



Statement of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions on Suspected Terror Attack in Egypt

The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) is a not-for-profit- regional umbrella organization that brings together 44 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa.

We, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, pass our heartfelt condolences to the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, the families, friends and relatives of the casualties of the suspected Friday November 24, 2017 terror attack in a mosque in North Sinai Province, Egypt, in which 305 people lost lives and over 120 others sustained injuries.

The unfortunate incident, which occurred in the town of Bir al-Abed, is not only an attack and insult to all religion but also on humanity.

The Government of Egypt has vowed to “punish” those behind the attack.

But behind the attackers, there must be organisers who may not be nabbed by the ongoing swoop.

We, therefore, urge the government to investigate, track, trace and bring the architects to justice.

To prevent further loss of life and violation of human rights of innocent citizens who may be “collateral damage” to the intensive operation, we urge the security agents to exercise caution.

The Network recognises the efforts the National Council of Human Right of Egypt in organising a series of workshops especially from 2016 to July 2017 - with the aim of countering violent extremism.

In light of this, we urge to Government of Egypt to:

1. Ensure the security agents pursuing the terror suspects carry out the operations in accordance with national and international laws and other instruments to avert further human rights abuse.
2. Allow for monitoring of the security operations by the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt and other interested stakeholders. This would ensure accountability at the end of the exercise and give more insights and impetus to the future proactive strategies of countering violent extremism.

3. Borrow a leaf from countries facing similar challenges. Given that the NCHR is working on prevention of violent extremisms, supporting it to propagate the community policing culture among the people will gradually support the government's efforts of combating terrorism in a soft way.
4. Make education more accessible to everyone for posterity. Education would promote and enhance responsible and pluralistic citizens proud of their nation. Enlightened citizens would be less susceptible to indoctrination into violent extremism. The NCHR is a strong partner in crafting an all-encompassing curriculum for mainstream education system.
5. Utilise the media in advocating nationalism and profiling the effects of violent extremism on the socio-economic strength of the country. Incorporating the media would also be a basic tool of diluting and defusing extremist propaganda, hate speech and other terror strategies.

As the three-day mourning declared by the government in honour of the victims ends, the Network calls upon the local, regional, international, local human rights defenders to monitor the security operation in Egypt for the purpose of upholding the applicable laws to prevent more victims and deepening of the human rights crisis in Egypt.



Ms. Nirere Madeleine

Chairperson

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