

14:05 , 03.03.13



Print 

Severe Damage

Photo: Effie Shrir



archives Photo: Effie Shrir

 [click here to enlarge text](#)

Watch: Plague of locusts hits Egypt

Swarm comprised of some 30 million insects descends on Cairo and agricultural farms in Gaza; experts say authorities ignored UN warnings

Roi Kais

A plague of locusts descended Saturday on agricultural farms in Giza and on [Cairo](#). Egyptian Agricultural Minister Salah Abad Almoman said the swarm is comprised of an estimated 30 million insects and was causing great damage.

Related stories:

- [Divided Egypt opposition attacks Morsi on election call](#)
- [Kerry presses Egypt on reform](#)
- [Egypt protest group signs Morsi up to go to space](#)

In Cairo, residents burned tires to create a black fog to keep the locusts from settling in the city. Swarms were also reported to have reached [Egypt's](#) Red Sea city of Zafarana, some 200 kilometers (124 miles) from Cairo, and then the Upper Egyptian city of Qena where locusts appeared in at least three major villages.



The Al-Ahram daily reported that since January, swarms of the insects - originating from Sudan - have been spotted along the Red Sea coast in south-eastern Egypt, north-eastern [Sudan](#), Eritrea and Saudi Arabia.

In 2004, Egypt witnessed one of the most serious locust infestations in recent history, when farmers in 15 out of the country's 27

governorates suffered extensive crop damage. The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture issued a statement saying it had set up task forces to deal with the locust plague.

A professor at Cairo University's Faculty of Agriculture said the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations warned of the locust danger last November, but the Ministry of Agriculture dismissed the warnings as rumors and refused to examine the issue.

Professor Nader Nur al-Din claimed that over the past few months he had also warned the ministry of the locust threat.

- Follow Ynetnews on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Receive Ynetnews [updates](#) directly to your desktop

[Back](#)

We all care about our planet!

Print-it-Green plants trees to offset paper waste every time you print, using funds from this advert.

