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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 20th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Egypt

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the Arab Republic of Egypt's commitment to building a democratic, rules-based society. We acknowledge the 2014 constitution is a step towards protecting human rights, and urge its practical implementation.

Australia remains deeply concerned by Egypt's restrictions on freedom of expression. The work of journalists, human rights defenders and political activists who express their views or report on the views of others peacefully should not be criminalised or threatened. **Australia recommends that Egypt amend the Penal Code to implement the guarantees of freedom of thought, of the press and of publication enshrined in the 2014 constitution.**

Australia is concerned about increasing restrictions on freedom of assembly in Egypt. **Australia recommends Egypt protect freedom of assembly by immediately repealing the Protest Law, or amending it so that it is in accordance with article 73 of the 2014 constitution and with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia also notes with concern ongoing reports of torture and mistreatment of detainees. **Australia again recommends Egypt adopt in its Penal Code the definition of torture in Article 1(1) of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

Finally, Australia recommends Egypt establish a moratorium on the death penalty.