

20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 27 October - 7 November 2014

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*Statement by Ms. Audra Čiapienė,
Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Representation of Lithuania
at the review of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 5 November 2014*

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt and thanks for the informative National Report.

While commending improved human rights guarantees in the new Constitution of 2014, in particular as regards women's rights and role in decision making and public life, Lithuania remains concerned by some endemic human rights problems.

With this in mind, Lithuania would like to make the following recommendations to Egypt:

- 1) to fully cooperate with the UN special procedures mandate-holders extending a standing invitation to thematic special procedures and responding positively to all visit requests from the mandate holders;
- 2) following good example of Constitutional amendments, to amend Penal Code and other national laws criminalizing all forms of violence against women and domestic violence and rape in particular, and to implement laws in practice;
- 3) to investigate all cases of the use of excessive force against protestors by the security forces and to hold accountable those responsible for the incidents. To stop the practice of military trials of civilians;
- 4) to review penal law restricting freedom of opinion, enact legislation that recognizes independent unions as well as to repeal laws criminalizing protests and strikes, remove restrictions to peaceful demonstrations.

Thank you.