



A Report
On Monitoring the Export
Rates of Light Weapons From
the Czech Republic to Egypt
(2017-2020)

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**EGYPTIAN FRONT
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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(2017-2020)

A report by
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Introduction

Czech Republic continues to export light weapons to Egypt despite Egypt's low human rights record. Besides knowing the possibility of using these weapons directly in internal repression and committing human rights violations. Indeed, evidence appeared to show that the Egyptian Security Forces had used Czech weapons in the violent dispersal of sit-ins in Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Al-Nahda squares. Besides the possibility of using these weapons in extrajudicial killings in North Sinai. In spite of that, Czech republic insists on putting its commercial interests first, in contravention to its international obligations regarding not exporting weapons to countries that might use them in human rights violations under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Also, Czech turned a deaf ear to the issued resolutions of the European Union Foreign Affairs Council (FOC) which had called on the member states of the European Union to suspend exporting weapons to Egypt.

In March 2021, 31 countries of the UN Human Rights Council issued a joint resolution condemning human rights violations committed by the Egyptian Authorities under the role of Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Countries expressed "deep concern" towards "restrictions imposed on freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to peaceful assembly. Together with restrictions on Civil Society and peaceful opposition". In addition to the use of anti-terrorism laws to repress peaceful opponents¹ This decision has come after 8 years of Sisi regime's restriction on freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly, by suppressing peaceful demonstrations and committing what was described as the biggest massacre in Egypt's modern history in Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Al-Nahda squares on August 14, 2013, which resulted in the killing of at least 817 supporters of the ousted president Mohamed Morsi.

Al-Sisi regime has established its role on anti-terrorism policies which are used to silence opponent voices and stifle the public sphere through arrest, arbitrary

¹ 31 countries call on Egypt to stop repression under the name of combating terrorism.", Egyptian Front for Human Rights 12.03.2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHANZA1TBDw>

detention, and prolonged pretrial detention against political opponents, human rights defenders, journalists, academics, artists and others under charges related to terrorism. Besides convicting thousands in farcical trials which lack the most basic standards of fair trial. Torture and enforced disappearance have become systematic practices used against prisoners of conscience. Also, their confessions extracted under torture have been used as evidences of conviction against them. Moreover, issuing mass death sentences and expediting the execution of death sentences in unprecedented ways.

Under the same pretext of “the war on terror”, the Egyptian authorities practice grave human rights violations in North Sinai, after security forces have made an actual blockade on the region, which impedes an understanding of the nature of what is happening there. Human rights sources revealed that security forces in North Sinai had committed violations which may amount to war crimes against civilians, such as indiscriminate and extra-judicial killing against civilians, forced displacement, destruction of houses and properties, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance. Besides establishing a blockade and restrictions on the freedom of movement which have caused an unprecedented food crisis and negatively affected citizens’ social and economic rights, specifically the right to food, water, education and work.²

In October, 2019, the Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EHFR) issued a report entitled “exporting violations” in October 2019³ through which it had shed light on the operations of exporting light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt. This report had referred to the danger of these weapons despite its low cost as they may be used indirectly in local repression. The report followed up the increase in the operations of exporting light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt from 2012 to 2017. It already highlighted that the Egyptian security forces had used Czech weapons in the dispersal of Al-Nahda sit in, extrajudicial killing operations in North Sinai, and other repressive incidents,

This report comes as a continuation of the “Exporting Violations” report, in order to follow up the rates of exporting light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt from 2017 to 2020. It also aims at considering whether Czech Republic made any real revision for its policies in exporting weapons to Egypt, after the appearance of evidence that show the use of these weapons in grave human rights violations in Egypt.

The report’s methodology is based on analyzing the annual reports issued by

2 Human Rights Watch 2019: “Whoever is afraid for his life, he has to leave Sinai: Violations of the security forces and “Islamic State” militants in North Sinai”. Page visited in August 2021. <https://bit.ly/3i5vLFF>

The Egyptian Front for Human Rights 2019: “Between death and siege” Page visited in August 2021. <https://bit.ly/2Kd6iO2>

3 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2019 “Exporting violations: A view on the status of exporting light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt.” Page visited in August, 2021. <https://egyptianfront.org/ar/2019/10/export-violations/>

The export rates of light weapons from the Czech Republic to Egypt

the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade from 2017 to 2020, in order to follow up the rate of exporting light weapons to Egypt. The report is divided into three parts. The first part provides an overview concerning the most prominent human rights violations in Egypt under the role of al-Sisi. The second part sheds light on the results reached by the previous report “Exporting Violations”, regarding the continuation of exporting weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt. In addition to the Egyptian Front’s evidence regarding the use of Czech weapons in internal repression in Egypt. As for the third part, it compares the export rate of light weapons from Czech to Egypt from 2017 to the end of 2020, and the same rate from 2012 to 2017.

First:

A view on human rights violations in Egypt during the reign of al-Sisi

Following the overthrow of the former president Mohamed Morsi on July 3, 2013, the Army and Police forces used excessive force against protesters in several occasions, especially its most prominent events as in the violent dispersal of sit-ins in Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Al-Nahda squares on August 14, 2013, which resulted in the killing of at least 817 persons in the Rabaa dispersal and 90 persons in the Al-Nahda. Security forces used excessive force against Morsi supporters in other separate incidents which resulted in the killing of 5 protesters on July 5, 2013 and 61 protesters on July 8, 2013, in what has been called “Republican Guard headquarters clashes”. On August 16, 2013, security forces fired live ammunition at protesters in what was called “Al-Fath Mosque incidents” which resulted in the killing of at least 120 persons.⁴ Wiki Thawra organization monitored the killing of at least 2588 protesters between July 3, 2013 till January 2014 due to the usage of excessive force by security forces against protesters.⁵

The new political regime continues to implement systematic policies to silence opponent voices, and decrease freedom of opinion and expression through broad processes of arbitrary detention, prolonged pretrial detention, with estimates indicating that the number of prisoners of conscience in Egypt has reached 60,000 persons since July 2013 and till the end of 2017.⁶ In this context, the Egyptian Authorities issued the Protest Law in November 2013,⁷ then Anti-Terrorism

4 Ramzy, Hussein 2013 “The Department of Forensic Medicine” 215 persons were killed in the incidents of the Guidance Bureau, Republican Guard headquarters clashes, Cairo’s Manassa Memorial and 6 October Bridge. Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper. Page visited in August 2021 <https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/331671>

5 Wiki Thawra 2014 “A detailed counting of the killed persons during the reign of Al Sisi/ Adly Mansour till January 31, 2014 (updated)” Page visited in August 2021. <https://wikithawra.wordpress.com/2013/11/12/sisica-sualities/>.

6 Human Rights Watch. 2017. “We Do Unreasonable Things Here” Torture and National Security in al-Sisi’s Egypt. Page visited in August 2021. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/egypt0917_web.pdf.

7 CASES. 2016 “LAW NO.107 FOR 2013 FOR ORGANIZING THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PUBLIC MEETINGS, PROCESIONS AND PROTESTS” PAGE VISITED IN AUGUST 2021. <HTTPS://QADAYA.NET/?P=6597>

Law,⁸ which were used by the regime in order to legalize many arbitrary detentions.

Recently, specifically in 2019, the Egyptian Authorities have further expanded the implementation of arrest and arbitrary detention against civil society activists, journalists, lawyers, researchers and other Egyptian citizens who are not involved in public affairs. According to the Egyptian Front's database for this year, the State Security Prosecution nearly created 2000 cases in which defendants face charges related to terrorism. At least 2554 persons were arbitrarily detained under these cases due to practicing their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. The Egyptian Front monitored grave human rights violations against 131 defendants in 8 State Security cases in 2019, including at least 83 defendants faced enforced disappearance, at least 50 defendants were tortured and at least 19 defendants were deprived from a legal representation in the first investigation session, in addition to horrific violations in their places of custody.⁹

In 2020, the number of cases under the investigation of the State Security reached 1120 cases. The Egyptian Front monitored violations against 222 defendants pending in 5 cases. It is found out that at least 187 defendants were forcibly disappeared, at least 40 defendants were tortured, and at least 21 defendants faced the "revolving doors" policy which is a policy used by the State Security Prosecution to keep pretrial detainees in custody through listing them in new cases with the same charges of the first case, in order to circumvent the maximum period of pretrial detention in Egyptian law, which is two years.¹⁰

As the aforementioned, arbitrary detention is usually accompanied by enforced disappearance for the arrested persons where they are imprisoned in illegal places of custody for prolonged periods before bringing them before the Prosecution, together with depriving them from communication with the outside world during these periods. The Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms (ECRF) monitored 2723 cases of enforced disappearance against defendants who were arrested in political cases from 2016 to 2020.¹¹ Most of the victims who were forcibly disappeared, were interrogated legally and tortured in order to extract false confessions which are later used in the Prosecution as an evidence against them. Torture has several brutal types, such as electric shocks, hanging, beating,

8 Kamel, Mansour. 2015 "The full text of the Anti-Terrorism Law after its publication in the Official Gazette". Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper Page accessed in August 2021 <https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/793978>

9 Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2020 "The closure of the rest of the public sphere". Page visited in August, 2021. <https://egyptianfront.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Close-the-public-space-AR-1.pdf>

10 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2021 "366 days of violation: A report concerning violations against the arrested opponents pending 5 State Security Cases during 2020". Page visited in August 2021. <https://egyptianfront.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/366Days-EFHR.pdf>

11 Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms. 2021 A continuing violation A report concerning the phenomenon of enforced disappearance in Egypt during 5 years". Page visited in August 2021 <https://www.ecrf.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/final-2.pdf>

threatening to harm families, and sexual violations.¹²

On the other hand, there is an increase in the severity of human rights violations in Egypt as in North Sinai Governorate which witnesses ongoing violations against civilians that amount to war crimes. Security forces committed mass extrajudicial killings, which resulted in the killing of 2811 persons who were described as “Armed elements”, according to the official statements of the Armed Forces Spokesperson, from October 2014 to December 2018. It is noteworthy that these operations against “armed elements” include civilian deaths without distinction. As with the start of “the comprehensive operation in Sinai 2018” in February 2018 till the end of the year, at least 23 civilians were killed by security forces, including three children.¹³

Also, security forces continued to target civilians in 2019. The Egyptian Front monitored that security forces had killed at least 24 civilians, including 4 women, and at least 51 persons had been injured, including 6 [women](#). In addition to the enforced disappearance against at least 61 persons. Together with demolishing civilians’ homes in at least 21 villages. Furthermore, 11 members of armed groups had been killed in suspected extra judicial killings.¹⁴ In 2020, the Egyptian Front monitored that security forces in North Sinai had killed at least 9 civilians, while 10 civilians had been injured, together with the extra judicial killing of 282 persons for allegedly being members in armed groups.¹⁵ In the first half of 2021, security forces killed at least 4 civilians and 31 members of The Islamic State - Sinai Province (IS-SP).¹⁶

In North Sinai, the security forces and the Egyptian judicial system especially targeted women who have become victims due to a conflict between security forces and armed groups. The Egyptian Authorities arrested many of these women, then arbitrarily imprisoned them while depriving them from their right to fair trial. Besides throwing them in the cycle of prolonged pretrial detention, instead of protecting them after their attempt to escape from the grave violations they suffered under the hands of the Islamic State- Sinai Province (IS-SP), including enforced marriage, child marriage, family violence and sexual violations.¹⁷

12 Cairo Institute For Human Rights Studies (CIHRS). 2019 “Human Rights Organizations: Torture in Egypt is a state’s policy” Page accessed in August 2021. <https://bit.ly/3iUQlUb>

13 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights, “between death and blockade.”

14 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2020 “An endless blockade: A view on the impact of the conflict between the state and armed groups on the rights of the people of Sinai during 2019” Page visited in August 2021 <http://bit.ly/3qUqsMh>

15 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2021 “A monitoring report concerning human rights violations in the framework of war on terror in North Sinai in 2020” Page visited in August 2021. <https://egyptianfront.org/ar/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Counter-Terrorism-violations-Sinai-2022-EFHR.pdf>

16 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights. 2021 “A monitoring report concerning human rights violations in the framework of war on terror in North Sinai in the first half of 2021”. Page visited in August 2021. <https://egyptian-front.org/ar/2021/07/sinai-fh2021/>

17 The Egyptian Front for Human Rights 2021 “From the hell of IS Sinai Province to the State’s hell”. Page visited in August 2021. <https://egyptianfront.org/ar/2021/03/sinai-state-hell/>

Security forces adopted the policy of mass arbitrary detentions to confront the armed groups in the region. From October 2014 to December 2018, at least 8266 persons, who were described by the Armed Forces Spokesperson as “wanted” or “terrorist suspects”, were killed. Also, security forces demolished and burned the people’s properties in North Sinai, allegedly for their cooperation with terrorist groups. The Egyptian Front monitored that security forces had demolished and burned 1431 houses, 216 stores, 290 trenches, 486 tunnels, and 39 dens and shelters. Besides burning 1693 motorcycles, 1572 cars, and 519 Four-wheel drive cars from October 2014 till the end of 2018, according to what the Egyptian Front monitored after analyzing the data of the Armed Forces Spokesperson.¹⁸

18 A previous source.

Second:

Exporting weapons continues from Czech Republic to Egypt despite the local repression.

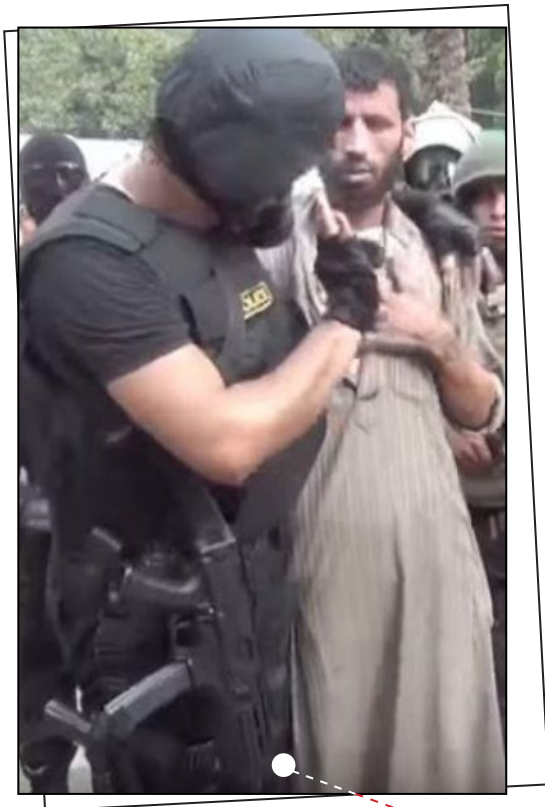
The diplomatic relations between Czech Republic and the Egyptian regime has witnessed unprecedented development after July 2013. Czech Republic has shown unconditional support for the Egyptian Government, especially related to military support based on the slogan of supporting it in “combating terrorism”, while ignoring the human rights violations and local repression practiced by the Egyptian authorities. During the past five years, Egypt and Czech Republic exchanged several ministerial visits, which included a number of businessmen in various fields, especially the defense industries. Also, these diplomatic visits were exchanged among foreign ministers, and the ministers of industry and trade in both countries. During these visits, discussions were held to strengthen relations between the two countries in terms of economic relations, trade, armament and energy. The last visit was in June 2019 when members of Czech National Security and Defense Committee met their counterparts in the Egyptian House of Representatives. During this visit, Kamal Amer, the Head of the National Security and Defense Committee in the Egyptian House of Representatives, confirmed the deep relations between the two countries, including the military relations. From his side, the Head of the Czech Parliament Delegation paid tribute to the role of Egypt in “combating terrorism and confronting illegal immigration”, indicating the need to continue cooperation between the two countries.¹⁹

In the report “Exporting Violations”, the Egyptian Front reviewed the nature of exporting light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt and its increase from 2013, in a complete disregard for Egypt’s bad record in human rights violations, and Czech obligations regarding exporting weapons to countries which practice local repression against their citizens. In the report, the Egyptian front found out that Czech is one of the main exporters of light weapons to Egypt, such as automatic

¹⁹ Fakhry, Noura 2019 “Photos.. The Head of “the Czech Parliament Defense Committee” confirms his appreciation for the Egyptian role in combating terrorism”. Youm7. Page visited in August 2021 <http://www.youm7.com/4282064>

rifles, grenades and pistols. These weapons are very dangerous due to the possibility of being used indirectly in operations of local repression and human rights violations. In 2013, arms exports from Czech Republic to Egypt included CZ 75 P-07 Duty handguns 5000, hundreds of machine rifles CZ Scorpion EVO 3A1, and (Assault rifles BREN A1 805). In 2014, an agreement was signed to export CZ 75 P-07 5000 pistol, and 10,000 ammunition of 9 mm caliber.²⁰

By analyzing dozens of photos and video clips which belong to the Egyptian Security Forces (the Army and Police), which are published in the official site of the Ministry of the Interior and the Armed Forces Spokesperson, as well other media and press platforms, the Egyptian Front found out that the Egyptian army and Police had used some of the aforementioned Czech weapons in local repression and violent dispersal for protesters, especially the CZ Scorpion EVO 3A 1 rifle.²¹



The Egyptian Front monitored in its previous report the appearance of Czech weapon in the hands of members of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, during the violent dispersal of the sit in of the supporters of the former president, Mohamed Morsi in Al-Nahda square on August 14, 2013, which resulted in the killing of at least 90 persons, together with the injury of 613 persons, according to the Ministry of Health. In a video recorded by Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper, one of the policemen responsible for the dispersal of the al-Nahda sit-in, appeared holding Czech weapon (CZ Scorpion EVO 3 A1 Sub-machine gun). This is considered irrefutable evidence that the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior had used these weapons in violent repression against opponents and the violation of their right to life.²²

A photo for a policeman holding a Czech weapon in the dispersal of the al-Nahda sit-in²³

20 Egyptian Front for Human Rights, "Exporting Violations."

21 Previous reference.

22 Previous reference.

23 Al-Masry Al-Youm 2014 "The harvest of 2013: Security forces dispersed Al-Nahda sit-in" Minute 1:40 Page visited in August 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GQthtK1Fk>

Also, the previous report of the Egyptian Front found out that the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior had used the same Czech weapon CZ Scorpion EVO 3A1 in violent repression against other several demonstrations, including the demonstrations of the third anniversary of the revolution on January 25, 2014, which resulted in the killing of at least 49 persons and the injury of 247 persons, in addition to the arrest of 1341 persons. And on the fourth anniversary of the revolution on January 25, 2015, at least 26 persons were killed, 94 persons were injured and more than 500 persons were arrested. And on the fifth anniversary of the revolution in January 2016, although there were no deaths, the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) monitored that the police had stopped at least 164 persons during the dispersal of demonstration on this day.²⁴

However Czech weapons were used in internal repression in Egypt, Egyptian and Czech Bodies expressed the desire of the Egyptian Government to obtain a license to manufacture Czech weapons on its own within the factories of the Armed Forces. According to the statement by the CEO of česká zbrojovka Lubomir Kovrac in February 2016, the Egyptian Ministry of Military Production is going to obtain a license to manufacture a number of Czech weapons within military factories, especially the CZ 807 rifle.²⁵ This was also confirmed by the Czech Foreign Minister at the end of January 2016 in his statement that cooperation between his country and Egypt would be in developing the capabilities of the Egyptian military production. And they are interested in transferring the Czech technology of military production to Egypt.²⁶

The seriousness of this Egyptian pursuit of obtaining a license to manufacture Czech weapons comes from the fact that the Egyptian Regime would then be able to expand its arms trade by using these types of weapons. As a result, these weapons could later reach countries which have a less record in democracy and more human rights violations in the region and world. This is actually the aspiration of the Egyptian Authorities according to the statements of the Minister of Military Production²⁷ and the Vice-President of the Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI).²⁸

24 Egyptian Front for Human Rights, "Exporting violations."

25 Denik.cz. 2016 "česká zbrojovka is going to produce assault rifles and pistols in Egypt". Page visited in August 2021. <https://www.denik.cz/ekonomika/ceska-zbrojovka-se-chysta-vyrabet-v-egypte-utocne-pusky-i-pistole-30160214-vmna.html>.

26 Al Hayah TV 2016 "Al Hayah Al-Youm- the Minister of Military Production | Czech supported Egypt on June 30, and there are strong relations between the two countries". Page accessed in August 2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_gm-luzPWw

27 Extra News 2017 "Now | a press conference to announce the details of launching the first international exhibition for industries in Egypt". Page visited in August 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTEIV2U-mAY&-feature=share>

28 RT Arabic 2018 "International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) 2018 in Egypt" Page visited in August 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hnnec1o2ti0>

Third:

The variability of Czech arms exports to Egypt between 2017 and 2020.

The “Exporting Violations” report presented a statistical analysis of arms exports from Czech Republic to Egypt between 2012 and 2017. In this context, this part of the report reconsiders these statistics and follows up the development of Czech arms exports to Egypt from 2018 till the end of 2020, through analyzing the annual reports of the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade.²⁹

The exports of light weapons from Czech Republic to Egypt are still continuing after 2017. Exports witnessed a significant increase in 2019, as the revenues from arms exports to Egypt reached 10.5 million euro in 2019, which is about five times the same revenues in 2018, which reached about 2.2 million euro. The period between 2013 and 2016 witnessed a remarkable increase concerning licenses granted to export weapons to Egypt, compared to 2012. In 2012, 21 licenses to export arms to Egypt were approved by the Czech government. And the number of licenses increased to 32 in 2013 which is the same year of the violent dispersal of the Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Al-Nahda sit-ins. Also, it is the year in which the resolution of the EU arms embargo on Egypt was issued.

In 2014 and 2015, despite the escalation of human rights violations in Egypt,

29 Ministry of Industry and Trade. 2018. “Annual report on export control for military material, small arms for civil use and dual-use goods and technologies in the Czech Republic 2018”. Page visited in August 2021. https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/foreign-trade/licensing-administration/about-licensing-administration/2019/9/ANNUAL-REPORT_-2018.pdf

Ministry of Industry and Trade. 2019. “annual report on export control for military material, small arms for civil use and dual-use goods and technologies in the Czech Republic 2019”. Page visited in August 2021. https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/foreign-trade/licensing-administration/about-licensing-administration/2020/7/ANNUAL-REPORT_2020.pdf

Ministry of Industry and Trade. 2020. “annual report on export control for military material, small arms for civil use and dual-use goods and technologies in the Czech Republic in 2020”. Page visited in August 2021. <https://www.mpo.cz/assets/en/foreign-trade/licensing-administration/about-licensing-administration/2021/7/Annual-Report-on-export-control-for-military-material--small-arms-for-civil-use-and-dual-use-goods-and-technologies-in-the-Czech-Republic-2020.pdf>

The export rates of light weapons from the Czech Republic to Egypt

Czech Republic agreed on granting 26 and 28 licenses in order to export weapons to Egypt. While there is no clear pattern indicating the increase in arms exports in the following years, the Egyptian Front found out that the number of arms export licenses had increased significantly in 2019, reaching 31 licenses compared to 14 licenses in 2017, 18 licenses in 2018, and 17 licenses in 2020.

The licenses of exporting Czech military equipment to Egypt

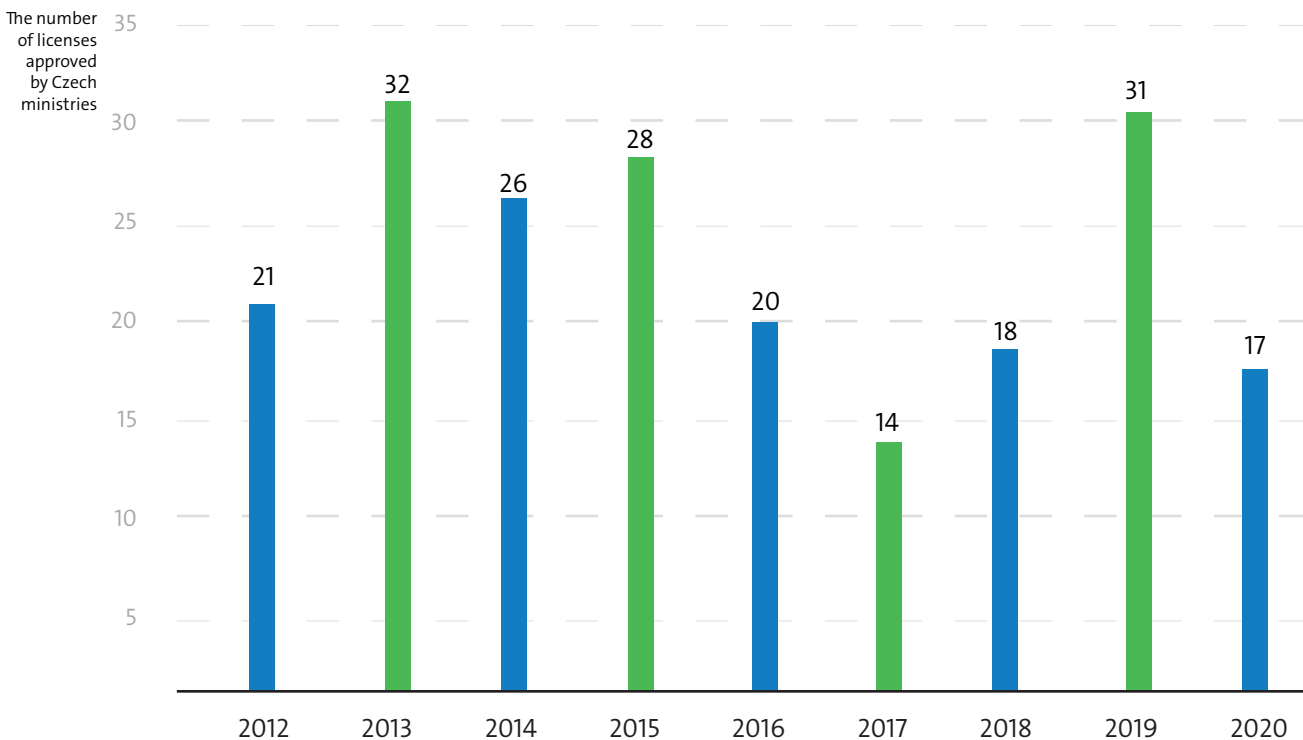


Table 1. The development of the number of arms export licenses to Egypt between 2012 and 2020

On the other hand, the revenues of Czech arms exports to Egypt increased significantly since 2013. While Czech Republic exported weapons for 5 million euros in 2012, this number doubled five times in 2013, as Egypt imported weapons for more than 24 million euros from Czech Republic. Arms exports to Egypt peaked in 2016, with exports reaching more than 41 million euros.. In 2018, the revenues of arms exports decreased to 2 million euros nearly, compared to the previous years. Then, the revenues increased again about five times to reach 10.5 million euros nearly in 2019, and 4.7 million euros in 2020.

The export rates of light weapons from the Czech Republic to Egypt

The revenues of the exports of Czech military equipment to Egypt

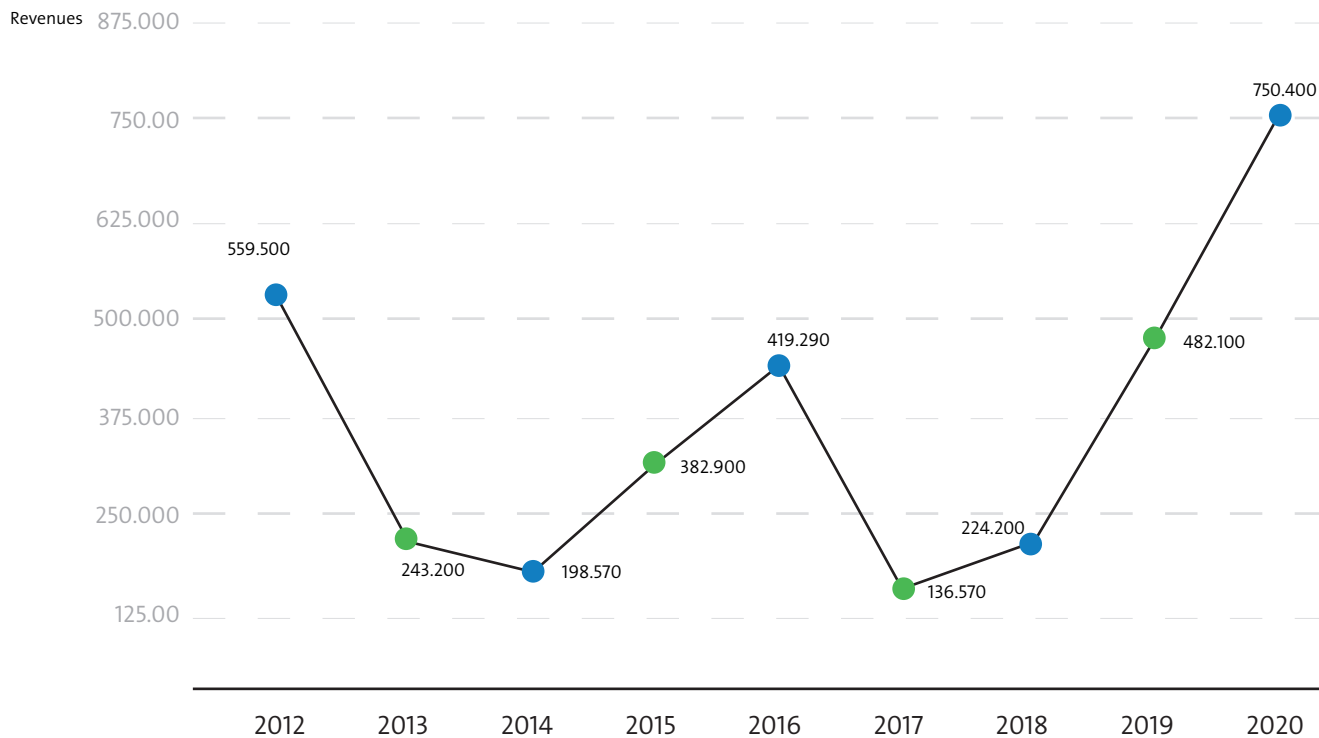


Table 2. The development of the revenues of Czech arms exports to Egypt between 2012 and 2020.

Concerning the rates of arms exports to Egypt compared to the total Czech exports of military equipment, a similar increase is observed after 2012. In 2012, Czech Republic allocated 2.1% of the total exports of weapons to Egypt. It is a percentage that was doubled four times in 2013 when Czech Republic allocated 8.4% of its total exports of weapons to Egypt. Thus, Egypt became the third largest importer of Czech weapons in this year. Later, Egypt declined to rank the fifth with 16%, compared to ranking the eleventh in 2012. According to the percentages indicated in the previous tables, it is also shown here that Egypt's share of Czech arms exports rose significantly in 2019, compared to 2018 and 2020. Egypt's percentage of Czech arms exports reached 1.7% of the total Czech exports. Egypt ranked eleventh in the ranking of countries which import Czech weapons.

The percentage of Czech arms exports to Egypt, compared to the rest of the importing countries

The year	The percentage	Ranking
2020	0.7061%	33
2019	1.6926%	17
2018	0.4077%	40
2017	2.3781%	16
2016	6,0988%	5
2015	0.7024%	28
2014	4.7430%	7
2013	8.4792%	3
2012	2.1401%	11

Table 3. The development of Czech arms exports to Egypt between 2012 and 2020.

Conclusion

Egypt under the rule of Sisi regime continues committing grave violations of international human rights law since the overthrow of Morsi, the former president in July 2013, and what followed that from committing the largest massacre against civilians in Egypt's modern history, through the violent dispersal of the sit-ins in Rabaa Al-Adawiya and Al-Nahda squares which resulted in the killing of at least 900 protesters. In addition, the Egyptian Authorities used rough policies to repress the freedom of opinion and expression, including arbitrary detention, prolonged pretrial detention, enforced disappearance, and torture which all of them are used systematically against peaceful political opponents. Moreover, grave violations in North Sinai were committed that amounted to war crimes, including indiscriminate killing of civilians, arbitrary detentions, and the demolition of buildings and properties of civilians.

In spite of that, Czech Republic continues to export weapons to Egypt, even after evidence obtained by the Egyptian Front, indicating the usage of these weapons in operations of local repression and killing peaceful protesters and civilians in North Sinai. There is no doubt that Czech Republic is complicit by continuing and increasing its arms exports to Egypt after 2013. Despite the increase of human rights violations in the past years, Czech Government continues to export light weapons to Egypt. Besides recording a significant increase in exports, especially in 2019.

With this evidence, the Egyptian Front called on the Czech Government in 2018 to stop exporting weapons to Egypt and abide by its international obligations, according to the Arms Trade Treaty and the resolutions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council. In spite of that, this report revealed that the Czech Government hadn't taken any real procedures to review its policy with regard to exporting weapons to Egypt. It still prioritizes its strategic and commercial interests over the rights and freedoms of Egyptians.

Czech Republic contradicts its international obligation under the Arms Trade Treaty³⁰ ratified in September 2014. This treaty includes the principle of “Respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and respecting and ensuring respect for human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” Also, it contradicts Article No.6 of the Treaty as a State Party shall carry out an “assessment process” before exporting weapons, and shall not authorize any transfer of arms, if there is a risk to use in the violations of the international humanitarian law or the international human rights law, or committing a crime under conventions related to terrorism.

Also, Czech Republic continues to violate resolutions issued by the Eu Foreign Affairs Council which call all the member states to stop exporting weapons to Egypt, due to its bad record on human rights and killing peaceful opponents. The first resolution was issued on August 21, 2013, after the violent dispersal of the sit-ins in Rabaa Al-Adaweya and Al-Nahda squares. This resolution called for the suspension of export licenses for any equipment that could be used in internal repression, besides reviewing security aids with Egypt.³¹

Based on the aforementioned, the Egyptian Front presents the following recommendations:

- The Czech Government, especially the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Defense, have to immediately stop exporting weapons and granting arms export licenses to Egypt. Besides abiding by Czech international obligations concerning not to export weapons to countries which gravely violates the international human rights law.
- The Czech Government has to abide by the Arms Trade Treaty, with regard to the establishment of a mechanism to evaluate exporting weapons that takes into consideration the possibility of their use in human rights violations.
- The Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade should comply with transparency regarding arms trade, and disclose the details of deals and agreements ratified with Egypt. In addition, clarifying the criteria which it followed before granting export licenses. Besides monitoring these weapons, if they are used in committing human rights violations by the Egyptian Authorities.
- The Czech Parliament should hold the government accountable concerning the arms exports to Egypt and the mechanism of evaluating arms exports to it, although there is evidence indicating their use in internal repression

³⁰ The Arms Trade Treaty. 2019. Page visited in August 2021. <https://www.thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-text.html>

³¹ Council of the European Union. 2013. “Council Conclusions on Egypt”. Page accessed on August, 2021. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138599.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3iT-1Lp_Ja5t4l6mneOycn7DCkXfXzEED0lJbT6AtxnJdxnFtIAXWELXU0

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- operations and human rights violations.
- The EU institutions should ensure that the member states comply with the resolutions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council regarding the suspension of exporting weapons and military equipment to Egypt. Besides adopting binding legal formulas for the member states, prohibiting them from exporting weapons to countries that practice internal repression and human rights violations.