

The background of the cover is a dark, grainy photograph of a prison cell. On the left, a set of vertical metal bars is brightly lit, creating a strong contrast with the dark interior. On the right, another set of bars is visible, but it is in deep shadow, making it less distinct. The overall atmosphere is somber and confined.

Egypt Prison Atlas

Egyptian Prisons Glossary

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1- El Bakia: It is the space between beds. It is considered valuable for prisoners in overcrowded wards, as prisoners who have access to it can furnish it, place important belongings and host his/her colleagues there, if authorized.

2- El Carta/Ticket: A paper that is considered as the prisoner's identity inside the prison, it contains prisoners names, and photos wearing the prison uniform, the type of charge, the sentence duration, the number of the ward and the cell, in addition to any other notes. It is not kept by the prisoner. Instead, it is kept in a special place inside the ward.

3- El Falaka: A method for whipping feet by laying a person on the ground on their back, tying their feet to a stick, lifting them up after removing their shoes and socks, and whipping the feet, either with a thick piece of leather or with a wooden stick.

4- El Farsha: Is a set of blankets used by the prisoners instead of beds in case they are lacking.

5- El Kahool: The prison uniform provided to male prisoners upon entry. It is usually of poor quality in addition to its inappropriateness with the prisoners' bodies.

6- El Maslab: Is the space adjacent to the wall in the corner of the cell, and it is considered one of the valuable spaces that prisoners hurry to obtain for them to enjoy more space to hang their belongings. Likewise, the prisoner in el maslab is not forced to sleep between two people or to make their beds every day. Sometimes, al maslab is given to the sick and the elderly among the prisoners.

7- El Ma'isha: are meals prepared by a prisoner for a fee that is often expensive and prisoners are made to subscribe to it under duress, especially el nubatshia is the one supervising it, as subscription to it grants prisoners better treatment and grants them additional privileges. It is one of the peculiarities of the women's prison. However, in the men's prison, in general, every day one of the prisoners is assigned to cook or clean, and this is referred to as 'service'.

8- El Mosaeyra: She is the second in the hierarchical pyramid of [nubatshias](#). She is responsible for supervising a ward and managing the affairs of prisoners in it. She takes them to the administration and inspection guards. Her role may also include the control of the entry and exit of prisoners from the ward or [upsetting the cells](#) -in some women's prisons.

9- El Mosayer: A prisoner is nominated or elected by the rest of the prisoners in order to manage the cell or ward, notify about the visits, arrange the prisoners' transfer to the clinic, resolve some disputes inside the ward and sometimes distribute the new prisoners to the cells-in the men's prisons.

10- El Murshid/a- 'Snitch': A prisoner who informally works with the prison's inspectors or the wards' leaders. S/he monitors violations, and conveys information on prisoners to the prison inspection.

11- El Nadhara: A small window in a cell's door.

12- El Tinya: A skin disease, which is a fungal infection that affects the skin. It is caused by high temperature accompanied by high humidity and weak immune system, which appears in the form of spots lighter or darker than the natural skin color. It usually affects the back, thighs, neck, scalp, feet and upper chest.

13- El Nubatshia (The Watchwoman): The nubatshia is a prisoner responsible for managing the ward. In most cases, there are several nubatshias in a single ward. One of them is the leader and has almost absolute authority over the lives of the prisoners, beginning with the organization of housing and even the daily treatment. El nubatshia completely controls whether or not prisoners have access to the administration or prevents them from exercising or working. She may impose punishment on them that may reach insulting, beating, and displacement.

14- El Onbouba: The interior corridor of the ward.

15- El Osfoura 'Bird': it has two definitions:

a- A small rope of no less than half meter in length, which is tied from one side through the bars of the cell window, and tied from the other side to a piece of wood or plastic, from which the prisoner's personal hang their personal belongings.

b-It also has a second meaning that refers to the prisoner who tells- 'snitches' on the rest of the prisoners at the prison administration.

16- El Shorra'at: Refers to the small openings and windows. In prisons glossary- Particularly Damanhour Women's Prison- it means the openings at the top of the wall.

17- El Shull: Is the 'galabiya' that constitutes a part of the prison uniform that a woman prisoner receives upon entry. The prison uniform includes a head covering -the scarf- and the galabiya - "shull" - which is a white robe, with the word "inmate" written on its back, and it is made of "bafta"- rough fabric, which is a see-through material revealing what is underneath.

18- El Tagrid 'Stripping': It is an inspection by the prison administration or the Prison Authority. It can be expected or unexpected (for example, after a problem occurred), that ends with stripping 'tagrid' the prisoners of most -if not all-of their belongings in the cell.

19- El Taghriba: It is the transfer of the prisoner and her "estrangement" from the original prison designated for her detention- which is supposed to be close to her place of residence- to another prison far away.

20- El Takhsim 'Declaring a Rivalry': It is to prove enmity either (a) among the prisoners themselves due to quarrels and disagreements between them. Most of the cases of 'el takhsim' among prisoners are between a prisoner and the ward's nubatshia, and that is in order to transfer the prisoner from the ward and prevent their housing together.

or (b) between a prisoner and the prison administration in which they submit an official complaint to the Prison Authority against the prison administration. The prisoner complains in it of ill-treatment and proves the violations committed against him/her by the prison administration. This may lead to their transfer to another prison, and in many cases the submitted complaints by the prisoners are countered by reports issued by the prison administration against them.

21- El Takfissa: Its definition and location depend on the prison. But the closest definition is that it is the space that separates the two halves of the ward and leads to the outside or to the other floors if it is a multi-storey ward. Usually, there is a place for the shawish on duty (guard), day and night, and a place for prisoners' cards and the ward's register.

22- El Tamam and El Adad, or 'Tamam el Adad' These are the times when the prison closes cells and wards' doors. Prisoners are counted, then the key to the wards -which is only one key- is handed over to the Warden or Deputy Warden. As for police stations, el tamam is the time when prisoners are counted.

23- El Tashrida 'Displacement' (Forced Vagrancy): It is the most common punishment in women's prisons where a prisoner is expelled from her primary ward to live as a "vagrant" without belongings on the floor or in other wards for varying periods of time.

24- El Tashrifa 'welcome parade': is a term for the prison administration's reception of new prisoners by searching them in a humiliating manner, stripping them of most of their belongings, and beating them. Additionally, they may be forced to drink water and soap to empty their stomachs.

25- El Tasyiif: Sleeping position of prisoners-like a sword- in overcrowded cells: Prisoners lay side by side in addition to the complete deprivation of lying on their back and only sleeping on one side due to the limited spaces.

26- El Tayarat (Planes): Prisoners make them to create extra space due to overcrowding. El tayarat are made from bags prisoners obtain from visits that get dismantled to be transformed into a group of ropes which varies in thickness. They get connected in a certain way between the cell's window from above in a way that accommodates 'the stay' of prisoners above it. It usually consists of two types of ropes: **strand** and **string**. **The strand** is the thick rope that is made from the threads of visitation bags and it is used to make the main part of the plane. As for **the string**, it is the secondary rope that connects all strands in the plane, which prevents the prisoner from falling to the ground. Some prisoners specialize in the manufacture of planes in exchange for a fee.

27- El Ta'yin: A term used to describe the meals provided in prison. According to the Interior Minister's Decision in Regards to the Treatment and Feeding of Prisoners, the administration shall provide three daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

28- Hospital Notebook: A small notebook assigned to each prisoner separately, in which the number of times of accessing the hospital and the prescribed medications is recorded. It must be present every time the prisoner visits the hospital. They are not allowed to be examined or obtain medication without it (it is considered as a ticket to hospital).

29- In-Processing (El Irad): The Prison Organization Law stipulates that prisoners, upon entry, are to be held in preventative quarantine for ten days to divide the prisoners according to their health conditions and prevent the spread of disease. This stage is called in-processing. In reality, the in-processing area is often a cell with a large number of prisoners, which leads to overcrowding and the poor condition of the cell (hygiene, water circuits, ventilation, etc.).

30- Prickly Heat (Miliaria): A skin disease: A heat rash accompanied by severe itching and inflammation as a result of sweat retention. It spreads in the summer and occurs as a result of the obstruction of the sweat glands due to the severe rise in temperature.

31- 'Upsetting the Cell': Is a punishment in which the cell is kept closed for a period ranging from one to several days. During closure, they may be prohibited from bringing in cooked food, or any other items, but for el ta'yin, or prisoners may be prohibited from going out to exercise, or both.

32- Special Directive: May be negative or positive. Prisoners may get a special directive by the authorities either (A) based on their classification according to their activity in the public sphere, their economic and social status, their affiliation or suspected affiliation to groups or ideological, political or sexual movements, their access to the international community and global media, (b) or based on their access to important persons, especially within the government.

A- In the first case, the 'negative directive': The Prison Administration treats prisoners harshly exposing them to various types of violations, including social exclusion, abuse or torture, and deprivation of basic rights.

B- In the second case, 'positive directive': The Prison Administration would treat prisoners respectfully and grant them rights, and even offer them special privileges.

33- Tabliya Visits: Where visitors of prisons are able to admit personal items for prisoners but not meet them (or even see them).

34- The Roof: Is an empty area in some prisons, located next to each ward, and originally designated for the exercise of women prisoners. The Prison Administration refers to it as the roof, despite the fact that it is located on a surface that is about a meter or more below the level of the building.

35- Visits 'Behind Bars': These are the visits in which the prisoner is not allowed to meet with their family directly- by social distancing, lack of touch, or through a barrier-either due to the danger posed by the prisoner, emergency circumstances such as the spread of COVID, or other circumstances determined by the prison administration.