

## **Egyptian NGOs report for the UPR**

### **Preamble:**

NGOs play a prominent role for human rights as they monitor all violations of human rights through interventions with the concerned authorities and with local and international public opinion in order to put an end to these violations. They exert all the efforts to defend every individual in the society in order to get his/her rights. NGOs have become increasingly more powerful to protect and enhance human rights. Thousands of national and international NGOs are actively involved in strengthening human rights and played the role of a guard in case of inactivating human rights instruments. This report is conducted to present a consensus statement from 100 NGOs from Upper Egypt governorates (Assiut- Sohag- Minia- Bani sweif- Qena) members of the "**Coalition of NGOs for the UPR-Egypt**". This coalition provides a clear study about the status of human rights in Egypt with a focus on the most prominent events and violations that explain problems and main obstacles inhibiting Egyptians from achieving their rights laid down in the basic international conventions of human rights, those ratified by the Egyptian government; particularly in the last four years.

### **Overview of human rights status in Egypt:**

Egypt has never been absent from participation in all efforts and international occasions that discuss issues of human rights. Egypt's interest to actively participate in such international efforts for human rights and human development is part of its inclusive modernization starting from the last century. It is also part of Egypt's civilized commitment towards these issues. Improvement marks started to appear such as the establishment of the national council of motherhood and childhood in 1989, National Commission for Women in 1993, then the National Council for Women in 2000 and the national council for human rights in 2003. Egypt was one of the early countries that ratified one of the most important conventions of human rights; the UN convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families in 2004. Egypt was also one of the early countries that ratified the international convention on the rights of the child on December 1989. And it has announced a decade (1989-1999) for child protection followed by the second decade for the child expressing her political commitment towards childhood issues.

Despite all the conventions of human rights ratified by Egypt, there still is backward in human rights status in Egypt. And this is not due to society culture, lack of financial resources, or the need for training and capacity building as claimed by the government and its institutions. It is because the country's institutions lack the political willing required to get rid of specific policies and to respect and promote human rights.

The cases in which human rights being violated and not monitored exceed those monitored cases. Rare cases that are delivered to the public opinion still are the compass

that sheds light on this crucial issue since the society's concern to common issues is nothing except considering all cases without discrimination.

Egypt as a state is trying to slightly move towards improving the status of human rights and its related issue but its steps are greatly lagging. This is not because it does not understand the international facts and standards for this concern but because it lacks the actual willing as the improvement of the human rights concern probably affects the given political system and the future of freedoms.

Despite all the previously mentioned, the Coalition of NGOs for the UPR-Egypt still attempting to alter the status quo and recommends some reforms at the level of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as follows: -

### **First: Civil and political rights**

#### **1. The right to practice political rights and to monitor elections:**

Egyptians have made two of the greatest revolutions on 25 January and 30 June, which aimed at attaining freedom, human dignity, and social justice for all Egyptians, independence of the national will and rejection of trading on religion. However; goals of the two revolutions will not be achieved unless Egyptians are able to stand up and participate in the public life to emphasize that people are the source of powers. So, activating citizens' political participation by conducting free and fair elections is a necessary requirement for international conventions and constitutional principles.

In view of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall pass a law for establishing the Independent Election Commission according to 2014 constitution and forming its institutional structure.
- 2- The state shall implement effective complaints mechanisms for responding to CSOs' complaints while monitor elections.
- 3- The State shall review and purify the voter rolls on a regular basis and allow citizens to vote online.
- 4- The state shall be obliged to raise voters' awareness of their social and political rights.
- 5- The state shall take necessary procedures that enable persons with disabilities to participate and vote in the election.

#### **2. The right to peaceful assembly:**

The main reasons behind the Egyptian revolution in 2011 are suppression of peaceful protests and preventing citizens from expressing their opposition. Protests against human rights violations have continued after the ouster of former president and during the rule of the Military Council. They increased in both number and intensity during the Islamist president Mohamed Morsi's reign; especially after issuing the tyrannical constitutional

declaration on 22 Nov. 2012. So Egyptians revolt against a president who just represents his partisan supporters not the whole country. On 30/6/2013 Egyptians revolted against tyranny, bad governance, trading of religion and the risk of losing their national identity.

On the other hand, on November 24, 2013, temporary President Adly Mansour, approved Law 107/2013, known as the "anti-protest legislation" .The law aimed at regulating peaceful protests and public meetings without consulting the national Council for Human Rights. This new law violates the constitutional principles which guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly in 2012 and 2014 constitutions. Also applying this law revealed that the police indiscriminately arrest protesters, regardless of their political affiliation because they do not receive permission from Ministry of the Interior.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for:

- Amending the new law issued in November 2013 which organizes demonstrations and public meetings to be consistent with 2014 constitution and with the international human rights norms and standards.

### **3. The right to establish civil associations:**

CSOs play a major role and are considered vital partners to the government in the development process. The Egyptian Associations Law is regarded as one of the major obstacles to freedom of association in Egypt. The law has been widely criticized for providing a framework for security authorities control over civil society. Moreover, the law restricts activities of associations and exposes them to be dissolved by administrative order.

This is in addition to duplicity of licensing authority in case the association's activity related to more than a specific ministry, duplicity of regulators (Ministry of Social Solidarity, governors, Central auditing agency, security systems), the government's power to block individuals from competing in board elections, dissolve organizations without need for a judicial order, and inspect any NGO or any association at any time without a prior notice.

There are also other restrictions that hinder the freedom of NGOs' work such as restrictions on receiving funds from foreign organizations that are licensed to operate in Egypt, and restrictions on organizing festivals and exhibitions. Also, the administrative authority may exceed the legal period specified by the law for giving a grant approval so that forcing the associations to return the amount of funding or postponing the implementation of the targeted activities. Other challenges to freedom of associations are expanding on the concept of "Regulations which prohibit participation in political activities" and the absence of unified accounting standards for NGOs' work.

In view of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall amend some provisions of civil associations' law 84 for year 2002 or issue a new law that removes restrictions on civil work which include dissolving associations, limiting their activities or tracking and prosecuting NGO workers.
- 2- The state shall engage civil society in modifying or preparing a new law on Civil Associations which has already happened in the last few months when Civil Society Committee Representatives participate in the preparation of the new draft civil associations' law.
- 3- The state shall allow CSOs to file suits or join existing lawsuits for defending economic, social and cultural rights.
- 4- The state shall stop unjustified campaigns against human rights organizations and not consider their activities within the prohibited political activities. These activities may include building coalitions for influencing policies and legislation, promoting the right of political participation and helping citizens register for the elections.
- 5- The state shall exempt civil associations from all dues and taxes which include exempting products and services of the association from general sales tax. This step may encourage the development projects of associations and motivate them to participate in the development process.
- 6- The state shall require all civil Associations that receive foreign funding or government support to publish their budget indicating current assets and liabilities for increasing transparency and accountability.
- 7- The state shall spread culture of volunteering and civil work. Also the state must stop charging NGO workers with treason.

#### **4. The right to freedom of opinion, expression, and information**

In all Communities, revolutions break out due to unfair practices, muzzling the citizens and worsening living conditions. Through the Egyptian revolution of 2011, Egyptians emphasized their right to freedom of opinion, expression and access to information. Since the 25<sup>th</sup> January revolution, practices of the Egyptian government proved continuation of violations to the right of freedom of expression. This can be seen through smear campaign against opponents, violation of the sanctity of life and trying to hold control over media such as the siege of the Egyptian Media Production City under the Muslim Brotherhood rule.

In light of the recent events, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall promote freedom of opinion and expression as secured right by laws and regulations that need to be reviewed to comply with the provisions of the new Constitution.
- 2- The state shall activate media code of ethics that guarantees that the information received is fair, accurate, and checked and respects fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.
- 3- The state shall Issue a new legislation for internet crimes. Also it shall issue a freedom of information law to prevent the exploitation of the first law for

arresting social media activists or for preventing the ability of information on the internet.

#### **5. The right to a fair trial and rights of prisoners and detainees:**

Complaints about the violation of the right to fair trial continue despite its importance to human rights. The most common examples of these violations are refereeing more than 12,000 civilians to military tribunals, expansion of the Public Prosecution in keeping the accused in custody in addition to increasing in the rates of random arrest.

In light of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall amend legislations for guaranteeing a fair trial.
- 2- The state shall activate compassionate release system.
- 3- The state shall reconsider the status of some young detainees who are randomly arrested during protests and release them.
- 4- The state shall review the presidential decree of law No. 83/2013 that amends some provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law promulgated by Law No. 150/1950 regarding remand and custody. The new law overruled the maximum term of detention.
- 5- The state shall amend Law No. 94 (2003) regarding the Egyptian National Council of Human Rights to allow human rights monitors to make unannounced visits to prisons and detention centers.

#### **6. Combating terrorism:**

Since the ousting of the Islamic president Mohamed Morsi, the country is exposed to terrorist attacks by Takfiri armed groups supported by political trends within the Muslim Brotherhood at the forefront of these trends. The terrorist attacks have killed hundreds and injured thousands from the military, police and civilians in addition to burning and destroying public and private property.

In light of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The State shall draw up national plan for fighting terrorism which includes the necessary constitutional amendments. This plan should not be limited to security solutions but we must fight terrorism at its root through reforming educational system, media and religious institutions.
- 2- The State shall provide ongoing training and awareness concerning human rights and the respect thereof to security personnel and doctors in charge of prisoners within the context of the fight against terrorism.

#### **7. Combating torture:**

The crime of torture violates the most basic human rights of the mere Egyptian citizens. Although longstanding revolutionary demands for 'human dignity', there is still no

appropriate legislative development which sets effective measures and procedures to protect the civilians from torture crimes.

The UN Convention against Torture defined torture in Article 1 as, "For the purposes of this Convention, torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes ....".

In light of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- To amend provisions of the penal code and the code of criminal procedure to comply with the United Nations convention against torture.
- 2- To amend article 126 of the Penal Code in accordance with article 1 of the Convention against Torture so that penalties extend to include:
  - a. torturing defendants to force them to confess, or for other purposes, such as revenge, as a favor to influential persons, etc.,
  - b. torturing others to force a defendant to confess or to force those subjected to torture to provide information concerning a defendant,
  - c. the use of physical and psychological torture,
  - d. public employees who commit torture or order that it be committed, even if their role only consisted in inciting, agreeing to or being accomplices to acts of torture.
- 4- To amend article 63 of the Criminal Procedures Code to allow torture victims to file direct lawsuits against officers and security personnel who commit torture during the course.
- 5- To take preventive measures to minimize the possibility of torture taking place in Egyptian places of detention, including putting a stop to isolating detainees and preventing them from having contacts with the outside world,

## **8. Freedom of belief and religion:**

Churches and Christians' private property have been exposed to various violations that reached their peak since the June 30 uprising as a violent response against Christians for joining the protests. The Egyptian authorities have already taken swift actions to protect churches and Christian citizens.

The new Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, thought, and belief as articles 53, 64 and 235 states. Also, on October 15, 2011 the Supreme Council for the Armed Forces issued a decree 126-2011 to amend provisions of the penal code to prohibit discrimination against other persons. The decree substitutes the title of article 11 of the second chapter of the penal code with "Misdemeanors related to religion and anti-discrimination so the article 160 of the Egyptian Penal Code states that: A penalty of detention and fine shall be inflicted on the following:

1. Whoever perturbs the rituals of a creed or a related religious ceremony, or obstructs it with violence or threat.

2. Whoever ravages, breaks, destroys, or violates the sanctity of a place provided for holding religious ceremonies, symbols, or other objects of profound reverence and sanctity in relation to the members of a creed or group of people.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall issue a law to organize building and renovating churches in accordance with 2014 Constitution.
- 2- The state shall issue a law to create an independent commission for equal opportunities and eliminating all forms of discrimination against citizens.
- 3- Join the efforts of all sectors for spreading the language of tolerance, non-discrimination and the acceptance of others.
- 4- The state shall review the school curriculum to entrench the principle of citizenship.
- 5- Support the role of media and cultural institutions in promoting and protecting religious diversity and denounce hate crimes and discrimination against citizens.

#### **9. Fighting human trafficking:**

Although the Egyptian government had issued Law no 64/2010 regarding combating human trafficking and the article 89 of the newly adopted constitution, stating: "Slavery and all forms of oppression and forced exploitation against humans are forbidden, as is sex trafficking and other forms of human trafficking, all of which are punishable by law"; the trade of human organs still exists with that of children exploitation for political purposes.

In light of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- To increase awareness regarding the dimensions of the issue, mobilize people to stop it and raise awareness of the potential victims.
- 2- The state shall activate the role of Human Trafficking Victim's Assistance Fund established by law.

#### **10. Rights of refugees**

In Egypt, refugees are exposed to humanitarian violations and faced extremely bad conditions. In 2012, the former president had given Syrian refugees equal treatment as Egyptians in regards to education and healthcare. Also, the protection of refugees is guaranteed under the new constitution as article 91 states that "The State may grant political asylum to any foreigner persecuted for defending the interests of people, human rights, peace or justice.... Also, The Foreign Ministry spokesman denies abuses against refugees from Syria. He estimates that the numbers of Syrian refugees in Egypt is 300,000 Syrians and are being treated the same way as Egyptians in regards with access to Health and

Education Services. The spokesman stressed that "There is no official policy on the forced deportation of our Syrian brothers.

However, the Egyptian authorities have detained hundreds of Syrian refugees with their children and forced them to leave the country, and this violates the international conventions.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall raise awareness of the security officials on the rights of refugees and facilitate procedures for legalizing their stay. It shall also increase refugee awareness of the importance of the formation of Refugee community organizations to take care of their rights as residents.
- 2- The state shall immediately release all detained refugees who have not even been brought to trial during or after the revolution.
- 3- The state shall provide the refugees with a travel document especially those refugees who have blue identity cards and reside in Egypt for more than three years as provided in Article 28 of the 1951 refugee Convention ratified by Egypt.
- 4- The Institutions, Ministries and organizations working with refugees should establish enhanced cooperation between themselves for improving both care and social services provided to refugees.

#### **11. The right to life:**

The Egyptian government did not take any initiatives for reconsidering crimes Punishable by the Death Penalty as tougher penalties. The number of these crimes exceeds 72 crimes.

In light of the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- The state shall restrict the use of death penalty to the most serious crimes. It shall be used when there is no possibility of reformation and rehabilitation of the accused.

#### **Sources of statistical data:**

Supreme Electoral Committee- Public Prosecutions reports- Reports and statements by the Ministry of Interior- official statistics from government institutions-reports of The National Council for Human Rights.

#### **Second: Economic, Social and cultural rights:**

##### **1. The right to health:**



Although Egypt's public spending on health increased to 5.14 % of the public expenditures in 2013, the state still faces many major challenges concerning the right to health care, and there are differences in access to health care services between rural and Urban areas. Also the health insurance system does not cover all citizens but it covers 58.2 % of the total population.

So, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The State shall allocate a percentage of government spending to health equivalent to at least 3% of the Gross National Product according to 2014 constitution, which shall gradually increase to comply with international standards.
- 2- The state shall apply Quality System according to the International standards at hospitals and medical centers at the level of governorates in Egypt.
- 3- The state shall improve the working conditions of doctors and medical staff. Also the state shall care for their financial and moral rights.
- 4- The state shall adopt a new law for comprehensive health insurance system that takes into consideration the financial capabilities of the joint. The State shall bear costs of those unable to pay.
- 5- The state shall Address Sanitation issues and ensures clean water for all.
- 6- The state shall draw up a national plan for the prevention, care, and treatment for hepatitis C virus.

## **2. The right to education and fighting illiteracy**

Although Egypt spent 11.9 % of its total public expenditures on education, the Egyptian education system faces many obstacles. The most important of these are high crowded classes, not abiding by specific standards for education process, gap between private and public schools and the lack of teaching and learning resources. Also there is a big difference between the education curriculum and the needs of labor market which lead to an increase in poverty and unemployment.

Eradicating illiteracy remains the most important goal of the state. Illiteracy rate has reached 29.6 %. The General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education succeeded in eradicating the illiteracy of (1,621,627) citizens during the period from 2011 to 2013.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall continue its efforts for promoting educational quality and eradicating illiteracy especially in rural and poor areas according to a time plan and in collaboration with CSOs.
- 2- The state shall start applying the constitution articles and amend the necessary laws concerning allocating a percentage of government spending to scientific research equivalent to at least 1% of the Gross National Product (GNP), which shall gradually increase to comply with international standards.

- 3- The State shall provide free education in the various stages in the State's educational institutions according to the Law.
- 4- The State shall encourage and develop technical and technological education as well as vocational training, and expand all their types in accordance with international quality standards and in accordance with labor market needs.

### **3. The right to housing:**

The right to adequate housing became one of the biggest social problems in Egypt. The housing crisis in Egypt is not an economic crisis resulting from the deficit in the capabilities and resources, as far as the crisis is resulting from the absence of social justice in planning for housing over decades. Despite the government's efforts to address the issue of housing including implementing new urban communities which reach 27 new communities and offering 28000 pieces of land according to the public lottery system in low prices and installment without interest, 15.5 millions of people still live in informal areas, at the time that there are millions of vacant housing units not used before.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall strengthen the national housing plan which upholds the environmental particularity and ensures the contribution of personal and collaborative initiatives in its implementation.
- 2- The State shall conduct a comprehensive national plan to address the problem of unplanned slums, which includes re-planning, provision of infrastructure and utilities, and improvement of the quality of life and public health.

### **4. The right to food:**

According to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), 30.1% of populations do not get their caloric needs and 28.9 % of children suffering from stunting. The government has made great efforts including ensuring access to high-quality bread for all citizens, providing subsidized goods through mechanized ration cards for ensuring arrival of support in-kind to those who deserve it in addition to setting prices guide for maintaining products prices within a specific range. However, the government still faces daunting challenges in supplying citizens with high-quality food products at low prices.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall facilitate economic access to adequate food. The rights and needs of all communities should be met; even people living in remote geographical locations.
- 2- The state shall keep monitoring prices of essential goods and revive mandatory pricing for reducing prices
- 3- The state shall draw up national plan for ensuring that water and sanitation facilities reach everyone and are maintained at a healthy standard.

## **5. The right to clean environment:**

Egypt suffers from multidimensional environmental issues that may have negative impacts on the natural resources and endanger the citizen's health. The environmental issues in Egypt include air pollution, water pollution, soil contamination and noise pollution. The government exerts efforts to increase green space, preserve farmland and reduce pollution in general. However, the lack of resources and security conditions prevent developing a strategy to overcome obstacles.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall apply a strategy for the protection and conservation of the environment and strengthen mechanisms for sustainable development.
- 2- The state shall increase the role of people in managing their natural resources and facilitate access to information concerning these resources.
- 3- To minimize the use of harmful pesticides and fertilizers for avoiding food contamination
- 4- To conduct a regular monitoring for the state of environment in Egypt. This monitoring will enable stakeholders to actively participate in the planning process for natural resource management.

## **6. The right to work and fighting unemployment:**

The economic crisis of the past two years has worsened unemployment further; this has been a major driver of the ongoing protests and social unrest. Unemployment climbed to 13.4% in the third quarter of 2013 compared to 13.3% in the second quarter of the same year. Statistics indicated that Egypt's unemployment rate averaged 8.9 % in 2010. This high levels of unemployment due to the closure of more than 1500 factories since 2011 uprisings.

Due to the above, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The State shall draw up national plan for promoting job creation and reducing unemployment rates.
- 2- The state shall amend its legislation with the aim of passing unified labor laws that govern the public and private sectors. These amendments shall preserve the rights of workers and admit the formation of independent trade unions.
- 3- The state shall review the efficiency of the economic system and adjust market mechanism.

## **7. The right to development:**

The desired outcome of sustainable development has not been achieved in the Egyptian society t

throughout the past years. There was not any national integrated plan for achieving development in all parts of the country due to lack of capabilities and the absence of a comprehensive development plan. Upper Egypt, desert and border areas are still marginalized and neglected areas although they have the essential elements needed for achieving sustainable development.

So, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall adopt a national strategy for sustainable development with the assistance and support of international society. The strategy shall take into consideration geographical and environmental balance and guarantee equality of opportunity for all citizens.
- 2- The state shall develop comprehensive reform program. The program shall advance the role of women and youth and actively involve them in real community projects.
- 3- The state shall develop a national strategy for the full implementation of the right to social security.
- 4- The state shall guarantee social insurance and pension funds.

#### **8. The right to fight corruption:**

Forms of corruption vary, but include misuse of government power for other purposes, extortion, graft, and embezzlement. According to Transparency International, Egypt ranked 114<sup>th</sup> out of 177 in the Corruption Perceptions Index. Within the fight against corruption, the interim President Adly Mansour issued a law 106-2013 that prohibits the conflict of the state officials' interests. The law stipulates the establishment of a committee for the prevention of corruption and sets out the terms of reference for its establishment. This committee will be tasked with overseeing the implementation of the law.

Corruption was among the main engines behind the Egyptian Revolution. Nevertheless, corruption still remains a problem after the revolution.

So the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall intensify its efforts to promote transparency and accountability and fight corruptions as a detriment that threatens the future of society.
- 2- Competent control agencies and organizations shall coordinate their activities in combating corruption, enhancing the values of integrity and transparency in order to ensure sound performance of public functions and preserve public funds.
- 3- The state shall develop strategy for recovering looted funds abroad.
- 4- The state shall promote electronic government services which separate between the service provider and the service recipient.

## **9. Rights of the child:**

Children in Egypt suffer from many serious problems affecting them including child labor, school drop-outs, violence against children, street children and lack of children's participation in decision making that affects their lives. Also, the exploitation of children in political demonstrations has made matters worse. This problem requires urgent intervention for protecting children from further abuse during violent confrontations.

So, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall allocate a separate budget within the available resources, for the protection of child rights
- 2- The state shall draw up a plan to address the dropout crisis.
- 3- The state shall develop a National Street Children Strategy for prevention, withdrawal and reintegration of street children.
- 4- The state shall undertake awareness-raising campaigns with a view to eradicating child labor.

## **10. Rights of women:**

Women in Egypt still suffer from discrimination and violence. Many recommendations and reports call for the protection of women's rights; however, the Egyptian government has so far fallen short of meeting the demands of the Egyptian women calling for their participation in public life.

So, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The State shall guarantee a woman's right of holding public and senior management offices in the State and their appointment in judicial bodies and authorities without discrimination.
- 2- The state shall issue a law for creating independent commission for non-discrimination and equal opportunities.
- 3- The state shall amend existing laws to enhance women's participation and representation in local councils and Parliament.

## **11. Rights of persons with disabilities:**

People with disabilities face many obstacles that prevent them enjoying their rights in the Egyptian society. They suffer from discrimination as they do not enjoy the same opportunities as other people because of the lack of access to essential services.

So, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The state shall adopt a national program for empowering people with disabilities and making them enjoy their rights as other normal people.
- 2- To activate the role of the National Council on Disability Affairs.

- 3- The state shall adapt public facilities and their surrounding environment to their special needs and integrate persons with disabilities with other citizens in compliance with the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunities.

## **12. The right to enjoy cultural rights:**

For preserving Egyptian cultural heritage, protecting freedom of thought and creativity, and respecting cultural diversity that positively influence on the formation of society and its progress, the coalition calls for the following:

- 1- The State shall protect and preserve monuments and give due care to monumental sites. It shall also maintain and restore them; recover stolen antiquities; and organize and supervise excavation operations.
- 2- The State shall pay special attention to protecting components of cultural pluralism in Egypt. It shall also preserve and maintain civilization and cultural heritage whether physical or moral, including all diversities and principal milestones – namely Ancient Egyptian, Coptic, and Islamic as well as the contemporary cultural wealth, whether architectural, literary or artistic with all diversities.
- 3- The state shall promote citizenship, a culture of tolerance, non-violence, respect and acceptance of others through religious and educational institutions.

## **Third: Dissemination of the culture of human rights:**

Dissemination of the culture of human rights in Egypt requires new and innovative mechanisms to achieve the desired outcome. This can be achieved through artistic and cultural activities in order to teach all citizens the principles and values of human rights. The state institutions shall contribute to the implementation of national strategy for spreading a culture of human rights, respect for pluralism and cultural differences, accepting other people's views and resolving conflicts peacefully.

The coalition calls for the following:

- 1- To create new and innovative mechanisms that target children and ordinary citizens to raise their awareness of human rights issues.
- 2- To teach human rights at all levels of education from fourth grade to university.
- 3- To prepare a comprehensive program carried out in cooperation between National Council for Human Rights, Egyptian government and the civil society for raising awareness of the children in schools, youth centers and libraries. This shall be achieved by using interactive methods in addition to games and arts.

## **Fourth: Human rights treaties and international obligations:**

The coalition calls for the following:

- 1- To allow special rapporteurs to conduct visits with the consent of the authorities concerned.
- 2- Concerned governments shall submit all overdue reports to committees that monitor implementation of the international human rights Conventions.
- 3- To consider acceding to the optional protocol to the international conventions.
- 4- To join International and Regional Conventions those contribute to promotion and protection of human rights in Egypt.

Notice:

This report resorted to the data on the central agency for public mobilization and Statistics and reports by concerned government agencies on their websites.