

## Amnesty International USA

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women

(25 November – 10 December 2013)

#### **Egypt:**

#### **End sexual violence and discrimination against women!**

*Egypt's political leaders must condemn sexual violence and discrimination and commit to implement a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence and discrimination!*

Women protestors in Egypt have been on the front lines of demonstrations ever since the "25 January Revolution", but their courage has come [at a heavy price](#). Since the uprising, women have been singled out and subjected to [gender-specific abuses, including sexual violence](#), at the hands of both the security forces and private individuals.



Faced with a spike in sexual violence against female protesters, Egyptian women are overcoming stigma and recounting painful testimonies to force silent authorities and a reticent society to confront "sexual terrorism" (Photo Credit: Mahmud Khaled/AFP/Getty Images)

On 30 June, mass protests marking the anniversary of President Mohamed Morsi's first year in office saw violence between his opponents and supporters. That night, Operation Anti-Sexual Harassment/Assault (OpAntiSH), an initiative to combat sexual harassment and assaults, received reports of 46 cases of sexual attacks against women around Tahrir Square. The real numbers are likely to be much higher. At least one survivor had to undergo surgery as a result of the attacks, and several more needed medical attention, according to OpAntiSH. [Between 30 June-3 July 2013, groups reported 186 attacks on women protesters in the vicinity of Cairo's Tahrir Square.](#)

[Testimonies from survivors](#) and those attempting to help described the pattern of attacks: dozens if not hundreds of men surrounded the women, with countless hands tearing off clothes and veils, unzipping trousers and groping breasts, nipples and backsides. Sticks, blades and other weapons were frequently used in such attacks, both against the women and those who came to their aid.

Just like in January 2013, Egypt's political parties have used the attacks to smear the other side, instead of committing to address the violence. After the horrific incidents in June and July, the Muslim Brotherhood publicized the sexual assaults on their twitter account, while television channels known for their support of the former President used the horrific incidents to "prove" that his opponents are nothing but "thugs" and "criminals". Mohamed Morsi's political opponents, the National Salvation Front, have also failed to raise awareness and speak out against sexual violence against women.

[Egyptian women are standing for their rights](#), and you can **stand with them!**

## Take Action Now!

**The authorities must send a clear signal that sexual and gender-based violence is no longer tolerated, and perpetrators will be punished.** Impunity for such violations sends a signal that sexual harassment or sexual violence against women in general is tolerated! You can **take action** to demand that Egypt no longer tolerates violence and discrimination against women and that leaders commit to implementing a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual discrimination and violence. [Click here](#) to take action online, and then **write a letter to the Interim President, Adly Mahmoud Mansour** demanding that:

- All allegations of sexual and gender-based violence are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that those responsible for such abuse are brought to justice, and that victims receive full reparations.
- Leaders condemn sexual violence and discrimination against women in Egypt without reservation.
- Leaders press for a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence and discrimination, in full consultation with women's rights groups and the National Council for Women.

### Send your letters to:

Adly Mahmoud Mansour  
Interim President  
Office of the President  
Al Ittihadia Palace  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
[pm@cabinet.gov.eg](mailto:pm@cabinet.gov.eg)

cc : Hazem Beblawi  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Maglis al-Sha'ab Street  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
[pm@cabinet.gov.eg](mailto:pm@cabinet.gov.eg) ; [prime\\_min@idsc.gov.eg](mailto:prime_min@idsc.gov.eg) ;  
[hazembeblawi@hotmail.com](mailto:hazembeblawi@hotmail.com)

### Tweet for action

Tweet, email and write to Egypt's political leaders, calling on them to condemn sexual violence and to press for action to end it.

### Hashtags

#Egyptsexualviolence  
#NoToSexualHarassment  
#WomensRights  
#Egypt  
#vaw  
#endSH

### Suggested twitter messaging:

"No 'ifs'. No 'buts'. All Egypt's political leaders should condemn sexual violence and discrimination"  
-"Time for Egypt's political leaders to come up with a plan to combat sexual violence and discrimination"  
-"Blame the harasser, not the harassed."  
-"Enough with justifications for sexual harassment and assault."

### Targets- Egyptian Political leaders on Twitter:

twitter.com/naderbakkar  
twitter.com/amremoussa  
twitter.com/HamdeenSabahy  
@ElBaradei

**Questions?** Please email us at [whr@aiusa.org](mailto:whr@aiusa.org)!

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