

**United Nations Human Rights Council
24th Regular Session, 9 to 27 September 2013
Agenda Item 4**

**ICJ Oral Statement in the General Debate under Item 4: Human rights situations
that require the Council's attention**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN EGYPT

17 September 2013

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Mr. President,

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) calls on this Council to address, as a matter of urgency, the grave situation for human rights and the rule of law in Egypt.

The military's ouster of the elected President, suspension of the Constitution, and unlawful seizure of power are incompatible with international standards on the rule of law.

The armed forces and other security forces have so far enjoyed impunity for serious human rights violations, including unjustified, disproportionate and sometimes lethal use of force on protesters. The use of live ammunition to disperse sit-ins and otherwise against protesters has resulted in the deaths of more than 1000 individuals, most of which appear to amount to unlawful killings. Thousands of people were arrested under conditions that violate due process guarantees, including the right to have access to a lawyer. Many detainees continue to be held arbitrarily under administrative detention. Hundreds are reportedly missing and the ICJ fears many of them have been subjected to enforced disappearance.

The Council should urge the Egyptian authorities to agree immediately and unconditionally to receive a mission by the High Commissioner, and an ongoing presence via the establishment of an OHCHR office, to assess the situation in Egypt; to ensure a quick transition of power to a lawfully constituted civilian authority; to ensure truly independent and effective investigations of all alleged human rights violations, including the unlawful killings of protesters; to respect the right of detainees to a lawyer and to challenge the lawfulness of their detention, and to ensure that family members and legal counsel are notified of the detention of an individual, the place of detention, and the fate and whereabouts of the hundreds who are reportedly missing.

I thank you.

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