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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-sixth session

Item 23 of the provisional agenda

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL, ETHNIC,
RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Comments received from Governments
pursuant to Commission resolution 14 A (XXXIV)

Addendum

EGYPT

[Original: Arabic]

[14 January 1980]

The draft Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities is not incompatible with Egyptian legislation. The Constitution of Egypt provides that society shall be based on social solidarity (article 7), that the State shall guarantee equal opportunities for all citizens (article 8), that the State shall further provide all citizens with cultural, social and health services (article 16) and with social security, health insurance, and disability, unemployment and old-age benefits (article 17).

It further provides that the right to education shall be guaranteed by the State (article 18), and that all citizens shall be equal before the law and shall have equal rights and duties without distinction as to race, origin, language or religious beliefs (article 40).

Article 41 of the Constitution states that the freedom of the individual is a natural right which should be protected and may not be violated. Article 42 provides that any person who is arrested, imprisoned or in any way restricted in his freedom should be treated in such a way as to ensure his human dignity and that he may not be caused either physical or psychological harm.

Article 43 provides that private homes are inviolable, and may not be entered or searched except on a judicial order issued with good cause, and in accordance with the provisions of the law. Article 43 provides that the private lives of the citizens shall be inviolable and shall be safeguarded by the law. Article 46 states that freedom of beliefs and the exercise of religious worship shall be guaranteed by the State. In addition, article 47 provides that every person shall have the right to freedom of expression and propagation of his views but within the limits prescribed by the law. Article 50 states that no person may be prohibited from residing in any particular place, nor may he be obliged to reside in a given place except in the cases specified by the law. Article 51 provides that no citizen may be expelled from the country or prevented from returning to it. Article 64

provides that the authority of the law shall be the basis of Government in the State. Lastly, article 68 provides that the right to institute legal proceedings shall be guaranteed to all citizens.

The Egyptian authorities take the view that the proposed draft declaration should contain a provision to the effect that the regulations laid down by the law in respect of public order and decency, the integrity and secrets of the State, public security, social peace, national unity and public welfare shall not be violated.