



Laureates:

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)
Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Guatemala (1992)
Jody Williams, USA (1997)
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)
Leymah Gbowee, Liberia (2011)
Tawakkol Karman, Yemen (2011)

The Nobel Women's Initiative denounces death penalties in Egypt

Ottawa—May 9, 2014

The Nobel Women's Initiative denounces Egypt's failure to uphold a fair and just judicial system and protect citizens' right to freedom of expression and political opposition.

Earlier this week a court in the southern city of Minya sentenced 683 men to the death penalty en masse without a fair trial. This verdict comes weeks after the same court condemned 529 people to the death penalty en masse, also without a fair trial. Those sentenced are alleged supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood—former President Morsi's party—who have faced increasing violence and oppression since the military-backed regime came to power through a coup d'état last July.

We are greatly concerned with the increasing authoritarian nature of the ruling regime—particularly its violent repression of members of the political opposition. Human rights abuses against political adversaries and peaceful protestors are escalating at an alarming rate. A disturbing trend has emerged where citizens in opposition to the ruling regime are subjected to extreme punishment, such as the death penalty.

The Egyptian government's violation of citizens' human rights is contributing to the deterioration of democracy and the rule of law in Egypt. We call on Egypt to protect the human rights of all Egyptian citizens, particularly those in opposition to the regime. We urge Egypt to root judicial decisions in due process and the rule of law—which includes providing fair trials and access to legal defense to those accused of crimes. Lastly, we urge the international community to stand in solidarity with all Egyptians peacefully organizing for the restoration of justice and peace in their country.

Advocating for peace, justice and equality