



**SUPREME STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (SSCHR)**
TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

Thematic Human Rights Reports

10 April 2020

Reference: THR 1/2020



Report on The National Efforts Towards a Human Rights Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Promotion of the Right to Health

- The Ministry of Health established two hotlines to offer psychological support to citizens to help them overcome and avoid the anxiety brought about by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and its consequences, including the lockdown and social distancing.
- The Minister of Health established a WhatsApp line to respond to questions of citizens regarding the virus.
- On April 7, 2020, the Egyptian Ministry of Defense announced its plan to combat the pandemic in Egypt, asserting that the most prominent features of this plan are:
 - **Raising the degree of preparedness of 45 military hospitals** by increasing their bed capacity to 12,300, of which 1,870 are in intensive care units (ICUs) equipped with 1,100 ventilators.
 - **Specifying an additional 22 quarantine hospitals, thus bringing the number of beds in quarantine hospitals to 4,000, of which 300 are in ICUs** equipped with 1,400 ventilators, all of which shall be in the service of the civil sector.
 - **Upgrading 4 mobile field hospitals with a bed capacity of 502** equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment and apparatuses as well as up-to-date treatment facilities, medical quarantine equipment, and operating theaters.
 - **Preparing the social clubs and halls of the Armed Forces nationwide to be ready to become quarantine locations if necessary.**
 - **Specifying 11 testing equipment for central and mobile laboratories with analysis capacity of 2,200 samples per day**, thus upgrading the preparedness and capacity of the mobile laboratories.
 - **Implementing an emergency rehabilitation plan for the medical and nursing teams** as well as for the first cohort of graduates from the faculty of medicine of the Armed Forces to enable them to fully support the Ministry of Health.



- **Equipping 1,000 ambulances, of which 472 are ICUs, with a total evacuation capacity of 4,000 cases per day.** Of these ambulances, 400 are allocated to the medical evacuation of civilians. In addition, medical evacuation helicopters were allocated for critical cases.
- **Raising the preparedness level of the public transportation department of the Armed Forces for the evacuation of those suspected of being infected by the virus** as well as supporting different means of public transportation and reducing the crowdedness of citizens in them by putting 1,000 buses and 500 mini-buses under the disposal of the Public Transportation Authority.
- **Developing the production lines of the factory responsible for producing medical masks at the Armed Forces to increase their average capacity to 100,000 masks per day** while simultaneously ensuring a reserve of 5 million medical masks, with a target reserve capacity of 15 million, and producing protective outfits with a capacity of 1000 per day to attain a target of 50 thousand protective outfits.
- **The National Service Projects Organization (NSPO) of the Armed Forces provided sanitizers in their outlets, both fixed and mobile.**
- **Contributing to the sterilization of public buildings and establishments as well as streets and squares.**
- **The Armed Forces started distributing medical masks for free** to citizens in major stations and public transit stops across the country.

Promotion of the Right to Adequate Food



Increased production capacity for bread to more than **1 Million** loaves per day.

On April 7, 2020, the NSPO announced some of the immediate measures that it adopted to support public authorities concerned with providing and distributing basic food stuff through fixed and mobile outlets and consumers cooperatives. Such measures included:

- Preparing one million food portions and ensuring the availability of sufficient reserves to feed one million persons for three months and establishing 32 mobile production lines for the production of bread with a capacity of 620,000 loaves per day in addition to the cooperatives producing bread for the Armed Forces nationwide with a total production capacity of 500,000 loaves per day.
- Equipping 2,000 field cooking trailers with a total production capacity of 500,000 meals per day.
- Allocating a total transportation capacity of 14,000 tons per trip by means of 420 heavy-duty trucks and 3 cargo trains to carry commodities and food supplies to all the governorates of Egypt according to their needs.
- Preparing about
25,000
tons of frozen meat, poultry, and fish in addition to another
18,000
tons of other food supplies as well as large amounts of vegetables, cheese, pasta, corn, and wheat.

National Efforts to Curb the Spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Prisons and Places of Detention

As an independent judicial authority responsible for supervising the situation in prisons and places of detention in Egypt, the Public Prosecution instructed that the Prisons Authority at the Ministry of Interior take all the necessary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 among inmates and prison staff. These measures come in conformity with the bulletins circulated by the Ministry of Health and Population to safeguard the health of all prisoners. Consequently, the Ministry of Interior adopted the following preventive measures:

- Circulating a bulletin to all departments under the Prisons Authority to raise awareness regarding the symptoms of infection by the coronavirus, the way it spreads, and measures to protect oneself against it.
- Sterilizing all police facilities, prisoners' wards and dwellings, and places of detention on a daily basis as well as increasing the supplies of detergents and necessary cleaning tools.
- Providing all prisons and places of detention with doctors and thermal screening apparatuses to examine all prison staff as well as all those frequenting these facilities and prohibiting the admission of all those suspected of being infected.
- Subjecting all newly admitted inmates to a thorough medical examination to ensure that none is infected by a disease that may have a negative impact on the general health in prisons.



Subjecting newly admitted inmates to a thorough medical examination to ensure that none is infected by a disease that may have a negative impact on the general health in prisons.

- Providing all staff at prisons and different police stations with facial masks and gloves.
- Increasing the exercise period for prisoners, and their exposure and the exposure of their beddings to the sun, under adequate supervision.
- Temporarily suspending all visits to prisons starting March 10, 2020, so as to safeguard the public health of inmates in line with guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) that necessitate the prohibition of mingling and the enforcement of physical distancing. Meanwhile, correspondences with relatives were allowed and other alternatives that make use of information and communication technology (ICT) applications were considered.

- Suspending the transfer of prisoners from one prison to another.
- Conducting a random screening of all prisoners on a regular basis and allocating certain rooms to quarantine those suspected of having symptoms of infection. Any suspected case was immediately transferred to the nearest infectious diseases (fever) hospital in the vicinity of the prison for examination and diagnosis.
- Organizing an online training course in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to specialized officers on the ways and means by which to protect against infectious diseases, including the coronavirus, and combat them in prisons.
- No infection cases were detected among inmates or staff of any place of detention. The examination of those with similar symptoms to the coronavirus tested in the nearest infectious diseases (fever) hospital have all turned out negative.
- The Public Prosecution released numerous individuals who were still under investigation since the announcement of the WHO on March 11, 2020, that the coronavirus constituted a pandemic.
- On the occasion of the Sinai Liberation Day on April 25, 2020, the presidential decree No. 157 of 2020 was issued, hence discharging 4,011 prisoners who have completed part of their term of imprisonment. They included those who have completed three fifths of their term of life sentences and those who have spent one third of their term of imprisonment for other sentences.



Sterilizing all police facilities, prisoners' wards and dwellings, and places of detention on a daily basis as well as increasing the supplies of detergents and necessary cleaning tools.



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Old Kingdom

2686 BC / 2181 BC



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The Third to Sixth Dynasties make up the Old Kingdom. The king's power continued to grow during this period. The early-Third Dynasty King Djoser built an even grander tomb, this time back in Saqqara. He intended to build a mastaba tomb like the kings of the First and Second Dynasties. This was gradually expanded, and five successive mastabas were built on top of one another, resulting in Egypt's first pyramid and oldest fully stone structure, the Step Pyramid. The attempted step pyramids of the other kings of the Third Dynasty were never completed, presumably due to a succession of short reigns.



Stay at Home and Enjoy Monuments and Antiquities

This initiative comprised virtual tours of some of the most famous Egyptian monuments and antiquity sites, which were uploaded on both the website of the Ministry and social media.

Egyptians returning from abroad



The President issued a decree providing that the Tahya Misr Fund shall bear the quarantine expenses for Egyptians arriving from abroad.