

Rights Group: Egypt Trying to Cover Up Rights Violations

CAIRO (MEMO) – A year since the Egyptian government’s National Human Rights Strategy was launched, a human rights group has said it paints a deeply misleading picture of the human rights situation in the country.

On 11 September 2021 Egyptian authorities launched the NHRS which they said would review the death penalty and combat torture.

Egypt issued the highest number of death sentences worldwide in 2021, with the UN March calling on Egypt to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty.

In a joint submission by rights groups to the UN, several NGOs have said that in Egypt, systematic torture is a state policy.

However, rather than making gains and ending these violations, human rights groups say the strategy shows the lack of political will by Egypt to reform and is an attempt simply at de-



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi holds a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, July 20, 2022. Amnesty International has accused Egypt of attempting to cover up “unrelenting violations of human rights” ahead of the Arab country’s hosting of the world climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh.

flecting criticism from grave human rights abuses.

“The international community must not be deceived and pressure the Egyptian authorities to take meaningful steps to end the cycle of abuse and impunity,” Amnesty International said in its report.

these violations are taking place and are instead investing in public relations exercises to improve the country’s human rights image including through its most “illustrative” example, the NHRS.

Al-Sisi himself has said: “The National Strategy for Human Rights launched on 11 September was the best proof that Egypt is protecting and enforcing human rights.”

Amnesty has said that the strategy is “deeply misleading” and at times “a false picture” of the human rights situation in Egypt.

“It completely overlooks patterns of ongoing or past human rights violations and fails to acknowledge the role of security forces and other state actors, including prosecutors and judges, in ordering, instigating or committing violations or in aiding, abetting or otherwise facilitating their commission or to call for an end to impunity.”

Among other well-documented human rights violations committed in Egypt are mass arbitrary detentions, discrimination against women and girls and severe repression of peaceful assembly.

However, Egyptian authorities have completely denied that

Amid UN Criticism, Taliban Name New Education Minister

ISLAMABAD (AP/AI Jazeera) – The Taliban appointed a new education minister for Afghanistan, days after the United Nations called on the country’s new rulers to reopen schools for girls beyond sixth grade.

Since seizing power in Afghanistan just over a year ago, the Taliban have restricted the rights of girls to education, despite initial promises to the contrary. The United Nations estimates that more than a million girls have been barred from attending most of middle school and high school over the past year.

The appointment, which came late on Tuesday and was announced by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, named Habibullah Agha, the current head of Kandahar Provincial Council, as the new education minister, replacing Noorullah

Munir. The first Taliban-appointed education minister was Hemat Akhundzada, who was in the post until last September.

No information was available on Agha.

A year since the Taliban took over the country as the Western-backed government and military crumbled, the UN has said it was increasingly concerned that Taliban restrictions on girls’ education, as well as other measures curtailing basic freedoms, would deepen Afghanistan’s economic crisis and lead to greater insecurity, poverty, and isolation.

“This is a tragic, shameful, and entirely avoidable anniversary,” said Markus Potzel, acting head of the UN mission in Afghanistan.

The Taliban say they are working on a plan to open secondary schools for girls but have not giv-

en a timeframe. Still, hard-liners appear to hold sway in the Taliban-run government and women are required to cover themselves from head to toe in public, with only their eyes showing.

While still education minister, Munir was quoted as saying on a recent trip to southern Uruzgan province that people in rural areas do not want to send their daughters to school, describing it as a “cultural issue.”

After pleading with world leaders at the United Nations to protect the education and rights of women in Afghanistan a year after the Taliban took over, Somaya Faruqi, the former captain of the Afghan girls’ robotics team, broke down in tears backstage.

“I was in classroom last year, but this year girls are not in classroom. Classrooms are emp-

ty, and they are at their homes. So it was too hard to control myself, control my feelings,” Faruqi, aged 20, told the Reuters news agency.

Faruqi, who now attends the Missouri University of Science and Technology, left Afghanistan in August last year.

Speaking at the UN in New York this week as world leaders gather for the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly, she urged them to unite and demand the reopening of girls’ schools and the protection of their rights.

“This week, you are all here to propose solutions to transform education to all, but you must not forget those who are left behind, those who are not lucky enough to be at school at all,” said Faruqi. “Show your solidarity with me and millions of Afghan girls.”

Iran...

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its embassy in Tehran and sent an ambassador there.

Raisi also deplored sanctions imposed on Iran, calling them a “punishment on the people of Iran.”

The president called for the prosecution of former U.S. president Donald Trump, vowing that Iran will pursue the assassination of the country’s top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani.

Raisi hailed Iran’s “prominent and progressive” role in confronting high-handed and interventionist policies, including U.S.-crafted terrorism.

He said thanks to General Soleimani’s commandship, Iran managed to frustrate the plots that were aimed at changing the demographic structure of the regional countries.

“We are going to follow up a just prosecution of the former American president’s atrocity through a just court,” Raisi asserted.

The assassination, directly ordered by Trump, occurred near Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020. It also martyred the general’s companions, including deputy commander of Iraq’s anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Both Soleimani and al-Muhandis were highly revered across the Middle East because of their key role in fighting the Daesh terrorists in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

“The commander and the hero of this war against terrorism, and Daesh’s destroyer was no one, but Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani,” Raisi said.

The president praised General Soleimani as the person, who was martyred in the path of bringing about the liberation of the nations of the region.

President Raisi said a just prosecution of Trump would do humanity a service.

“We will pursue justice and trial of the person who perpetrated it, and the one, who advised it, through a just court until a definite result is reached.”

Putin...

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Putin’s speech is “definitely a sign that he’s struggling, and we know that,” U.S. national security council spokesperson John Kirby claimed.

Added White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on MSNBC: “It’s all because Russia is losing ground on the battlefield.”

Only those with relevant combat and service experience will be mobilized, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said. He added about 25 million people fit this criteria but only around 1% of them will be mobilized.

Another key clause in the decree prevents most professional soldiers from terminating their contracts and leaving service until the partial mobilization is no longer in place.

A spokesman for Zelensky called the

mobilization a “big tragedy” for the Russian people.

“This is a recognition of the incapacity of the Russian professional army, which has failed in all its tasks,” Sergii Nikiforov.

The war in Ukraine, which has killed thousands of people, has driven up food prices worldwide and caused energy costs to soar. It has also brought fears of a potential nuclear catastrophe at Europe’s largest nuclear plant in Ukraine’s now Russia-occupied south-east.

In his address, which was far shorter than previous speeches about the Ukraine war, Putin accused the West of engaging in “nuclear blackmail” and noted “statements of some high ranking representatives of the leading NATO states about the possibility of using nuclear weapons of mass destruction against Russia.”

“To those who allow themselves such statements regarding Russia, I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction ... and when the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal,” Putin said, adding: “It’s not a bluff.”

Putin said he has already signed the decree for partial mobilization, which starts immediately, and stressed its limited scale.

“We are talking about partial mobilization, that is, only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject to conscription, and above all, those who served in the armed forces who have a certain military specialty and relevant experience,” Putin said.

Shoigu said 5,937 Russian soldiers have died in the conflict, far lower than Western estimates of tens of thousands.

Families...

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become “disappointed in achieving their goals” following Iran’s Islamic Revolution, went to the United States and some other Western countries to continue planning to overthrow Iran’s political system and target authorities and citizens.

“What bothers our people and victims and survivors of terrorist attacks is that the perpetrators of these operations are fully supported by the United States and some European countries, instead of being punished,” the survivors wrote.

“Such acts indicate nothing but division of terrorism into good and bad and also double standards of the West regarding dealing with terrorism,” the families said.

They said the very Western countries, which were allowing the group to “operate freely” on their soils, lay claim to be fighting terrorism at the same time.

The letter urged President Raisi “to seriously assert the rights of the families of the terror victims through international organizations and institutions for prosecution, extradition, and trial of leaders of the MKO terrorist group.”

The Prophet’s...

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Time and space do not allow me to dwell in detail on the worsening state terrorism of the self-styled caliphs of the usurper Omayyad and Abbasid regimes that followed and left a permanent scar on the body politic of Islam, from which the Ummah continues to suffer till this day.

Since the 28th of Safar also happens to be the martyrdom anniversary of the Prophet’s elder grandson and the 2nd Divinely-designated Heir, Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), whose masterful stroke of a peace treaty unmasked the hypocrisy of terrorists disguised as Muslims, it will suffice to say: How did a hardcore heathen like Mu’awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan rose to power in Syria and usurped power of the entire Islamic realm, and why did the Muslims – except for the Prophet’s Ahl al-Bayt and their loyal companions – obeyed the Godless rule of the Omayyads?

Only proper answers to these questions, through reflection on the Prophet’s sayings in praise of Imam Hasan (AS) and of Imam Husain (AS) – the Leaders of the Youths of Paradise – will help materialize the perpetual peace that the message of Islam preaches for all humanity, in contrast to the violence and terrorism of those who call themselves Salafis or followers of the fratricidal heathens of Arabia that had paid lip service to Islam without faith entering their hearts.

In 50 AH on the 39th anniversary of the Prophet’s departure from the mortal world when volleys of arrows, shot at the instigation of a seditious woman by a future self-styled caliph (the infidel Marwan) and his forces, riddled the coffin and corpse of his elder grandson in Medina, it became clear to many Muslims that the holy Qur’an and the Ahl al-Bayt are indeed inseparable, while it is their enemies who are against the letter and spirit of the Book of God, which they shamelessly hoist on spear points and distort its contents even while claiming to be its reciters and memorizers – just as the ever-rebellious Israelites used to do. For the sake of Islamic unity these doleful days offer an opportunity to clear the mist of the past, especially since the last day of Safar, which we mark as the end of the two-month mourning period for the heartrending martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) at Karbala in 61 AH, happens to be the martyrdom in 203 AH in Khorasan, of another of the Prophet’s Infallible Heirs (Imam Reza – AS), who was a victim through a fatal dose of poison of another imposter masquerading as caliph (Mamoun the Abbasid tyrant).

Today, when we see a record 21 million Muslims assembling in Karbala on the Day of Arba’een and millions of others converging on Mashhad in Iran, while the seditious Saudis prevent masses from flocking to the Sacred Baqi Cemetery, we realize that the enemies are still fearful of the dynamism of Islam, and it is the Divinely-designated Heirs of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) who have kept alive his morals and memory for the guidance of mankind.

Palestine Condemns Zionist Regime’s Decision to Deduct Tax Revenue Dues

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) – Palestine has condemned a decision by the Zionist regime to deduct 2.9 million U.S. dollars from the Palestinian tax revenue dues that the regime collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Zionist war minister Benny Gantz signed an order to deduct 2.9 million U.S. dollars from the Palestinian tax revenue dues. The sum is transferred by the PA to Palestinian prisoners in the regime’s jails, according to media reports.

Head of the Palestinian Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Affairs Authority, Qadri Abu Bakr, said in a press statement sent to Xinhua that he condemned the occupying regime’s decision.

He added that the decision comes within an Israeli policy to restrict the Palestinian prisoners and their families and to embarrass the PA.

“The decision is a violation of international norms and covenants,” Abu

Bakr said.

According to the 1993 Oslo peace accords signed between the regime and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the occupying regime collects tax revenues on behalf of the PA and transfers the money to PA on a monthly basis. Israel often withholds the transfer as a way to apply pressure on the PA.

According to the media, the Israeli decision to deduct the money comes within the scheme’s framework “to combat terrorist organizations and the payments that the PA transfers to Palestinian detainees.”

The report said the confiscated sum is related to 86 Palestinian detainees and their families, adding that the regime authorities had instructed banks in which there are accounts for the detainees and their families to seize their money.

Turkey Sells Battle-Tested Drones to UAE

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkish defence firm Baykar has delivered 20 armed drones to the United Arab Emirates this month and could sell more, two Turkish sources said, as a diplomatic detente between the former regional rivals expands into military contracts.

International demand for Baykar’s drones soared after their impact on conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and Libya, where their laser-guided armor-piercing bombs helped repel an offensive by UAE-supported forces two years ago.

That war in Libya was one of several theatres where the two countries played out a bitter, decade-long battle for influence in

the Middle East, until a reconciliation last year.

Now the United Arab Emirates and its ally Saudi Arabia are hoping to leverage their rapprochement with Turkey.

A source with knowledge of the talks said Abu Dhabi and Riyadh were negotiating to acquire Bayraktar TB2 drones from Ankara. “They decided during the negotiations with the UAE to quickly deliver 20 armed drones,” the source said, adding they were transferred earlier this month.

A senior Turkish official confirmed Turkey has delivered some drones to the United Arab Emirates and that the UAE was seek-

ing more. Saudi Arabia also wanted to buy armed drones and to set up a factory to manufacture them, the official said.

The official said Baykar was considering the Saudi request for a manufacturing plant but said that was a strategic decision for President Tayyip Erdogan and that other issues, such as Saudi investments in Turkey, “are not moving as fast as possible”.

Baykar, the UAE foreign ministry and Saudi Arabia’s government communications office did not respond to a request for comment. Turkey’s Defence Ministry referred questions to the state’s defence industries group, which declined to comment.