

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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## **The Right to Life**

### **Between Divine Laws and International Charters**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book to His Prophet, **“On account of [his deed], We decreed to the Children of Israel that if anyone kills a person- unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land- it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment

Life is a gift from the Almighty Allah to humans. The Almighty Allah has honored humans with it, and stated that preserving one’s life is one of the most important purposes and general objectives that the divine laws came to preserve. Allah has prohibited any transgression against souls, and considered any threat to human life as an attack against the whole human race, as the Almighty Allah said, **“Do not take life, which Allah has made sacred, except by right.”** Allah also said, **“If anyone kills a person- unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land- it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind.”** The meaning of saving life is to protect a soul against destruction, and work to keep the life of the human soul, whether by paying off dangers or by providing the necessary means of life including: food, or treatment and medicine, or even paving roads and establishing

development. The verse also urges that man has to care for humans, trees and the whole universe by preserving the elements of life, and reforming any corruption.

The Almighty Allah has described His righteous servants as those who preserve the lives of others, as He (Glory be to Him) said, **“Those who never invoke any other deity beside Allah, nor take a life, which Allah has made sacred, except in the pursuit of justice, nor commit adultery. (Whoever does these things will face the penalties. their torment will be doubled on the Day of Resurrection, and they will remain in torment, disgraced.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The first matter concerning which people will be judged on the Day of Resurrection will be the matter of blood.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Avoid the seven destructive things. It was asked: (by those present): ‘What are they, O Messenger of Allah?’ He replied, ‘Associating anyone or anything with Allah in worship; practicing sorcery, killing of someone without a just cause whom Allah has forbidden, devouring the property of an orphan, eating of usury, fleeing from the battlefield and slandering chaste women who never even think of anything touching chastity and are good believers.’” In another Hadith, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, “A believer continues to guard his faith (and thus hopes for Allah’s Mercy) so long as he does not shed blood unjustly.”

Islam did not only forbid aggression against the lives of others, but also forbade aggression against one’s own soul, making such aggression one of the most heinous sins, as the Almighty Allah said, **“Do not kill each other, for Allah is merciful to you. If any of you does these things, out of hostility and injustice, We shall make him suffer Fire: that is easy for Allah.”** The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Whoever intentionally throws himself from a mountain and kills himself, will be in the (Hell) Fire falling down into it and abiding therein perpetually forever; and whoever drinks poison and kills himself with it, he will be carrying his poison in his hand

and drinking it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever; and whoever kills himself with an iron weapon, will be carrying that weapon in his hand and stabbing his Abdomen with it in the (Hell) Fire wherein he will abide eternally forever.”

Because life is owned by the Almighty Allah alone, and does not belong to anyone else; Islam has guaranteed humans a good and dignified life, and has forbidden insulting and harming them. The Almighty Allah said, **“We have honoured the children of Adam and carried them by land and sea; We have provided good sustenance for them and favoured them specially above many of those We have created.”** The Almighty Allah also said, **“Those who undeservedly insult believing men and women will bear the guilt of slander and flagrant sin.”**

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah 's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

It goes without saying that international conventions stipulate the human's right to life, and affirm that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security, and that the law must protect this right. These conventions also affirm that no one may be arbitrarily deprived of the right to life, and that everyone has the right to enjoy all rights and freedoms without discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, opinion or race, and they also criminalize all forms of aggression against human life.

This goes in complete consistence with the Divine laws, especially the tolerant law of Islam, that call for life, development, and construction, as the Almighty Allah said, **“He initiated you from the earth and assigned**

**you to develop it.” Allah also said, “There is a sign for them in the lifeless earth: We give it life and We produce grain from it for them to eat. We have put gardens of date palms and grapes in the earth, and We have made springs of water gush out of it.” All this confirms that our religion is the religion of construction and the art of making life, not making death, destruction or demolition.**

We ask Allah to protect Egypt and raise its flag high among all countries of the world!