

# APPOINTMENT OF 46 EGYPTIAN WOMEN TO THE STATE COUNCIL RESTORES A CONSTITUTIONAL ENTITLEMENT DEFERRED FOR A DECADE



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



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JUSTICE SUPPORT FOUNDATION (JSF)

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**Appointment of 46 Egyptian women to the State Council  
restores a constitutional entitlement deferred for a decade**

**The Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (ACIJLP)** welcomes the decision of the Egyptian government to appoint 46 Egyptian women to the State Council as Assistant Delegates. Decision No. 92 of 2010, issued by the Special Council of the State Council on February 22, 2010, had stipulated “the completion of the appointment procedures for those deemed qualified among the applicants for the position of Assistant Delegate from graduates of the 2008 and 2009 classes.” The decision was not brought into force at the time.

Appointment Decision No. 447 of 2025 thus brings an end to legal discrimination against women assuming judicial office in the State Council. Women were first appointed to the Constitutional Court in 2003, to the ordinary judiciary in 2006, and to the Public Prosecution in 2023. This latest decision therefore closes the chapter on gender-based exclusion from the State Council, which Egyptian women endured for decades.

The ACIJLP affirms that this appointment decision is the outcome of the sustained struggle of the Egyptian women’s and human rights movements. It embodies decades of perseverance in confronting discrimination against women in judicial office and asserting both their entitlement to serve and their ability to adjudicate competently. The Egyptian human rights movement has long resisted the regressive societal and judicial attitudes opposing women’s access to the bench. This necessitates an apology to all Egyptian women for the decades-long denial of their constitutional right to hold public office.

The ACIJLP further notes that the Egyptian human rights movement has long confronted the negative stance of both the Egyptian Judges Club and the General Assembly of the State Council Judges Club, the latter having refused to admit women to judicial office in the State Council. The matter escalated to the point where the State Council Judges Club lodged a complaint with the Public Prosecution against the Executive Director of the ACIJLP, referring him to investigation before the Cairo Court of Appeals. This complaint arose from the

Center's objection to the 2006 decision of the State Council Judges Club's General Assembly rejecting the appointment of women to the bench.

This development unfolded against the backdrop of the ACIJLP's first campaign, "Women in the Judiciary," conducted between 1998 and 2007, which brought together leading women figures, legal scholars, religious authorities, and lawyers in support of women's right to judicial office.

While welcoming the recent step, the ACIJLP reiterates its call upon the Egyptian authorities to:

- Review the rules and criteria governing selection and appointment to all judicial positions, ensuring that competence is the sole criterion, in line with the 1999 Beirut Declaration on Justice, the 2003 Cairo Declaration on the Independence of the Judiciary, and the 1985 United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.
- End all other forms of discrimination in judicial appointments, particularly those based on social status, class, or political belief.
- Refrain from subjecting new appointees or members of the judiciary to training or lectures at the Military Academy, given the potential influence such exposure may have on judicial independence and the intellectual and professional development of its members.