



second roundtable on “Human Rights During Criminal Trials and the Protection of Witnesses and Whistleblowers”

The National Council for Human Rights in Egypt (NCHR) held its second roundtable on “Human Rights During Criminal Trials and the Protection of Witnesses and Whistleblowers” on Monday, 22 January 2024, organized by the Legislative Committee. The session addressed the right to a fair criminal trial and was aligned with the National Human Rights Strategy (2021–2026) and Article 96 of Egypt’s 2014 Constitution, which ensures presumption of innocence, fair trial guarantees, and legal protection for victims, witnesses, defendants, and whistleblowers. Participants included legal experts, judiciary members, parliamentarians, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association, civil society, and academia.

The three-session roundtable addressed:

- Human rights guarantee during trial.
- Safeguarding the right to legal defense.
- Mechanisms for witness and whistleblower protection.

Key Recommendations:

1. Align national legislation with Egypt’s international human rights obligations.
2. Enact a dedicated law to protect witnesses and whistleblowers as stipulated in the Constitution.
3. Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to include provisions protecting threatened witnesses and experts under strict legal and security conditions.
4. Establish a compensation fund under the Ministry of Justice for whistleblowers and witnesses harmed in cases of serious crimes affecting national security.
5. Promote public legal awareness about the societal role in combating crime and the collective responsibility for public safety.
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7. Support civil society initiatives to fight crime, especially corruption, terrorism, and drug-related offenses.
8. Encourage religious institutions to raise awareness about the moral obligation to report crimes and testify truthfully.
9. Coordinate between security media units and public media to protect whistleblower identities and prevent personal data exposure.
10. Ensure protection measures, including anonymity and use of secure technology, when witnesses are at risk, while preserving the right to defense.
11. Enhance digital connectivity and integration among justice sector institutions to support prompt and fair justice.