



IFE - EFI

# IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN EGYPT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

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Euromed Feminist Initiative expresses full solidarity with the Egyptian feminist and human rights movement as well as with all the civil society organizations whose freedom and independent action have been increasingly threatened. The human rights defenders have been facing pressure and attacks from the authorities: banning activists from travelling, depriving their organizations of resources. Civil society organizations cannot benefit anymore from the financial support of the international community, which prevents them to develop their work on the ground.

These restrictions are now part of a full set of measures adopted in the newly voted law by parliament on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The law organizes the work of the civil society organizations under a strong control of freedom of speech, action and movement, with sanctions from travel ban, to up to 5 years imprisonment. Furthermore it refers to the penal code and the illicit gains law, and therefore incorporates much heavier penalties. The law targets not only defenders of human rights of women and men, but also community based developmental organizations, severely shrinking the space for the civil society.

Now that this unfair law is in the hands of the presidency for ratification, there is still time to reject it.

Euromed Feminist Initiative calls on the Egyptian authorities to respect the fundamental rights of the civil society organizations to freedom of speech, assembly and movement.

Euromed Feminist Initiative calls on the international community to express their solidarity with the Egyptian organizations engaged for universal human rights of women and men by stating their condemnation of this law, and requesting the Egyptian authorities to respect their commitments to international law and to their own Constitution from 2014 (art 75, 92 and 93), which protect the rights of organizing, movement and gathering as well as the right to peaceful demonstration as a democratic means to express opinions.

*Euromed Feminist Initiative is a policy network of women's rights organizations from the two shores of the Mediterranean sea that provides expertise in the field of gender equality and advocates for women's universal human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination*

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