

Question for written answer E-002718/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Europol-Egypt working arrangement

In September 2024, Commissioner Ylva Johansson said that the Commission was close to signing a working agreement between Egypt and Europol. She also reportedly ‘praised Egypt for its treatment of migrants and refugees, particularly those fleeing civil war in Sudan’¹.

Human rights groups have documented the Egyptian authorities’ systematic arrest of Sudanese refugees, their arbitrary detention of these refugees in inhumane conditions, unfair trials, forced returns and political repression, in violation of international obligations². The UN has reported torture and ill treatment by police officers, prison guards and the military³. It has also warned that the definition of terrorism in Egypt’s legislation does not align with international standards and has been used to silence government critics.

1. Has the Commission assessed the necessity and proportionality of law enforcement cooperation with Egypt, as requested by Parliament in 2018⁴, and, if so, what are its conclusions, given the state of fundamental rights, discrimination and freedoms in Egypt?
2. How does the Commission assess the impacts of a working agreement with Europol, including transfers of intelligence, on the systematic human rights violations in Egypt?
3. What is the status of negotiations for an Egypt-Europol operational agreement, including as regards the exchange of personal data?

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¹ <https://archive.md/09YKY#selection-165.0-165.76>.

² <https://rpegy.org/en/editions/from-sudan-to-egypt-egyptian-decisions-spark-high-risk-irregular-migration-movement/>.

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/un-committee-against-torture-publishes-findings-burundi-costa-rica-denmark>.

⁴ European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2018 on the Commission recommendation for a Council decision authorising the opening of negotiations for an agreement between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the exchange of personal data between the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the Egyptian competent authorities for fighting serious crime and terrorism, OJ C 118, 8.4.2020, p. 99.