

# Eliminating Terrorism Sources in Egypt



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## **Introduction**

Terrorism is one of the most prominent modern phenomena in human life, as it is an authentic phenomenon deeply rooted in the history of mankind and has reached the modern era in many forms and types. It is believed that terrorism began only in the present era, especially after the events of 11 September 2001, but the truth is that terrorism is a global phenomenon with a growing history, a phenomenon that has serious consequences and continues to escalate in violence, terror and threats, some of which are religious, fanatical and political instability.

Terrorist organizations/terrorist groups deployed regionally and internationally have imposed themselves on the international system with enormous organizational and logistic capabilities and sophisticated weapons. This highlights the fundamental issue faced by each State: to strike a balance between combating terrorism, maintaining the national security of the State on the one hand, and pursuing development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms on the other. This requires the entire international community to take a range of measures designed to combat terrorism and eliminate its sources of funding as well as to take measures to combat terrorism.

Egypt is making many efforts to combat and reduce terrorism, with the Ministry of Defense, represented by the Egyptian army and the Interior Ministry, represented by the police forces cooperating. According to the national counter-terrorism report issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Egypt has continued since the June 30, 2013 revolution to implement a comprehensive plan to deal with the different dimensions of the phenomenon of terrorism with the aim of eliminating the so-called "Muslim" groups, primarily the "Muslim Brotherhood", which takes religion as a cover to achieve its political objectives of imposing a takfiri model that deviates from the validity of religion and its tolerant principles, and the aims of that group



include the overthrow of national state institutions as witnessed in some countries in the region, where it was clear that the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood represents the main source from which all terrorist groups emerged, by all their names, and derived from it the bloody extremist intellectual principles established by "Sayed Qutb" and "Hassan al-Banna" such as "Al-Hakimiya" and "Jahiliya".

### **First: Egypt's counter-terrorism approach**

Egypt called on the international community to increase efforts in the fight against terrorism, where the fight against terrorism is not only on the security side and the security confrontation, but also includes the economic, social, cultural, educational and development dimensions and to give the intellectual and ideological dimension the necessary priority as the main catalyst for committing terrorist acts, while emphasizing that terrorism is not linked to any particular religion, culture or geographical area.

Egypt's approach to combating terrorism stems from the need to preserve the national state's assets and institutions, respect the principle of primary responsibility of the state and the centrality of the role of its national law enforcement institutions in the context of counter-terrorism and extremism efforts and the need to respect the principle of state sovereignty in this regard and that the role that civil society can play is complementary to support the efforts of the state and under its official umbrella, and Egypt believes that this approach has several requirements to achieve the desired goals including:

1. *"Reaching agreement on a definition of terrorism and not replacing it with any other characterization or entrenching erroneous terms that would unjustifiably distinguish between different terrorist organizations by classifying some as "terrorist" and others as "extremists"*



*is less violent or non-violent, such as violent extremism or violent extremist groups rather than terrorist groups, thereby contributing to mitigating or justifying their crimes."*

2. *"Ensure that States that sponsor and embrace terrorism, including "foreign terrorist fighters", provide them with safe haven or arm and train them and facilitate their movement through their territory to other areas to destabilize them, or provide them with financial, logistical and/or political and media support, are held accountable in clear violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and threaten international peace and security. This requires that all UN Member States respect their obligations in this regard under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2462 of 2019 on "Preventing and Combating Terrorist Financing, "Resolution 2396 of 2017 on "Addressing the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters", and requiring States to notify other States if suspected terrorists arrive, deport or arrest, and 2370 for 2017 to prevent terrorists from obtaining access to terrorists "While preventing terrorist organizations and their supporters from exploiting modern technology, including artificial intelligence, for terrorist purposes."*
3. *Failure to separate or distinguish between a physical terrorist act and extremist ideology or inflammatory discourse leading to terrorism.*
4. *Strengthen international cooperation to undermine the ability of terrorist organizations to recruit new terrorist elements, including foreign terrorist fighters, particularly young people, through:*
  - *Preventing terrorist organizations and their supporters from using modern media and social media sites to spread extremist ideology and hate speech, whether emanating from a takfiri ideology of terrorist organizations, their supporters, or racism and xenophobia, both ultimately lead to terrorist acts and threaten international peace and security; and social media providers are obliged to remove inflammatory extremist content from their sites.*
  - *Strengthen international efforts to dry eliminate terrorist financing sources, whether through individuals or transnational organized crime networks, states and terrorist entities based on some NGOs, charities, relief and advocacy as a cover to raise funds to finance terrorist activities, including to disseminate extremist rhetoric leading to terrorism, as well as to prevent terrorists from obtaining weapons in accordance with Security Council*



*Resolution 2370 of 2017, which Egypt had previously submitted during its membership of the Security Council.*

- *Address links between terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime groups, whether those engaged in drug trafficking, human beings or arms trafficking, which is one of the key elements of enhancing the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts, and the most effective way to do so is by strengthening the pillars of the national State and building the capacity of its institutions, as necessary to fill the vacuum exploited by organized crime groups and terrorist organizations for their benefit.*
- *Implement effective measures to address the new methods of financing terrorism in order to keep pace with the qualitative development in this regard, in light of the recent monitoring of the increasing use of virtual or encrypted currencies by terrorist organizations in remittances for the purpose of laundering money and financing their terrorist activities.*

## **A) National counter-terrorism efforts**

Egypt is working to combat terrorism in various legislative and security ways, where the fight against terrorism is a constitutional obligation, as article 237 of Egypt's new constitution stipulates that "***the state must commit itself to confronting terrorism in all its forms and forms, and tracking its sources of funding. The law regulates the provisions and procedures for combating terrorism and fair compensation for and because of serious damages.***"

The Egyptian state believes that the fight against terrorism is not only a commitment of the state to protect its national security, but also to protect one of the fundamental principles of human rights, the right to life. Based on the constitutional commitment to combating terrorism, the legislator has developed an integrated package of national legislation consistent with Egypt's obligations under Security Council resolutions and the regional and international counter-terrorism agreements it has joined as well as the United Nations global counter-terrorism strategy in a manner



that effectively and comprehensively combats the phenomenon of terrorism in all its dimensions. The legislation was also aimed at strengthening ways to address new ways of financing terrorism.

At the top of this legislation is Law No. 80 of 2002 on anti-money laundering amended by Law No. 36 of 2014, which came to keep pace with rapid developments in the financing of terrorist operations, as well as the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Group (FATF). Its Executive Regulations No. 80 of 2002 were issued on June 9, 2003 by Prime Minister's Resolution 951 of 2003, the most recent of which is Resolution No. 457 of 2020, which aims to develop detailed and interpretive frameworks for the provisions and amendments of the said law, as well as to keep up with the latest developments in international standards issued by the Financial Action Group.

Then passed Law 94 of 2015 to combat terrorism, a comprehensive law to address terrorism crimes and its objective and procedural financing, under which the necessary axes for the legal response to terrorism were complemented by effective measures and deterrent sanctions. The provisions of the Act were derived from Security Council resolutions, international and regional counter-terrorism instruments and agreements.

This law came with comprehensive definitions that prevent the terrorist group, the terrorist, and the terrorist crime. It also decided to punish the attempt or incitement to commit a terrorist crime with the same punishment prescribed for the complete crime, even if the incitement had no effect. In it, the legislator organized the controls for freezing funds and deciding to prevent them from disposing of them, and the law required allocating departments to consider misdemeanors, felonies, appeals and appeals in cases of terrorist crimes. The law also addressed the phenomenon of terrorists leaving their homelands to fight alongside terrorist groups, and extended



the scope of criminalization to facilitate the entry, cooperation or transit of others outside the country for the purpose of joining terrorist groups, pursuant to Security Council Resolution No. 2178 of 2014. The legislator also addressed the promotion of the perpetration of terrorist crime, ideas and beliefs advocating the use of violence to criminalize, as well as explicitly addressing the problem of electronic terrorism - in line with recent developments.

The legislator also decided on a number of supplementary sentences that the court was authorized to rule on, as well as the original penalties for terrorist offences, in the context of taking precautionary measures in order to counter the risk of the convict returning to his criminal activity. These included controls on freezing funds and deciding against disposal or management or preventive travel bans. The rights of the accused to adopt all these laws have been observed, as the right of the accused to a fair and fair public trial before a neutral, independent and insulation able natural judge has been observed, taking into account the right of the accused to communicate with his family and lawyers in accordance with the constitutional provisions of the legislator, which must preserve the dignity of the accused and not torture, intimidate or harm him physically or morally, in addition to the property of the Public Prosecutor's Office in Egypt, which, in accordance with the Egyptian Constitution, must be preserved, part of the Egyptian Constitution. It is integral to the judiciary as well as the independence and impartiality enjoyed by the Attorney General, embodied in his choice of the Supreme Judicial Council and without the intervention of the executive branch.

The previous law complemented another law, Law No. 8 of 2015 on the regulation of lists of terrorist entities and terrorists (amended by Law No. 11 of 2017) and the aim of this law is to contain terrorism and dry up its origins by preparing a list of elements, entities and groups involved in carrying out or inciting acts of violence or



disturbing public order in order to track them down and prohibit their activities and the competent court. The legislator has also established listing rules for entities and persons whose actions are not addressed to the Arab Republic of Egypt, as well as publishing procedures, appeal procedures and the management of retained funds. This law allowed the inclusion of a number of local terrorist groups and was published in the Official Gazette. The Egyptian legislator was keen to bring the anti-terrorism legislation in line with international laws, Security Council resolutions and international conventions to combat terrorism.

## **B) Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Law 2020**

The House of Representatives, headed by Chancellor Dr. Hanafi Jabali, has finally approved a government-sponsored bill to amend some provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act of Law No. 94 of 2015, and approved by a two-thirds majority of the members of the House of Representatives as it is a complementary law to the Constitution. The draft law aims to amend article (36) by prohibiting the filming, recording, broadcasting or presenting of any facts from the trial sessions in terrorist crimes except with the permission of the president of the competent court and punishes with a fine of not less than 100 thousand pounds and not more than 300 thousand pounds for anyone who violates this danger and rules on the confiscation of seizures.

It also included amending article (53) of the Law by adding the provision to the competent authority to issue decisions implementing the measures to the republican decision to impose measures to counter terrorism in some areas specified in the resolution referred to by article (53), all with the aim of confronting terrorist threats



and crimes by achieving the necessary flexibility in issuing decisions implementing these measures.

The Legislative Committee confirmed in its report that the bill is in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution in its articles (59), (86) and (237), and achieves protection for the homeland from all threats and guarantees safe life and stability for citizens and every resident on the territory of the state.

The Legislative Committee noted that terrorism in all its forms is a serious threat to states in recent years with activities aimed at destroying human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity, security and stability of States, especially since it is managed at regional and international organizational levels by groups outside the laws of religion and morality, which necessitated the need to address it, combat it and blackmail its roots.

The committee said that the Constitution in article (237) obliged the state to confront terrorism in all its forms and forms as a threat to the homeland and citizens, and passed the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015 with the aim of determining objective and procedural provisions in a way that contributes to reducing its risks.

The Committee stressed that the draft law aims to address the dangers of terrorist crimes, and in order to ensure the absorption of the models developed in this area, guided by the international, regional and local experiences of terrorist activity and aims to protect the homeland, citizens and all residents of the state territory, by achieving the necessary flexibility in issuing the decisions implementing the measures contained in the first paragraph of article (52) and pursuing them and ensuring compliance with them, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the legal texts in a way that is to their purpose.

The text of the draft law, after the approval of the Council, read as follows:



The first article of the draft law stipulated that Articles (36) and the first paragraph of Article (53) of the Anti-Terrorism Law promulgated by Law No. 14 of 2010 should be replaced with the following texts:

- Article 36 *"It is forbidden to photograph, record, broadcast or present any facts from the trial hearings in terrorist crimes except with the permission of the president of the competent court and punishable by a fine of not less than 100,000 pounds and not more than 300,000 pounds for anyone who violates this danger and rules on the confiscation of seizures."*
- Article 53, paragraph 1, *"The President of the Republic, where a risk of terrorist crimes or environmental disasters has occurred, shall issue a decision to take appropriate measures to maintain security and public order, including the evacuation, isolation or curfew of certain areas, with the decision to include the identification of the area applicable to them for a period of not more than six months, as well as the authority competent to issue decisions implementing those measures."*

And the second article stated: "A new article No. (bis 32) shall be added to the aforementioned Anti-Terrorism Law, which reads as follows:

With no breach of any more severe punishment stipulated in any other law, anyone who violates any of the measures issued in accordance with the provisions of article (53) of this law and the decisions issued in implementation of these measures shall be punished with the penalties stipulated in the president's decision referred to provided that the punishment restricting freedom does not exceed the aggravated imprisonment and the fine does not exceed 100 thousand pounds. If the president's decision does not provide for penalties if any of the measures contained in it are violated, as well as the decisions issued in accordance with these measures, he shall be punished for violating any of them in prison and a fine of not less than 20,000 pounds and not more than 50,000 pounds."



### **3-Emergency law**

Law enforcement officials define a state of emergency as subject to a law regulated by it, an exceptional system of time and space declared by the government, to deal with unusual emergency circumstances that threaten the country or part of it, with urgent measures and unusual methods, with specific conditions and until the threat is eliminated.

In Egypt, the Emergency Law authorizes the armed forces and police to take action to address the dangers of terrorism, maintain security throughout the country, protect public and private property, and save citizens' lives. Last April, the state of emergency was renewed for the last time, before Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi decision on October 25th (2021) ended this turbulent chapter in the country's history, with Egypt repeatedly declaring that *"Egypt is building a new republic."*

In accordance with the provisions of the Egyptian Constitution, the application of the state of emergency in the country means the application of Law 162 of 1958, where the President of the Republic may take appropriate measures to maintain security and public order. State agencies are also allowed to take appropriate measures to ban all forms of assembly and demonstration if it is found to be dangerous that may affect national security or undermine the stability of the country or the security of citizens. The Emergency Law allows security agencies to take action to address the dangers of terrorism, maintain security throughout the country, protect public and private property and save citizens' lives.

Also in accordance with the Constitution, the situations on which emergency enforcement must be invoked include war or a situation threatening war, internal unrest, public disasters or an epidemic, which means that public security in the territory or areas of the Republic is at risk.



Article 152 of the Egyptian Constitution provides for the declaration of a state of emergency in the country, based on emergency law No. 162 of 1958, which authorizes the President of the Republic to declare it after taking the opinion of the Council of Ministers, and obliging him to present it later, within a period of not more than seven days, to the House of Representatives and the approval of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives to pass it.

It also requires that a state of emergency be declared for a specified period of not more than three months, and that it be renewed only for a similar period after the approval of two thirds of the people's deputies, explaining that the President of the Republic declares a state of emergency, which declares its end, and ends its work if parliament refuses to approve it.

In 1958, the current emergency law was passed, and was activated from the setback of 1967 until the late President Anwar Sadat, and was reimposed after his assassination in 1981, and has remained active since that year until its abolition in May 2012.

In January 2013, the Emergency Law was imposed in the Suez Canal provinces for a month, and a state of emergency was imposed after the June 30 revolution for only one month, and as terrorist acts escalated, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi imposed a state of emergency in Sinai from the end of 2014.

In April 2017, the state of emergency expanded to include all Egyptian lands, and between 17 renewals and extensions, the emergency law remained in force until it was ended by President Sisi last decision dated October 25, 2021. The country has also witnessed, during the past two decades, many terrorist operations that targeted tourists and some important people, therefore the imposition of a state of emergency



and emergency laws was of great importance and necessity that contributes to the fight against terrorism.

#### **4-Amendment to the Camp David Agreement**

The amendment of the Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel to increase the deployment of Egyptian troops on the border between Egypt and Israel was to increase Egypt's strength in its fight against terrorism and secure the Egyptian border. *"Based on the coordination meeting with the Israeli side, the Joint Military Commission succeeded in amending the security agreement by increasing the number of border guards and their capabilities in the Rafah border area,"* the Egyptian military spokesman said.

#### **Second: Egypt and the fight against terrorism from 2011 until the overall operation Sinai 2018**

The implementation of the emergency law and the application of the state of emergency did not prevent the occurrence of heinous terrorist incidents, especially in North Sinai, due to the state of chaos that has occurred in the country since 2011 due to the instability of the political situation and the spread of rumors and the arrival of the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood to power in Egypt and its failure to achieve stability within Egyptian society, which led to the exploitation of terrorist groups to create chaos and benefit from it by carrying out many terrorist operations, especially in North Sinai, Rafah and Al-Arish. During that period, the Egyptian army played an important role in bringing the country out of that crisis and achieving some stability. Because of the failure of the Muslim Brotherhood's rule, the Egyptian



people went out to the squares and streets demanding that the Muslim Brotherhood leave on June 30, 2013 and with the support of the Egyptian armed forces, the Egyptian people succeeded in their revolution against the Muslim Brotherhood and they were removed from power.

Egypt has faced challenges it has not experienced before, especially over the last nine years, and the Egyptian state had to take many measures, whether political, security, military or economic, in order to preserve the unity of Egyptian territory and the cohesion of the national fabric of the people, to meet those challenges, and after the success of the June 30<sup>th</sup> revolution, it became clear the extent of the challenges facing the Egyptian state, the most important of which was the challenge of confronting terrorism in Egypt.

The Egyptian Observatory of the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies monitored the scale and number of terrorist operations from the removal of Mohamed Morsi from power in 2013 until the end of 2019 as follows:

- 39 terrorist attacks in North Sinai alone within two weeks of Mohammed Morsi removal from power.
- 222 terrorist attacks in 2014, most notably the attack on the Karam al-Qawadis ambush.
- A terrorist operation in 2015, most notably the July 1st attack, the largest and most violent attack since the emergence of terrorism in Sinai to date, and the security plan failed the court and the skill of Egyptian fighters plans to control Sheikh Zuweid.
- After the failure of operation July 1<sup>st</sup>, terrorist operations fell to 199 in 2016.
- 50 terrorist attacks in 2017, the most prominent of which was the bloody attack on the Rawda mosque in Bir al-Abed.



- In 2018, there were only 8 terrorist operations.
- In 2019, there were only two terrorist attacks: the bombing of the Oncology Institute, which killed 19 people and injured 30 others, and the suicide bombing in the Red Path area.

## **1-Terrorist attacks on military Checkpoints**

### **- Checkpoints accident "Karam al-Qawadis"**

One of the bloodiest terrorist attacks is the terrorist attack on the "Karam al-Qawadis" ambush in Sheikh Zuweid, in which dozens of Egyptian army personnel were killed. The attack occurred on October 24, 2014 and is considered one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on the Egyptian army, a terrorist operation that killed dozens of people.

The attack began at 1 p.m., by storming the ambush with a suicide truck loaded with explosives and detonating it, killing 18 soldiers, and then terrorist elements began to move to the site of the ambush independent 4x4 vehicles, and clashed with the remaining force with heavy weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, killing 10 other soldiers in the Egyptian army, and ISIS claimed the operation, and broadcasting a video revealing its details.

### **- Battle of Sheikh Zuweid July 2015**

At the beginning of Wednesday morning, July 1, 2015, the armed forces men with their brave heroes were on a date with a new epic to thwart a well-planned terrorist plot to attack ambushes and security and military establishments in Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid cities to create chaos and security vacuum, and to suggest that



the city of Sheikh Zuweid would fall into the hands of takfiri elements to declare the establishment of an Islamic extremist emirate known as the Sinai State Organization with the help of anti-Egyptian media.

As of 6:55 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1, 2015, the terrorist plot was marked by a terrorist group attacking a number of ambushes of the armed forces and Sheikh Zuweid section, the attack as follows:

### **Abu Rifai Checkpoint**

The 17-strong ambush heroes were able to deal immediately with a car suspected of carrying explosives as it approached the ambush, causing it to explode, causing a massive explosion, which turned out to be a car bomb, and as a result, the commander of the M60 tank bounced back from behind the ambush, out of the blast wave, to re-attack takfiri elements.

The commander of the ambush, together with the heroes of the armed forces, using grenades heavily, also succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on takfiri elements, killing 19 individuals in parallel, and two 4x4s fled in the direction of the Sheikh Zuweid ambush.

### **Sedra Abu Al-Hajjaj Checkpoint**

Simultaneously, takfiri elements ranging from 40 to 50 individuals, armed with light and medium weapons, balloons and RPG missiles, pushed a car bomb to carry out a suicide attack against the ambush, and as soon as the car bomb approached the ambush, it was intercepted and did not comply with the stop orders, prompting one of our brave soldiers to sacrifice himself, and shooting at the car bomb, which led to its explosion outside the ambush area and reduced the casualty rate.



This comes in conjunction with the takfiri elements, from the firing of mortars, and the rocket-propelled grenades, which led to the deployment of elements of the ambush, and its valiant defense, despite the presence of martyrs and wounded, and the adherence to the location of the ambush, and the heroes of the ambush succeeded in killing 7 members of the takfiri elements, which led to the withdrawal of the rest of the elements in the direction of the city of Sheikh Zuweid.

### **Attack on 9 other Checkpoints**

In parallel with other armed groups moving with armed four-way defense vehicles with 3 to 4 degrees of fire, they fired directly at several ambushes: "Sheikh Zuweid Gate - Sedot Ambush - Al-Masura Ambush - Jarada Ambush - Al-Shalaq Ambush - Al-Obaidat Ambush - Amira Tomb Ambush", takfiri elements raised the flag of the terrorist organization Sinai State on a number of buildings and filmed them for media use with allegations suggesting that terrorist elements could topple the city of Sheikh Zuweid and broadcast false statements False images of terrorist attacks as part of the use of the fourth generation of information warfare wars to influence the morale of the forces.

All other ambushes were able to counter the attacking elements and the flight of takfiri elements south of Sheikh Zuweid, coinciding with Apache aircraft directing concentrated missiles against two takfiri concentration centers south of International Mark 6 and inside the city of Sheikh Zuweid and a number of 4x4 vehicles as they fled the ambushes of the armed forces.

The bodies and remains of takfiri elements were collected and the army martyrs and injured evacuated to hospitals for treatment, with full control of rafah and Sheikh Zuweid cities imposed and security conditions restored while continuing to pursue other takfiri elements and prevent them from escaping.



## **2- Comprehensive Operation Sinai 2018**

The emergency law alone was not enough to meet the challenges and conflicts that emerged in Egypt after the June 30 revolution and get rid of the Rule of the Muslim Brotherhood, one of the most important and difficult of these challenges is the battle of the Egyptian people and the Egyptian armed forces against terrorism. Sinai is Egypt's eastern gateway and the first defense of Egypt's national security, characterized by its geographical location and strategic geographical location, where it is the key to Egypt's strategic position in the heart of the world with its continents and civilization, it is the focus of communication between Asia and Africa, between East and West. Because of that great importance that Sinai possesses, the General Command of the Armed Forces after the June 30th revolution developed a plan to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism in various strategic directions.

There have been many attempts by terrorist groups and takfiri elements to separate Sinai from Egypt and call it "Sinai State" and try to show the world that Egypt is unable to protect or develop Sinai, but the Egyptian state refused. On February 9, 2018, the General Command of the Armed Forces issued the first statement on the overall military operation Sinai 2018, to confront terrorist and criminal elements in northern and central Sinai and other areas in Egypt and the desert back west of the Nile Valley as part of the mandate of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the President of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, to the General Command of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior, to confront terrorism and other criminal operations in close cooperation with other state institutions.

President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi assigned the Chief of Staff and the Minister of Interior to restore security and stability in Sinai within three months. This was a clear order from the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the Egyptian Army and the Egyptian Police, to start a comprehensive military operation to purify central and



northern Sinai from terrorist and takfiri outposts, and to contribute to the development process taking place in Sinai.

Operation Sinai 2018 consists of all major weapons and branches operating in the armed forces with the Egyptian police, which has made it a different dimension in addition to the direct confrontation with terrorist elements and organizations, where the Egyptian border guards and navy have been able to tighten control of the land and sea borders, both linked to the scope of the operation in the east of the country and on the western and southern borders, resulting in the closure of the transport routes of funds, weapons, equipment and personnel to terrorist groups in northern Sinai.

The strategy of working in the overall operation Sinai 2018 was based on the division of the areas of work of the forces from the West Bank of the Suez Canal to the international border line starting from the shipping stream of the Suez Canal, where the insurance-based forces in cooperation with the border guards secured the traffic of the Suez Canal and tightened inspections on crossings and equipment leading to the Sinai Peninsula to prevent the infiltration or accession of any elements coming from the Valley and Delta to support terrorism in Sinai as well as prevent the movement of terrorist elements from Sinai to other regions deep in the state.

Both the second and third field army played a significant and important role in carrying out this operation and its success, as the forces of the Second Field Army moved from their positions on several main axes, including the cities of Rafah - Sheikh Zuweid-Al-Arish and its desert back with the task of clearing its areas of operation from terrorist outposts, in parallel with tightening control and imposing a comprehensive siege on the axes and main and secondary roads leading to the areas of work of the forces and cutting off any lines of supply to terrorist elements and preventing them from escaping from their hiding areas.



In addition to continuing to secure the objectives of national and vital control within the main cities of North Sinai province and impose a tight security range west and east of the navigational course of the Suez Canal to prevent any escapes or infiltration of criminal elements and their supporters, while providing support and air and sea support work by allocating a number of aircraft to carry out air strikes against the concentrations of terrorist outposts discovered and their logistic support areas and maritime support across the sea coast to tighten the siege on the movements of terrorist elements and prevent them from escaping from areas of terrorist outposts and their logistic support areas hide it.

It also represents the work of the second army field forces in north Sinai from the area adjacent to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal to the areas of operations to search all roads, paths and plots and control any terrorist elements or cooperating with them and prevent any infiltration of terrorist elements from the areas of clashes and prevent them from repositioning them in that area, in addition to the area located after the area adjacent to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal and up to the international border line, which includes forces based on combing and searching land, agriculture and residential areas in north Sinai.

All that represents the infrastructure of takfiri elements, whether shelters, trenches or warehouses for weapons, ammunition, explosives and technical equipment, has been destroyed, as the forces were able to discover many underground shelters with quantities of weapons, ammunition and many trenches in residential areas, as well as to examine individuals to ensure the safety of their position and transfer suspects to the competent security authorities, and the forces carried out this on the legs, especially in residential areas and the area inspected by the civilian police impose control and restore life .They are also attacking terrorist outposts based on confirmed intelligence on the presence of terrorist elements.



The terrorist outposts were dealt with by encircling the terrorist outposts and then raiding them by the ground forces, and the air forces assisted in their combat actions according to the situation and by carrying out air attacks and artillery bombardments against the terrorist outposts located outside the residential communities, in addition to the security forces entrusted with implementing the security pillars on the main roads and axes in the areas of operations in North Sinai, with The elements of the military engineers securing the forces against IEDs, discovering and destroying the tunnels on the border strip in North Sinai in cooperation with the Border Guard forces, as well as completing the establishment of the buffer zone on the border strip and compensating the affected by the concerned authorities in the state.

On the other hand, the 3rd Army field forces, backed by special forces from El-Sa'ka Forces and Egyptian Airborne Corps assisted by civilian police officers, dealt with terrorist outposts and logistical support areas by dividing the raids areas from the east of the Canal in central Sinai to the international border line through several key sectors.

In parallel with the imposition of a security cordon to prevent the escape and infiltration of fugitive elements into the paths and valleys leading to South Sinai and tighten control of the border strip on the northeastern strategic direction, while providing air and sea support through the implementation of air ejections of terrorist hotbeds and securing crossings leading to Sinai and the Red Sea coast.

The work of the third army field forces in central Sinai, in the first area adjacent to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal to the areas of operations, and deployed forces to comb all roads, paths, trails and mountain areas to control any terrorist elements or cooperating with them or fleeing the areas of clashes and prevent them from repositioning them in that area with the closure of all routes and routes leading to south Sinai.



The second area of the work of the third army forces extends to the international border line, and there were forces based on combing the mountainous areas of central Sinai and destroying all that represents the infrastructure of takfiri elements, especially within the mountainous areas, as well as examining individuals in villages and residential cities to ensure the safety of their position and turning suspects to the competent security authorities, as well as forces attacking terrorist outposts monitored on the basis of confirmed intelligence about the presence of terrorist elements there.

Operation Sinai 2018 succeeded in clearing Sinai of terrorism, eliminating its terrorist outposts and cutting off roads to terrorist groups by destroying illegal tunnels through which various terrorist elements infiltrated, and also succeeded in destroying media, dispatch and training fields, particularly takfiri and terrorist elements in central and northern Sinai, where terrorist elements used them to receive, give orders or communicate with supporting elements from outside Sinai. The overall process included an integrated development plan for Sinai province.

### **3-Sinai Development Plan**

EGP 700 billion has been allocated for Sinai development, as the development process began with the opening of the new Suez Canal, which is being implemented by Egyptian efforts and hands. The development also included the development of the East Port Said area, as part of the Suez Canal Axis Development Project, most of which is located in Sinai, and includes a port, industrial zone, logistics zone and various development units in Sinai.

The development plan also included the construction of the project "New Ismailia City - New Rafah", in addition to the development of Sinai roads in full, the most



important of which is the road "East Port Said- Sharm el-Sheikh", the road "Ismailia-Awaga", and the road «Al-Arish- Rafah», as well as the establishment of Bardawil airport and the upgrading of Al-Arish airport, in addition to new cities and residential communities in the heart of Sinai.

Ports and fish farms have been upgraded, land reclamation and industrial cities have been built, and infrastructure and infrastructure efficiency have been upgraded, as well as small and micro projects have been set up for the benefit of the people of North and South Sinai.

To link Sinai to the rest of the country, and to overcome the problems of crossing citizens from to Sinai, five tunnels were built, including two tunnels in Ismailia and two tunnels in Port Said below the Suez Canal, in the area of South Port Said and northern Ismailia, and the establishment of several floating bridges on both sides of the canal, as well as the development of the sea port of Al-Arish.

## **Conclusion:**

Egypt has suffered from terrorism for many years throughout its history, from the assassination of the late President Sadat during one of the military parades to the chaos that came after the revolutions of January 25<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> and the arrival of the terrorist Brotherhood in power and their desire to impose their extremist ideology in the country and turn Egypt into an "Islamic emirate" ruled by the caliphate. But because of the will of the great people of Egypt and the valor of its armed forces, Egypt was able to eliminate terrorism in Sinai by carrying out the overall operation Sinai 2018.