

**The Arab Center for the Independence of
the Judiciary and the Legal Profession
calls upon the Saudi authorities to
halt the execution of 26 Egyptian nationals**



المركز العربي لاستقلال القضاء والمحاماة
THE ARAB CENTER FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE JUDICIARY AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION
(ACIJP)



مؤسسة دعم العدالة
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calls upon the Saudi authorities to halt the execution of 26 Egyptian nationals**

The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP) calls upon the Saudi authorities to intervene immediately to halt the impending execution of 26 Egyptian nationals who were convicted of offenses that do not rise to the threshold of severity required to justify the imposition of the death penalty, which is the harshest and gravest punishment and constitutes a violation of the right to life.

The ACIJLP affirms that the imposition of these sentences is inconsistent with the principles enshrined in international legal instruments and conventions, which stipulate that, in jurisdictions where the death penalty remains in force, it must be reserved exclusively for the most serious crimes. This principle has been reaffirmed by the Human Rights Committee, which has asserted that "the right to life is a supreme and non-derogable right, even in times of public emergency," pursuant to Article 4(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. While the Covenant does not impose an absolute obligation on States Parties to abolish the death penalty, it mandates strict limitations on its use, restricting its application to only the gravest offenses. Moreover, Article 6(2) of the Covenant refers to the progressive abolition of the death penalty in language that conveys a preference for its elimination.

The ACIJLP is of the view that the prevailing stance of the majority of Arab states regarding capital punishment stands in contradiction to the global inclination toward its abolition, a trend reflected in successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. In particular, the resolution of December 21, 2010, which called for a moratorium on executions as a step toward full abolition, reaffirmed the content of two prior resolutions—62/149 (2007) and 63/168 (2008)—both of which urged a suspension of the death penalty's application.

Accordingly, the ACIJLP calls upon the Saudi authorities, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to urgently reconsider the execution orders issued against the 26 Egyptian citizens, and to commute these sentences to alternative forms of punishment that are reversible and do not contravene the fundamental right to life. The Center also appeals to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions to urgently engage with the Saudi authorities to suspend the implementation of these sentences and to encourage a re-evaluation of the Kingdom's stance on the continued use of this inhumane punishment.