

# REPEATED SUMMONS OF LAWYERS FOR INTERROGATION AMOUNT TO HARASSMENT THAT MUST END AT ONCE



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



مؤسسة دعم العدالة  
JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

## **Repeated summons of lawyers for interrogation amount to harassment that must end at once**

**Cairo: August 19, 2025**

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** expresses its profound concern regarding the ongoing situation of human rights lawyer **Mahinour El-Masry**. She has been repeatedly summoned for interrogation before the Supreme State Security Prosecution and subjected to a travel ban, not on the basis of any criminal conduct, but solely as a consequence of her activism and her work in the defense of human rights and of those unjustly detained.

The most recent summons, delivered to her family and requiring her appearance for interrogation, August 18, 2025, before the Supreme State Security Prosecution in Case No. 6322 of 2025, constitutes the fourth case in which the aforementioned lawyer has been investigated. This pattern has caused distress and intimidation to her family.

Notably, the Egyptian Bar Association has not been notified to enable the attendance of one of its Council members at the interrogation, in accordance with the provisions of the Advocates Law.

The ACIJLP affirms that the repeated summons of El-Masry in successive cases constitutes a form of pressure and intimidation intended to deter her, and others, from exercising their right to free expression, and amounts to an attempt to terrify human rights defenders and advocates.

The Center further affirms that the summons in the present case contravenes the provisions of the Advocates Law, which stipulates that a lawyer may not be interrogated or have their office searched except by a member of the Public Prosecution. Moreover, the Public Prosecution is required to notify the Bar Association Council or the relevant Branch Council prior to initiating any investigation into any complaint brought against a lawyer (Article 51).

The ACIJLP notes with concern that the delivery of the summons at 3:00 a.m. constitutes a form of intimidation and a threat to individuals within the safety of their homes. In the absence of a provision in the Criminal Procedures Law regulating the hours during which summonses may be served to appear before the Public Prosecution, recourse must be had to Article (7) of the Law of Civil and Commercial Procedures which prohibits any notification or execution before 7:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m., or on official holidays, except in cases of necessity and with the written authorization of the judge of temporary matters.

This is applicable since the Law of Civil Procedures constitutes the general law in relation to the Criminal Procedures Law (Appeal No. 16995 of the 86th judicial year).

The Center also affirms that the repeated accusations and summonses constitute a violation of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, in particular Article (16), which guarantees lawyers' ability to discharge their professional duties. Governments are obliged to ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment, or improper interference, and that they are not subjected to, or threatened with, prosecution, administrative measures, economic restrictions, or other sanctions for acts performed in accordance with their recognized duties, professional standards, and ethical obligations (paragraphs a–c).

Accordingly, the ACIJLP calls upon the government to cease prosecuting human rights lawyers and opinion makers, and to refrain from subjecting them to successive lawsuits and to economic sanctions in the form of bail requirements imposed in such cases.