

# HELP EGYPTIAN WOMEN!

*Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy (ECCD)*

## The Status of Women in Egypt

Women have always played an important role in the history of revolutions. They gave great sacrifices to support their nations in a struggle for freedom and justice. Egyptian women are no different.

The great sacrifices Egyptian women are making, adds another line to the history books. Since the military coup of July 2013, gross human violations have been committed against women [1]. Scores of women were murdered during peaceful pro-democracy protests [2]. Hundreds of women have been arrested and tortured. Hundreds of female university students were sentenced to extensive prison terms for participating in peaceful anti-coup demonstrations on University campuses [3]. Dozens more have been expelled from their schools as a punishment for speaking out against the military dictators that run the country.

Several international human rights groups have accused the current tyrant regime of using rape as a weapon against detained women. These organizations have documented several numerous incidents of how security forces have detained women in efforts of coercing their husbands, children, or brothers to turn themselves in.

The situation in Egypt is bleak. The only media outlets permitted to operate are those which are loyal to the military and are willing to toe the line. The judicial system is tightly controlled by the military and is incapable of defending the rights of Egyptian citizens. Laws have been passed by the military that allow the trying of civilians in military courts, which do not have an appeal process. The number of political detainees in Egypt is now in excess of 40,000. These detainees live under inhumane conditions. Many have lost



their lives after being denied urgent medical attention.

The military ruler of Egypt, General Sisi, is gradually converting the country into a fascist state. Unfortunately, several Western governments are supportive of the military regime that is terrorizing average Egyptians. In many cases, there is a lack of serious condemnation of the ongoing crackdown on freedom and human rights. Several arm deals were recently signed by numerous Western governments and Egypt's ruling military diaspora.

Today, women in Egypt can no longer trust in governments around the world. They do however, have great trust in their fellow human beings who sympathize with them and understand the suffering they are going through. Egyptian women continuously urge their fellow humans to press their governments to interfere and work towards positive change in Egypt.

**[1] Outcry Grows over Abuse of Jailed Egyptian Women**

<http://womensenews.org/story/incarceration/140225/outcry-grows-over-abuse-jailed-egyptian-women>

**[2] Stand for Egyptian Women**

<http://sewomen.org/page/2/>

**[3] Egypt: Release women protesters facing trumped-up charges**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2014/02/egypt-release-women-protesters>

## Egyptian woman shot and killed by police during peaceful protest in Cairo

NY Daily News

**Police shot Shaimaa el-Sabagh with a bird shot on Saturday January 25th as she marched with her group to lay a wreath of roses at Tahrir Square. Security officials said they arrested 11 others following clashes.**

A protester was shot dead by police at a march in downtown Cairo on Saturday January 25th, 2015, her political party said in a statement.

Police shot Shaimaa el-Sabagh with bird shot Saturday evening as her group peacefully marched toward Tahrir Square to lay a commemorative wreath of roses on the eve of the fourth anniversary of Egypt's 2011 uprising, the leftist Popular Alliance party said.

A Health Ministry official confirmed that a female protester died from bird shot injuries to her head and body.

Photos widely distributed on social media showed Sabagh carrying a wreath of roses, and then bloodied and being carried by another protester. Security officials said they arrested 11 people following clashes



Ahead of the fourth anniversary of the uprising, the revolutionary fervor of 2011 has been largely extinguished.

Many of the pro-democracy activists central to the uprising are in prison for attempting to protest against the new president, former army chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Others are dismissed in the media as troublemakers, while the police, who in the revolutionaries' eyes were the hated tools of oppression, are now lauded in the press as heroes in a fight against Islamists.

## Habiba

Her name was Habiba Ahmed Abd Elaziz. She worked as a journalist for a news agency (Gulf News). She was murdered near the Rabaa al-Adawiyeh mosque in Nasr City when the Egyptian military massacred thousands of the supporters of the democratically elected president Mohamed Morsi on August 14th, 2013. This massacre is considered worse than the Tiananmen Square massacre in China. Hundreds of other Egyptian women lost their lives on the hand of the military coup since then.



## On the International Women's Day. Egyptian Women Struggle For Freedom

Human Rights Monitor (HRM)

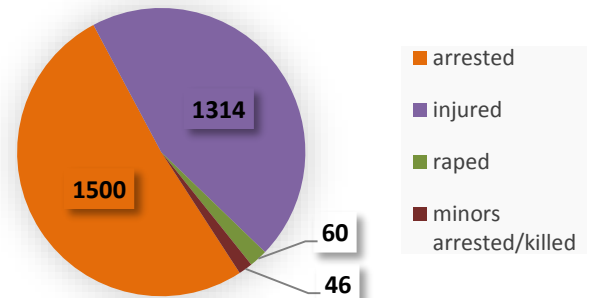
Women have suffered numerous violations under military rule in Egypt to-date. Dozens of elderly women and underage girls have been arrested and detained in prisons among hardened criminals, in violation of Egyptian laws and international conventions, which prohibit detaining minors on remand and criminalize placing them with adult criminals in the same cells.

A large number of women were arrested at army checkpoints in the streets or during their return from anti-coup demonstrations to their homes - the reason given for the arrest being their political affiliation and rejection of the coup.

Sumaiya Shawwaf was arrested as an act of vindictiveness against her father, Dr. Abdul-Rahman Shawwaf, who was also arrested as he worked as a volunteer doctor at field hospitals in all the massacres in Cairo. She was arrested from her home, in the middle of the night, by 20 Central Security Force recruits dressed as civilians who descended on her home in a convoy of 9 Central Security Force vehicles. She was thrown in the back of a prisoner transport van among a group of hardened criminals, all men.

Women suffered violence at the hands of police and military forces. They were beaten, dragged on the ground, humiliated, threatened with sexual harassment, because those security forces know that they would not be held accountable "according to a statement leaked by a security official". At least one woman (of no political affiliation or activity) is known to have been raped while passing through an army check point during the curfew.

**Number of Incidents against  
Egyptian Women, post-coup**



Further, police and army snipers have deliberately shot women dead, especially those who were taking photographs. They were immediately shot in the chest in unprecedented violence and cold blooded acts of murder never seen before in Egyptian society. This happened in Rabaa Al-Adaweya, Nahda Square, Ramses Square and Mansoura massacres. In Mansoura, women were attacked by thugs and security forces in civilian clothes who attacked their peaceful march and targeted women, killing four. The youngest of the murdered women there was Hala Abu-Sheasha, who was shot dead with treasonous bullets in the back, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This newsletter is a production of the Egyptian Canadian Coalition for Democracy (ECCD). For any questions or inquiries please email [info@eccd.ca](mailto:info@eccd.ca) or visit our website [www.eccd-cccd.ca](http://www.eccd-cccd.ca)

