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Oral Statement

ITEM 4: General Debate

THE GRAVE AND ONGOING PROSECUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN EGYPT

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth session
10-28 September 2018

Mr. President,

For the past years, civil society in Egypt has faced a series of orchestrated attacks. Under case no. 173/2011, the Foreign Funding case, organisations have been shut down and human rights defenders are now being prosecuted.

Ms. Mozn Hassan, executive director of Nazra for Feminist Studies was the first defendant summoned in 2016. She is a feminist activist and Right Livelihood Award laureate who works to document sexual violence and advance women’s rights in Egypt.

Together with other Egyptian activists, Ms. Hassan has had her personal and her organisation’s assets frozen and has been banned from travelling outside of the country. In June 2018, Ms. Hassan was wrongfully charged with conducting activities and receiving foreign funds with the intention to harm national security. She now faces the possibility of life imprisonment.

Mr. President,

Despite positive developments in April 2018, regarding the retrial of 16 defendants working for international organisations, the prosecution of Egyptian human rights defenders continues in violation of due process of law.

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation urges the government to drop the charges against Mozn Hassan and close case no.173/2011. We urge the Council to call on Egypt to fully respect its international human rights obligations and to stop prosecuting human rights defenders.

Thank you, Mr. President.