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Morsy meets with allies

POLITICAL AND LEGAL FIGURES DISCUSS CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS WITH MORSY, POLITICAL OPPOSITION NOT REPRESENTED

By Ethar Shalaby

President Mohamed Morsy met with over 40 leading political and legal figures on Saturday to discuss solutions to the current political and constitutional crisis.

On Thursday, Morsy invited all political groups, including opposition and legal experts, to meet for dialogue and attempt to reach a national resolution on the escalating constitutional crisis.

The opposition's main political groups and parties including Al-Doustour Party, the Public Coalition, Strong Egypt and April 6 rejected Morsy's invitation.

The National Front for the Salvation of the Revolution, which is a coalition of non-Islamist political groups, issued a statement on Friday condemning Morsy's speech. It said his words ignored "repeated demands for conciliatory solutions that can guide Egypt out of this current catastrophic situation."

Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayyeb, Vice-President Mahmoud Mekki and presidential adviser Pakinam El Sharkawy attended the meeting. Legal experts Ahmed Kamal Abu Magd, Thawrat Badawy and Mahmoud Al-



A sticker against Egyptian President Mohamed Morsy reading "leave" is seen next to stones on the ground near the Presidential Palace in Cairo

Khodairy were also present at the meeting, which lasted more than three hours.

Political representatives included head of Freedom and Justice Party Saad El-Katratny, head of Al-Nour Party Emad Abdel Ghafour, Al-Wasat party members Essam Sultan and Abul Ela Mady, head of Ghad Al-Thawra party Ayman Nour, and head of Construction and Reform party Ramy Lakah.

Thirty minutes after the meeting began, Ahmed Mahran, head of Cairo's Centre for Political and Legal studies, said he withdrew from the meeting because "Presidential Adviser Mohamed Fouad Gadalla did not give anyone the chance to talk." Presidential Spokesperson Yasser Ali denied this, saying Mahran did not initially attend the meeting.

Haiyam Abdel Hamid, a volunteer member at the Constituent Assembly, said she was banned from entering the meeting. Ali said she was not originally invited to the talks.

On another note, Gadalla has postponed a scheduled meeting with revolutionary powers that was originally planned to be held in parallel with Morsy's talks with political groups.

Violence at Friday protests in several governorates

Protesters face violence by security forces, FJP members and unidentified assailants



A peaceful march towards the Presidential Palace in Cairo was just one of many protests that took place over the weekend

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Protesters across Egypt have voiced their rejection of President Mohamed Morsy's latest decisions, which led to bloody clashes near the presidential palace on Wednesday.

Wednesday's clashes left at least six people dead, according to the Ministry of Health. The Muslim Brotherhood's supreme Guide Mohamed Badie announced on Saturday that eight of its members were killed.

Protesters in Alexandria were attacked by a group of people armed with knives, after some of the protesters broke into the Alexandria governorate building.

"Upon our arrival some protesters pushed the door of the council open," protester Islam Al-Hadary said. "It was unlocked."

The governorate's official spokesperson Ahmed Al-Ibkawy said protesters had stolen documents and computer hard-drives. "Both were arrested later," he said, referring to

those believed to have taken the computer equipment.

A car load of men armed with knives then attacked the protesters.

Al-Hadary was assaulted and his arm and skull were fractured. The head of Al-Wattan newspaper's Alexandria office, Haytham Al-Shaikh, was also injured.

A third man was arrested after firing a rifle, Al-Ibkawy said. "I don't think the assailants were revolutionaries," he added.

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Military will not allow Egypt to "fall into a dark tunnel"

Armed forces express support for national dialogue

By Joel Gulhane

The armed forces have confirmed its support for a national dialogue to solve the current crisis.

The statement, released on Saturday by the armed forces official spokesperson said, "the dialogue approach is the best way and only access to a consensus in the interests of the nation and its citizens. The opposite would get us into a dark tunnel with disastrous consequences, which we will not allow."

The statement also asserted that in order to address the current crisis the people should work within a legal and democratic process "which we agreed upon and accepted to move to the future accordingly."

President Mohamed Morsy announced an initiative to hold talks with opposition leaders, which took place on Saturday. However, the National Front for the Salvation of the Revolution, a coalition of non-Islamist and moderate political groups rejected this invitation.

Continued on page 3

Al-Shater: "We are the people, we are the majority"

Coalition of Islamists insist on defending president's legitimacy

By Nouran El-Behairy

A Coalition of Islamist groups held a press conference on Saturday in Nasr city to comment on the clashes at the Presidential Palace.

The conference was hosted by the Legitimate Authority for Rights and Reform, a body that consists of Islamist thinkers and scientists.

First deputy of the supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Khairat Al-Shater spoke at the conference. He said he had information about meetings between politicians and activists on one side and representatives of international and regional powers on the other.

"They assessed the situation after Mubarak, and decided to try to stop the Islamists, or true revolutionary groups from assuming power. They wanted the country under foreign control," Al-Shater said.

When President Morsy was elected, "they resorted to their back-up plan; obstruction, chaos and confusion," he added.

Al-Shater accused the activists of aiming to prolong the transitional period, leading to instability and aggravating economic problems.

"People then would then hate the revolution and accept anything for the sake of security and stability" he said.

"An Israeli intelligence official talked to a newspaper saying that he wasn't worried about the situation in Egypt because they took everything into consideration" he added.

Al-Shater also accused the media of hypocrisy and working for foreign interests. "We hear the media professionals saying behind the scenes that Morsy will be ousted in two or three months."

The other speakers also attacked the media, accusing it of neglecting the Islamist perspective and bias to the former regime.

Al-Shater said the aim of the "conspiracy against the regime" was to

cause a constitutional vacuum.

"They dissolved the parliament to leave the president alone with no legitimate institutions. This will stall his plans of development and renaissance" Al-Shater said.

Commenting on the attacks against Brotherhood headquarters throughout the country, he said "people are trying to drag us to side battles, but our main battle is defending legitimacy and the president."

"We are the people, we are the majority" said Al-Shater, claiming that opposition protesters never exceeded 40,000, while he claimed CNN reported the number of Islamists at Cairo University demonstrations exceeded two million.

Sheikh Nashaat Ahmed, an Islamist thinker, also spoke at the conference, and said that Islamists are ready to rally more and more supporters and "offer a million martyrs."

He added that when Morsy supporters searched the tents of the protesters at the Presidential Palace they found drugs, alcohol and weapons.

Ahmed also said that Egypt was a Muslim nation and thus it should be represented by an Islamic constitution. "Now we have two camps, one with Shari'a and legitimacy and the other against it" he said.

The coalition had released a statement on Friday warning those who "manipulate the public" against staging a coup.

It described media as "corrupt," supporting figures of the former regime for money.

"The coalition supports any event that aims to preserve legitimacy...and stresses the importance of holding the referendum on time" the statement read.

Parties who signed the statement included the Salafi Da'wah, the Muslim Brotherhood, Gama'a Islamiyya, Al-Nour, Freedom and Justice Party, and the Building and Development and Reform Party.

| Currencies | Buy | Sell |
|------------|--------|---------|
| CHF | 6.5042 | 6.818 |
| USD | 6.1225 | 6.1525 |
| EUR | 7.8809 | 8.2612 |
| GBP | 9.7154 | 10.1842 |
| SAR | 1.624 | 1.644 |

| Egyptian Stock Exchange | | |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| | Closing | Weekly Change |
| EGX 30 | 4,838.51 | 0.64% |
| EGX 70 | 427.62 | -0.33% |
| EGX 100 | 716.24 | 0.26% |
| EGX 20 | 5,551.27 | 0.24% |

Commentary

Ziad Akl writes:

The ones who died in the clashes were Egyptians. They died for what they believed in and their death is a misfortune to all. But the Brotherhood chose to recognise and mourn only those who fell dead from its side

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أسود أصفر أحمر أزرق



Abu Hamed attacked

FORMER MP BEATEN BY MORSY SUPPORTERS

By Nouran El-Behairy

A member of the dissolved People's Assembly, Mohamed Abu Hamed, was admitted to hospital Friday night after being assaulted by supporters of President Mohamed Morsy.

The demonstrators stopped Abu Hamed's car in Salah Salem Street in Cairo and then beat him for half an hour.

"I was in the protests at the Presidential Palace and there were news that Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators are on their way to attack us. There were women and children with us, so I had to verify the news," Abu Hamed told the Daily News Egypt.

He said as soon as he reached Salah Salem demonstrators recognised him and started shouting his name.

"My car was locked but they jumped over it and broke the windshield, they got me out and raced to beat me," he said.

Abu Hamed added that some demonstrators shouted, "Morsy wants him alive" while others shouted "Sheikh Abdallah Badr permitted killing him."

He said two policemen and two members of the public, including a reporter for Al-Mehwar channel, helped



From Facebook

Former MP Abu Hamed claims he was assaulted by Morsy supporters

free him from the crowd and called an ambulance.

Abu Hamed was taken to hospital where he was treated for cuts and bruises to his face.

The Freedom and Justice Party on their official Facebook page alleged that Abu Hamed had tried to run over demonstrators and that that they found a large number of weapons in his car.

They also posted a video showing a demonstrator claiming that Abu Hamed had attacked Morsy's supporters.

"He ran over many, we stopped him and kept hitting his car," the demonstrator said. "He started loading his gun and waving it at us then we got him out. We agreed we shouldn't kill him we shouldn't make a hero out of him. We decided to turn him in."

Abu Hamed denied the allegations. "They jumped on my car and stopped me. If I ran them over I'd have managed to pass."

He added that the demonstrators took his licensed handgun, his papers, identification card, passport and cell phones.

West focuses attention on Egypt

The whole world is watching as Egypt struggles to define itself politically and legally

By Connor Molloy

Egypt's internal battle appeared on the front pages of international newspapers on Saturday. French newspaper Libération blurted "Egypt versus Egypt" with photos of duelling demonstrators fighting amongst barbed wire.

The front page of the Washington Post covered the march on the Presidential Palace, the front page of Spain's El Pais showed an Egyptian tank surrounded by protestors, and the front page of Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung ran the headline "Egyptian opposition rejects talks with Morsy."

Meanwhile on the political front, Egypt was at the centre of a US State Department press briefing on Friday where deputy department spokesperson Mark Toner refused to criticise Morsy. He admitted that the US administration is "very, very concerned about the situation in Egypt," but repeated attempts by reporters to place blame on the Egyptian president were avoided by Toner's steering of the conversation back to safer topics such as a condemnation of violence and a plea for dialogue.

US President Barack Obama called Morsy on Thursday night when, according to the White House, "he reiterated the United States' continued support for the Egyptian people and their transition to a democracy that respects the rights of all Egyptians. [President Obama] underscored that it is essential for Egyptian leaders across the political spectrum to put aside their differences and come together to agree on a path that will move Egypt forward."

Toner confirmed that the US is speaking with the government, opposition leadership, and the military in Egypt.

European Union foreign affairs

head Catherine Ashton was similarly noncommittal when commenting on the battle raging within Egypt, saying, "I am following with concern the unfolding of events in Egypt and the clashes taking place between demonstrators. I urge calm and restraint on all sides." Ashton and Obama are both heavy-handed in their urging for a democratic "transition," but they are also both vague when it comes to the details of that transition.

The strongest words came this Friday from UN human rights chief Navi Pillay who reiterated her concern with both the process and the product of Egypt's constitution drafting. "I believe people are right to be very concerned, not just about the way the process has been short-circuited, but also about some of the elements included in, or missing from, the draft text."

Pillay is one of the world's leading authorities on human rights and does not seem to be embracing the current proposed constitution, saying, "I am highly concerned, for example, by the absence in the current draft of any reference to the international human rights treaties which Egypt has ratified, and is bound to uphold. The 1971 Constitution, by contrast, stipulated the legal standing of these treaties."

Meanwhile, international efforts taking place in Egypt continue to unfold. The EU this week approved projects with the intention of improving the "European neighbourhood" by supporting media, cultural, and private sector development in the Mediterranean region that includes Egypt. Nearly €30 million is being committed to these projects.

Friday also saw the conclusion of The Humanitarian Forum, hosted by the UN in Cairo, which aimed to improve coordination between Arab countries.

Violence during Friday protests in several governorates

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile in the industrial city of Mahalla, protesters expelled the head of their city council Friday night, and announced their autonomy from the "Muslim Brotherhood" state.

In President Morsy's hometown of Zagazig in Sharqeya, clashes with the police have been ongoing since Thursday. The police used teargas on Thursday in an attempt to disperse a protest organised by the 6 April movement (Ahmed Maher front) near Morsy's house. Hazem Ibrahim, 6 April coordinator in Sharqeya, said the attempt backfired as more people joined the protest.

Protesters gathered again near the president's house Friday and clashes resumed. The police blocked all side streets within the city, Ibrahim claimed.

A number of protesters were arrested Friday night, including 6 April member Ahmed Noor.

"Noor shot videos of other detainees subjected to torture during their arrest," Ibrahim said. Noor was released Saturday morning.

Things took a different turn in Kom Hamada city in Beheira, where an FJP member accused police of taking part in an anti-Morsy protest and attacking the party's headquarters, reported state-owned news agency MENA.

Sources within the Ministry of Interior reportedly denied such allegations, stating that almost 1,500 protesters marched in demonstration of their rejection of Morsy's constitutional declaration. The protesters attacked the FJP headquarters with rocks, the Ministry of Interior's statement claimed, and FJP members retaliated by throwing rocks in return. The Ministry of Interior claimed it stopped the clashes which left a number of security personnel injured, adding that four individuals from the area accused FJP members of attacking them.

In Minya security forces prevented clashes between pro and anti Morsy demonstrators by encircling the Mus-

lim Brotherhood's headquarters, Al-Ahram reported.

Protesters, including many tour guides, marched against Morsy's constitutional declaration and the scheduled constitutional referendum in the resort city of Hurgada in the Red Sea governorate on Friday, state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram reported. Protesters marched on Saturday as well, reported the Egyptian Radio and Television Union's website (ERTU).

Across Cairo different marches headed to the Presidential Palace after Friday prayers, but remained peaceful.

Additional reporting by Sara Abou Bakr and Basil El-Dabh

Detainees released following palace clashes

129 detainees released and immediately file reports against Morsy and Brotherhood leaders



AFP Photo / Patrick Baz

Nearly all of those arrested in the clashes near the Presidential Palace were released without bail following investigation

By Rana Muhammad Taha

Detainees arrested during clashes at the Presidential Palace were released on Friday night.

Nearly all of the 133 arrested were released without bail following investigation. Only four detainees were not released; their detention was extended for four extra days because they were allegedly caught in possession of guns, gunshots and Molotov cocktails, stated Sayed Fathy, lawyer at the Front for Defending Egypt's Protesters.

"The investigations were quite simple," Fathy said, "the prosecution was not convinced by the charges."

The detainees were charged with murder, attempted murder, rallying, destruction of vehicles and property, and intimidation. The prosecution could not find any evidence supporting the charges. Fathy confirmed, adding that the possibility of the remaining detainees facing trials for such charges is highly unlikely.

According to Fathy, there was a struggle within the prosecution. "Though the prosecution wanted to release the detainees, the prosecutor

general had no intention to do so."

Prosecutor General Tala'at Abdallah was appointed by President Mohamed Morsy through a constitutional declaration which sacked the former Prosecutor General, Abdel Meguid Mahmoud. The declaration also ruled that the prosecutor general shall be appointed by the president every four years, in a move which upset the judiciary.

In a speech addressing the nation Thursday night, Morsy cited the prosecution's investigation, which was ongoing at the time. He confirmed that at least 80 individuals were arrested, saying that they had confessed to having received money and weapons to engage in acts of violence.

"Unfortunately, some of those arrested have links and connections to those who introduce themselves as political groups," Morsy said during his speech. He also implied that those who provided the detainees with money to incite violence could be foreigners.

Morsy added that the protests which were held at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday night got violent. He claimed that a number of presidential vehicles were attacked by the protest-

ers, adding that one of the drivers was injured and moved to hospital.

Tuesday's protests involved only anti-Morsy demonstrators. On Wednesday, pro-Morsy demonstrators arrived near the palace and tore down the tents of some protesters, prompting violent clashes between both parties.

"Those detained are all innocent youth who have been kidnapped and tortured by Muslim Brotherhood members near the palace," Fathy said.

According to Fathy, three of the 129 released detainees belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood.

The detainees filed a report accusing Morsy and Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including Mohamed Al-Beltagy, Essam El-Erian and Khairat Al-Shater, of inciting violence against them.

The Wednesday clashes left at least six people dead, according to the Ministry of Health's death toll. The Muslim Brotherhood's supreme Guide Mohamed Badie announced on Saturday that the Brotherhood lost eight of its members in the clashes.

Additional reporting by Basil El-Dabh

DN

EGYPT

AMNESTY

INTERNATIONAL

The Cabinet Offices case files

What happened a year ago outside the Cabinet Offices?

On 16 December it will be a year since soldiers tried to forcibly disperse a three-week-old peaceful sit-in outside the Cabinet Office in central Cairo. Five days of clashes followed, during which 17 protesters were killed and nearly 1,000 injured. Each day this week we bring you the story of one of the victims and a recommendation from Amnesty International to the authorities.

Case 1 - protester injured

On the morning of 16 December, Habi Anan Ali El Shahawy joined the protesters in Qasr Al-Eini Street. At about 10.30 am, he said, paratroopers and soldiers with shields, masks and body armour stormed out of the Parliament's gates and chased protesters in both directions. They then barred the street, leaving protesters on the side of Tahrir Square. Protesters and soldiers supported by "thugs" started throwing stones at each other.

El Shahawy saw two officers with guns standing alongside the troops. Then suddenly, without warning, three protesters were shot in the legs. El Shahawy was next. At about 11.30 am he was talking on his phone when an officer pointed at him and walked in his direction. He could clearly see the officer's face as he shot him in the stomach. Protesters carried him to the hospital along with other injured people.

El Shahawy recognised the officer who shot him from photos in newspapers. His lawyer filed a police complaint, but El Shahawy has yet to be questioned.

Amnesty International's recommendation:

To deal with this legacy of human rights abuses, the authorities should ensure that those criminally responsible for unlawful killings and injuries in policing demonstrations are brought to justice in proceedings that meet international standards of fair trial (and with no possibility of the death penalty).

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.



POLITICS

Ikhwan supreme guide demands accountability for clashes

BADIE CALLS FOR DIALOGUE AND DECISION-MAKING THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX

By Basil El-Dabh

Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood Mohamed Badie has called on opposition groups to condemn violence between his group and the opposition after the Brotherhood led protests to an area occupied by anti-Morsy protesters.

Badie addressed reporters on Saturday morning at the group's headquarters in Moqattam. He discussed clashes that took place at the Presidential Palace on Wednesday and the current political impasse between opposition groups and President Mohamed Morsy.

The Brotherhood leader listed eight members of his organisation who died during the clashes. Two came from Cairo while the others came from cities in north Egypt. Badie read the names in front of a banner featuring graphic photos of five of the members taken after their deaths under a sign reading "the martyrs of legitimacy."

He called for speedy prosecutions and trials for those responsible for the deaths and cast aside claims from opposition groups that the Brotherhood had instigated clashes, insisting that the Muslim Brotherhood does not resort to violence. "I say to anyone who tries to change the truth to protect Egypt," said Badie. "I hope all political leaders disavow the killing of protesters."

The supreme guide requested that Prosecutor General Tala'at Abdullah rearrest those who had been arrested

and released following the fighting in Heliopolis to reexamine their roles in the deaths.

Badie reiterated his condemnation of the Ministry of Interior for not sufficiently protecting offices of the Muslim Brotherhood and Freedom and Justice Party throughout the country, saying that 28 of their offices had been attacked.

The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood called on groups critical of the president to participate in dialogue and democratic means to move forward. "The current scene is a political

competition," he said. "Let us compete with honour."

He insisted that political change would take place through the ballot box and said the Muslim Brotherhood and FJP had a history of seeking dialogue before and after the revolution. Badie said the group had helped other political forces early on during the democratic transition.

Badie said the Muslim Brotherhood was the only political group ready for the democratic transition, alleging that opposition groups had wanted the Su-

preme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) to remain in power longer.

Badie also addressed the possibility of a compromise on the president's part, saying if there was a decision to delay the constitutional referendum, it would be studied by the group before deciding whether it would officially support the compromise.

The supreme guide laughed when a reporter brought up the claim that he rules the country. He answered saying, "the supreme guide's office was vandalised. Does he rule Egypt?"



Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie speaks during a press conference at the party's headquarters in Cairo

Morsy to pass law granting military power of arrest

Decision will be protected by constitutional declaration



Hassan Ibrahim

Proposed legislation proposes to give the military powers of arrest similar to those used by the police (File photo)

By Joel Gulhane

President Mohamed Morsy is expected to ratify a law giving the military many of the police's powers, according to state-run media outlet Al-Ahram.

According to Al-Ahram, the cabinet approved the draft law at its last meeting and it is now awaiting Morsy's approval. The law contains four articles that give the military similar powers to the police, including the power to arrest civilians.

Under Morsy's constitutional declaration none of his decision are subject to judicial review.

The law is set to grant the military these powers through the period from the referendum on the proposed constitution to parliamentary elections, which are scheduled to take place sixty days after the approval of the constitution.

According to Al-Ahram, the law calls on the armed forces to coordinate with the police to "maintain security and protect vital installations in the country." The law also grants military officers and non-commissioned officers "all the powers of judicial arrest."

Heba Morayef, the Egypt director for Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Morsy needs the military because "recently we have seen several occasions when the police have not responded to presidents demands."

Morayef expressed concern about the proposed law saying, "there are two reasons why this is so problematic. Firstly, civilians arrested by military officers could be subject to military trial, and secondly there is no civilian oversight on the military." She added, "it is much more dangerous, it is an invitation for abuse."

In June the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) issued a decree stating, "military police and military intelligence officers... shall have judicial arresting authority for crimes committed by non-military personnel." HRW said the decree "creat[ed] conditions ripe for further serious human rights abuses."

Morayef said, "when SCAF issued their decree it was blocked by an administrative court. If he approves this law Morsy will be flying in the face of a court order that has already been issued."

El-Erian in New York

Senior FJP member visits the United Nations in New York City

Muslim Brotherhood member and Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) Vice Chairman Essam El-Erian is in the United States to attend a summit at the United Nations. According to his Twitter account, the former MP travelled to the US with a delegation from the Arab Parliament and was scheduled to take part in a hearing about the UN's role in conflict resolution and peace building in the Middle East.

In a brief interview with Al-Wafd in New York, El Erian insisted he was visiting

the US solely as a representative for the Arab Parliament. He added that he was sent due to his credentials as an elected member in Egypt's previous parliament, as elections to replace the dissolved assembly have not yet taken place.

Spokesperson for the US State Department Mark Toner said he did not have details of El-Erian's visit.

"Our Embassy is in regular contact with Egyptian leaders at all levels from across the political spectrum," said Toner.

A delegation on behalf of President Mohamed Morsy arrived in Washington last week and spoke to a number of high level officials throughout the US government. That delegation includes Morsy's adviser for foreign relations and international cooperation Essam Al-Haddad, adviser for integrated development affairs Hussein Al-Qazzaz, and presidential coordinator for foreign affairs Khaled Al-Qazzaz. The three, who went in their capacity as part of the presidential team,

are all members of the Freedom and Justice Party.

President Morsy is scheduled to visit the US in February of next year. El-Erian arrived in New York City on Thursday and is expected to arrive back in Cairo on Sunday.

Ahmed Sobei, a spokesman for the FJP, said that El-Erian's visit to the US had no relation with the party or the Muslim Brotherhood, and that his trip was simply a part of his duties to the Arab Parliament.

Egypt helps Hamas celebrate anniversary

Rafah border crucial for visits by international delegation and exiled party head

By Connor Molloy

Hundreds of delegates from around the Muslim world traveled from Egypt to Gaza to help Hamas (the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement) celebrate its 25th anniversary. It is unlikely that this international presence would have been possible without the political changes in Egypt over the past two years.

"The event would be very different without the new political system that is in Egypt," said Hani Al-Basooos, a political science professor who was speaking from the anniversary rally in Gaza on Saturday. "Without permis-

sion from the Egyptian authorities it would have been impossible for them to arrive."

The Ma'an News Agency reported delegations arriving from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

Tens of thousands packed into Al-Qatiba Square in Gaza City. The open air party was filled with green banners flapping in the wind and guarded by armed men perched atop neighbouring buildings. The public nature of the gathering showed little fear of an Israeli attack like the November strikes that

laid waste to swathes of Gaza.

Al-Basooos said Hamas had taken all necessary precautions for securing the event, but he doubted that an Israeli attack was possible given the large international presence.

There is one notable and high-profile Israeli target attending. Hamas head Khaled Meshaal entered the Gaza Strip this week for the first time in his life. The visit also marked only the second time he has been in Palestine since leaving as a child during the 1967 war. Meshaal dropped to the soil in prayer after entering from Rafah.

In a signal that perhaps reconciliation is on the way for the Palestinian

leadership, Fatah factions will be attending the anniversary.

Despite political turmoil at home "many Egyptians came," said Al-Basooos. "Around 5,000 Egyptians had planned to celebrate with the Palestinian people [but] because of the domestic tension in Egypt, it was not easy for many Egyptians to come. Despite this, many Egyptians are now standing and celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hamas."

Egyptians' ability to travel to and from the event sheds light onto the current nature of the Egypt-Gaza border crossing. The crossing was expected to see increasing traffic after President Mohamed Morsy, whose Muslim Brotherhood have close ties to Hamas, was elected. The opening since then has been seen as too limited by some observers and cross border attacks over the summer further complicated the political situation surrounding the crossing.

Al-Basooos said crossing the border is "easy, it is open seven days a week." He said that the international delegations stayed in Gazan hotels overnight and will likely return to Egypt on Sunday. "The Egyptian side is facilitating such movement."

Sheikh Hafez Salama, the Suez preacher who has been part of the call for a larger religious presence in the Egyptian constitution, was also reported to be attending the festivities, but his presence could not be confirmed.



A member of Hamas stands guard during a rally to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Islamist movement

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Lawsuit targets French paper over naked Muhammad cartoons

Paris (AFP) - Two French Muslim groups have filed a lawsuit for inciting racial hatred and slander against a French satirical weekly that published cartoons of a naked Prophet Muhammad, the paper's lawyer said Friday.

Charlie Hebdo published the cartoons in September as often violent, and sometimes deadly, protests were taking place in several countries over a low-budget film made in the United States that insults the prophet.

The Algerian Democratic Rally for Peace and Progress (RDAP) and its offshoot, the United Arab Organisation (OAU), which both state that their goal is "the defence and support of Muslim and/or Arab people", are seeking damages of €780,000.

Their suit targets the publication, its director and two cartoonists.

Two other groups have already filed suits against Charlie Hebdo over the same series of cartoons. The most recent suits say they besmirched the honour of the prophet and of Muslims.

"Yet again, they are trying to scare us to prevent us continuing this French humorous tradition regarding religion," said the weekly's lawyer Richard Malka.



AFP Photo / Fred Dabour

French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo's publisher, known only as Charb, speaks to journalists (File photo)

In 2008, the then-director of Charlie Hebdo, Philippe Val, was cleared after French Muslim groups took him to court accusing him of having insulted Islam by publishing cartoons of the prophet.

An appeals court in Paris ruled that he had not insulted Muslims because the cartoons were aimed clearly at Islamist extremists and not the Muslim community as a whole.

In November 2011 Charlie Heb-

do caused further offence when it published an edition "guest-edited" by the Prophet Muhammad that it called Shari'a (Islamic law) Hebdo. The magazine's offices in Paris were subsequently fire-bombed.

Troubled UN climate talks spill over

Doha (AFP) - United Nations talks on slowing the pace of destructive global warming ran deep into extra time on Saturday as host Qatar sought to break a days-old deadlock between rich and poor nations.

A stock-take meeting called for 10 am had not taken place nearly five hours later, with urgent huddles under way in corridors and meeting rooms to find consensus on technicalities standing in the way of a Doha deal.

The conference was scheduled to have closed on Friday.

Delegates must sign off on a new term for the greenhouse-gas curbing Kyoto Protocol as an interim measure to rein in climate change pending a new pact due to take effect in 2020.

But disagreement on funding for poor countries to deal with global warming and convert to planet-friendlier energy sources has hamstrung negotiators, with developed nations citing tough financial times.

There was also dispute on a demand by least developed countries and those most at risk of sea level rise that provision be made for the

losses they suffer because of climate change, a phenomenon they blame on the west's polluting ways since the industrial era.

After a long night of haggling, conference chairman Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah of Qatar called tired negotiators to a plenary meeting at which he urged them to consider a set of compromise agreements.

"I believe that this is a package that we can all live with and which is also good for our planet and future generations," he told the delegates from nearly 200 countries, including dozens of cabinet ministers.

"The time has come for the final push," Attiyah said, giving the teams 90 minutes until 10 am to reconsider their positions.

"We have to close this in the next couple of hours."

By the early afternoon there was still no sign of the plenary reconvening.

Developed nations were under pressure in Doha to show how they intend to keep a promise to raise climate funding for poorer nations to \$100 billion per year by 2020, up

from a total of \$30 billion in 2010-2012.

Developing countries say they need at least another \$60 billion between now and 2015, starting with \$20 billion from next year, to deal with a climate change-induced rise in droughts, floods, rising sea levels and storms.

But the United States and European Union have refused to put concrete figures on the table for 2013-2020.

NGOs and delegates have expressed frustration at the pace of negotiations that coincided with a slew of fresh scientific warnings that the Earth faces a calamitous future of more frequent extreme weather events.

The UN is targeting a maximum temperature rise of two degrees Celsius on pre-industrial levels that scientists believe would be manageable, but recent evidence warns the planet may be on the path to double that.

One of the key disputes in Doha was "hot air," the name given to greenhouse gas emission quotas that countries were given under the first leg of the 1997 Kyoto Proto-

col and did not use, some 13 billion tonnes in total.

The credits can be sold to nations battling to meet their own quotas, meaning that greenhouse gas levels decrease on paper but not in the atmosphere.

Poland and Russia emitted much less than their lenient limits, and insisted in Doha on being allowed to bank the difference beyond 2012, a move most other parties vehemently oppose.

Agreement on hot air is key to delegates in Doha extending the life of the Kyoto pact, whose first leg expires at the end of this month.

The protocol is the world's only binding pact on curbing greenhouse gases, but locks in only developed nations and excludes major developing polluters such as China and India, as well as the US, which refused to ratify it.

A new 2020 deal, due to be finalised by 2015, will include commitments for all the nations of the world.

Success in Doha is seen as key to smoothing the way to a 2020 pact.

Iranian warships dock in Sudan

Khartoum (AFP) - Two Iranian warships docked in Port Sudan on Saturday, a witness said, marking the second port call by the Iranian navy in Sudan in five weeks.

The Iranian navy said the 1,400-ton frigate Jamaran and the 4,700-ton support ship Bushehr "docked in Port Sudan, after successfully carrying out their assignments in the Red Sea and were greeted by high-ranking Sudanese naval commanders."

It did not say how long the warships would stay in port.

Khartoum said it was a "normal" port call but Israeli officials have expressed concern about arms smuggling through Sudan.

They have long accused the African country of serving as a base of support for militants from the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas which rules the Gaza Strip.

Sudanese army spokesperson Sawarmi

Khaled Saad had initially announced the warship visit for 30 November.

"It is part of diplomatic and military exchanges between the two countries," and will last for three days, he told reporters on Friday night.

A pair of Iranian navy vessels, the supply ship Kharg and corvette Admiral Naghdi, spent about two days at Port Sudan in late October.

The port call was accompanied by Sudanese press criticism of Saudi

Arabia which lies across the Red Sea and has had tense relations with Iran for years.

Sudan's links with Iran have come under scrutiny after Khartoum accused Israel of an 23 October strike against the Yarmouk military factory in the capital, which led to speculation that Iranian weapons were stored or manufactured there.

Israel refused all comment on Sudan's accusation about the factory blast. But a top Israeli defence official, Amos Gilad, said Sudan "serves as a route for the transfer, via Egyptian territory, of Iranian weapons to Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists."

Eight days of fighting between Israel and Hamas ended on 21 November with an Egyptian-mediated truce after 174 Palestinians and six Israelis were killed.

The Jewish state has accused Iran of supplying Hamas with its Fajr 5 missile, used to target Tel Aviv during the conflict.

Khartoum said Israel was spreading "fabricated information" about links between the Yarmouk military factory, Hamas and Iran.

Sudan's foreign ministry denied Iran had any involvement in the plant. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Ali Karti said Sudan welcomes the navies of any country, "except Israel."

A Pakistani frigate visited Port Sudan in late November.

Syria rebel's military council by next week

Manama (AFP) - Syria's new opposition coalition will announce the creation of a military council before a Friends of Syria meeting next week, to unify the ranks of insurgents, a top official told AFP on Saturday.

National Coalition Secretary General Mustafa Sabbagh said the group "will announce the creation of a supreme military council before the Friends of Syria meeting in Marrakesh" due to take place on 12 December.

In mid-November opposition factions met in Qatar and agreed to set up the National Coalition and bring together rebel forces under a supreme military council, as well as establish a judicial commission for rebel areas.

Under the deal the opposition agreed that the military council would take overall command of the various rebel groups on the ground to address US and other western concerns over the growing influence of jihadist fighters.

The proliferation of jihadist fighters have stoked fears in the west with powers wary of providing weapons to rebels battling the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, lest the arms fall into the hands of extremists.

"The council will be exclusively responsible for receiving military aid which we obtain," from outside Syria, Sabbagh told AFP.

He also stressed that the military command will not include radical groups such as Al-Nusra Front which,

along with other Islamists rebels rejected the formation of the opposition National Coalition.

The Al-Nusra Front, which has become a formidable fighting force, has claimed the majority of suicide bombing attacks in Syria's 21 month old insurgency that has cost tens of thousands of lives.

"Setting up the supreme military council is an important initiative to unify military action," said Sabbagh.

The council will comprise "commanders of the various military councils on the group and forces battling the regime, namely the [main rebel] Free Syrian Army," he said on the sidelines of a regional security forum in Bahrain.

Morocco has said it will host next Wednesday the fourth round of a Friends of Syria meeting of nations that support the opposition.

It will take place in the southern Moroccan city of Marrakesh, the foreign ministry has said, adding that more than 100 delegations will attend including members of the new Syrian opposition coalition.

Diplomatic sources in Rabat said US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would be among those attending.

The meeting is aimed at finding ways of ensuring a political transition, and of mobilising vital humanitarian aid," the foreign ministry in Morocco has said.

The group, which includes western and Arab countries, last met in Paris in July.



AFP Photo / Mohammed Al-Shakhi

Secretary General of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces Mustafa Sabbagh attends the 8th IISS Regional Security Summit in Manama

Philippines braces for return of killer typhoon

New Bataan (AFP) - A powerful typhoon that has killed hundreds of people and wreaked devastation in the Philippines was set to smash into the country again Sunday, forecasters warned.

Typhoon Bopha had looked to be heading away after destroying whole communities in the south, but the official weather agency said it had unexpectedly turned and would hit again in the early hours, this time in the north.

The agency urged people on Saturday to prepare for fierce winds of up to 160 kph and heavy rains when the storm slams into the northern tip of the main island of Luzon.

The surprise development piles more pressure on a country that has called for international aid for the south, where floods and landslides sparked by Bopha have flattened whole villages and left tens of thousands of people homeless.

A United Nations aid assessment team flew to the southern island of Mindanao, which bore the brunt of the destruction, on Saturday and was met with "100 per cent destruction", said Imogen Wall, spokeswoman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"This is a very poor area where everyone is dependent on agriculture. If people can't earn money from crops they won't be able to put food on the table for their families," she told AFP.

"They'll need a lot of help in the coming months. This is going to take a long time."

Bopha smashed into Mindanao from the Pacific Ocean with gusts of up to 210 kph on Tuesday. At least 548 people have been killed and about 500 others missing.

Some 212,000 other people have also been left homeless, according to the civil defence office.

No substantial aid had reached the isolated hamlet of Marapat on Saturday, where about 4,000 survivors

had only coconuts to eat, said nursing mother Virginia Dodres, 38.

All the houses had been carried off by floods, and survivors were sleeping 80 to a room on the bare concrete floor of the local school.

They share its two toilets and are doing their washing and bathing at a nearby spring, which is also their only source of water.

Dodres said church workers with two big pots of porridge arrived Saturday, the first and only relief aid yet to the hamlet, which is near the devastated town of New Bataan. The food was gobbled up within minutes.

Officials said Mindanao's east coast and the banana plantations and illegal gold mines around New Bataan accounted for all but 42 of the 548 known deaths from the strongest typhoon to hit the country this year.

Twenty-six corpses were put into donated white wooden coffins and laid on a muddy open space where the New Bataan public market used to stand. A few relatives, and flies, attended to them.

Jing Maniqued, an unmarried 37-year-old who previously worked as a maid abroad, did not know where to bury her two sisters since the cemetery had itself been covered by debris. Her parents and a mother are still missing.

"There's nothing left for us here. We will probably leave," she told AFP.

Cedric Daep, a public safety specialist, said desperate survivors looted shops and warehouses in Cateel, one of three hard-hit towns on the Mindanao coast in the early aftermath of Bopha's landfall there.

"The food aid took so long to arrive that the locals broke into whatever building [was] left standing in search of something to eat," said Daep, who was sent to the south to help organise the disaster response.



AFP Photo / Stringer

Two Iranian warships dock in the Sudanese Red Sea city of Port Sudan



BUSINESS

Foreign international reserves dwindle



AFP Photo

Net international reserves stand at \$15 billion at the end of November 2012

By Mohamed SalahEldin

Foreign international reserves dropped by \$449 million in November the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has announced. Net international reserves (NIR) dropped to \$15 billion by the end of November. Reserves of gold remained steady at \$3.3 billion since the last adjustment in June, while special drawing rights fell slightly from \$1.259 billion to \$1.257 billion. Foreign currencies dwindled the most, dropping from \$10.86 billion to \$10.41 billion. NIR had risen at the end of October after the second instalment of

\$500 million of the promised \$2 billion Qatari loan was received. The first tranche of the loan in August had given the reserves their biggest boost since the 25 January Revolution. During this month, net reserves rose by \$705 million to \$15.1 billion, according to CBE data. In July, NIR plunged due the repayment of a €1 billion bond and \$606.5 million trimester payment of Egypt's external debt to the Paris Club member countries. In June the reserves witnessed a slight increase of only \$19 million despite the fall in foreign currencies from \$11.468 billion to \$10.926 bil-

lion. The gain was a result of a revaluation of gold reserves at the end of the 2011/2012 fiscal year, pushing its value from \$2.7 billion to \$3.3 billion. On the eve of the revolution, reserves stood at \$36.1 billion. They lost \$1 billion in January 2011 and \$1.7 billion in February and kept dwindling in until March. By then they had lost approximately 58 per cent of their value. Egyptian foreign reserves are composed of convertible foreign currencies (the main bulk of the reserves) divided into securities and currency deposits at different banks, gold deposits, IMF reserve position, financial derivatives and special drawing rights.

FTSE and the African Securities Exchanges Association Launch Pan African Benchmark

FTSE Group ("FTSE"), the award winning global index provider in partnership with the African Securities Exchanges Association ("ASEA"), announced the launch of the FTSE ASEA Pan Africa Index Series, an independently calculated, rules-based performance benchmark for Pan African equity portfolios. The launch comes at a time when international investors are seeking exposure to emerging and frontier markets, and focusing in particular on Africa as a source of return and portfolio diversification. The market capitalisation weighted index series measures the performance of eligible securities domiciled in the following 19 African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius,

Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The index series is free float and liquidity screened with country weights capped at 20% to ensure the index maintains an accurate representation of the investible opportunity set. The index series has been built to FTSE's renowned standards of index design, which emphasizes transparency, independence, innovation and strong governance. Price and Total Return variants are calculated on an End of Day basis. Jonathan Cooper, Managing Director, Middle East & Africa at FTSE Group, said: "This launch enables ASEA to address one of its primary goals; to facilitate the development and promotion of products and services for Africa's capital markets. FTSE has been

providing solutions to African investors for 10 years and this new initiative confirms FTSE's position as Africa's index provider." Sunil Benimadhu, President of the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA), stated: "The launch of the FTSE ASEA Pan Africa Index Series is a milestone for ASEA. This index aims at tracking the performances of the companies listed on ASEA's member exchanges and is expected to evolve soon as an attractive investible index that can be used as a performance benchmark for international investors investing on African Stock Exchanges. The timing of the launch is highly opportune with the growing interest of the international investment community for investment opportunities in Africa and in Africa's listed companies."

Price of engine oil doubles

Local markets have seen a 100 per cent rise in the price of engine oils. Karim Sami, member of the Petroleum Products Division in the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, said that the price of a package of oil weighing 4 Kilos has gone up from 82 to 140 pounds, while one weighing 20 kilos has risen from 160 to 300 pounds. Engine oil companies reportedly decided to raise the price of their products just days before a decision was made by the government to raise the price of 95 premium oil at Egyptian gas stations. Sami added that the combination of both these decisions will inevitably increase the burden on Egyptian drivers. Mohamed Khamis, member of the Petroleum Products Division in the

Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, said that many Egyptians have begun purchasing their oil from wholesalers whose prices are 20 per cent that of local vendors. Khamis claimed that this latest phenomenon will have long-lasting negative effects on many Egyptian petrol stations who rely on the sale of engine oil in order to balance their profit margins. This has been compounded by the fact that many companies that produce engine oil have already been forced to raise their prices, due to the rising price of natural resources used in the production process. Khaled Ezzat, owner of a petrol station in Cairo, said that the recent rise in price of engine oils is the result

of oil companies taking advantage of the current lack of regulation in the Egyptian oil industry. He pointed to the fact that prices first rose 15 per cent in the beginning of the year and have steadily increased since then every two months. Oil companies say the high oil prices are the result of rising costs in production, a claim Ezzat rejects. Mohamed Hanafi, owner of a local gas station, called for the Ministry of Petroleum to set price ceilings on oil companies. He pointed to the fact that local oils have become more expensive than their imported counterparts, a testament to the extent to which oil companies have been manipulating the market.

Egypt and Korea sign second cooperation agreement

By Hend El-Behary

The Minister of Finance Muntaz El-Saeed and his Korean counterpart have signed a second framework agreement to raise economic cooperation between both countries in the fields of trade, investment, infrastructure, development, technology, and management of public finance. The agreement includes speedy amendments to "the double taxation prevention agreement" between both countries, to support efforts to promote trade exchange. El-Saeed said both sides have agreed to exchange information around four large national projects submitted by the Ministry of Finance, and other projects in different fields, which the government plans to launch soon in partnership with the private sector. "Korea has offered to give Egypt soft loans with interests of 0.15 per cent, to expand projects of new and renewable energy generation; besides another soft loan to fund green environment and petrochemicals projects. There are negotiations with the Korean side and concerned Egyptian ministries around this offer," said El-Saeed, The Korean Minister of Strategy and Finance Bahk Jaewan, expressed his country's willingness to actively participate in developing Egypt's railways. "The agreement also activated the rule of Egyptian-Korean business council as a way to support mutual trade and investments relations between the two countries" Said El-Saeed.



AFP Photo

Minister of Finance, Muntaz El-Saeed

"Agreements with Korea are very important as a way to improve the balance of payment and to achieve financial stability, especially after the huge funding gap in Egypt's general budget which reaches around \$14.5 billion" said El-Saeed. It was agreed to promote cooperation between the Korean Eximbank for exports credit and the financial organisations in Egypt, as a way to increase the credit amount to fund intra-regional trade. With regards to technology, El-Saeed said that both countries had agreed to launch specialised workshops to learn more about the Korean technology. The South Korean fund for economic development will fund the

developmental projects in Egypt; moreover, both sides have agreed to exchange technical information in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy; they also agreed to achieve cooperation in the field of technical training, to promote the skills of Egyptians workers. El-Saeed said they agreed to develop system of financial information management, to develop public finance management. He added South Korea has developed a new system of electronic digital accounting which helps to control public expenditure processes and revenues from taxes and customs; in addition it helps to increase the efficiency of financial management and transparency.

Last week's EGX30 index performance

| Company Name | Reuters Code | Sector | Last Price | Close Price | Returns | | | Week Performance | | Turn Over (EGP Mill.) | Volume Trade | Market Cap. (EGP Mill.) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|----------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | 1-Week | YTD | 12-Mths. | Max. Price | Min. Price | | | |
| Commercial Bank | COMI | Banks | 33 | 32.54 | 0.00% | 74.01% | 43.03% | 34.00 | 31.90 | 50.55 | 1,553,307 | 20,759.63 |
| NSGB | NSGB | Banks | 35.90 | 35.34 | 1.12% | 74.00% | 50.45% | 36.30 | 34.07 | 5.217 | 147,611 | 16,024.95 |
| Ezz Steel | ESRS | Basic Resources | 8.4 | 8.17 | 2.64% | 119.03% | 63.73% | 8.41 | 7.89 | 19.89 | 2,433,261 | 4,639.48 |
| ELSWEDY ELECTRIC | SWDY | Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles | 20.46 | 20.55 | -7.60% | -0.92% | -9.67% | 21.00 | 20.10 | 2.104 | 102,380 | 4,895.09 |
| MRRDIVE | MOIL | Industrial Goods and Services and Automobiles | 1 | 0.98 | -2.00% | -18.91% | -28.09% | 1.02 | 0.95 | 3.59 | 599,633 | 365.57 |
| AIC Contracting | AIND | Financial Services excluding Banks | 0.45 | 0.43 | -2.27% | -17.31% | -24.56% | 0.45 | 0.42 | 3.221 | 7,456,262 | 240.58 |
| Amer Group Holding | AMER | Financial Services excluding Banks | 0.69 | 0.66 | 1.54% | 20.00% | -2.94% | 0.69 | 0.65 | 4.15 | 6,245,508 | 2,066.99 |
| EK Holding | EKHO | Financial Services excluding Banks | 1.07 | 1.05 | 0.00% | 7.14% | -0.94% | 1.07 | 1.03 | 2.008 | 312,327 | 898.05 |
| EGF-Hermes | HRHO | Financial Services excluding Banks | 10.12 | 9.89 | -1.79% | -1.20% | -10.58% | 10.14 | 9.18 | 19.71 | 1,992,309 | 4,878.61 |
| Pioneers Holding | PIOH | Financial Services excluding Banks | 3.80 | 3.68 | 1.38% | 65.77% | 36.30% | 3.86 | 3.49 | 6.808 | 1,850,516 | 1,935.00 |
| Citadel Capital | CCAP | Financial Services excluding Banks | 3.1 | 3.00 | -1.32% | 17.65% | -0.33% | 3.15 | 2.86 | 12.75 | 4,251,617 | 2,072.29 |
| Raya Holding | RAYA | Technology | 4.60 | 4.47 | -0.67% | 28.45% | 13.16% | 4.66 | 4.40 | 1.148 | 256,980 | 303.78 |
| Telecom Egypt | ETEL | Telecommunications | 12.6 | 12.20 | -1.85% | -7.65% | -12.86% | 12.60 | 12.00 | 6.06 | 496,468 | 21,201.83 |
| Orascom Telecom Media And Technology | OTMT | Telecommunications | 0.52 | 0.50 | -1.96% | 44.81% | 44.81% | 0.52 | 0.47 | 14.299 | 28,497,835 | 2,727.76 |
| Orascom Telecom | ORTE | Telecommunications | 3.53 | 3.46 | 0.87% | 100.19% | 100.19% | 3.57 | 3.38 | 22.89 | 6,617,055 | 18,517.29 |
| Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals | SKPC | Chemicals | 12.05 | 12.06 | -0.58% | 1.26% | -2.58% | 12.40 | 11.87 | 4.529 | 375,516 | 6,457.50 |
| Egyptian Financial and Industrial | EFIC | Chemicals | 8.85 | 8.64 | 0.93% | -3.03% | -15.46% | 8.94 | 8.40 | 1.13 | 131,234 | 621.64 |
| AMOC | AMOC | Oil and Gas | 71.50 | 70.07 | 0.16% | 4.68% | 9.19% | 71.50 | 69.00 | 0.387 | 5,528 | 6,262.91 |
| Juhayna Food Industries | JUFO | Food and Beverage | 6.25 | 6.21 | 1.80% | 59.23% | 44.42% | 6.31 | 6.10 | 6.58 | 1,060,156 | 4,532.87 |
| Orascom Construction Industries (OCI) | OCIC | Construction and Materials | 230.33 | 223.38 | 3.13% | 11.05% | 6.41% | 236.01 | 214.64 | 93.276 | 417,563 | 49,827.63 |
| Delta Construction & Rebuilding | DCRC | Construction and Materials | 5.7 | 5.51 | 0.36% | -28.35% | -36.96% | 5.71 | 5.33 | 0.53 | 95,900 | 132.17 |
| Modern Co. For Water Proofing | WATP | Construction and Materials | 1.60 | 1.57 | 1.29% | -31.74% | -33.76% | 1.61 | 1.53 | 1.026 | 654,544 | 167.28 |
| Palm Hills | PHDC | Real Estate | 2 | 1.94 | 1.57% | 77.98% | 49.23% | 2.02 | 1.73 | 24.67 | 12,731,086 | 2,107.12 |
| TMGH Holding | TMGH | Real Estate | 3.97 | 3.85 | -0.77% | 30.07% | 5.19% | 3.97 | 3.77 | 11.210 | 2,912,834 | 8,336.79 |
| National Real Estate Bank | NRPD | Real Estate | 17.49 | 16.84 | -1.29% | -14.17% | -28.25% | 17.49 | 15.90 | 2.02 | 120,049 | 68.92 |
| Six of October | OCDI | Real Estate | 17.69 | 16.95 | 0.24% | 112.67% | 56.65% | 17.69 | 16.60 | 4.196 | 247,566 | 1,628.55 |
| El Kahera Housing & Development | ELKA | Real Estate | 5.35 | 5.18 | 10.68% | 33.51% | 15.63% | 5.35 | 4.69 | 1.45 | 279,943 | 503.44 |
| Arab Cotton Ginning | ACGC | Personal and Household Products | 3.25 | 3.14 | 1.62% | 48.82% | 22.18% | 3.27 | 3.00 | 6.415 | 2,044,514 | 893.69 |
| Oriental Weavers | ORWE | Personal and Household Products | 21.38 | 21.10 | 0.57% | -23.84% | -25.75% | 21.50 | 20.99 | 0.36 | 17,241 | 1,948.50 |
| Egyptian Tourism Resorts | EGTS | Travel & Leisure | 0.93 | 0.89 | 0.00% | 5.95% | -8.25% | 0.93 | 0.87 | 2.332 | 2,607,904 | 976.50 |

Trading value and volume during the week

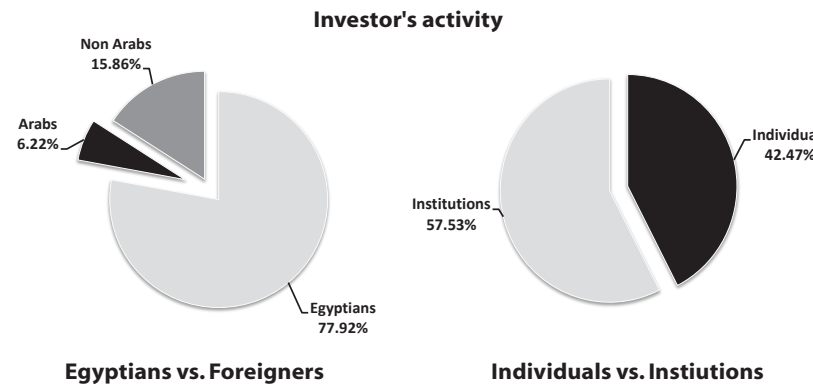
| Markets | Trading Value | Trading Volume | # of Trades |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| | (EGP Mill.) | (EGP Mill.) | |
| Main Market | 2,329.669 | 484.278 | 94,759 |
| Bonds | 758.84 | 0.698 | — |
| Nilex | 3.060 | 7.667 | 828 |
| OTC | 117.88 | 10.189 | 513 |
| Total | 3,209.444 | 502.832 | 96,100 |

Market indices performance

| Index | Value | 1-Week Ch. | YTD Ch. |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|
| EGX 30 | 4,838.51 | 0.64% | 33.57% |
| EGX 70 | 427.62 | -0.33% | 2.89% |
| EGX 100 | 716.24 | 0.26% | 11.38% |
| EGX 20 Capped | 5,551.27 | 0.24% | 41.42% |

Market capitalization in LE Billion

| Markets | Close | Open | Change |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Total Listed Stocks | 341.304 | 339.352 | 0.58% |
| EGX 30 | 184.389 | 183.346 | 0.57% |
| EGX 70 | 56.694 | 56.326 | 0.65% |
| EGX 100 | 241.083 | 239.672 | 0.59% |
| NILEX | 1.027 | 1.039 | -1.15% |





Columnists debate Morsy's speech

As President Mohamed Morsy met with over 40 political and legal experts to reach national accord over the constitutional crisis, columnists explored his invitation for dialogue.

Emad Al-Din Hussein
Al-Shorouk Newspsprr

Morsy's speech and the blood curse



Hussein analyses Morsy's first speech following the violence near the Presidential Palace. He rejects speculation that the president would have retracted his constitutional declaration or would have postponed the constitutional referendum in his first official speech. To Hussein, Morsy succeeded in winning invaluable time by carefully utilising the debates around the constitutional declaration, coupled with the public preoccupation with street violence near the Presidential Palace, as a smokescreen hiding the true intentions of his Muslim Brotherhood to safeguard its Constituent Assembly and Shura Council, and to finalise the constitutional referendum. Hussein suggests that the Muslim Brotherhood are attempting to impose a new internationally-approved status quo with their planned passing of the constitution.

Hussein regrets that Morsy failed to condemn the Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators who assaulted anti-Morsy protestors outside the Presidential Palace. What makes Hussein's suspicions even more clear is Morsy's praising of those rallies supporting his constitutional declaration. He concludes that the presidential establishment has no independence from the Brotherhood's guidance bureau. He sees that while the spilt blood of those who were killed in the clashes was skilfully used by the Brotherhood to achieve their narrow-minded and short-lived ob-

jectives, the blood curse will always be attributed to the masterminds behind these events.

Gamal Fahmy
Tahrir Newspaper

The night of the Nazis



Fahmy recounts the kristallnacht incidents of 9-10 November 1938, when Adolf Hitler succeeded in stirring the national pride of German citizens. Using the assassination of the German ambassador to France by a Jewish man as a pretext, he incited Germans to launch a vicious campaign of violence against Jews and foreigners across Germany and Austria. The name kristallnacht comes from the amount of broken glass in Jewish shops and establishments. This incident was the beginning of the darkest chapter in the history of modern European imperialism Fahmy writes, which resulted in death, injury, displacement, and mass destruction on a scale never before witnessed in recorded human history. These events were also exploited by the same victims of European fascism however, the Jews, who used their suffering as a justification to expel Palestinians from their homes and land to establish the state of Israel.

Relating these events to the current attacks by what he calls Muslim Brotherhood militias on peaceful demonstrators near the Presidential Palace, Fahmy argues that Egypt will not bow to its own form of fascism, but the price will be high.

The growing influence of the Muslim Brotherhood

Last week cannot be called anything other than a big mess. Ever since the Brotherhood took office, we have been reaping one misfortune after the other. From political exclusion to cracking down on freedom of speech, regular power cuts to tragic train accidents, blatant lies about achievements to outright hate speech, and from false electoral promises to vulgar dictatorial decrees; the Muslim Brotherhood has worked hard to make sure we don't miss a thing from the Mubarak years.

But Morsy's recent decisions were an important turn of events. They marked the beginning of a new phase. Before those decisions were out, we were simply dealing with a new president who was backed by the political and financial weight of the group to which he belonged. We watched that president make one mistake after another and we watched an army of apologists constantly coming up with excuses. But at least all this occurred with the president working within the framework of a state. It is true that the balance between the authorities of that state was already out of tune since the president had awarded himself legislative authority together with the executive, but the semi-independence of the judiciary remained hanging by a thread.

What happened last week was an attempt from the president to deconstruct the judiciary and downsize its influence and at the same time grant

himself power sufficient to declare a dictatorship. In dealing with the repercussions of those decisions, the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood has grown significantly. For the past months of Morsy's administration, the public political support he had came from the Freedom and Justice party. Meanwhile, the Brotherhood was laying low and orchestrating the different moves of the party. However, last week, the Muslim Brotherhood decided to finally come out of the closet and send a clear message to everyone who dares challenge or oppose the president. The message was "he's our boy and we know how to protect him."

The clashes last Wednesday were sufficient evidence that the Brotherhood has planned to openly fight the president's battles. The Brotherhood's war is no longer in open squares with thousands packed in buses and transported to demonstrations. The struggle is no longer on media channels where the Brotherhood tries to defend the president and it is no longer in elected councils where the Brotherhood uses its financially earned numerical majority to guarantee political support for the president. The struggle now is on the street with religious and political violence manifesting in rocks thrown and guns fired. The Muslim Brotherhood is no longer satisfied with merely supporting the president; they have moved to personally punishing every individual

who dares disagree with their president.

And the Brotherhood did not only deploy an army of well-equipped blind supporters, they mobilised those who are full of hatred, misconceptions and intolerance. Those who were on the frontline from the Muslim Brotherhood were convinced that their war is against sinners, criminals who dared oppose the rulings of the just president, and pagans who live on alcohol and foreign aid. The Muslim Brotherhood fought the battle mentally with their supporters before they fought it physically with their opponents.

The mere fact that the *Murshid* (supreme guide) presided over the funerals of those who died in the clashes on Friday demonstrates that the Brotherhood has reached the stage where it is willing to sacrifice its members for what the president sees as right (which is in essence what the Brotherhood sees as right). The Murshid has absolutely no significance in life other than being the supreme guide of the Brotherhood. He is not even a man of religion. His speech at the funeral was a message that those who died sacrificed their lives for the Brotherhood and the Brotherhood in turn recognises that. The ones who died in the clashes were Egyptians. They died for what they believe in and their death is a misfortune to all. But the Brotherhood chose to recognise and mourn only those who fell dead from its side. Morsy is not just setting the stage



ZIAD AKL

for a dictatorship, he is also allowing his Brotherhood all the room it needs to be his most effective line of defence, even if that means that the Brotherhood turns into a state within the state with the power to punish those who oppose it. This vicious direction has sown nothing so far but hatred, distinction and power hungry violence.

Mr President, those who voted for you did not vote for the rest of the package, and those who are against you will never retreat as long as you rule Egypt in favour of the Muslim Brotherhood alone.

Ziad Akl is a political sociologist and a Middle East specialist at the Ahran Center for Political and Strategic Studies. He is a senior researcher at the Egyptian Studies Unit and managing editor of the periodical "Egyptian Affairs." ziadakl31@gmail.com

Public trust in public servants

By Mohamed El-Bahravi

Looking at how the presidency chose to deal with last week's turmoil, it has become increasingly difficult to find a silver lining. The dreadful sight of Egyptians killing one another over political beliefs with such conviction is unprecedented, and it makes me sick to see politicians use that to further their agendas with absolute disregard to the sanctity of human life.

Throughout last week, a number of Morsy's consultants tendered their resignations, protesting his method in handling the mess, announcing that none of them were aware of the controversial declaration, even his own vice-president admitted being completely oblivious to anything of the sort. It has become unequivocally evident that the

organisation of the Muslim Brotherhood is the sole decision-making body. Not that it comes as a surprise to me personally, but for those who still had doubts about the president's allegiance, it is more than clear now that it belongs not to all Egyptians.

The worst part is that the reality of the conflict has nothing to do with Shari'a, yet it is being framed in that context to mobilise the masses for whatever purpose, be it protesting, (literally) fighting the opposition or just casting a vote. It is much simpler to hold strong convictions when everyone who doesn't share your point of view is deemed an infidel, a remnant of the old regime or a paid conspirator planning the destruction of the nation. How is it that there is always a conspiracy that only the ruler is privy to?

When he took the podium last Thursday to address the nation, he stated that police arrested many of those responsible for the thuggery that took place in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace during the protests. That is an outright lie. The police did not arrest anyone; protesters were delivered to police stations after being beaten, tortured and held captive, only to be released Saturday because there were no legitimate charges to keep them.

"Why are you opposed to a referendum on the constitutional draft? The majority will decide, isn't that what democracy is all about?" That is the gist of the argument currently being used by the majority of Islamist politicians.

Allow me to ask then, where was democracy when the "devout" president broke his oath to "sincerely maintain

the republican system and to respect the constitution and law," grabbing legislative power and placing the judiciary on the shelf indefinitely. How can he speak of democracy after this self-proclaimed autocracy? Has he no shame?

Judges who supervise elections usually get paid EGP 2,000. But, those who agreed to supervise Morsy's unpopular referendum are to receive more than EGP 10,000 according to the influential Judges Club. What does that say about Morsy's avowed war on corruption? Apparently, bribery and corruption are Shari'a-compliant when they serve the agenda of the ruler.

While I agree that calls to depose Morsy are neither constructive nor realistic, I do believe that he's lost the trust of the people. And without that, he will find it very difficult to remain in office.

Fighting for internet freedom

The internet empowers each one of us to speak, create, learn, and share. Today, more than two billion people are online — about a third of the planet. The internet has become one of the motors of the 21st century economy, allowing all of us to reach a global audience at a click of a mouse and creating hundreds of thousands of businesses and millions of jobs. According to a new study from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the net already accounts for 13 per cent of American business output, impacting every industry, from communications to cars, and restaurants to retail. Not since Gutenberg invented the printing press, or Alexander Graham Bell the telephone, has a human invention empowered so many and offered so much possibility for benefiting humankind.

Today, this free and open net is under threat. Some 42 countries filter and censor content out of the 72 studied by the Open Net Initiative. This doesn't even count serial offenders such as North Korea and Cuba.

Over the past two years, governments have enacted 19 new laws threatening free expression online.

Some of these governments are trying to use a closed-door meeting of the International Telecommunication Union that opened on 3 December in Dubai, to further their repressive agendas. Accustomed to media control, these governments fear losing it to the open Internet. They worry about the spread of unwanted ideas. They are angry that people might use the Internet to criticise their governments.

The ITU is bringing together regulators from around the world to renegotiate a decades-old treaty that was focused on basic telecommunications, not the internet. Some proposals from participating states could permit governments to justify censorship of legitimate speech - or even justify cutting off internet access by reference to amendments to the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs). Several authoritarian regimes reportedly propose banning anonymity from the web, making it easier to find and arrest dissidents. Others have proposed moving the responsibilities of the private sector system that manages domain names and internet addresses to the United Nations. Yet other proposals would require any

internet content provider, small or large, to pay new tolls in order to reach people across borders.

The upshot? The next garage-based phenomena would face a steep and probably insurmountable financial hurdle in its effort to become the next YouTube, Facebook or Skype.

Let us be clear - we do not advocate for an end to the ITU. The UN agency has helped the world manage radio spectrum and wired and wireless telephone networks, bringing much needed investment to the developing world. But this inter-governmental agency is the wrong place to make decisions about the future of the Internet.

Only governments have a vote at the ITU. This includes governments that do not support a free and open internet. Engineers, companies, and people that build and use the web have no vote. The multi-stakeholder model of internet policy development that is the hallmark of the internet Engineering Task Force, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the Internet Governance Forum, the Regional Internet Registries, among many others, is the only sensible way forward. Transparency and openness are keys to informed participation in policy

making. The proposals for amending the ITRs are not generally available to the public or other stakeholders. The treaty conference and proposals in Dubai are formally confidential. We consider this to be a serious deficiency and an inhibitor to thoughtful policy development.

At Google, we see and feel the dangers of the government-led net crackdown. We operate in about 150 countries around the globe. Our services - including Search, YouTube, Blogger, Gmail and Maps - have been blocked at some point, temporarily or permanently, in more than 30 different countries.

We're not alone in standing up. Users, experts and organisations from around the world have voiced their opposition to governments justifying their regulation of the Internet through the ITU's International Telecommunication Regulations. These include countries not just in the west, but also African internet leaders such as Kenya and North African beacons such as Tunisia.

In all, more than 100 organisations from more than 50 countries have raised concerns about the upcoming closed-door meeting in Dubai. Internet lovers around the world can learn more about the issue on our



VINTON CERF

website <http://www.google.com/intl/en/takeaction> — and if they choose to do so, can pledge their support.

While some governments argue that the internet needs new global rules to speed its rollout in the developing world, we believe the present market-driven approach is best positioned to keep up with the net's exponential growth. Broadband services are being rolled out. Service interruptions remain rare.

Within a few years the net is predicted to be serving four billion users - more than half of humanity! The bottom-up, loosely-coupled, bilateral and multi-stakeholder practices that have

created the network of networks we call the internet allow for a broad range of business models. The critical technical standards developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force and the World Wide Web Consortium create interoperability. A state-controlled system of regulation is not only unnecessary. It would almost invariably raise costs and prices and interfere with the rapid and organic growth of the internet we have seen since its commercial emergence in the 1990s.

The net's future is far from assured and history offers much warning.

Within a few decades of Gutenberg's creation, princes and priests moved to restrict the right to print books. History is rife with examples of governments taking actions to "protect" their citizens from harm by controlling access to information and inhibiting freedom of expression and other freedoms outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We must make sure, collectively, that the internet avoids a similar fate.

Vinton Cerf is Google's chief internet evangelist. He is widely recognised as one of the "fathers of the Internet," sharing this title with the American computer scientist Bob Kahn.

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SOCIAL NETWORKING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2012 DAILY NEWS EGYPT 7

www.thedailynewsegypt.com

The real president of Egypt

Following clashes between President Morsy's supporters and protesters opposing his decisions, social networkers started to talk about an upcoming civil war, the kind of which Egypt has never witnessed in its prolonged history #No_to_civil_war. Those opposing the president's decisions accused his supporters of being sheep, supporting any decision taken by Morsy and the Muslim Brotherhood without analysing its consequences #The_true_sheep. As the crisis intensified, the supreme guide of the Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, addressed Egyptians in two public speeches. This caused a wave of anger among social networkers. Some asked whether Badie has a position that allows him to address Egyptians, while other responded by saying that Badie is actually the "Real President of Egypt" #Why_is_Badie_talking #What_would_you_say_to_Morsy.




TWITTER

#WHY_IS_BADIE_TALKING

- 

@MAAMON_AD
Because Morsy is not capable of talking and El-Erian is in the U.S.
- 

@ALFRED_HABIB
Because he is the real president.
- 

@AHMADAKOMO
Who are you to address Egyptians? Our president is Mohamed Morsy and we are free to criticise of do whatever we like with him. You stay out of it.
- 

@NMONTASSER
Because Ikhwan are frightened.
- 

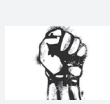
@SALAMONTY_
Yesterday in Al-Azhar and today in Nile News. Tomorrow he will present sports news at "Good Morning Egypt" TV show!
- 


@MIDOZIZOOO
Because he wants us to create this hash tag, where we make jokes of what he said while the results remain unchanged. Theocracy is coming soon.
- 


@OSAMAELKHASHAB
To prove that he has a special political status in Egypt although he is the head of an illegal group. This is a status protected by the president.
- 


@AYOYAYOY
Because he is the director, who never appears in the film but have to respond if anyone criticises it. He has to defend his own production.


#WHAT_WOULD_YOU_SAY_TO_MORSY

- 

@AHMEDMOAWAD10
Use Mubarak's oppressive policies temporarily and arrest Hamdeen, Moussa and Elbaradie until the situation gets better.
- 

@KOUKIMO3TAREDA
It is not your fault. It is the fault of those who elected you!
- 

@AAALHUMAIDAN
You do nothing but talk. Show us real work, or do not blame but yourself.
- 

@MAHEDODA
You are a killer!
- 

@CIKODIKO
You are not even the president of your sheep as there is a supreme guide that gives you orders. How could you be our president? Go Away.

- 

@OSAMAAIAD_94
If I saw you in the street, I swear to god I will hunt you down until I catch you. I will show you how bad it feels to be beaten up.
- 

@KHALED_JALYA
So far you are doing perfectly well, heading to Mubarak's fate.
- 

@MOHAMMED_LUTFY
Despite everything, I am sure that Ikhwan will secure more than 50% of the upcoming parliament's seats.
- 

@BARAA_ALI
In short, the leading party has no place in the streets. Streets belong to the opposition.
- 


@HAGARMKAMAL
Those who died before seeing this farce are very lucky! (Referring to the violent fights between Ikhwan and opposition protesters).
- 


@AHMEDBALALO
To citizens of Egypt: If you do not acknowledge the dangers of civil war ask Syrians and Lebanese about it.
- 


@BRENDAAZIZ
In our 7,000 years civilization not a single civil war occurred between Egyptians. Ikhwan won't take us to a civil war!
- 


@TOUTARAMSIS
Is that implementing Shari'a for you? I am not a Muslim but I know that Islam doesn't call for violence or civil war.


#THE_TRUE_SHEEP

- 

@BASEM_KAMAL
If you ask one of those opposing the draft constitution about articles they reject they would not know. Now, who is the true sheep?
- 

@7ASA7IES
The true sheep is the one who protested to remove Morsy from power after 5 months, while he did not protest against SCAF in two years.
- 

@AHMED_8686
The true sheep is the one who will vote "yes" on the draft constitution believing that by doing that he would go to heaven!
- 

@BERAOA
The true sheep is the one who will boycott the constitution referendum because "intellectuals" said so.
- 

@AMMARBANNA
The true sheep is the person who revolted to remove the old regime, and now is supporting them.



VIRAL POSTS

Source: El-Ostora Beto'ol



To people criticising Morsy's speech: Hell No! He did not say anything for you to criticise him.



The solution is to announce the autonomy of Al-Sharqeya governorate (where president Morsy was born), then Morsy will be a foreigner and he could no longer be the legitimate president.



I am thinking of travelling to El-Mahalla, to study abroad! (Referring to the rumours claiming citizens of El-Mahalla declared its autonomy)

Fahemny: Why do we reject constitution?

The video tries to outline the reasons why Egyptians should reject the draft constitution. Paragraph three,

Article 14:

The paragraph did not link the minimum to the maximum average of wages, which would maintain the current unjust wage status. The voiceover read that some employees receive salaries of EGP 60 per month, while other employees receive EGP 3,000,000 per month.

Article 48:

Allows for the shutting down of newspapers. The voiceover asserts that such action would deprive citizens from information, leading to a non-accountable regime.

Article 215:

Establishes a body called "The National Council of Information" which would supervise TV, radio and internet. It could be used to suppress any information that is against the regime, to whom they would depend on for funding and political support.

Article 216:

Mandates that state-run newspapers be placed under the supervision of a new body called "The National Authority for Media and Journalism". This would endanger freedom of expression and would force the state-run media to only publish news that is acceptable to the government.



The video is produced by Madani Human Rights channel.



Article 48 could be used to prevent citizens from acquiring information



Why will we say NO to the constitution



Article 215 outlines The National Council of Information which could prevent media outlets from criticising the government



Article 14 did not provide for any linkage between minimum and maximum wages



Article 216 could turn state-run newspapers into mirrors reflecting only what the government wants the people to see



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ART & CULTURE

Art should make a statement and Culture is what surrounds us.

Cultural Cairo shuts down



Cairo Opera House

By Omar El Adl

The political situation has forced many cultural venues to close either because of, or in support of, the recent protests over President Mohamed Morsy's controversial constitutional declaration. The protests have spread from Tahrir Square to the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis and have spurred a number of cancellations in their wake.

Among the biggest venues to suspend activities were the Cairo Opera

House and the Sawy Culture Wheel whose doors were both closed over the weekend.

The Sawy Culture Wheel told us that they closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday to mourn the lives lost during the clashes at the Presidential Palace.

On Friday the Opera House postponed all events and performances in Cairo, Alexandria and Damanhour. The Opera House confirmed Saturday that the activities in all their venues are cancelled until 11 December.

Studio Viennoise, who are hosting the On Photography exhibition at their Downtown location said they had cancelled their events on Friday and Saturday in support of the protests and because of the escalation of events.

"On one hand we closed down because of the events, but on the other hand we strive to continue operating not despite of the events, but because of them. We see art as being a part of the revolution and we want to continue offering what we offer in support. We will take it day-by-day," said Lamia Negrin Ed-din, part of the Studio Viennoise team.

The British Council postponed the hosting of the Edinburgh World Writers' Conference that was slated to take place on 7 - 8 December. "Of course it was disappointing to postpone the event after working on it for months, but we felt that it was appropriate to postpone it," Cathy Costain, Head of Programmes Arts, said. The decision was taken on Thursday in time to cancel the travel arrangements for the international speakers.

The celebratory closing ceremony of the 35th Cairo International Film Festival was cancelled and replaced with a sober press conference in which the winners were announced. The CIFF had earlier postponed the festive opening event and opened one day later with a downscaled awards ceremony.

The cancellations mean anything but the marginalisation of the arts and culture scene in Egypt and are not surprising given the involvement of many artists in the revolution over the past two years. Many are supportive of the protests and the artistic community will likely continue to voice its opinion on the escalating situation in the country.

Silencing dissent

Freedom was one of the key demands of the 25 January uprising. Fear of limitations on freedom of speech and women's rights as laid out in the draft constitution is one of the reasons many Egyptians have taken to the streets in the past weeks.

Shahenda Megled is a famous Egyptian activist who has fought for the rights of farmers for many years. On Wednesday she was protesting close to the Presidential Palace when a large, bearded man calmly took it in his own hands to silence her. Literally.

The image speaks louder than anything Shahenda Maqled could have said.



Screenshot from Al Watan

A picture speaks a thousand words


Graffiti on the palace walls



AFP PHOTO / PATRICK BAZ

A striking image recently painted on the walls of the Presidential Palace

A new version of an iconic graffiti that previously adorned the walls of Mohamed Mahmoud Street, depicting Hosni Mubarak, Field Marshal Mohamed Tantawi and Mohamed Morsi, saying "Those giving the orders are still alive."

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Weather  | |
| Sunday, December 9 | |
| Alexandria | 21°C / 13°C |
| Aswan | 28°C / 18°C |
| Cairo | 22°C / 12°C |
| Hurghada | 26°C / 17°C |
| Luxor | 27°C / 16°C |
| Sharm El-Sheikh | 28°C / 17°C |
| Suez | 18°C / 8°C |

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