

# DETENTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

NOVEMBER 2022

Migration detention occurs in two ways: when refugees and asylum-seekers are found to be without valid residency documents and are being detained for violation to legal stay, or when they are apprehended in irregular movements at entry or exit points.

As of 31 October 2022, **3,306 individuals** were reportedly arrested on account of immigration-related offences in 2022 mainly at the Southern Border, out of whom **803 (24%)** are registered with UNHCR.

An **increase of 14%** in the total number of reported arrests this year is noted in comparison to last year. **However**, the percentage of the registered population within the total arrests marks a slight **decrease of 6%** in comparison to last year.

**Lack of UNHCR's access to detention and border points** is considered a key challenge to access asylum in Egypt. Persons in need of international protection in detention facilities or border points have no access to asylum procedures and are often at imminent risk of deportation.

UNHCR has advocated for all asylum seekers and refugees registered with the office and for those individuals presumably in need of international protection through issuing **804 advocacy letters** on behalf of registered individuals addressed to **immigration authorities** and **100 advocacy letters** for **34 registered individuals** and for **676 unregistered individuals** who are presumably in need of international protection addressed to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

**In principle, the GoE respects the principle of non-refoulement for registered asylum-seekers and refugees**, although the Office continues to record isolated incidents of registered individuals being deported. UNHCR continues to intervene on behalf of unregistered individuals who seek international protection but not always succeed. In 2022, **124 individuals**, predominantly unregistered were deported (85 unregistered Eritreans, 25 South Sudanese (24 unregistered and 1 registered), 8 unregistered Ethiopians, 5 Syrians (three registered and two unregistered) and 1 registered Yemeni asylum seeker.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR offices and implementing partner Caritas provide persons we serve with **Residency Appointments** before the Immigration authorities in order to lodge their residency permit applications. As of 31 October 2022, UNHCR offices and the partner served a total of **100,834 individuals**. Persons we serve are able to obtain the appointments either at UNHCR offices (in case of new registration or renewal of UNHCR documents) or at Caritas offices located in Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.

## KEY FIGURES



**3,306** reported detained so far in 2022/ **804 (24%)** registered with UNHCR



**124** deported in 2022 (5 registered / 119 unregistered)



**904** advocacy letters



**9,478** inquiries attended to



**100,834** residence-related assistance provided

## REPORTED ARRESTS

