



### **Third Roundtable titled Mechanisms to Combat the Crime of Torture in Egypt**

The National Council for Human Rights in Egypt (NCHR), in light of the Project Support to the National Council for Human Rights, co-funded European Union, held a roundtable on Saturday, 9 March 2024, titled “Mechanisms to Combat the Crime of Torture in Egypt.” The event supported the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) and reinforced Article 52 of the 2014 Constitution, which prohibits all forms of torture and states that such crimes are not subject to a statute of limitations. The discussions featured legal professionals, legislators, judges, civil society organizations, and representatives of governmental institutions.

#### **Sessions Covered:**

- Legislative gaps and harmonization of national laws with international anti-torture standards.
- Strengthening administrative and institutional responses to torture.
- Developing new institutional mechanisms to prevent and address torture.
- Key Recommendations:
  - Fully criminalize all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
  - Ensure no statute of limitations applies to torture-related crimes and end impunity.
  - Establish serious mechanisms for accountability and redress.
  - Introduce stringent penalties proportionate to the severity of torture.
  - Create independent bodies to investigate past torture cases and ensure transparency of findings.
  - Issue an official political condemnation of torture and adopt the principle: “Detaining a person does not strip them of their rights.”
  - Launch capacity-building programs for civil servants focusing on ethics, investigative standards, and scientific methods to avoid coercion.
  - Provide reparations and public accountability for victims.
  - Establish an independent national preventive mechanism with legal authority to monitor compliance with the UN Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol.
  - Enable judicial oversight of all places of detention and publish inspection outcomes.
  - Ensure all detention facilities are legal, registered, and accessible to oversight bodies without restriction.
  - Activate civil society participation in prison visits, consultation processes, and rehabilitation programming.
  - Initiate a national dialogue including executive, legislative, and judicial authorities, academia, and civil society to reform Egypt’s penal code in line with international standards.
  - Consider accession to the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture.