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ASYLUM AND MIGRATION IN THE MASHREK

Asylum and Migration Country Fact Sheet

EGYPT

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I. General framework:

Ratification of international instruments

- 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol: Yes
 - Egypt signed the Convention in 1951.
 - It then ratified both the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol in 1980 (Presidential Decree No. 331 of 1980). The Convention and Protocol were incorporated into domestic law in August 1981. (Official Gazette, Issue No. 48 of 26 November 1981)¹
 - Egypt entered reservations to the following articles when it signed the Convention:
 - 12(1) personal status
 - 20 rationing
 - 22(1) access to primary education
 - 23 access to public relief and assistance
 - 24 labour legislation and social security

- International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers Yes

Egypt acceded to Convention on 26 December 1992 by decree No. 446 of 1991 (Official Gazette, Issue No. 31 of 5 August 1993)

Reservations were entered on Articles 4 (definition of family) and 18(6) (remedy for wrongful conviction)

Other relevant instruments

- International human rights conventions
 - ICCPR Yes
 - ICESR Yes
 - CEDAW Yes
 - CRC Yes
 - CAT (torture) Yes
 - CERD Yes
- Regional-Arab League
 - Arab Charter on Human Rights No

¹ National Council for Human Rights. Annual Report of the National Council for Human Rights. Available online at http://www.nchr.org.eg/en/human_rp1_1.html.

- Regional-African
 - African Union Convention on Refugees Yes
 - African Charter on Human Rights Yes

General remarks

Caveats regarding Egypt's reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention:

- Subsequent ratification of international human rights treaties arguably overrides the reservations. For instance, Art. 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child makes primary education compulsory and requires that it be made available for all children irrespective of their national status.²
- Many people in Egypt, including government officials, believe that refugees are prohibited from working in Egypt because of the reservation to Article 24 (labour legislation and social security). However, this reservation may not be legally used to prohibit refugees from working in Egypt, as the article concerns workplace protections such as wages and benefits. Egypt did not enter a reservation to Art. 17 of the Convention, which is the article concerning the right to wage-earning employment for refugees.³

² For an analysis on this point see:

The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration. [Towards an Inclusive Approach to Citizenship. Investing in Education for the Empowerment of All City Residents.](#) THP International Workshop, World Conference on the Development of Cities. Porte Alegre, Brazil: 13 February 2008. Online at http://www.thehagueprocess.org/Upload/PDF/FINAL_REPORT_PORTO_ALEGRE.pdf.

Badawy, Tarek. [Refugee Education in Egypt.](#) Working Paper. THP International Workshop, World Conference on the Development of Cities. Porte Alegre, Brazil: 13 February 2008. Online at <http://www.thehagueprocess.org/Upload/PDF/CAIRO-EGYPT-PAPER.pdf>. Page 3.

³ See Mike Kagan's "Note Regarding Refugees' Right to Work in Egypt Under International Law," on file with the authors.

II. National framework:

A. Asylum

A.1. De jure

Main legal texts and/or articles governing the status of refugees and asylum seekers:

- In the constitution/basic law

Yes

- Permanent Constitution adopted in 1971; Art. 53 grants right to political asylum and prohibits extradition of political refugees:

“The right to political asylum shall be granted by the State to every foreigner persecuted for defending the people’s interests, human rights, peace or justice.

The extradition of political refugees shall be prohibited.”

- Authority for granting political asylum is held by the Office of the President. However, political asylum is only rarely granted, as an exceptional measure. See narrative report for more analysis.

- In an organic law (+implementing law)

No

- There is no asylum legislation in Egypt. Asylum seekers fall under laws applicable to foreigners and under related measures.
- The principal laws affecting refugees are:
 - Act Concerning Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals Law No. 89 of 1960 (amended by Laws 49/1968, 124/1980, 100/1983, 99/1996 and 88/2005) (Law No. 89 and Amendment No. 88/2005- Available on the EMHRN’s website)
 - [NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED: Minister of Interior Decree No. 8180 of 1996 (provides three-year temporary residency permits for UNHCR-registered refugees and political refugees granted status under the Constitution) (See annexed Decree No. 8180 - Available on the EMRHN’s website)

- Any other remarks

Complementary protection:

- The Egyptian Constitution gives any international treaty ratified by Egypt the force of ordinary domestic law after ratification and publication in the Official Gazette.⁴ Accordingly, the principle of non-*refoulement* may be considered part of the *de*

⁴ See: Badawy 2008, p. 3.

jure legal framework in Egypt pursuant to Egypt's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

Four Freedoms Agreement with Sudan:

- This agreement between Sudan and Egypt came into force in Egyptian law in September 2004. It grants reciprocal rights to Egyptians in Sudan and Sudanese in Egypt. Under this agreement, Sudanese are entitled to freedom of movement, work, residence and property ownership in Egypt. Thus all Sudanese, including failed asylum seekers, should be exempted from visa requirements and should be given the right to stay and live in Egypt. However, the agreement is reportedly not being implemented by Egypt.⁵

A.2. De facto

- Is there a specific ministry/administration responsible for granting legal status to refugees?

No

- Following the ratification of the 1951 Convention in 1984, a decision was taken to establish a committee in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assess asylum applications, but this was only functional for a short period of time.⁶
- The Egyptian government does, however, regularly grant refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR temporary residence permits and travel documents. See Section II A.3 on the role of UNHCR for further details.

Ministry responsible for refugee affairs:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Refugee Affairs, is responsible for communicating Egyptian refugee policy externally and is UNHCR Egypt's main interlocutor.

A.3. Role of UNHCR

- Existence of UNHCR office(s) in the country?

Yes

- The UNHCR began operations in 1954 when its Agreement with Egypt was signed.
- UNHCR Egypt
17 Mekka al Mokarama St.
3rd Proximity, 7th District
6th October City, Egypt

⁵ See: Badawy, "Right to Education."

⁶ President of the Republic Decree No. 188 of 1984, establishing a permanent committee for refugee affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to process asylum applications in implementation of the 1951 Convention. A MFA Decree was subsequently issued and named Ambassador Abdelhalim Badawy, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, as head of the committee (29 May 1984). The status of Decree No. 188 is unclear.

Tel.: +202 38355 801/2/3

- Does UNHCR have explicit legal status to operate in the country? Yes
- Agreement between the Government of Egypt and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees signed in 1954 (“MOU”) (Available on the EMHRN’s website)
- Is UNHCR allowed to freely travel across the country? Yes
- In general, UNHCR interviews asylum seekers at its main office in 6th of October City. No specific limitations on UNHCR staff’s freedom of movement have been reported.
- Is UNHCR allowed to visit migrants’ camps?
- There are no refugee or migrant camps in Egypt. Refugees are urbanised or otherwise live among resident populations.
- Is UNHCR allowed to visit detention centres/prisons?⁷
- UNHCR reports that it is usually granted access to detention centres on a case-by-case basis and can undertake registration and RSD there. A recent incident, where UNHCR was denied access to several hundred detained Eritrean and Ethiopian asylum seekers in the Aswan area before their deportation in the summer of 2008, has called into question future cooperation.⁸ Egypt has denied access to the UNHCR and returned Sudanese who had been deported from Israel.⁹
- Does UNHCR conduct RSD and registration? Yes
- UNHCR is, inter alia, in charge of Iraqi refugees from the centre and south of Iraq in Egypt. As prima facie refugees, Iraqis are not processed individually unless vulnerable or suspected of being excludable under the 1951 Refugee Convention. UNHCR reported that some Somali refugees were eligible for prima facie refugee status. Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees are individually processed for RSD.
 - UNHCR suspended RSD for Sudanese in June 2004 following a peace agreement for South Sudan. Sudanese are granted temporary protection. UNHCR reports that Darfurians are fast-tracked for protection services; vulnerable Darfurians are granted individual RSD hearings. However, refugee activists in the field say that only some Darfurians are being fast-tracked for protection services.
 - Asylum-seekers are given registration cards (“yellow cards”) while the standard RSD procedures are pending. Prima facie refugees (Iraqis and Somalis) are also given yellow cards, which are normally extended automatically. Refugees are given refugee status cards (“blue cards”) upon recognition as refugees. Yellow cards must be renewed every 18 months; blue cards are valid for three years.

⁷ Other international organisations, such as the ICRC and IOM, reportedly do not have the right to access prisons. Interview with Barbara Harrell Bond, Cairo, June 2008.

⁸ See: Amnesty International. *Egypt: Deadly Journeys through the Desert*. 20 August 2008. Available online at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/015/2008/en>. Page 3.

⁹ Ibid.; USCRI World Refugee Survey 2008.

- There were reports of Iraqis being screened for exclusion, sometimes without their knowledge.¹⁰
- Since 2003, some refugees have been granted status under the OAU Refugee Convention. Since there is no difference in treatment for OAU refugees and Convention refugees, this has produced an 85% increase in the recognition rate. Resettlement countries do not take OAU-recognised refugees, however, so the number of refugees in fact increases while resettlement decreases.

- How many refugees and asylum seekers are presently recognised by UNHCR?

- As of May 2008, 43,455 refugees and asylum seekers were registered with UNHCR Egypt.

- Sudan 23,498
- Iraq 10,988
- Somalia 5,460
- Eritrea 1,503
- Others 1,153

- The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants World Refugee Survey 2008 reports that “Egypt hosted some 165,000 refugees and asylum seekers, among them about 70,000 Iraqis and 61,600 Palestinians...”

- Is the refugee status allocated by UNHCR, including prima facie status, officially recognised by local authorities? Yes

- According to the terms of the MOU, the government is supposed to grant residency permits in accordance with effective regulations to “bona fide” refugees who reside in Egypt and fall under the Agency’s mandate (Art. 6). The government is also supposed to issue limited travel documents to refugees (Art. 7).
- Under MOI Decree No. 8180 of 1996, registered refugees are eligible for three-year temporary residency permits. In practice, however, the government issues six-month residency permits to registered asylum-seekers and one-year residency permits to recognised refugees. In principle, both are renewable as long as the UNHCR cards are valid.
- Those registered with UNHCR can apply for residency permits via the MFA and MOI for a fee.

- Does the state recognise asylum seekers (i.e., pending applicants/appeals)?

Yes, through the provision of temporary residency permits. (See above.)

¹⁰ Interview with AMERA legal staff, Cairo, Egypt, June 2008.

- However, Egypt was regularly stamping refugee residence permits with “not permitted to work.” UNHCR reports that this practice stopped after an unpublished agreement with the Government was reached.
- As a matter of law, refugees are treated as foreigners and therefore are required to obtain a work permit to work in Egypt. This requirement effectively precludes most refugees from obtaining work in the formal labour market. Refugees also face obstacles in obtaining educational and health services in Egypt. See the narrative report for further analysis.

- In addition to recognition of refugees, what other forms of assistance does UNHCR offer to refugees (direct aid, micro projects, etc.), and how is this provided (local partner, procedures, etc.)?

- UNHCR Egypt provides a combination of direct and indirect aid in the following areas: healthcare, education, psychosocial services, legal aid for detained persons, financial and emergency assistance for food and basic household goods, vocational and skills training, and local training and capacity building. UNHCR also engages in resettlement and voluntary repatriation activities.
- CARITAS is the leading implementing partner. Other implementing and organisational partners include Refuge Egypt, CRS, CEOSS, community-based organisations, and AMERA. UNHCR also provides support to Egyptian schools and hospitals to increase access for refugees and community-based organisations and enable them to provide services.
- UNHCR Egypt’s resettlement activities have been significantly reduced of late.

A.4. Rights of refugees and asylum seekers

Does the existing framework provide effective protection for the specific rights of refugees and asylum seekers?

- The current framework does not provide for adequate protection of refugees’ rights in Egypt. The Egyptian authorities provide refugees registered with UNHCR with six-month residency permits, which can normally be renewed. The problem remains, however, that many refugees do not register with UNHCR. Large numbers of refugees therefore live in Egypt without legal residency and are at risk of being arrested, detained and possibly deported under immigration legislation. See the narrative report and Section B.2 below for more information and analysis. Sudanese refugees, a population who often do not approach UNHCR in Egypt, should be exempt from immigration legislation and visa and residency permit requirements under the Four Freedoms Agreement. However, the agreement is not being implemented in this regard.
- Even when registered with UNHCR, refugees are effectively excluded from taking up formal and protected employment. To work formally, they need to apply for a work permit, which is very difficult to obtain. One of the main reasons for this is

that Egypt applies the principle of “national preference”. Even refugees thus need to prove that a job they apply for cannot be performed by a national. In this regard, it is important to note that Sudanese refugees should normally be exempted from such a rule under the Four Freedoms Agreement. However, in practice, the agreement is not fully implemented.

- Even if registered with UNHCR, refugees may also face difficulties in accessing basic rights such as education and healthcare. See the narrative report for further analysis.

B. Migration

B.1. Regular entry and/or stay

- Law governing entry and stay in the country Yes

- Act Concerning Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals Law No. 89 of 1960 (amended by Laws 49/1968, 124/1980, 100/1983, 99/1996 and 88/2005) (No. 89 and No. 88 - available on the EMHRN’s website)

- Is there a specific ministry/administration responsible for (regular) migration issues?

Yes

- Ministry of Interior, Department of Passports, Immigration and Nationality (covers the enforcement of rules and regulations associated with the entry, exit and stay of non-nationals, including refugees)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Immigration Affairs (covers external affairs relative to migrants)

- Are official statistics available for the number of migrants acknowledged by the state?

No

- In its concluding observations on Egypt’s 2006 report to the treaty body of the Convention on Migrant Workers, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) noted that Egypt lacked precise figures on migrant population flows. Like other countries in the region, Egypt tracks the number of persons entering and exiting the country and the number of work permits issued to foreigners by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, but it does not account for the migrant population and does not distinguish between refugees and foreign migrants.

See narrative report for further analysis.

B.2. Irregular (undocumented) entry, stay and/or exit

- Legal text sanctioning irregular entry and/or stay in the country Yes

- Act Concerning Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals Law No. 89 of 1960 (amended by Laws 49/1968, 124/1980, 100/1983, 99/1996 and 88/2005) (No. 89 and 88 – available on the EMHRN’s website)

Fraudulent entry

- Entry with fraudulent statements or documents is subject to a prison sentence of up to two years and/or a monetary fine (Art. 40, as amended in 2005).

Unauthorised entry or exit

- Undocumented entry and entry or exit at points other than designated border crossings are subject to a prison sentence of up to six months and/or a monetary fine and expulsion (Art. 41, as amended in 2005).

Unauthorised stay

- Unauthorised stays are subject to expulsion (Art. 41, as amended in 2005).

Discretion to expel

- The Minister of Interior has the discretion to expel non-nationals who are in violation of the Act (Art. 25) and to subject such persons to house arrest until the time of deportation (Art. 30). Persons with special residence may not be expelled unless considered a threat to internal security, public order, values or health (Art. 26).
- Expelled persons are not allowed to re-enter without permission of the Minister of Interior (Art. 31).

Procedure for deciding expulsion

- The Minister of Interior has the power to issue regulations for deportation (Art. 28). In the case of special residents, a deportation committee is to decide whether to expel (Art. 26). Only Palestinian refugees who sought refuge in the Northern Territory are considered special residents and would be entitled to a hearing by the committee before deportation (Art. 18 defining who is entitled to special residency).

Exemptions from penalties for irregular migration

- Law No. 89 includes several exemptions from the penalties; however, none of them include vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers, refugees or victims of trafficking or smuggling, or other persons of concern. All such persons are subject to the penalties prescribed under the Law, as noted.
- The Law grants the Minister discretion to decide on exemptions other than the ones specified in the Law.

- Legal text(s) sanctioning assistance (housing, transportation, etc.) to persons having irregularly entered the country and/or those irregularly staying in it

- There is no known law sanctioning assistance to irregular migrants per se, although Law No. 89 does make it a crime to not report passengers (Art. 41, as

amended in 2005). In addition, landlords must notify security when accommodating foreigners (Art. 42, as amended in 2005). Employers must also inform officials when employing foreigners. Violators are subject to a monetary fine (Art. 42, as amended in 2005).

- These laws could discourage persons from assisting migrants. Of particular concern is the reporting requirement for the employment of non-nationals.
- In general, states should ensure that any counter-trafficking measures differentiate between situations of trafficking and voluntary assistance to irregular migrants and/or refugees.

- Impact of such legislations on migrants' and refugees' rights

- The criminalisation of irregular migration is considered disproportionate to the violation and can often lead to additional human rights abuses – a particular concern in Egypt, where, as the UN and other human rights groups have noted, torture in prison is widespread,¹¹ and where non-nationals frequently are denied access to procedural safeguards and adequate legal representation.
- The Egyptian legislation makes no exceptions for refugees or vulnerable migrants, who are all subject to the penalties stipulated by law. Thus the legislation is inconsistent with international asylum principles and may prevent victims of trafficking and/or smuggling from coming forward to report their situations. The law has been used for mass deportations of refugees and migrants, including to places where their lives were at risk.
- The law does not specify any procedural rights or exemptions for persons being threatened with deportation, with few relevant exceptions. Refugees and vulnerable migrants do not have a clear right to any heightened protection and the Minister of Interior's discretion to expel is not subject to any limitations regarding vulnerable persons or refugees.
- The narrative report provides further analysis of the impact of the legislation for migrants and refugees, and gives examples illustrating the concerns.

B.3. Rights of migrant workers

- Are there legal texts related to the protection of the rights of migrant workers?

- There is no legislation designed specifically for the protection of migrant workers. Some of the ordinary laws of Egypt cover certain migrant protections and/or provide for equal treatment of Egyptians and non-Egyptians alike.

¹¹ EIPR and FIDH, "Egypt: Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families," shadow report submitted to the UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, April 2007.

- The Egyptian Constitution of 1971 provides for certain rights without distinction as to nationality:
 - individual freedom and due process
 - privacy of the home
 - privacy of communication
 - freedom of religion
 - freedom of opinion
- Labour Law No. 12 of 2003 (applies to both Egyptians and foreigners)
NOTE: Domestic workers are not covered under Art. 4 of the Labour Code, which effectively excludes many domestic workers.
- International instruments incorporated into Egyptian law, including the Convention on Migrant Workers, may offer additional legal protections for migrants.¹²

- Do these legal texts also cover irregular migrants?

- The constitutional guarantees should theoretically cover irregularly-present foreign workers. However, foreign workers generally require a permit to work in the country, making regularity a pre-condition for work. Without a provision specifically addressing the rights of irregular migrant workers, it is unlikely that irregular persons will be given any entitlements afforded under the basic labour laws and regulations or that they will otherwise seek redress for violations.
- Irregularly-present migrants are more vulnerable, and therefore are more likely to be denied basic rights that they may otherwise be entitled to under the law.

- To what extent do these legal texts comply with the convention on the rights of migrant workers, and does the national framework effectively provide protection for these rights?

- As noted, no Egyptian law specifically addresses the situation of migrant workers or vulnerable persons among them. Any protections provided are a result of generally applicable laws, which may or may not be applied in practice. Access to legal rights is of particular concern for non-nationals in Egypt.
- As non-nationals in Egypt, migrant workers face the same difficulties as refugees in gaining access to healthcare and education (see Sections A.4 & B.2 above).
- What is also lacking is an intergovernmental organisation engaged in dialogue with the authorities to improve the protection of migrant workers. The IOM, while present in Egypt, is not devoted to the protection of migrant rights.
- Foreign domestic workers are particularly at risk as they are excluded from the national labour code.

B.4. Role of IOM

¹² See: Badawy, “Right to Education in Egypt.”

- Existence of IOM office(s) in the country? Yes

If yes, specify year of starting of activities + contact details for office(s)

- Office opened in 1991
- 29 Ahmed Heshmat Street
3rd floor, Zamalek, Cairo
+20.2.27.35.08.79

- Does IOM have legal status in the country? Yes

- IOM concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Is IOM allowed to freely travel across the country? Yes

- Is IOM allowed to visit migrant camps?

- There are no migrant camps in Egypt.

- Is IOM allowed to visit detention centres? Yes

- The IOM reports that it visits detention centres upon request.

- What are the different forms of assistance IOM offers to migrants, and how is this provided (local partner, procedures, etc.)?

- IOM does not regularly provide assistance to migrants, with the exception of voluntary returns and resettlement to the US.
- IOM works with the Ministry of Manpower and Migration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health and Population.
- IOM has provided some training on counter-trafficking for law enforcement officials and training on the human rights of migrants for the National Council of Human Rights.

- Does IOM return irregular migrants to their country of origin on a voluntary basis?

Yes

If yes, specify the number of persons returned and their country of origin, possibly for the last five years.

- IOM reports that the voluntary return of irregular migrants is something the organisation does worldwide and that it would assist with in Egypt, if requested to do so. However, the researchers were not able to get hold of any specific statistics regarding the number of returned persons from the IOM office in Egypt.

<i>C. Civil society organisations</i>
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C.1. Presence and actions

- List the different categories of civil society organisations working in the field of migration and asylum. Give a brief explanation of the type of actions they undertake in this field as well as of their main priorities.

See table of civil society organisations in Annex.

General overview:

- A number of organisations in Egypt offer various types of assistance and relief to refugees and migrants. Most of these organisations mainly provide social and/or humanitarian assistance, such as basic education and healthcare. However, very few organisations provide legal aid or conduct awareness-raising campaigns directed at the refugee and migrant communities and the local population. Virtually none have the objective of carrying out advocacy activities directed at the state apparatus.
- Civil society organisations working on refugee-related issues in Egypt share the same difficulties and problems that face most independent human rights organisations active in the country.¹³ This is particularly reflected in their ability to receive funds from foreign sources, as well as in difficulties associated with the registration of organisations. Applications are often denied or delayed. In such cases, it is common for organisations to register as civil companies, or for members who are lawyers to take up refugee-related cases in their personal capacities.
- Some channels of communication exist between human rights organisations at large and those specifically working on refugee rights. In various instances, human rights organisations, and more specifically those focusing on detention and torture, take on the cases of refugees and migrants. However, this occurs in a sporadic, ad hoc manner rather than as a collaborative, organised effort between the various organisations.
- The researchers have not been able to identify organisations in Egypt that specifically work on migrant rights by providing legal aid, for example, or through advocacy efforts.

C.2. Gender

- Are there organisations that deal with the issue of violence against refugee/migrant women in their activities (prevention and rehabilitation) and do they organise specific actions to report and/or combat it?

Yes

¹³ See EMHRN report on freedom of association in the Euromed region.

- The protection team at AMERA originally designated one individual as a focal point for SGBV matters. This frequently has been a volunteer legal advisor who is only with the institution for six months. Given the needs of SGBV survivors and the many gaps in services, it has been decided to create a formal SGBV team. Problems that were identified were lack of proper emergency procedures at UNHCR, no shelter housing, fear of police, lack of access to justice, and exploitative working conditions.
- At present, AMERA has an SGBV team dealing with the legal and psychosocial needs of asylum seekers. It participates in SGBV committees at the UNHCR, as well as in community projects designed to prevent and appropriately respond to SGBV. The team trains other NGOs and community interpreters on gender issues in the refugee communities, and updates the database with current legal and country-of-origin information pertaining to SGBV and other gender-related issues in the refugee context. When appropriate, this team also coordinates referrals of SGBV cases for urgent resettlement.
- In its 2008 Country Plan for Egypt, UNHCR indicated that there was a need to scale up responses for SGBV survivors and persons with psychosocial and psychological needs. UNHCR also announced an investment and support to new partners for the provision of psycho-social counselling, treatment and psychiatric care for survivors of violence, including SGBV. In this regard, MAAN will continue to co-operate with UNHCR in identifying SGBV cases and assist with the implementation of the Agency's HIV/AIDS project. The Nadim Centre for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims will continue to co-operate with UNHCR in the areas of psycho-social care for refugees and asylum seekers and will help UNHCR in facilitating identification of SGBV cases.
- UNHCR Cairo also announced its intention to strengthen its in-house capacity and to work in close coordination with the authorities and legal partners (NGOs, bar association) to be able to intervene promptly in airports and detention facilities, to carry out protection interventions and RSD, ensure legal representation of persons that fall under its mandate, and provide mechanisms to support survivors of SGBV.

D. Reporting on human rights of migrants, recognised refugees and asylum seekers

D.1. General reporting

- Please list relevant reports which analyse human rights violations against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the country in question.
 - It should be emphasised that, generally speaking, there is a lack of resources about the human rights violations which migrants and refugees face in Egypt. A more systematic analysis of the situation is needed.
 - See list of reports in the Annex for some of the most significant reports collected by the researchers. See also Sections A.4, B.2 and B.3 above and the narrative report for a typology of the violations migrants and refugees may face.

D.2. Gender

- Are there specific reports dealing with the issue of violence against refugee/migrant women in the country?

No

- Based on your interviews with NGOs and other actors, specify the different categories of violence which refugee/migrant women face in the host country.
- There were reports of refugee and migrant women suffering sexual assault while in police custody and detention. Women who report abuse are then subjected to further assault and harassment, some of which is of a life-threatening nature.
 - Female domestic migrant workers are subject to verbal and physical violence, including sexual abuse and rape, by their employers.
 - Overall, the lack of proper protection mechanisms and legal statutes – as well as a general environment of impunity combined with an absence of gender-oriented protection policies – make migrant women and refugees particularly vulnerable. In general, irregular migrants and non-registered refugees are even more affected. They would be afraid to seek redress in cases of abuse as they know that, because of their status, they might face detention and deportation if they contact the authorities.
 - There is, however, a lack of research on the subject and these issues should be investigated further.