

A vibrant, textured background featuring a rainbow spectrum of colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) with a painterly, brushstroke-like appearance. Overlaid on this background is text in both Arabic and English.

#ضد\_حبس\_المثليين  
#StandForEgyptLgbt  
#SolidarityWithEgyptLgbt

This is a call for solidarity and participation to all organizations and individuals ,interested

We invite you to participate in the demonstration that will take place on [18 October 2014](#) in front of every Egyptian embassy around the world (If accessible) to protest against human rights violations committed by the Egyptian government, relying on unlawful and unethical media tools, towards those of differing sexual .orientations and gender identities

In the last period, a number of unjust decrees had been issued, which are not supported by statutory material, the majority of which relies on sentences ruled by individual jurists, using some legitimately flexible and baseless laws related to “debauchery”, designed as legal excuses for random condemnation, targeted .specifically towards citizens of differing sexual orientations and gender identities

A company called [Blue Coat Systems](#), based in Sunnyvale, California, has sold the Egyptian government extensive surveillance technology, which is -according to BuzzFeed- the Egyptian government is willing to use against all activists and minorities to persecute and discriminate against them including the spying on the .gay community in Egypt

What we are calling for now is, to shout for stopping this company from pursuing its business, especially when it contributes to more discrimination against the .Egyptian activists, activism, and to be more specific, LGBT community members Therefore, we started a new hashtag called: [#Stop\\_blue\\_coat](#), calling for an end to using extensive surveillance technology and spying softwares against anybody, not just LGBTQ community members. We need your word and support to stop this company from selling its extremely threatening products, that would lead to jailing and prosecuting of a huge number of activists and ordinary people who happened .to be against the state, by any means

References: read the article by **Scott Long**:[Meet the Businessmen Who Want Egypt's\\* Internet Users Jailed, Tortured, and Killed](#)

The continued oppression of minorities is a systemic conduct followed through by the government and given religious as well as ideological justifications, supported by media-led campaigns, to exclude certain groups and hold them as symbols of .enmity and extremism

We can apply the same situation to any form of social activism; this is due to the rooted corruption in almost every section of the government's legislative, administrative, and judicial authority. But when all rights become equal, and justice is achieved, an aware society forms, with members fully able to demand their .rights and stand together against a fascist form of government

Deliberate spread of ignorance and fear had always been used by regimes throughout history, with intentional attempts to lay seeds of hostility between .various groups in society

Everything that is happening now in Egypt from minor aggressions to fully-blown assaults and inequitable rulings aim to repress free will, divide, and create an environment of rejection and exclusion in order to eliminate any call for justice and .freedom

And from here, our campaign was brought to life in order to showcase solidarity and support for people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities in .Egypt

Our campaign is also a result of the rapidly deteriorating situation for LGBTQ+ community, the escalation of suppression towards us, and the purposeful subduing .of any effort to achieve our rights

On the other hand, we see that the majority of activists in Egypt -as of yet- are unable to view our issues as anything but lost causes, as they lack collective social empathy, evidenced by many stories of alleged arrests of non-heterosexual, non-cisgendered people, and using said stories as ways to entertain and distract in many news outlets, such as #Youm7, where the victims involved were denied the

privilege of privacy, and their personal lives put in danger, not to mention the direct violence exerted towards them by the Egyptian authorities

In Egypt, homosexuals and people of other sexual orientations and gender identities are seen and considered as sub-human, this is exhibited by numerous news of murders, the majority of which [Solidarity with Egypt LGBT](#) targets males who happened, at one point, to display same-sex attractions. This leads many activists who claim to believe in every human's right to live with dignity and safety –regardless of identity- to ignore this issue on a large scale, and avoid delving into it

.If the current situation continues, our condition will persist on getting worse

In addition, we insist –on the borders of our region- to regard the issues of people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities as social issues, no different or separate from any human rights' issues; we are not “mentally ill”, nor are we asking for attention in a vile attempt to leave our countries by drawing sympathy from western ones

What is happening in Egypt –and the rest of the region- towards us, is not just an act of social marginalization, but also a long-term process of defacing and misrepresenting that will result in uglier, more complex forms of oppression, which will be near impossible to fix in the long run

The current aims of our campaign is to connect and interact with organizations and individuals displaying solidarity with people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities, raise awareness about the violations committed against them in Egypt, and lay groundwork for the creation of a world-wide pressure on the Egyptian government to change its policies regarding our issues, and to demand our right to live with safety and dignity

The message we are trying to convey, with your support, is to reach out with the aims of our campaign through reporting and promoting in hopes of getting the largest number of people possible from members of organizations and social activists to individuals involved in this issue, to gather in front of Egyptian embassies around the world in 18 October 2014, and join us in demanding justice be brought for people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities, stop the

discrimination, the defacing, the assaults, the jailing, and often times murder of queer people, and using us as cheap fodder for mainstream media

.All this happens directly through authorities, media, and society alike

We are looking forward to be joined by the largest number of supporters from the MENA region and the world to exercise pressure on the Egyptian authorities –at least that’s what we’re hoping to achieve through the support of international, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world

All we are asking for is to live with dignity and safety, and we demand the government stop our unlawful suppression

Email us on : [Solidaritywithegyptlgbt@riseup.net](mailto:Solidaritywithegyptlgbt@riseup.net)

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