

Advocacy Charter Lawyers for Lawyers – UPR EGYPT – 34th Session – 13 November 2019

Lawyers for Lawyers (“L4L”), established in 1986, is an independent foundation merely funded by lawyers’ donations. L4L is committed to safeguard the proper functioning of the rule of law through a free and independent exercise of the legal profession in accordance with international norms, including the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. L4L was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2013.

Stakeholders’ submission	Suggested Questions	Suggested Recommendation
<p>Lawyers who work on sensitive cases frequently face reprisals either in relation to their own human rights advocacy or their legal representation of people seen as critical of the government. They are subject to arrest, detention, persecution, and enforced disappearance in connection to their professional activities or in relation to their human rights advocacy. Moreover, lawyers in Egypt are hampered in their access to their clients and case files, and on regular basis travel bans and assets freezing are imposed to obstruct their legitimate work (L4L submission, § 9, 10).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Egypt ensure the full independence and safety of lawyers and their effective protection against any form of retaliation in connection with their professional activities? 2. What does Egypt do to ensure that crimes, harassments, and other violations against lawyers are effectively investigated, publicly condemned, and prosecuted? 3. How does Egypt prevent that lawyers are subject to harassment, persecution, and undue interference for the legitimate exercise of their profession? 	<p>Egypt should take immediate measures to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place, both in law and in practice, to guarantee the full independence and safety of lawyers and their effective protection against any form of retaliation in connection with their professional activity.</p> <p>Egypt should immediately release Mahienour El-Massry and Mohamed El-Baqer.</p> <p>Egypt should refrain from any actions that may constitute harassment, persecution, or undue interference in the work of lawyers, including their criminal prosecution on improper grounds such as the expression of critical views or the nature of the cases that the lawyer is involved in.</p>
<p>Lawyers in Egypt are attacked because of exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly or engaging in public discussions about human rights and the rule of law. Criminal charges based on the Egyptian protest law and the counter-terrorism law seem to be a common pattern of harassment increasingly used by the Egyptian authorities against lawyers. The vague and overly broad definition of terrorism allows the law to be used to arbitrarily criminalize lawyers’ internationally protected activities (L4L submission, § 13-14).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Egypt ensure the effective protection of the right of freedom of expression of lawyers? 2. What does Egypt do to prevent that the Egyptian protest law and the counter-terrorism law are misused against lawyers for their professional activities or human rights advocacy? 	<p>Egypt should take immediate measures to guarantee the effective protection of the right of freedom of expression of lawyers as set out in article 23 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, in particular their right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action.</p>