

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118-3299
Tel: 212-290-4700
Fax: 212-736-1300

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA DIVISION

Eric Goldstein, *Acting Executive Director*
Michael Page, *Deputy Director*
Adam Coogle, *Deputy Director*
Ahmed Benchemsi, *Advocacy and Communications
Director*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Asli Bali, *Chair*
Bruce Rabb, *Vice-Chair*
Gary G. Sick, *Vice-Chair*
Fouad Abdelmoumni
Gamal M. Abouali
Yasser Akkaoui
Hala Al-Dossari
Salah Al Hejailan
Ghanim Al-Najjar
Lisa Anderson
David Bernstein
Hanaa Edwar
Bahey El Din Hassan
Hassan Elmasry
Mansour Farhang
Loubna Freih Georges
Amr Hamzawy
Asos Hardi
Shawan Jabarin
Marina Pinto Kaufman
Youssef Khlat
Marc Lynch
Ahmed Mansoor
Abdelaziz Nouaydi
Kathleen Peratis
Nabeel Rajab
Vicki Riskin
Charles Shamas
Sussan Tahmasebi
Christophe Tanghe

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

Kenneth Roth, *Executive Director*

Michele Alexander, *Deputy Executive Director,
Development and Global Initiatives*
Emma Daly, *Deputy Executive Director, Media*
Barbara Pirto, *Executive Director, Operations*
Bruno Stagno Ugarte, *Deputy Executive Director,
Advocacy*

Tirana Hassan, *Chief Programs Officer*
Colin Mincy, *Chief People Officer*
Dinah PoKempner, *Deputy Executive Director, General
Counsel*
James Ross, *Legal and Policy Director*

Annex I: Human Rights Watch Letter Sent to Minister of Interior Mahmoud Tawfiq on April 27 and May 11, 2021

April 27, 2021

General Mahmoud Tawfiq
Minister of Interior

CC: The National Council for Human Rights
CC: The State Information Service
CC: Spokesperson of the Egyptian Cabinet

Dear General Tawfiq,

I am writing on behalf of Human Rights Watch to request information about incidents in many governorates that the Interior Ministry has described as “shootouts,” in which the ministry’s security forces said they have killed members of violent armed groups.

The Interior Ministry has issued dozens of press statements announcing the killing of hundreds of armed terrorism suspects since 2015, alleging that in most of these incidents those killed belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood or other groups such as Hasm or Lewa’ al-Thawra, which the ministry considers armed affiliates of the Brotherhood.

Human Rights Watch is an international, non-governmental organization working on human rights issues in more than 90 countries around the world, including Egypt. We are now working on a report about those incidents involving killings in shootouts. It is important for us to hear from you to ensure that we reflect the government’s opinions accurately and fairly. We would appreciate the ministry’s response to the following questions:

- How many incidents have occurred since 2015 which the ministry characterized as shootouts and in which members of armed groups and suspected “terrorists” have been killed or wounded? Please indicate how many have occurred in each governorate.
- How many armed militants have been killed in those incidents since 2015? How many were wounded or apprehended alive? How many escaped?
- Almost all ministry statements give only numbers of individuals killed. Why was it not possible to apprehend any alive in the majority of these incidents?
- How many members of the security forces have been killed in those shootouts? How many have been wounded in those incidents?
- Were any bystanders wounded or killed in any of these shootout incidents? How many and in what circumstances?
- Which security forces are usually deployed in these kinds raids and shootouts?
- What measures are in place to ensure that security forces have used firearms lawfully and proportionately? For example, are officers involved required to file post-incident reports? Who inspects these reports?
- What are the internal regulations or guidelines that Interior Ministry forces are required to follow concerning use of firearms or lethal force?
- What are the measures followed by the Interior Ministry to ensure that its forces adhere to its use-of-force regulations and international laws and standards governing use of lethal force?
- In how many shootout incidents did the Interior Ministry conduct investigations into use of force resulting in fatalities? What are the measures used to investigate these incidents?
- What training does the Interior Ministry require for security forces regarding international laws and standards regulating the use of firearms and lethal force by law enforcement?
- What steps does the Interior Ministry take concerning the identification of those killed and providing information to the families? What measures are followed to deliver the bodies of those killed to the families?
- What measures does the Interior Ministry take to secure a crime scene? Are the raiding forces responsible for this? How are the weapons seized and what measures are usually followed to maintain the chain of custody to ensure that all potential evidence is secured and protected from being modified or damaged by any party?

- Has the Interior Ministry determined that lethal force was used unlawfully in any of these shootout incidents? Please indicate which incidents may have involved unlawful use of force.
- How many officers has the Interior Ministry investigated for possible use of force violations in connection with shootout incidents? Please indicate what disciplinary measures have taken place with regard to such incidents. Please indicate how many officers were referred for criminal investigation and how many of those were found guilty?

Human Rights Watch would be extremely grateful for the Interior Ministry's responses to these questions and any other information the ministry feels we should take into account in our public reporting.

We will reflect any response received by **May 22** in our report. Responses received after this date will be noted on our website. Please inform us as well of the best means to send you a copy of the report once released.

You may send replies to us via email: [REDACTED]@hrw.org or via fax: [REDACTED].

Respectfully,
Adam Coogle
Deputy Director
Middle East and North Africa
Human Rights Watch