many specialist psychiatrists and professors of psychiatry raised the issue that there could be abuse of the legislation, with attempts by the regime to admit people accused of political crimes, especially those from religious groups, into psychiatric hospitals. A young female psychiatrist working in El Abbassia Hospital (a major psychiatric mental hospital in the centre of Cairo) refused to write a medical report after she was asked to assess the mental condition of one of the leading protesters, Alaa Abdel Fattah, who was subsequently imprisoned by the regime (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaa_Abd_El-Fattah).

Conclusion
The Egyptian revolution, which was enacted on the basis of non-violent resistance, provides a model for how peaceful protest, with people expressing their hopes through the internet and other media channels, can lead to change.

References

Mental health law profiles
George Ikkos

Just mental health law is a vital priority in an era of increasing international economic hardship, social inequalities and authoritarianism in some countries and neglect in others. It is essential for human rights but also for psychiatric professionalism and reputation. In this issue International Psychiatry begins publication of a regular series on mental health law across the world. In the first two articles, Ogunlesi and Ogunwale and, separately, Loza and El Nawawi report on the history and evolving legislation in two key countries, Nigeria and Egypt. They report some progress but also the considerable distance from a fair outcome for people with psychiatric disorder and those who care for them. In the guest editorial in this issue, Tony Zigmond crucially highlights issues of principle that necessarily form the foundation of law.