

Executive Summary of Cooperation Activities Between the Council and the Ministry of Justice Public Prosecution Training Programs

Within the framework of implementing the cooperation protocol signed between the National Council for Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice, and as part of the action plan supporting the National Council in collaboration with the project of the European Union, the Council organized six workshops during the first half of 2024.

These workshops aimed to integrate human rights into the criminal justice context and to raise awareness among members of the Public Prosecution about international human rights concepts and standards, in order to promote criminal justice and uphold long-standing judicial values.

The workshops were held in the governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Dakahlia, Beni Suef, Ismailia, and Gharbia under the title: "Protecting Human Rights in the Context of Criminal Justice", in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice (Human Rights, Women, and Children Sector) and the Public Prosecution, with the participation of 180 members of the Public Prosecution.

The workshops addressed topics related to human rights under national criminal legislation, and the role of the Public Prosecution in protecting these rights in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution.

The Training Content:

- International Oversight Mechanisms and Evaluation Tools in the Field of Human Rights
- The Role of the National Council for Human Rights in Protecting Human Rights: Its Mandate and International Impact
- The Integrated Human Rights System in Egypt and the Role of the Ministry of Justice in Its Promotion
- The Role of the Public Prosecution in Applying Criminal Procedures in Line with International Standards
- The Rights of Vulnerable Groups Among Defendants, Victims, and Those at Risk, in Accordance with International Standards and National Legislation,

and the Role of the Public Prosecution in Protection and Supervision of Custodial Institutions

- The Integrated Human Rights System in Egypt and the Role of the Ministry of Justice in Its Promotion (*Note: This item appears twice in the original; please confirm if this is intentional*)
- Legal and Procedural Mechanisms for Dealing with Persons with Mental Illness in Accordance with National Legislation
- The Role of the Public Prosecution in Overseeing Reform and Rehabilitation Centers and Places of Detention in Line with Relevant International Conventions and Instruments, Including a Review of Practical Inspection Procedures and Their Legal Frameworks

Main Recommendations for Enhancing Human Rights in the Work of the Public Prosecution:

First: Integrating International Standards into Daily Practice

- Incorporating ratified international conventions (such as the International Covenants and the Convention Against Torture) into the Public Prosecution's daily procedures.
- Upholding fair trial guarantees, particularly with regard to pretrial detention, the right to legal counsel, and protection from coercion or torture.
- Documenting procedures in alignment with the requirements of international reporting mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Second: Protection of Vulnerable Groups

- Activating the role of the Public Prosecution in protecting the rights of children, women, and persons with disabilities, ensuring the principle of the best interests of the child.
- Conducting regular and effective supervision of custodial and care institutions to prevent neglect or abuse.

Third: Supervision of Places of Detention

- Implementing surprise, periodic visits to places of detention, in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, Bangkok Rules, and Beijing Rules.
- Verifying the conditions of accommodation, nutrition, healthcare, and documenting any violations in a humane, medical, and psychological manner.

- Strengthening the supervisory role of the Public Prosecution and enhancing the accurate documentation of inspection reports.

Fourth: Mental Health and Criminal Justice

- Coordinating between the Public Prosecution and the National Council for Mental Health in cases involving individuals with mental illnesses.
- Implementing the Mental Health Care Law and Article 62 of the Penal Code in the evaluation and examination of defendants.

Fifth: Capacity Building and Training

- Continuing organizing training workshops for members of the Public Prosecution on human rights obligations.
- Promoting best practices and strengthening human rights units within ministries, linking them to the National Council for Human Rights.
- Training judges on international monitoring and documentation mechanisms.

Sixth: Developing Legislation and Aligning It with International Standards

- Issuing a law to combat violence against women and amending the Criminal Procedure Code to include alternative sanctions.
- Issuing a law to protect witnesses, Complainant, and the exchange of information.
- Reviewing accession to the optional protocols for individual complaints.

Seventh: Institutional Cooperation and Civil Society Engagement

- Activating cooperation between the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of Justice, and the National Council for Human Rights to establish a sustainable mechanism for monitoring the implementation of human rights recommendations.
- Involving civil society organizations in drafting national reports and receiving complaints.