23/1987	08/14/2013	
14	Ashraf Hassan Ibraheem Mohamed	Monoufia	Laborer	10/22/1976	07/26/2013	


15	Mohamed Al-Shahat Abdel-Shafi Ahmed	Cairo	Business man	31 Years old	08/14/2013	
16	Ema Zakaria Abdalla	Giza	Engineer	NA	08/14/2013	
17	Ahmed Abdalla Jum'a Al-Jayar	Giza	Mechanical Engineer	25 Years old	02/12/2014	
18	Ahmed Mohamed Nabil Qaoud	Areesh	BA of Education Suez Canal University	NA	2015/5/23	

The following table includes information about women and girls who were subjected to enforced disappearance. No information can be found about their place of detention or whether they are alive.

	Name	Governorate	Occupation	Date of Birth / Age	Disappeared on	Personal Pic.
1	Samar Abdel-Azeem Yousef	Qalyoubia	Student at Benha University	22	10/22/2013	
2	Rania Ali Omar Radwan	Tanta	NA	35	01/16/2014	NA
3	Ola Abdel-Hakeem Mohamed El-Saed	Sharqiah	Student at Al-Azhar University	NA	07/03/2014	
4	Rehab Mahmoud Abdel-Sattar	Cairo	Student	NA	09/2014	NA

5	Hend Rashed Fawzi	Daqahlia	Student at school of law, Benha University	NA	12/03/2014	
6	Samaher Abu El-Reesh	Sinai	NA	36	08/22/2015	
7	Kareema Ramadan	Cairo	Student in Dar Al-Oloum	20	08/25/2015	NA
8	FatHya Mazeed Sanduq	Areesh	NA	35	09/20/2015	NA
9	Eman Hamdi Abdel-Hameed	Cairo	NA	22	01/2016	NA
10	Nesreen Abdalla Solaiman	Sinai	NA	35	04/30/2016	
11	Fatema Mohamed Mohamed Al-Farrash	Alexandria	NA	42	05/15/2017	








The following table includes information about victims who were subjected to enforced disappearance in the year 2017.

	Name	Details	Pic.
1	Mohamed Ashour Hassan	A 23-year-old law school student at Zaqaziq University. He is originally from Al-Taweela village, Faqous city, Sharquia. He was arrested from his parents' house on June 21, 2017. No one knows the reason of his arrest and he could not be found since then.	

2	Mohamed Al-Hadi Awad	A college freshman at Media Institute. He is from at Jeheina village, Faqous, Sharqiah. He was arrested by police forces on May 26 th , 2017 while visiting his friend in the detention center. He could not be found since then.	
3	Mohamed Mohamed Naguib Abdel-Rahman	Born in Badrasheen city, Giza. Mohamed was arrested on Sunday July 23, 2017 from Burg Al-Arab airport without any charges or a warrant. He could not be found since then.	
4	Mohamed Said Negr	From El-Ekhsas Village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Sunday July 9 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
5	Mohamed Abd Rabbu	From Hai village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Tuesday July 11 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
6	Moslim Jum'a	From Nogou' Al-Arab village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Wednesday July 12 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
7	Mos'ab Essam	From Ezbet Mofreh, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Thursday July 13 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
8	Amr Khaled Al-Zeidi	From El-Ekhsas Village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Sunday July 23 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
9	Akram Ibraheem Al-Zeidi	From El-Ekhsas Village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Sunday July 23 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
10	Kareem Saed	From El-Ekhsas Village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Sunday July 23 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	


11	Mohsen Mahmoud	From Tarkhan Village, Saff city, Giza. He was arrested on Sunday July 23 rd , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
12	Ahmed Hamdi Ahmed Hussein	A 23-year-old student at the college of commerce, Assiut University. He was arrested on May 18 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
13	Zeyad Mohamed El-Sayed Ali	A 19-year-old freshman at the college of commerce, Zaqaziq University. He was arrested on Sunday July 2 nd , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
14	Hassan Mohamed Tawfeeq	A 20-year-old from Bagour city, Mounifia. He is a freshman at the college of Engineering, Azhar University. He was arrested on July 4 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
15	Hesham Saed	A 43-year-old teacher of Qur'anic studies and preacher from Bagour city, Mounifia. He was arrested on July 4 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
16	SAed Hesham Saed	A 17-year-old high school student from Bagour city, Mounifia. He was arrested on July 4 th , 2017 and could not be found since then.	
17	Khaled Al-Naqeesh	An engineer from Khanka city, Qalyoubia. He was arrested on July 23 rd , 2017 from his workplace in Mounifia. He could not be found since then.	
18	Khaled El-Sayed Abdel-Hameed	A 17-year-old high school student from Bagour city, Mounifia. He was arrested on July 4 th , 2017 from his parents' house located in Raml district. He could not be found since then.	

19	Hani Badr El-Sayed Rabea	A 21-year-old sophomore at the college of Engineering from Belbees city. He was arrested on July 16 th , 2017 from Shubra Al-Nakhla train station in Belbees. He could not be found since then.	
20	Ahmed Mohamed Fahmi Ali	Ahmed was arrested on July 22, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. from his workplace in Qwesna. He could not be found since then.	
21	Omar Abdel-Aziz Mohamed Qabel	He was arrested from Sadat city on May 25 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
22	Ayman Ismael Diab	He was arrested from his workplace in Ezbet Abu Diab, Mounifia on July 16 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
23	Ali Mohamed Hassan Ali Al-Herjawi	A student who was arrested in the morning of Wednesday July 19 th , 2017 from his parents' house in Qahafa city. He could not be found since then.	
24	Mahmoud Ahmed Ahmed Abdu	A student of engineering at Assiut university. He was arrested on June 14 th , 2017 while visiting his relatives in Aswan governorate. He could not be found since then.	
25	Mohamed Magdi Abdel-Sadeq	A graduate of the college of commerce from Khanka city. He was arrested on May 14 th , 2017 from his workplace at one of the city's pharmacies. He could not be found since then.	
26	Ahmed Sabri Abdel-Aati	A 21-year-old who was arrested on July 4 th , 2017 from Koneisa district, Haram, Cairo. He could not be found since then.	

27	Jihad El-Bastaweesi Al-Khedri Seyam	A 33-year-old from Sherbeen city, Sharqia. He was arrested in Cairo, where he works, on July 2 nd , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
28	Ahmed Omar Makram	A senior student at El-Sherif institute, Kafr El-Sheikh governorate. He was released after 6 months in prison. He was arrested again on July 5 th , 2017 and could not be found since then.	
29	Abdu Mohamed Sorour	A 20-year-old student who was arrested on Sunday July 9 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
30	Omar Tal'at Mahmoud Abdel-Kareem	A 31-year-old optometrist. He was arrested on January 11 th , 2017 from the surgery room. He could not be found since then.	
31	Ikrami Ismael Yousef Al-Tuhfa	He was arrested at his house on July 4 th , 2017 by Shabrakheet police forces. He could not be found since then.	
32	Abdel-Malek Qassem	A 38-year-old preacher from Kum El-Saqiah village, Abu Al-Matameer city, Beheira government. He was arrested from his house on April 12 th , 2017. He could not be found since then.	
33	Ahmed Gamal El-Deen Mohamed Taher	A chemical engineer from Aswan. He was arrested in Cairo on September 22, 2016. He could not be found since then.	

34	Ammar Al-Sabahi Mahmoud El-Sayed	He was arrested from his house in Nabarouh city, Daqahliah, on June 29, 2017. He could not be found since then.	
35	Mahmoud Mohamed Abdel-Fattah Al-Hadari	A high school student from Basyoun city. He was arrested, but the prosecutor released him on July 12, 2017. However, he could not be found since then.	
36	Abdel-Rahman Hesham Ali Qabeel	A 17-year-old high school student at Talaat Harb school in Aziziah village, Mnia Qamh. He was arrested on June 24, 2017 at the doors of his school. He could not be found since then.	
37	Ameer Mahmoud Ahmed Shamsiah	A 35-year-old who has a BA of Tourism and Hotels. He was arrested on Monday June 5, 2017 from his house in Ras Al-Souda. He could not be found since then.	
38	Mohamed Ahmed Al- Weseifi	A 24-year-old sophomore at the college of Technology and Development, Zaqaziq University. He was arrested on June 7, 2017 from a programming company in Burg Al-Askar in Zaqaziq. He could not be found since then.	
39	Saleh Ahmed Mohamed	A 19-year-old who was arrested on June 9, 2017 from his house in Feran district, Sharqiah governorate. He could not be found since then.	
40	Yasser El-Sayed Mokhtar	A 33-year-old brain surgeon. He was arrested on Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 6:00 a.m. from his apartment in Nasr city, Cairo. He could not be found since then.	
41	El-Sayed Mohamed El- Sayed Steit	A 54-year-old educational supervisor from Daqahlia. He was arrested on Saturday May 20, 2017. He could not be found since then.	

42	Abdel-Rahman Yasser Dawud	A 25-year-old law school student who was arrested on April 22, 2017 in Demyat city. He could not be found since then.	
43	Mohamed Reda Ibraheem Khedr	A 21-year-old student from Demyat city. He was arrested on April 11, 2017 from his parents' house. He could not be found since then.	
44	Ramadan Mahmoud Taha	A farmer from Yousef Al-Seddeq city, Fayoum. He was arrested on April 24, 2017. He could not be found since then.	
45	Mahmoud Ahmed Sa'd Badawi	A graduate of the college of education at Mounifia University. He was arrested on Monday May 1, 2017 in Quras Ashmoun, Mounifia. He could not be found since then.	
46	Ahmed Abdalla Salama	He was arrested on Thursday April 20, 2017 from a soccer field in Aziziah district, Menia Qamh. His apartment was raided and his laptop was confiscated. He could not be found since then.	
47	Ahmed Ali Abd Rabbu	A 33-year-old Agricultural engineer from Debrki village, Monouf city, Mounifia. He was arrested at Bug Al-Arab airport on May 2, 2017. He could not be found since then.	
48	Ayman Mohamed Gamal El-Deen Al-Qalea	A 53-year-old clerk from Beheira. He was arrested on May 2, 2017 and could not be found since then.	
49	Mustafa Mahmoud Mohamed Houda	He was arrested in Gharbiah on April 2, 2017 after which he disappeared for 18 days. Later, on April 19, 2017, he showed in the court and was sentenced to 15 days in prison. Then, he filed an appeal that was accepted for a bond worth 5000 L.E. The bond was paid in full on Thursday April 27, 2017, but he was not released and could not be found since then.	

50	Abdel-Rahman Ali Ali Farag	A 25-year-old physician at Sheikh Zayed hospital from Giza. He was arrested on April 9, 2017 from his house in Sheikh Zayed. He could not be found since then.	
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Notes about enforced disappearance in Egypt:

1- Such a crime spreads only under repressive dictatorships that clearly use police forces to suppress citizens who demand public freedoms, liberties, and respect of human rights. This crime did not appear in such a prevalent form except after the army took power in Egypt.

2- This crime was committed in an unprecedented manner in Egypt after July 3, 2013. Since then, enforced disappearance has been practiced in a regular and widespread manner and on a daily basis.

3- Since enforced disappearance does not entail any accountability or punishment against police forces, Egyptian authorities believe it is a successful method in suppressing opponents of the military regime.

4- Enforced disappearances began to take on a rising trend since July, 2013 with 5,500 cases of disappearances so far.

5- Cases of enforced disappearances are mostly short term periods; ranging from one week to three months or more.

6- Cases of enforced disappearance reached their peak after Major General Magdi Abdel-Ghaffar was appointed as the Minister of Interior. During that period, enforced disappearance became one of the most used methods for eliminating opposition.

7- Interviews with those who were previously subjected to enforced disappearance reported that they had been arrested and hidden inside national security centers. Inside these centers, they were subjected to electro-torture as well as other forms of torture in order to confess to criminal acts they had not committed or had nothing to do with.

8- Despite the previous complaints, reports, and the large number of cases and communications of the families of the disappeared with the Attorney General, no investigations have been initiated

until the moment. This has not changed even after the previously detained victims submitted complaints to the Public Prosecution.

This inhumane and frightening crime should be put to an end. All concerned entities and personnel should pressure the Egyptian authorities to abstain from committing this crime, which amounts to a crime against humanity.

El Shehab for Human Rights calls on governments, international entities and organizations to exert pressure on the Egyptian authorities to implement the following:

- 1- List enforced disappearance in the penal code as a “crime that does not fall under the statute of limitations” and aggravate the punishment in accordance with the gravity of the violation.
- 2- Amend the Egyptian penal code so that the “1984 Convention against Torture’s” definition of torture becomes the one in use.
- 3- Accept and join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- 4- Accept and join the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).
- 5- Accept and join the 2002 Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).
- 6- Refrain from making reservations that may lead to incompatibility with the mission and goals of international conventions.
- 7- Issue a law prohibiting the detention of civilians in military prisons and/or secret and undeclared places.
- 8- Immediately release all those who have been forcibly disappeared by the security forces and announce places of detention for those in custody.
- 9- Form a UN fact-finding committee on enforced disappearances in Egypt, especially investigating the cases of those who were killed.
- 10- Do extensive investigations about enforced disappearances and other related illegal practices based on reports from the previously mentioned UN fact-finding committee.

11- Accountability of those responsible for the enforced disappearance, including, but not limited to, leaders of the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, Ministry of defense, the Egyptian Intelligence, and others who are responsible for the unlawful detention of persons in secret/undeclared places.

12- Activate the role of periodic monitoring and oversight by the prosecution in order to eliminate all secret prisons under the authority of police and military forces, and those hidden in the central security camps that are unknown to the public.

13- Consider the requests submitted by families of the missing people. This includes the communications and complaints about the abduction and/or arrest of their relatives by the police forces. We also advocate for an urgent investigation of these complaints. This should be followed by an official and documented response to families of the victims reporting results of the investigation.