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**STANDING
UP FOR
HUMAN
COURAGE
SINCE 1980**

47th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Oral Statement

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence
against women

Madam President,

As an Egyptian feminist and Woman Human Rights Defender, I am deeply concerned at the situation in my country, where preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence remains a serious legal and social challenge.

The legislative instruments protecting women from crimes of sexual violence is the Egyptian Constitution, but the amended Penal Code is problematic in both nature and application. Rape in particular falls short of being clearly defined and of including a comprehensive range of non-consensual sexual acts.

In the Egyptian context, patriarchal social norms coupled with deeply discriminatory State practices, not only fail to deliver justice to survivors but further subject them to re-victimisation and victim-blaming. As a consequence, women are discouraged to report these crimes and impunity is rampant.

To reverse this trend, it is crucial that Egyptian authorities start independent investigations on all past and present crimes of sexual violence, bring perpetrators to justice, and provide survivors with medical, psychological, and legal support.

Madam Special Rapporteur,

In light of this, what actions should the Human Rights Council undertake to ensure that States like Egypt bring their legislation in line with international standards and provide a holistic framework for the protection and support of survivors?

**Right
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