



24 June 2014 – Egypt’s courts once again alarm UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. The condemnation of three Al Jazeera journalists, as well as 11 others tried in absentia, to prison sentences between seven to ten years long, has been criticised in harsh terms by human rights organisations worldwide.

While noting that they are subject to appeal, [Pillay said](#) the Al Jazeera verdicts, along with Saturday’s confirmation by an Egyptian court of the [death penalty](#) for 183 Muslim Brotherhood members and supporters convicted in an earlier mass trial, are the latest in a string of prosecutions and court proceedings that have been “rife with procedural irregularities and in breach of international human rights law.”

“Media employees trying to carry out their work in Egypt are now confronted by an extremely difficult and dangerous environment. They should be protected, not prosecuted,” she further stressed. Ms. Pillay also highlighted that at least six journalists have been [killed in Egypt](#) since August of 2013. “Harassment, detention and prosecution of national and international journalists, including bloggers, as well as violent attacks by unidentified assailants, have become commonplace.”



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