

## Egypt Prison Atlas Methodology

### I. Egypt Prison Atlas

“Egypt Prison Atlas” (EPA) is an interactive website created and owned by [Belady- an Island for Humanity](#): A human rights organization that defends the civil and political rights of women, children and minorities aiming to promote the principles of transparency and accountability and curbing human rights violations.

The EPA website aims at piercing the blackout on information. In its first and current phase, it exhibits a comprehensive open-source database on politically motivated arrests, human rights violations against women, children and minorities, committed in Egypt since 2013.

The EPA contains a page that showcases political prisoners, in addition to Egyptian prisons, their history, architectural style, the conditions of detention in them, and an evaluation of the administrations’ respect of national laws, international covenants regarding prisons, and the basic principles of Human Rights in all matters related to the life of prisoners.

Finally, and- in its first and current stage - the Atlas contains a page that showcases the judges specialized in issuing sentences in terrorism circuits with statistics on death and life sentences.

The EPA encompasses -in this first phase- three main databases:

- **The Atlas Prisoners:** The prisoners’ page contains significant raw material that can be used for advocacy, research, studies, reporting, and documentation. The Atlas presents its data using a shopping list model of profiles of Women and Child political prisoners. In each profile, users can find information regarding a particular prisoner such as general data about them, updated legal monitoring of their cases, an exhibition of the violations of the fundamental rights to which they and their families have been subjected, etc. Users are able to find several filters by which they can search for prisoners, such as, by age, gender, charges, arrest year, governorate, etc.

- **The Atlas Prisons:** The prisons’ page contains a large and exhaustive visualization of Egyptian prisons with their profiles presented in a Visualized Interactive Map and containing general data on the prisons (history, internal regulations, etc.) with an explanation of their architectural construction. The Atlas presents evaluation of the prison administrations conformity or violation of international agreements, in addition to providing a lucid image of living and health conditions in prisons and studying of the extent to which international conventions are respected. The Atlas further documents testimonials from the ex-detainees, their lawyers and their families, etc. Atlas users are able to find various filters to search for prisons such as searching by governorate, prison complex, prisons’

categories, etc.

**The Atlas Judges:** The judges' page contains a large exhibition documenting Egyptian judges' profiles and the retaliatory sentences they deliver against activists and political prisoners including women, children and minorities. The page also uses the shopping list model with every profile encompassing an exhibition of the death and life sentences and various filters to search for data such as cases, sentences, and judgment years.

The EPA documents through observation and data collection through various methods. Data is then organized, classified, and analyzed. All the databases undergo a rigorous scientific process of data quality assessment before analyzing and comparing them with the Egyptian legal framework and international human rights conventions.

Therefore, this document contains the methodology for preparing databases within the EPA, starting with data collection all the way to the development of the various profiles (prisoners, judges, prisons). In addition, this document enumerates the various values that Belady observes to ensure the integrity of the data, while protecting its various sources. Belady has also documented all the challenges and difficulties of data collection in this methodology's annex.

## II. Data Collection

### 1- Data Collection for Atlas Prisons

The observation and documentation of the decisions to establish Egyptian prisons in their three types -Public, Central and Liman- have relied on extensive research in 'The Sharq Laws Network', 'The Egyptian Gazette', and other legal references specialized in criminal justice in Egypt, chiefly among them:

- "*The Criminal Encyclopedia*" of Gindi Abdel Malek, part four, Dar El Elem, Beirut, Lebanon.
- "*The Egyptian Prison System and its Reform, Golden Book of Native Courts*<sup>1</sup>", General Mohamed Tawfik Pacha, Cairo, Second Edition, 1990.
- "*The Egyptian Prison System and the Prisoners' Rights in the Light of Prison Laws and Regulations and International Human Rights Standards*, The Penal Reform International Organization, Abdallah Khalil, Cairo, November 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> Native Courts are the courts that were established in 1883 and were competent to hear civil and commercial disputes among Egyptians.

In the framework of documenting violations and abuses committed by the regime inside Egyptian prisons, Belady is working on collecting primary data through a data-collection team trained to collect information related to prisons and all matters related to prisoners since their admission.

The profile of each prison in the EPA is based on collecting primary data through conducting semi-structured direct interviews with five to ten ex-prisoners (arrested in the backdrop of political cases). Belady does not disclose the number of ex-prisoners in any of the prison profiles, in order to preserve their -and their families'- security and safety and to protect them from the risk of re-identification and possible retaliation.

These interviews include research points chiefly related to: the general characteristics of prisons and prison geography, security design, search upon entry, wards, cells and living conditions inside 'in-processing' wards, division of wards and their conditions, information on prison life, food, clothing and laundry, infrastructure of the prison hospital, procedures for transfer to the hospital: doctors, medicine, employment for a fixed rate, freelance work, other facilities and activities, exercise, sales outlets: canteen and cafeteria, visits, the cost of living in prison, punishment, sexual abuse and discriminating between prisoners...

**Notice:** All figures relating to lengths, areas, and distances are estimates based on the memory of ex-prisoners or official statements, and accuracy has been considered to the greatest extent possible.

Prisons are prioritized over others according to a number of criteria, such as balancing the representation of women's prisons and men's prisons, the representation of different governorates and regions, in addition to the increase in violations committed in them or the high rate of incidents and deaths. Finally, the representation of Public, Central prisons and Limans, which are as follows:

**Limans:** Prisons in which sentences of life or aggravated imprisonment for men are implemented. Liman is a Japanese word transmitted by the Turks, and it means (dock or port), as the punishment of hard labor had long ago been executed in a private prison in Alexandria port<sup>2</sup>. Although it is now executed inland, the place in which life or aggravated imprisonment is executed is still, nevertheless informally dubbed as, 'Liman'. The persons who are exempted from placement in Limans are: women in general, men who have health conditions or are older than 60 years old, and anyone who served half of his sentence or a maximum of three years- provided they display good behavior during that period.

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<sup>2</sup> EGYPTLAWSITE, Types of prisons in Egypt

Some of the terms related to Egyptian prisons have changed in accordance with Law No. 14 of 2022 amending some provisions of Law No. 396 of 1956 regarding the organization of prisons. 'Liman' has become 'Public Rehabilitation and Reform Facility' according to the text of Article 2 of the aforementioned law that stipulates the following:

*“Sentences to life and aggravated imprisonment are executed in the Public Reform and Rehabilitation Facilities designated for this”*

**Public Prisons (Non-Central Prisons):** Prisons of less severity and grade than Limans in which regular prison sentences, without aggravated imprisonment, are implemented. They also include:

- Women sentenced to life or aggravated imprisonment
- Men sentenced to more than three months imprisonment unless the remaining period of their sentencing time was less than that, and they were not previously placed in a public prison.
- Men who were sentenced to aggravated sentences and were excepted from executing their sentences in Limans.

As Article 3 of the Prison Organization Law No. 396 of 1956 stipulates:

*Sentences issued against the following persons shall be executed in a public prison: convicts sentenced to imprisonment; women sentenced to aggravated imprisonment; men sentenced to aggravated imprisonment who are transferred from Limans, either for health reasons, reaching the age of sixty, or serving half of their sentence; and those sentenced to imprisonment for more than three months, unless the remaining period of their sentence is less than that and they have not been previously imprisoned in a public prison.*

For reference, these prisons are subject to the supervision of the Prisons Authority. Further, the phrase 'public prisons' was changed to "Public Reform and Rehabilitation Facilities" in accordance with the latest amendments to the Prison Organization Law.

**Central Prison:** Prisons annexed to police facilities and stations. They are under the supervision of the security directorates, not to the Prison Authority. In these prisons, the following sentences are implemented: regular imprisonments; imprisonments with labor that does not exceed three months; and imprisonments for those who are sentenced to financial penalties and are subjected to physical coercion 'executive imprisonment', which is imprisonment in order to collect fines arising from

crimes, or compulsion to pay expenses determined bylaw. According to the latest amendments to the Prison Organization Law, the title ‘Central Prisons’ has been replaced with ‘Geographical Reform Facilities’.

Article 4 of the Prison Organization Law No. 396 of 1956 states that:

*In a central prison, the punishment shall be carried out for those who were not mentioned in the two previous articles and those who are subject to physical coercion in implementation of financial sentences, provided that they may be placed in a public prison if it is closer to the prosecution, or if the central prison gets crowded.*

## 2- Data Collection for Atlas Prisoners

Continuous data collection on prisoners is based on several data collection tools, including:

- Primary sources, such as direct semi-structured interviews with prisoners and their families, and Belady’s legal unit. The collected data here is referred to as primary data.
- Secondary indirect sources such as follow-ups to press and news websites and social media, human rights centers concerned with violations in detention facilities, observation of prison news, Police Stations, and follow-ups on trials. The collected data here is referred to as secondary data.

For the triangulation of sources<sup>3</sup>, the sources of documentation and observation are represented by a mixture of ‘opposition’ (to the Egyptian regime) websites, international news websites, pro-regime Egyptian news websites, and civil society organizations concerned with Egyptian affairs. Below are some examples of these websites:

- **Civil Society Organizations Websites:** Egyptian Coordination for Rights and Freedoms, Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, Amnesty International, Al-Shehab Center, We Record, El Nadim Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Frontline defenders, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Human Rights Watch, Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, Reprieve, Najda for Human Rights, Freedom and Justice Gate, Hawa Organization, Support Organization for the Defense of Egyptian Women’s Rights ...
- **Pro Egyptian Regime Websites:** Youm7, Al Masry Al Yaoum, Al Watan ...

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<sup>3</sup> See the section of data quality assessment, page 11

- **Opposition Websites:** Muslim Brotherhood Network, El Horreya Lel Geda'an, Public Issues Agenda, Break Cuffs, Women Against the Coup ...
- **Independent News Websites and Institutes:** Daraj, Al Araby Al Jadeed, Verify-Egypt, Rassd News Network, Daftar Ahwel, Al Masrawy, Baladna News, Nawafez, Index of Public Affairs Cases, Mada Masr, Media Rawae', Darb, Al Jazeera, BBC Arabic, RT Arabic, Alhurra ...

As for observation of the causes of death among prisoners it includes torture in all its forms, such as physical torture leading to death, deliberate medical negligence, poor living conditions such as overcrowding and poor ventilation, death in solitary confinement cells (ta'deab), suicide, gunshot or tear gas by police station departments, or during demonstrations, death during transport to and from prisons.

Belady primarily relies on the narratives of the victims' families and witnesses from prison cells with regard to the 'political' prisoners. Then, the narratives are compared and their compatibility is tested. As for the non-political prisoners, we observe all deaths because it is often difficult to obtain the narratives of their families, and then compare them with the semi-standardized official version (hypotensive shock, no criminal suspicion, drug overdose).

### 3- Data Collection for Atlas Judges

The observation of trials for each Egyptian judge in the terrorism circuits -in this first phase- in addition to the retaliatory sentences against activists and political prisoners is based on secondary data collection through news websites and human rights centers.

For triangulation of sources, the sources of documentation and observation are a mixture of 'regime-opposition' websites, international news websites, human rights centers concerned with the right to a fair trial, pro-regime Egyptian news websites, and civil society organizations concerned with Egyptian affairs. Below are some examples of these sites:

- **News Websites:** Arabic 21, BBC news Arabic, Bawabat Al Shorouk, Al Bawaba News, Mada Masr...
- **Pro-regime Websites:** Youm7, Masrawy, Akhbar Al Youm, Al Ahram Gate, Index of Public Affairs Cases, Sada Al Balad, Al Masdar, Al Watan, Al Masry Al Youm, Al Fajr Gate...
- **Legal Websites:** Bawabat Al Sharq, legal publications...
- **Civil Society Organizations Websites:** The Arab Network for Human Rights Information (Public Issues Agenda), Human Rights Watch, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Reprieve, Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression...

**Opposition Websites:** Freedom and Justice Gate...

### III- Data Entry and Codification

Belady replaces personal data collected from primary data with codes that include a combination of letters and numbers. A separate list of codes is maintained with a key to decode and use them when needed; to enhance the protection of the security and safety of Belady's primary sources.

The codification of qualitative data is implemented for statistical analysis by adopting the participatory approach among different expertises, including legal, information technology, statistical and social, to extract the statistics that appear on the EPA website.

### IV- Data Analysis and the Development of Profiles

Belady analyzes the characteristics of the data through descriptive statistics, analysis of qualitative and quantitative variables, and compares them with several other data extracted from:

- Egyptian laws and international agreements,
- The Egyptian authorities' narratives about events from official sources and the pro-regime media,
- The narratives of the prisoners, their families, and their lawyers, and
- Classification of types of violations and violence, especially gender-based ones.

This analysis leads to the development of profiles (prisoners, judges, prisons) and then gathering them in databases after the processes provided by the Atlas website through the approaches that will be classified below to analyze access to rights, to mention a few:

**Biological and Basic Needs:** The 'biological needs' are referred to as the individual's needs to survive (breathing - growth - reproduction - excretion - response and movement - nutrition). In the prison profiles, Belady presents an analysis of the prisoner's access to rights directly and indirectly related to these biological needs such as eating, drinking, using the bathroom, medicine, ventilation, light, exercise, and health...

**Justice and Equity:** Belady presents, in the profiles of prisons, judges, and prisoners, an analysis of the prisoner's access to rights directly and indirectly related to justice, such as the right to a fair trial, the right to legal representation, the right to protection from enforced disappearance, the right to visitation...

**Physical, Psychological, and Mental Safety:** Belady assesses in its prison profiles the readiness of Egyptian prisons to protect the safety of prisoners by analyzing the extent to which they fulfill their rights to protection from various types of violations such as torture, and enforced disappearance and illegal detention.

Belady analyzes this data using two approaches: (a) the legal approach, (b) and the human rights and gender sensitive approach.

## 1- The Legal Approach

### A- The Egyptian Legal Framework: The Laws by which Political Prisoners Are Tried Versus the Laws that Protect Citizens

- **The Egyptian Constitution<sup>4</sup>**: issued on January 18th, 2014 and amended on April 23th, 2019. Its third chapter enumerates the rights and freedoms of Egyptian citizens under the title 'Rights, Freedoms and Public Duties'.
- **The Child Law<sup>5</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 12 of 1996 regarding the issuance of the Child Law, according to which the state guarantees the protection of children and strives to create the appropriate conditions for their proper upbringing in all respects in a framework of freedom and human dignity.
- **The Prison Organization Law<sup>6</sup>**: Promulgated by Law No. 396 of 1956 and amended by Law No. 14 of 2022, which regulates the types of prisons and the treatment of prisoners throughout their prison term.
- **The Decree of the Minister of the Interior<sup>7</sup>**: Resolution No. 79 of 1961 regarding the internal organization of prisons that regulates prison life and the rights enjoyed by the prisoner.
- **The Decree of the Minister of the Interior<sup>8</sup>**: No. 691 of 1998 regarding the treatment of prisoners and the provision of meals, including furniture, clothing, ma'isha utensils and food.
- **The Penal Code<sup>9</sup>**: Promulgated by Law No. 58 of 1937 dated July 31st, 1937, and amended by Law No. 141 of 2021 dated August 15th, 2021, which contains the types of crimes and penalties assigned to them, adopting punishment for felonies such as aggravated imprisonment, life imprisonment and the death penalty.
- **The Anti-Terrorism Law<sup>10</sup>**: Promulgated by Law No. 94 of 2015 dated August 15, 2015 amending some of its provisions by Law No. 15 of 2020 dated March 3rd, 2020, which can be adopted to classify oppositional political acts as acts of terrorism based on the meaning of Article 2.

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<sup>4</sup>The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt in accordance with the constitutional amendments introduced on April 23rd, 2019

<sup>5</sup>Child Law No. 12 of 1996

<sup>6</sup>Prison Organization Law No. 396 of 1956

<sup>7</sup>Decree of the Minister of Interior No. 79 of 1961

<sup>8</sup>Decree of the Minister No. 691 of 1998 regarding the treatment of prisoners and the provision of meals

<sup>9</sup>Egyptian Penal Code No. 58 of 1937 amended by Law 95 of 2003

<sup>10</sup>Anti-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015



- **The Law Organizing the Lists of Terrorists and Terrorist Entities (the Terrorist Entities Law)<sup>11</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 8 of 2015 dated February 17th, 2015, amended by Law No. 2 of 2020 dated January 14th, 2020 and amended by Law No. 14 of 2020 dated March 3rd, 2020, which regulates the designation of parties and associations as terrorist groups.
- **The Anti-Cyber and Information Technology Crimes<sup>12</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 175 of 2018, dated August 14, 2018, which stipulates, in case of violation, punishment for journalists, activists and the owners of publications websites...
- **The Assembly Law<sup>13</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 10 of 1914 dated October 18, 1914, and approved by the regime as a supplement to the Demonstration Law issued in 2013. This law is used to regulate the right to demonstrate granted to Egyptian citizens under the 2014 constitution.
- **The Law Regulating the Right to Public Meetings, Processions and Peaceful Demonstrations<sup>14</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 107 of 2013 dated November 24th, 2013, which entails the prosecution and detention of demonstrators who violate its requirements.
- **The Weapons and Ammunition Law<sup>15</sup>**: Promulgated by Law No. 394 of 1954 regarding arms and ammunition, according to the latest amendment issued on February 6th, 2021, which was approved to disperse the Raba'a sit-in.
- **The Code of Criminal Procedure<sup>16</sup>**: promulgated by Law No. 150 of 1950 and amended by Law No. 189 of 2020, which stipulates pretrial detention as a precautionary measure against defendants.

## B- International Law

In addition to the Egyptian legislative framework, Belady also relies on international laws and treaties for its analysis, as defined by Article 2 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties<sup>17</sup> as:

*“An international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation.”*

Below are the international treaties and laws that Belady adopts in analyzing prison data:

- **The Bangkok Rules (The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and**

<sup>11</sup>Law No. 8 of 2015 Regulating Lists of Terrorist Entities and Terrorists

<sup>12</sup>Anti-Cyber and Information Technology Crimes Law No. 175 of 2018

<sup>13</sup>Law No. 10 of 1914 regarding the issuance of the Assembly Law

<sup>14</sup>Law Regulating the Right to Public Meetings, Processions and Peaceful Demonstrations No. 107 of 2013

<sup>15</sup>Weapons and Ammunition Law No. 394 of 1954

<sup>16</sup>Code of Criminal Procedure No. 150 of 1950

<sup>17</sup>Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, Article 2

**Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders):**<sup>18</sup> Are issued by the United Nations General Assembly on December 22nd, 2010, supplementing existing international standards on the treatment of prisoners, in particular “The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners”.

- **The Nelson Mandela Rules (Standard Minimum for the Treatment of Prisoners):**<sup>19</sup> which oblige authorities to treat all prisoners with respect to their dignity, and prohibits torture and other types of mistreatment. These rules provide detailed guidance on the daily life and organization of prisoners.
- **The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel or Degrading Treatment:**<sup>20</sup> It aims to prevent torture worldwide.
- **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**<sup>21</sup>: It Includes basic concepts such as dignity, freedom and equality, individual rights, public liberties, economic, social, cultural and political rights...
- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child**<sup>22</sup>: Which includes the social and legal principles related to the protection and care of children.
- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**<sup>23</sup> and its **Optional Protocol**<sup>24</sup>: It includes a set of provisions that State parties must follow in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
- **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**<sup>25</sup>: The Convention includes the right of every person not to be forcibly disappeared, the right of the victims and families of those who were forcibly disappeared to justice, compensation, learning the truth about the circumstances of their disappearance and the fate of their disappeared loved ones...

## 2- The Human Rights and Gender Sensitive Approach

Belady does not adopt a human rights approach based only on the law, but adopts an inclusive approach that takes into account diversity and non-discrimination against any group on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, age, social and economic status, ethnicity, disability, etc. Below are some of the research points that Belady studies while analyzing the data.

<sup>18</sup>United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Criminal Cases

<sup>19</sup>Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

<sup>20</sup>Convention against torture and other cruel or degrading treatment

<sup>21</sup>Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<sup>22</sup>Convention on the Rights of the Child

<sup>23</sup>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

<sup>24</sup>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

<sup>25</sup>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

- **Discriminating Between Prisoners:** Examining the practices carried out by prison administrations and the the Egyptian authorities in general. Discrimination could be on the basis of the prisoner's socio-economic status and/or class, affiliation and/or membership (or suspected affiliation) to different ideological, political and/or gender groups (or movements).
- **Creating Hierarchy Among Prisoners:** Appointing prisoners to supervise and manage (el mosayer and el nubatshia) other prisoners under the pretext of maintaining order inside the cells, which leads to a self-organizing environment based on survival of the fittest and the creation of a hierarchical reality in the prison.
- **Monopoly:** Prohibiting the entry of certain items (food or personal needs) into the prison for the purpose of trading them inside the prison and making undue profit...
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Violations that stem from discrimination against specific groups on the basis of gender- especially against women, girls, and sexual minorities- during and after detention. Below, the types of violations that Belady studies in the profiles of prisons, prisoners, and judges:
  - **Sexual Violence:** Any act, attempt, or threat that is sexual in nature against a prisoner.
  - **Political and Institutional Violence:** Practiced by State institutions against prisoners of all categories and making it difficult or impossible for them to access their rights, such as enforced disappearance, deliberate health neglect, and denial of education...
  - **Physical and Psychological Violence:** All forms of physical and/or psychological abuse against prisoners, whether before, during, or after detention.
  - **Socio-economic Violence:** All forms of incitement of prisoners or prison staff against certain prisoners, whose purpose is to isolate them socially, and all forms of practices that drain the economic and social resources of prisoners and their families.

## V- Data Quality Assessment

Belady assesses the quality of the collected data -whether through primary or secondary sources- using the triangulation of sources and several evaluation check-in points during data entry.

For secondary data, ADAM (Age-Depth-Author-Money) Approach for Fact-Checking is consistently used. In this approach, four steps should be considered before adopting a secondary source:

**Age:** Using the most recent data or information provided in the sources and checking the date the source was last updated.

**Depth:** Searching for sources that delve into the information and bear a scientific, non-superficial, and credible character.

**Author:** Verifying who wrote the information, the credentials they adopted, and the political biases or opinions held by the source.

**Money:** Verifying the source's funding and the extent of the site's neutrality from political purposes or serving certain agendas.

For fact checking in primary sources, Belady uses 'anecdote check', which is the double examination of the provided information by checking for accuracy (for example, the price of a particular product in a particular year in a particular prison) in addition to 'scientific evidence, which is the double examination of information provided through accuracy (for example, checking the name of a particular medicine and verifying that it is actually used it for certain diseases). Through these two methods, we verify the credibility and accuracy of the collected testimonies.

Whether the data is primary or secondary, it undergoes another stage of quality assessment during and after its entry into the databases through the following 7 dimensions.

- **Accuracy:** The entered data is free from errors such as outdated information, redundancy, and typos.
- **Auditability:** The data is accessible and variables are traceable. The data in all its versions is available and arranged in chronological order for its use and conversion, for quality audit.
- **Completeness:** Data records are as complete as possible and contain enough information to analyze and draw conclusions.
- **Consistency (Coherence):** There are no contradictions in the collected data, as the data in the same profile must be identical or logically connected.
- **Timeliness:** Data must be available and accurate. It is important to collect timely data in order to track changes effectively.
- **Validity:** The same data of each variable must be encoded in the same manner.
- **Uniqueness:** Ensure that the data is not recorded more than once. In other words, there are no duplicates of the same profiles.

#### IV. Belady's Values for Data Integrity and Source Protection

Within the framework of the EPA databases, Belady continuously collects data from a wide variety of sources, including ex-prisoners, their families, and their lawyers. These types of data, including personal and health data, and data related to the committed violations can put these sources at risk.

Therefore, Belady ensures to apply the values documented below in order to protect its sources and ensure the credibility of the collected data.

#### **- Vulnerability of Some Sources**

Given the affiliation of some of Belady's sources to the most vulnerable societal groups in Egypt such as (former or current prisoners, their relatives, and their families, minorities -nationality, religious or ethnic), survivors of torture and other forms of mistreatment, survivors of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual exploitation, patients who suffer from serious illnesses and various forms of diseases). Belady is committed to training the EPA team to respect the values of research integrity and ethics and to protect sources from the risk of any retaliatory or exploitative practices and from any threat to their security and safety.

#### **- Respect for Sources**

Belady is committed to providing its sources with sufficient information so that they can choose whether or not to participate in the documentation process (informed decision). This is based on the principle of respecting the sources as **autonomous** parties (enjoying their own self-government) and enjoying their right to protection, and their participation is primarily **voluntary**.

#### **- Do No Harm**

It includes maximizing benefits (for example: abuse reporting and advocacy efforts) and minimizing harm (for example: re-identification). Therefore, Belady ensures to minimize the possibility of unintended disclosure of private and identifying information of its sources.

#### **- Respect for Privacy & Confidentiality**

To protect against violating the privacy of the personal information of primary sources, Belady takes several measures, including but not limited to: Minimizing the use of direct identifiers, replacing people's identifiers with codes and encrypting transmitted and stored data.

### **Annex: Challenges and Difficulties of Data Collection**

**Challenges and Notes about Deaths Observation:** It is worth noting that the numbers of deaths that Belady has observed may not reflect the real numbers of deaths in prisons due to the difficulty of fully quantifying and documenting them. This is due to the difficulty of determining the real causes of the death of the prisoner, the discrepancy between the official narrative and that of the families in many cases, the scarcity of sources regarding deaths in detention facilities, and the withholding of

the Prisons Authority and the Ministry of the Interior of information regarding the conditions of prisoners.

### **Challenges and Notes regarding the Resolutions to Establish Prisons**

- Belady observed two resolutions to establish **El Wadi El Gedeed (New Valley) Prison / El Mahareeq**: The first of which was in 1910 and the second in 1995. Research has shown us that the first resolution to establish the prison was during the royal era in 1910 when it was used as an exile for the opponents of the occupation. The second resolution was in 1995 during the rule of former President Hosni Mubarak when the prison was rebuilt after its demolition and turned into a center that includes Islamist and jihadist groups. Belady conducted directive interviews with ex-prisoners affiliated with Islamist and jihadist groups who were transferred to El Wadi El Gedeed prison after the 1990s.
- After an in-depth examination, Belady found that there were two resolutions related to the establishment of **Minya Public Prison**. The first was in 1933; then a demolition resolution was issued in 2007 by former President Hosni Mubarak. The second resolution was issued in 2014 to construct a public prison and Minya Liman, which is currently found in the Minya Governorate.
- In researching the date of the establishment of **Qena Public Prison**, we found a resolution in 1956 to allocate part of the state's land to expand the prison, which proves its existence before then. Therefore, we set 1956 as a presumed date.
- In researching the date of the establishment of **Abu Zaabal Prison**, we found a resolution in 1931 to allocate part of the state's land to expand the prison, which proves its existence before that. Therefore, we set 1931 as a presumed date.
- In researching the date of the establishment of **El Mansoura Prison**, we found a resolution in 1929 to allocate part of the state's land to expand the prison, which proves its existence before that. Therefore, we set 1929 as a presumed date.
- In researching the date of the establishment of **El Zagazig Public Prison**, we found a resolution in 1897 to allocate part of the state's land to expand the prison, which proves its existence before that. Therefore, we set 1897 as a presumed date.
- Due to the scarcity of information regarding the central prisons established before 1962, we relied on Decree No. 113 of 1962 of the Minister of the Interior regarding the central prisons in the governorates, which established a list of the central prisons that existed at that time. Therefore, we adopted the year 1962 as the year of establishment for the central prisons, as we did not find a resolution of their establishment before this date.

- We found that the establishment resolutions of many central prisons were repeated. The first date was consistently 1962 according to Decree No. 113 of 1962 of the Minister of the Interior ordering the establishment of prisons. With the lack of evidence of whether or not all these prisons were built according to the Decree, we have adopted the most recent date of establishment and considered the 1962 resolution as an implementation plan; consequently: Banha Central Prison in 2001, Qutour Central Prison in 2010, Samasta Central Prison in 1985, Al-Qusiya Central Prison in 2017, Al-Kharga Station Prison in 2007, Hurghada Station I Prison in 2007, Hosh Issa Central Prison in 2007, and Mataria Central Prison in 2009.

- We noticed the repetition of the establishment years of prisons, most of which were in Decree No. 113 of 1962 in the list of prisons that actually existed at that time, and some were in other years. We adopted the first resolution, given that the most recent establishment resolution is to renew, rebuild and expand the prison. The year of establishment and the year of expansion for each prison are as follows: Ataka Station Prison in 1961 and 2016, Burullus Central Prison in 1962 and 1999, Desouq Central Prison in 1962 and 2005, Dikirnis Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, Mit Ghamr Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, Belqas Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, El Manzala Central Prison in 1962 and 2004, Sherbin Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, Qalyub Central Prison in 1962 and 2008, Faqous Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, Luxor Central Prison in 1962 and 2008, Khanka Central Prison in 1962 and 2019, Shubra El-Kheima Station II Prison in 1977 and 2008, Mansoura Central Prison in 1962 and 2009, Beni Suef Central Prison in 1935 and 2013, Qena Central Prison in 1941 and 2004, Manfalut Central Prison in 1962 and 2006.