



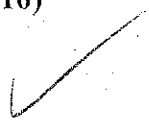
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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-Fourth Session**

Review of Belgium

(Geneva, 20th January 2016)



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Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes H.E. the Foreign Minister of Belgium and the Belgian delegation.

Positive developments such as creation of family courts, improved human rights training and enhanced inclusive education are commendable.

Racism remains a source of concern. Prohibition of headscarves at schools in violation to the right to freedom of religion and increasing acts of Islamophobia and hate crimes are relevant manifestations. Egypt recommends lifting the ban on headscarves, adopting anti-racism action plan, criminalization of organizations inciting hatred and investigating allegations of racial profiling and racially motivated brutality by law enforcement officials.

We regret that the accepted recommendation on creating a National Human Rights Institution was not yet implemented. Egypt recommends expediting the creation of NHRI in line with the Paris Principles.

Moreover, Egypt recommends to Belgium to:

- 1- Ensure that the legal definition of torture is in line with the Convention against Torture (CAT).
- 2- Halt the systemic use of detention of asylum seekers at the borders.
- 3- Provide protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society.
- 4- Ratify the International Convention for the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW).
- 5- Guarantee direct applicability of ICESCR in domestic legal order.

I thank you.
