



# **Syndicates and their Role in Protecting their Members from Coronavirus**

**(Lawyers, Journalists, Doctors) Syndicates as a model**

**June 2020**

**Report of the Forum for Development and  
Human Rights Dialogue**



## Egyptian Bar Association

**First:** The Syndicate's actions to Face the CORONAVIRUS:

- **Control measures:**

1. The formation of an emergency committee to combat the Corona pandemic by the decision of the head of the bar association and the President of the Arab Bar Association. 1
2. A hotline number (25750971) is set up to receive reports from lawyers about Corona infections or suspected HIV infection on May 21.
3. Disinfect the headquarters of the Bar Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population.
4. Two sterilization gates have been installed at the headquarters of the General Syndicate of Ramses and the River Club of Lawyers in Al-Adhi.
5. Preliminary analysis of corona diagnosis is CBC, ESR, CRP, D Dimer, Plain x-ray chest, in the laboratories contracted with the medical syndicate.
6. Negotiate to contract with a chest pathologist to be in the syndicate within the three days when the current syndicate doctor isn't available.
7. Dealing with treatment letters through whatsapp without the presence of colleagues requesting letters.

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<sup>1</sup> - The tasks of the Committee were as follows:

1. Follow-up of cases of lawyers who are infected with HIV and help them reach the competent medical authorities and isolation hospitals and provide their medical needs.
2. Helping the families of lawyers whose families, God forbid, die from the epidemic and facilitating their pension procedures.
3. Follow-up provision of prevention requirements for lawyers in sub-unions and courts.
4. Contacting existing and competent authorities within all courts to organize the litigation process after the return of work to provide protection and prevention to all lawyers.



8. Two buses are allocated to transport infected lawyers with Coronavirus in Greater Cairo to hospitals with all preventive measures taken for drivers and attendants during the transfer of the infected.

- **Financial measures and subsidies:**

1. It was agreed with all laboratories that the initial analysis value of the CORONA virus for the lawyer would be 75c after obtaining an answer from the syndicate.
2. Ain Shams Specialized University Hospital was contracted to perform corona group analysis instead of the swab following the new treatment protocols of the Ministry of Health, for 1571 pounds for the entire group, the lawyer bears only 25% of its value.
3. Facilitating the procedures for receiving the benefits of the deceased with the Corona virus and identifying the papers required to receive funeral expenses, which are the death certificate, the deceased's card, and the card of the due, at the headquarters of the General syndicates.
4. The armed forces supply the Bar Association with the muzzles and disinfectants it requested, which is 150thousand muzzles at the price of 650 thousand pounds and alcohol bottles for disinfection, and the union issued a decision to spend those muzzles in the amount of two pounds for the muzzle, with the syndicate bearing the difference in the price purchased by it from the armed forces.
5. The University Hospital of Assiut has been contracted to enter cases infected with coronavirus at reduced prices.

- **Contact state institutions:**

1. Contact the Egyptian Ministry of Health to approve the purge of bar associations, and this has been approved.
2. Contact the officials of the Ministry of Health, to show the extent of his preparations and what their requirements are to approve the equipping of the Lawyers Club in the city of October 6th as an alternative to an isolation hospital.



3. The syndicate sent a letter to the Defense Ministry to supply 150,000 muzzles and alcohol bottles for disinfection on a date that has been approved and supplied.
4. The Emergency Committee against the Coronavirus announced on June 12th that it is contracting with the Egyptian Ambulance Service to provide ambulances nationwide to transport colleagues and colleagues in critical situations and provide them with oxygen pipes.

## **Second: actions by some sub-unions.**

- **Control procedures:**

### **South Cairo syndicate:**

- On May 28, the South Cairo Union, headed by Captain Hassan Amin, announced the establishment of a relief and emergency committee for lawyers south of Cairo in each part to carry out the burdens of direct follow-up of lawyers in their return to work and take the necessary measures to rescue the injured.

### **Luxor syndicate:**

- On May 29, 2020, the Luxor Bar Association decided to form an anti-Corona team committee of young lawyers. Captain Doshi Shaker set certain conditions for young volunteer lawyers, not more than 30 years of age, non-smokers, and none of them suffered from any disease to sterilize the union's sub-headquarters periodically and at 3 times a day with a specific work schedule for each team, and to follow up on corona cases of injured lawyers.
- On June 9, 2020, The Dushi Shaker Abu Doh, President of the Bar Association of Egypt, announced that the union's sterilization tools were provided so that all union headquarters would be sterilized daily after the end of work, at the headquarters of Luxor, Qurna, Armant and Asna, to combat the spread of the infection with the new Coronavirus (COVID 19).

### **South Giza syndicate:**

- On May 29, Imad Aweian, agent of the South Giza Union, announced that an analysis will be carried out from the homes of the pyramid lawyers suspected of injuring Corona free of charge, and the lawyer only has to register the name and telephone on the Aweian page, as Aweian announced the opening of the pyramid



headquarters as a temporary operating room to receive reports and assist injured cases by all means and methods.

### **The local bar association:**

- On June 3, the Local Bar Council issued a statement explaining the safety steps and precautionary measures it took to counter the effects of the pandemic by providing muzzles and soap, sterilizing rooms, obliging employees to do so and preventing non-lawyers from entering their rooms, appealing to lawyers to abide by the controls.
- **Financial procedures and subsidies**

### **South Daqahliya Union:**

- On May 3, 2020, the South Daqahliya Union announced the provision of free muzzles to lawyers at the Sea Courts Complex who are reluctant to go to the courts, for their safety and the safety of citizens.

### **Qena Union:**

- On May 4, 2020, Ahmed Abdel Latif, a member of the Sub-Council, stated that the union provided 1,650 muzzles of the finest quality as a down payment, which are distributed to the partial unions to be distributed to lawyers free of charge while in court.
- On May 8, 2020, the second batch of 1,200 muzzles was provided, which will be distributed to lawyers free of charge.
- On May 20, 2020, the third batch of muzzles, with 5,000 muzzles, was provided to the lawyers. On May 31, the South Cairo Bar Association provided muzzles and disinfectants to all lawyers who are attending the South Cairo Court by decorating them free of charge regardless of their affiliation with any sub-union.
- On June 7, 2020, a new batch of 10,000 muzzles was provided, which was distributed to lawyers.

### **Luxor Guild:**

On May 31st, the Luxor Union announced the provision of quantities of "stent" medical muzzles for 50 percent, reduced by 130 pounds by the syndicate, 1-liter bottles of alcohol at a price of only 70 pounds, and similar preparations in my union in the locality and north of Giza.

### **Alexandria Union:**

June 4, 2020, Mohamed Abdel Wahab, a member of the General Syndicate Council, announced the contract with analysis laboratories to conduct all preliminary analyses of Alexandria's lawyers when the Coronavirus is suspected of 235 pounds instead of 380



pounds and is borne by the entire union and the lawyer does not pay any costs at all, only with an answer from the treatment project with the presence of visible symptoms or prescription from the treating doctor.

### **Third: The formation of a rescue front for lawyers with Coruna**

1. On June 1, Omar Haredi, a member of the syndicate, announced the formation of a front for the rescue and relief of lawyers from the corona epidemic and contacts and those in domestic isolation to provide therapeutically, living, and professional support to them, and the front included a group of senior symbols of lawyers in Egypt, including professors Dr. Fathi Srouf, Baha aBou Flat, Mohammed Hamouda, Shawki Al Sayed and Mohammed Kamel and some members of the Council who They expressed their desire to join. The Front has identified the services to be provided to lawyers and their families, which carry the costs of PCR analysis (70 pounds) and provide the treatment bag for each patient in domestic isolation with the provision of supplies to the lawyer's family throughout isolation and coordination necessary to follow up the work of his office during his treatment and published Omar Haredi's figures to communicate with the Front: 01270701000, 01222100038
2. On June 6, 2020, following the announcement of the formation of a rescue front for lawyers with Coruna, announced by Councilmember Omar Haredi, and the physical and direct support of lawyers in their homes in five areas to contribute to mitigating the effects of the pandemic of lawyers, away from the role played by the emergency committee of the union, the general union questioned the intentions of those responsible and considered it supported by the former captain despite its inclusion of members of the Council and demanded to be under the cover of the union and its supervision.

### **Fourth: members' requests and proposals.**

There have been several requests and proposals for syndicate members, including:

1. Equipping some lawyers' clubs as quarantine places, especially the Lawyers Club on October 6th for an isolation hospital to adapt the building and appoint specialized doctors to be paid from the union instead of the Ministry of Health to ease the pressure on state hospitals.
2. The amount allocated for analysis and radiology was spent from 2,000 c to 6,000 pounds so that the lawyer could perform the necessary medical tests for the Coronavirus, as the cost at Ain Shams Hospital is 2,650 pounds for the survey.
3. Lawyers are excluded from the prohibitions due to the nature of their work.

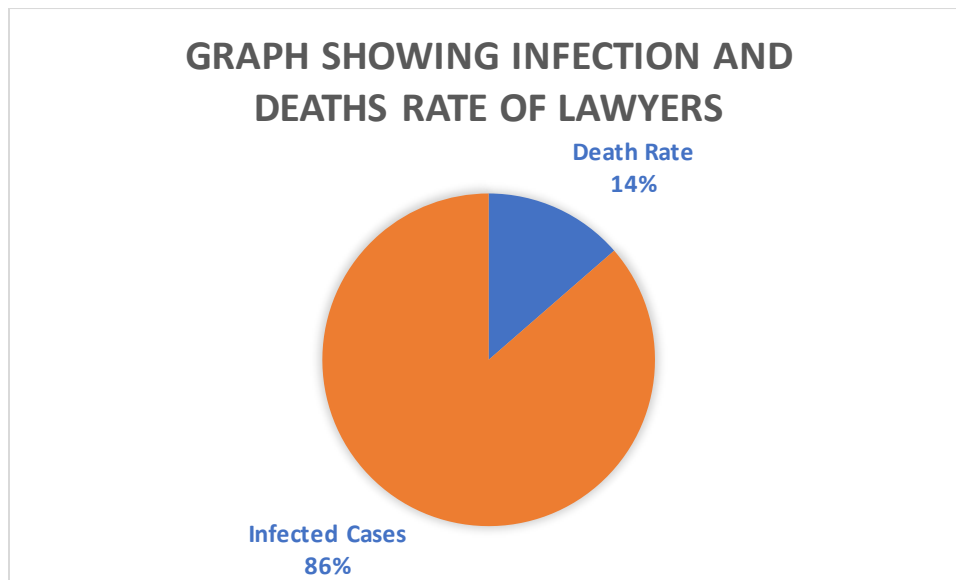


4. The full one-payment pension for the Corona deceased was paid to his heirs. Full remuneration is due, and heirs are entitled to the maximum pension for the maximum length of service.
5. The victims of Corona are aware of the union's official website.
6. A proposal to convert some union buses into ambulances of 2 in each province to transport injured lawyers to hospitals.

### **Fifth: Injuries and deaths among union members**

According to the daily data issued by the union, the following is a table showing the number of cases and the number of deaths in the union.

Number of cases	Number of deaths
127	20





## Egyptian Journalists Syndicate

### **First, the syndicate's actions to counter the spread of coronavirus among members and their families.**

#### **Safety measures.**

1. A smart sterilization unit and thermal detection device were purchased as a precautionary measure to protect union residents and employees as soon as they entered the union building.
2. A committee has been set up to counter the spread of THE CORONA virus to communicate with the press members, headed by Zia Rashwan, captain of journalists, and includes Mohammed Shabana, secretary-general, and Ayman Abdel Meguid, rapporteur of the Social and Health Care Committee, and all members of the council consider themselves members to receive contacts from colleagues around the clock.
3. The council of the union decided to issue a statement daily announcing the latest developments of the Coronavirus among the members of the union.
4. It was agreed with a group of professors and consultants of specialized medicine from the finest cadres of hospitals of diets, to communicate with the union in coordination with the Committee of Social and Health Care by telephone or electronic to consult them on any case of suspicion, and to express an opinion in the analyses and rumors that must be carried out.
5. To facilitate members, contact WhatsApp members with members of the competent committee when feeling corona symptoms, or send a description of the symptoms on WhatsApp numbers and the letter will be presented to one of the professors and consultant specialists in medicine experienced India hospitals, which the union has agreed with them, to express an opinion in the analyses and rumors that must be carried out.
6. Cases recommended by doctors to perform analyses or x-rays are directed to the service provider through a transfer letter sent through WhatsApp to a colleague or colleague, to enjoy the prescribed prices and discounts for the treatment project in this area.
7. If the need to make a tinge, the case is addressed by a letter from a project to Qasr al-Aini Hospital for the survey, and then immediately contact the officials of the Ministry





of Health and the government complaints system, to take the required remedial measures for each case.

## **Financial procedures and subsidies**

1. Open the extraordinary accession to the treatment project, for 15 days starting from 1 to 15 June, without a fine.
2. According to this year's updated guide, the treatment project provides all the rumors and analysis required to confirm the suspect, primarily CT scans on the chest of various contracting entities, at reduced prices, of which the member will bear only 200 pounds instead of its normal cost of up to 1000pounds.
3. The treatment project also provides the following analyses according to the updated guide, this year at reduced prices equal to the best offers offered to other trade union entities, of which the member bears only 70 pounds, instead of its normal value of about 400 pounds, namely: Complete blood picture (CBC) - ESR - CRP(Quantitative) - SGOT – SGPT- ferritin.
4. Corona scans after medical consultation, rumors, and previous analyses, without charging journalists members of the treatment project and their families any financial cost, at Cairo University's Qasr al-Ain hospitals.
5. Family and isolation rooms are provided to the ministry of health hospitals for confirmed injuries to journalists and their families, and his condition requires it, and the Ministry of Health will provide treatment bags for those to be isolated at home and their contacts.
6. Available 50-muzzle surgical muzzle boxes, priced at 150 pounds, production of the factory «Qadir», Arab Manufacturing Authority, face masks, production of the investment group of the Ministry of Endowments at the price of 40 pounds for the mask, while the Committee continues to provide 70% ethyl alcohol, N95 muzzles with a blanket, price of 20 pounds, and without medicine 15 pounds per piece.
7. The Technoklink Medical Center for coronavirus medical tests has been agreed with reductions of up to 80% for journalists and their families, union members and trainees.



## Contracts and protocols

The National Press Authority has concluded medical protocols with The Medical Center of Egypt Railways and Ain Shams Specialist Hospital to provide medical services to CORONA virus patients.<sup>2</sup>

### Second: Requests of union members

Members of the General Assembly of the union demanded the establishment of an isolation hospital inside or even outside the union's headquarters by allocating the river club on Great Sea Street, or even allocating an isolation hospital for journalists only .

### Third: cases of infection and death.

Following is a table showing the number of cases and deaths as announced by the commission as of June 1:

Number of cases	Number of deaths
10	6

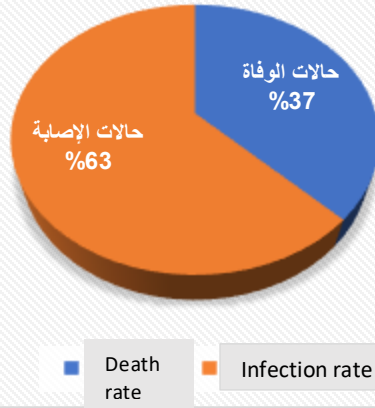
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<sup>2</sup> On May 31st, the Authority sent the necessary controls and standards Protocols for heads of press institutions include:

1. The National Press Authority (NPI) has been provided with a medical report approved by the Foundation from the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Head of the Medical Department on the medical condition confirming the possibility of contracting the CORONA virus to a large extent and not normal symptoms or simply to make a check-up and send it to the Secretary-General of the Committee.
2. Issuing a letter approved by the Authority addressed to one of the signatories of the protocol to receive the case and take the necessary medical measures.
3. Those who wish to take a tinge to check in the absence of injury and the absence of a medical report from the crisis committee shall bear 80%, 800 c of the value of the survey and the National Press Authority will bear 20%.
4. If the injury is positive and the patient is detained in hospital or isolation, the body will bear the full cost of treatment.
5. The speed of taking the necessary measures, including dangers and going to the hospital and medical procedures, and the continuous follow-up between the head of the crisis department of the institution and a member of the National Press Authority in charge of monitoring the institution.
6. Care provided for in medical protocols does not include the families of workers.



### graph showing infection and deaths rate of Journalist



## General syndicate of doctors

### First, the union's actions to support its members in the face of THE CORONA VIRUS.

#### Safety measures

1. The syndicate Observatory is dedicated to receiving complaints from doctors from all over the Republic in case of exposure to CORONAVIRUS and suspicion.
2. The union organized an awareness campaign and training for citizens and doctors about the emerging Corona epidemic through extensive workshops and lectures, which began with a workshop on Corona in the presence of the President's Advisor for Health Affairs, Awad Tajeddine and a group of teachers of health working and thoracic and analysis from Egyptian universities
3. The Continuing Medical Education Committee has made simulation videos to educate and train doctors directly on how to follow the right control methods while working, as well as to counter any possible scenarios in the crisis, as well as educational videos to train young doctors to use a ventilator.
4. The union continued to work after reducing the number of attendees in accordance with the instructions of the Prime Minister, Mustafa Madbouli, on taking the necessary Tower 101 , The extension of hope Autostra Maadi , Role Second Apartment 24Cairo.



measures to prevent overcrowding, while taking all precautionary measures to preserve the health of its members.

5. The union has set up an observatory to track the chaos of medical malpractice, such as posting prescriptions on social media as a treatment for Korona, and two doctors have already been transferred to investigate and report to the prosecution in someone other than a doctor.

### **Government combat measures in order to protect medical personnel, the government has decided on several measures:**

1. Allocation of a role in each 20-bed isolation hospital to treat injured medical staff.
2. Analyze medical staff when they are admitted to hospital for their duties, and when they are discharged after the end of their work, by 14 working days and 14 days off.
3. An immediate analysis of any symptoms in the course of his work, with 19,578 rapid detector analysis and 8,913 virus analyses to date.

### **Connecting with state institutions**

- On May 28, 2020, a meeting took place between the Doctors' Captain and the Prime Minister to discuss ways to provide protection and support to doctors. After the meeting, The Prime Minister decided:
  1. Treat doctors who died of CORONAvirus as "martyrs" such as the army and police financially.
  2. Expand PCR tests for medical staff in contact with CORONA cases.
  3. Implementation of the previous decision to allocate places for the isolation of corona-infected medical team members in all hospitals nationwide.
  4. The need to complete the shortcomings of medical supplies and follow up the readiness of hospitals and train the medical staff that has been allocated to work in the new isolation hospitals.
  5. Opening channels of communication between the General Union of Doctors, the Ministry and the Government on an ongoing basis.
- On May 31, Dr. Hussein Khairi, Captain of Doctors, met with Dr. Hala Zayed, Minister of Health, ministry general office, and during the meeting, Dr. Hala Zayed stressed the interest of the ministry and state agencies in implementing the measures



to protect medical teams and appreciated their efforts in dealing with the pandemic, as dr.Hussein Khairi, captain of doctors, stressed all the demands of the previous union and the utmost importance for the state to carry out the national task of protecting medical teams so that he can continue to carry out his national duties towards society and all citizens.

. He also understood the importance of overcoming the obstacles that stand in the way of implementing the state's decisions to protect medical teams, as it was agreed to open a 24-hour channel of communication between the doctors' captain and the Minister of Health until the problems of the medical teams are solved first and foremost.

### **Second: the syndicate's requests and proposals.**

1. Different pathways should be made to separate patients suspected of having corona from patients who are reluctant to be treated for other diseases or to dispense with state expenditure treatment, but if the hospital design does not allow this, they can be transferred elsewhere, to reduce the likelihood of transmission between citizens and medical teams.
2. Take measures to reduce the crowding of patients in reception departments, by multiple reception rooms for patients and not allowing access to more than one facility with the patient.
3. The need to provide the highest standards of personal condoms and infection control requirements, as medical staff at screening hospitals deal in one shift with dozens of patients with corona, taking into account the work of the efficiency test for the protective mask after wearing it to ensure that it is not leaked at work
4. Older persons, chronic disease patients and pregnant women should be kept away from dealing with corona patients, as these groups are more vulnerable to infection and more serious complications, and these colleagues can contribute to the follow-up to the treatment of other conditions.
5. Taking into consideration the conditions of residence of doctors and nursing, so that safe inter-family distances are adhered to, and housing is cleared frequently so that housing does not become a place for spreading infection among medical staff.
6. The need to provide effective police insurance to hospitals, as anxiety and panic make regulating the entry of patients to detect without stampede and crowding something very difficult to apply in many cases and the security companies that take over the insurance are often unable to act.
7. Increase the capacity of the laboratories charged with analyzing the swabs to increase the daily capacity of the analysis of the survey, where delays in the appearance of the results of some surveys have been observed in recent days.



### Third: infection and deaths among doctors

Here's a table showing infection and deaths among doctors as monitored, and the syndicate's announcement of deaths

Number of cases	Number of deaths
291	51

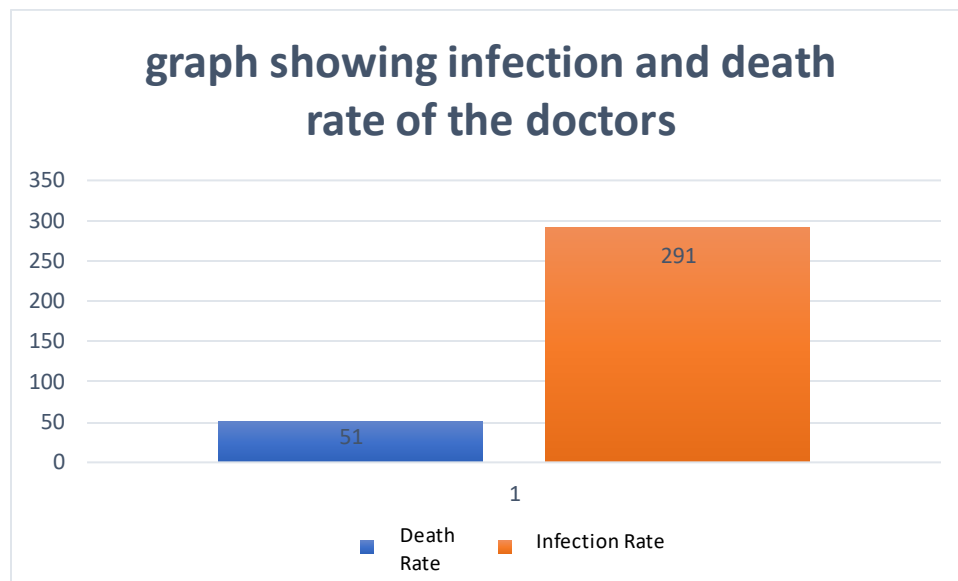


Table showing infection and death among the three unions

Syndicate	Number of cases	Number of deaths
Lawyers	127	20
Journalists	10	6
Doctors	291	51

