



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies Statement on the Egyptian Authorities Upholding Death Sentences for 12 Muslim Brotherhood Members

The highest Egyptian Civilian Court upheld death sentences for 12 senior Muslim Brotherhood members. This is not the first time; many Muslim Brotherhood figures have been sentenced to death in other cases related to the unrest that followed the military's coup d'état in 2013



Photo taken by Reuters of the Muslim Brotherhood's senior member Mohamed El-Beltagi sits behind the bars during a court session in Cairo.

The highest Egyptian Civilian Court upheld death sentences for 12 senior Muslim Brotherhood members. The execution is pending approval by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. This sentence includes Abdul Rahman Al-Bar, commonly described as the group's top religious scholar, Mohamed El-Beltagi, a former member of parliament, and Osama Yassin, a former minister.

In its ruling the court said that those condemned to death were convicted of "arming criminal gangs which attacked residents and resisted policemen as well as possessing firearms and ammunition and bomb-making material". Other charges include killing policemen, resisting authorities, and occupation and destruction of public property. The judicial source said that the rulings are final and cannot be appealed.

It is not the first time that Muslim Brotherhood figures have been sentenced to death related to the unrest that followed the military's coup d'état in 2013. At the time, security forces raided the

square with protesters and killed at least 800 people in one day. According to the authorities at the time that protesters were armed, and the forced dispersal was a vital “counterterrorism” measure. That supposed the start of the crackdown against the opposition in Egypt.

Amnesty International and other rights groups have documented a sharp rise in the number of executions in Egypt, with at least 51 carried out so far this year. Amnesty International said that Egyptian authorities must immediately establish an official moratorium on executions instead of continuing to use the death penalty by upholding death sentences following convictions in grossly unfair mass trials.

In 2018, an Egyptian court sentenced 75 defendants to death and the rest to varying jail sentences, including 10 years for Morsi’s son, Osama. Also, civilians were condemned to death in Egypt. Sisi’s government outlawed the Brotherhood in 2013 and has overseen a wide-ranging crackdown, jailing thousands of its supporters. Philip Luther, Amnesty International’s Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said that death sentences cast a shadow over the country’s entire justice system.

The Amman Center for Human Rights Studies is firmly opposed to and condemns any act of using death penalty as a judicial measure as it supports people’s right to live, express different views, peacefully protest, and to have a fair trial.