

Tiran and Sanafir Cases Timeline

Mira Hamad

Law of the sea & Sovereignty | May 31, 2025

The [2016 maritime delimitation agreement between Saudi Arabia and Egypt](#), which addressed the status of the islands of Tiran and Sanafir, was challenged domestically on the ground that it violated [Article 151 of Egypt's Constitution](#) prohibiting territorial concessions without referendum. A series of judicial decisions subsequently followed in Egypt.

The following timeline outlines the principal legal developments relevant to the legal status of the islands.

- **June 21, 2016:** [Egyptian State Council Administrative Court](#) annuls the 2016 Agreement agreement, yet halts implementation pending appeal. (*Case no. 43709 and 43866 of Judicial year 70*)
- **June 21, 2016:** [The Cairo Court of Urgent Matters](#) renders a judgment staying the enforcement of the State Council's ruling that had annulled the 2016 agreement.
- **December 31, 2016:** [The South Cairo Court of First Instance](#) (Urgent Appeals Circuit) upholds the stay of execution of the State Council's ruling annulling the 2016 agreement.
- **December 29, 2016:** [President El Sisi signs](#) the Treaty.
- **January 16, 2017:** [Supreme Administrative Court upholds annulment](#) of the 2016 Agreement. (*Appeal no. 74236 of Judicial Year 62*).
- **June 14-24, 2017:** Egyptian Parliament [approves the agreement](#).
- **March 7, 2018:** [Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court](#) upholds the agreement.
- **May, 2025:** [57 lawyers](#) file new lawsuit before Egypt's State Council alleging 2017 ratification decree unconstitutional under Article 151 of the Constitution, seeking annulment and reaffirmation of Egyptian sovereignty.

*Editor's Note: This post will be updated if there are further developments.