



Weekly Report

MAY 2-16, 2014

Egypt

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1 Egypt's legal system needs reform, UN and African experts say after mass death sentences

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- After the second wave of mass death sentences was delivered by Egyptian courts, a group of African and UN human rights experts demand compliance with international and regional legal standards and warn failure to do so undermines long-term reconciliation and justice in the country.
- The second wave of mass death sentences was on 28 April and affects 683 people.
- Despite the conviction, the charges themselves even remain unclear. The fairness of the process is condemned as much as the verdict itself.
- Source: UN News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47804-.U3ee4F5N3wl>

2 Egypt's Judges Flex Their Muscles

Egypt's Judges Flex Their Muscles

- The detention of more than 21,000 people since President Mohamen Morsi came into power calls into question the human rights situation for those detained.
- The mass death sentences imposed by Egyptian judges challenges their credibility.
- The actions of the judges and questionable criminal code bring the entire justice system into disrepute as the judgements draw international condemnation.
- Source: Time

<http://time.com/97636/egypt-judges-morsi-muslim-brotherhood/>

Reflective of the police attitude towards sexual harassment and assault:
"If a woman is wearing provocative clothing, the change needs to come from her," - Capt Mahanoud of the Bassatine Police Service

3 Egypt's New Sexual Assault Law Faces Major Obstacle in Police Who Still Blame the Victim

Egypt's New Sexual Assault Law Faces Major Obstacle in Police Who Still Blame the Victim

- Sexual harassment and sexual assault are grave concerns in Egypt with a UN Report revealing 99.3% of women are being sexually harassed, assaulted or raped.
- While the new sexual assault law (not yet implemented) criminalizes this behaviour, the law fails to go far enough. Part of the problem could be in the enforcement of the law itself.
- Another disturbing dynamic is the lack of help women receive when being subjected to this treatment in public.
- Source: Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/12/egypt-sexual-assault_n_5309458.html