

Middle-East New-Media • A Weekly Coverage • Editor: Orit Perlov

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Presidential Race - Low Cost Soap Opera



Marzouk

Egypt presidential elections is a low cost soap opera that we can't miss any of its' episodes



David Kenner

Egypt's electoral process increasingly reminiscent of pre-Erdogan Turkey, where free competition existed within constraints set by military



Bassem Sabry



A new Ahram Online Op-Ed by Bassem Sabry: "**Why would many want to vote for Omar Suleiman**

"In fact, quite a few people seem to be coming to the disheartening conclusion that the country needs to be "ruled with an iron fist". For those people, Suleiman (and to a lesser extent, Ahmed Shafiq) is seen as someone who knows the country enough to deal with its problems; he is seen as the kind of man who can "bring Egypt back from the brink""

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New Blog Post by Bassem Sabry: **"One By One: Why Were These 10 Egyptian Presidential Candidates Disqualified"**

"10 candidates (out of a total of 23) have just preliminarily disqualified from the Egyptian Presidential Elections. These 10 candidates have 48 hours for their only chance to appeal their disqualification, but many of them seem to be certainly out of the race"

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Another Great Piece by Bassem Sabry: "**Who Will Become The President Of Egypt? (UPDATE 2)"**

"The "Revolutionary Candidate" initiative consisted mainly of bringing together all the candidates that were considered to be aligned with the revolution, and for them to agree on one main candidate that they would all unite around (with one or more other candidates serving as potential VPs). Yesterday morning, the MB/FJP's Mohammed El-Beltagy also said he supported the initiative (in his personal capacity), which is a very significant given El-Beltagy's profile within the MB (though he is also known to be his own man). It is widely expected that such an initiative would end up resulting in Abul-Fotouh's selection as the frontline candidate, practically

handing him the Presidential seat if the MB also drops out of the race and joins the initiative (which is unlikely)"

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The Majalla

The Muslim Brotherhood's About Face: Why is the Muslim Brotherhood Running in the Presidential Elections? By Paula Mejia



"Though it is likely that the Muslim Brotherhood's decision came about as a result of both the opportunities and threats that it perceives in Egypt's political scene, the question remains, was the nomination of a candidate a good idea? It is possible that in nominating a candidate, the Brotherhood has given its opponents the ammunition they required to discredit the organization (with accusations such as its alleged conspiracy with the military)"

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Sada Journal

Picking a Fight: Khairat al-Shater vs. SCAF

"The military might accept the Brotherhood as an ally within the new political space, but it will not tolerate a Brother on top"[....]"The Brothers made another serious error which will only now just begin to manifest; they will not find the necessary mass revolutionary backing to turn their battle against the military establishment into the revolution's battle against the SCAF"

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Zeinobia

New Blog Post by Zeinobia: ***"Presidential Wackiest Race: Who Will Stay in this round? Updated"***



"The HPEC has rejected all the petitions and appeals of all the excluded presidential candidates "10".

This means that Omar Suleiman, Khairat

El Shater, Hazem Salah Abu Ismail and Ayman Nour are not going to run. They can't appeal in front of the courts"

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The Big Pharaoh

Shocked at how Omar Suleiman is leading in the Masry Al Youm poll. He hasn't even started campaigning. It seems people do really feel insecure.

Mousa who was leading in the polls got replaced by Suleiman. Seems people will follow the "what we know is better than what we don't know" rule.

MB fell out with SCAF, Abu Ismael fell out with MB, Abu Ismael fell out with Nour party, SCAF fell out with everyone = I am a happy man

Now the powerful presidential candidates are: Shafik, Fotouh, Moussa, Morsy (if MB money and their publicity machine really supported him)



Arabist

Just had my first "we need Omar Suleiman he's not corrupt and he'll keep the Islamists in check" cab ride

The Islamists & Islamic Law

"It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues."



Ed Husain

Where Next for Egypt's Salafis?

"Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya leaders who had abandoned violence had repeatedly said that the new freedoms of Egypt would allow them to enter the political mainstream, making political violence redundant. Now, with Salafis no longer offering a candidate and shut out of the presidential race, will some of them resort to violence again? If not violence, then at least higher levels of animosity toward the president, the central state, and its supporters?"

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Hany Farouk Ghoraba (Freelance Journalist and Egyptian Businessman)



A New Blog Post by Ghoraba: **There is no business like God business: Islamist exploitations Part 1**

"Many Jihadists found themselves released from prison even those who spent life-time sentences (Usually 25 years in Egypt) were out. *The shocking release of these highly dangerous elements provided a sign to Islamists that their activities are finally tolerated by the authorities. Added to that hundreds of members of the Jihadist groups found their way back to Egypt from Albania, Afghanistan, Iran and others in the days that followed the Fall of Mubarak.* ***This represents a clear and present danger to the Egyptian national security for these are highly battled hardened militants who can are unpredictable in their next course of action****"*

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Growing Islamist exploitations in Egypt Part 2

"The path Egyptians have chosen will lead into further divisions within the country and Iran, Pakistan, Sudan, Algeria, Gaza, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan are living proof that Islamists when in power they never bring the milk and honey to people's lives*" [.....] "Islamists are gaining ground now inch by inch and step by step for total hegemony on the country and very soon on the Middle East region"*

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Arabist

A New Post: **Paradoxes of "religious freedom" in Egypt** by Tamir Moustafa and Asifa Quraishi

"Unfortunately, both inside and outside Muslim-majority countries, the focus is usually on whether one or the other side will win the latest battle. A better path is to explore creative alternatives to end the war"

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Nervana Mahmoud

A New Post by Nervana Mahmoud on: **Islamic Law and Justice for All?**

"Sticking to general slogans of justice and morality is simply not enough. As the parliamentary majority, the Brotherhood has a duty to engage the public in a debate about the interpretation and implementation of Sharia law in society. This debate may be awkward, difficult, and daunting, but the dialogue is essential to ensure that Bouazizi and the thousands of revolutionary martyrs who dreamed about freedom, equality, and justice did not die in vain"

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Bahrain

The Unrest Continues – In-between Hunger Games & Car Games



Bahrain Politics Blog

'Abd al-Hadi al-Khawajah: "Let's Bring Down the Ruling Gang"

"The AFP reports that the lawyer for 'Abd al-Hadi al-Khawajah fears that the activist and founder of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights may have died as a result of his extended hunger strike" [....] " Over the weekend, there was hope that a last minute deal would send him (back) to Denmark (where he spent years in exile) for medical treatment, but, as seemingly everything in Bahrain, that was blocked as a result of disagreement within the Al Khalifa"

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When Ruling Family Divisions Come to Society: Bahrain's New Civilian Police

"Certainly, part of the reason for heightened tensions is the continued controversy surrounding the case of al-Khawajah, and especially demonstrators' desire to play spoiler for the still-upcoming--but increasingly-uncertain--Formula 1 race.

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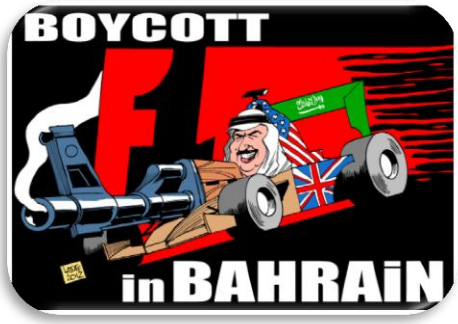
Bahrain Formula 1 Photo Round-Up

"The controversy surrounding the upcoming Bahrain Grand Prix on April 22: "With the world's eyes on Bahrain as it prepares to host the Grand Prix, no-one should be under any illusions that the country's human rights crisis is over"

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Syria

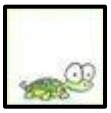
UN Stalling Role



Susan Rice

Resolution 2042 on Syria is an important step for the UNSC towards fulfilling its responsibilities. It is about time.

Syrian regime lied to the world, lied to its people and the biggest fabricator is Assad himself. Words are meaningless. Actions are what matter



Colum lynch

Turkey urges international community to protect civilians in Syria

To the Original Copy

Security Council resolution 2042 on Syria
Adopted by the Security Council at its 6751st meeting, on 14 April 2012. (Cosponsors) "Colombia, France, Germany, Morocco, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Resolution 2042

Falling Star – Rising Star

Shakeeb Al-Jabri

A New Blog Post by by Shakeeb Al-Jabri: "**Assad's End"**



"Assad is on a path with only one logical end. ***His. The army, like civilians, requires services to function properly. Soldiers are already being sent on missions without rations****. As they become more dependent on the revolution councils they will defect in larger numbers.* ***Assad will lose his only card****"*

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Malik Al-Abdeh

Fascinating Piece by Malik Al-Abdeh: **Profile of Rising Star of Syrian Opposition George Sabra**

"George Sabra encapsulates in his words and deeds the spirit of the Syrian uprising: liberal, pro-democratic, non-sectarian and manifestly rural and working class. Above all, he reflects a vision of Syrian identity that is far more compelling than the card-board cut out offered by the Assads. It's a vision deeply-rooted in history; the essence of what it is to be a Syrian"

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Al-Akhbar English

Syria's Email Wars: The Opposition Leaks

"A series of documents that electronic activists managed to obtain after hacking into the email account of Syrian National Council president Burhan Ghalioun"

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Tunisia

In Transition

The Majalla

Tunisia in Transition Written by: Paula Mejia

"As the country prepares for next year's presidential elections, it is up to the government in place to ensure that they have done everything in their power to compensate for the losses created by the revolution itself. This is easier said than done, ***as the need to create jobs and concerns over inflation has created pressure on the government to take on measures that may be more costly in the future****"*

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Egypt Independent

Tunisia's Salafis raise a black flag

*"****Tunisian politics are dangerously slipping into an Us-versus-Them mentality; one can only be a Secularist or a Salafi****. As the middle ground disappears and polarizing conversations dominate everyday politics and life, the purported "Arab Spring" that was supposed to blanket Tunisia in democracy, might not be exactly what covers the country. For now, the fabric of Tunisian society is tenuously held together with the fervor of college students"*

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Libya

The Tribal Model is always Violent



Arabist

Libya's Militia Problem Revisited by Paul Mutter

*The NTC has to hope that in keeping its electoral schedule that the militias do not engage in voter intimidation, though some militias are reportedly already looking to set up political arms to run in the Constituent Assembly elections. "If the leaders of local militias were to decide to intervene to influence the outcome of an election, there is no power or authority that could stop them" [....]"***should**

the ongoing violence affect the electoral process, which is almost certainly going to be happen — the question is not "if?" but "to what extent?"

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Jordan

The Syrian Refugees Challenge



The Syrian Sun

An Account on the Syrian Refugees of Jordan

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Abdul Hamid Ahmad

Waves of refugees from Syria have become a burden for Jordan by Jumana Al Tamimi

"Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh announced recently that the number of Syrians who crossed to Jordan, both legally and illegally, has passed 90,000 since the eruption of the violence in Syria more than a year ago"

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Kuwait

Moderate *MBs* vs. Radicalism Salafi

Jadaliyya

Kuwait's Muslim Brotherhood

"Our problem is the Saudi wave" that is impacting the Gulf area. "Give the Ikhwan a chance to be tested. Their performance in Egypt will be their test. Will they allow the system to remain democratic and free elections to continue? Or will they turn their back to newly achieved political freedoms and become autocratic?" [....] "Economic globalization will force newly installed Islamist governments to be more flexible; to build



commercial and economic ties with the world for the welfare of their countries"

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Yemen

North vs. South - Reshaping the Equation



Arabist

A New Post by Bilal Ahmed: **"How The North-South Relationship in Yemen is changing"**

*"Just as anti-royalist sentiment during the North Yemeni Civil War shifted the perception of the North away from anti-modernity, pro-democratic movements are once again active in the same fashion**. It is difficult for a South Yemeni to call a North Yemeni "savage" when they are challenging the same autocratic tendencies as Southern liberation movements.** New bonds of solidarity are forming in spite of the bitterness that arose in the fallout of the 1994 Yemeni Civil War. These bonds present an opportunity to ease secessionist attitudes through a truly revolutionary rearrangement of Yemeni power structures and popular access to them"*

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Palestinians



Self-Criticism in Gaza

Gaza Youth Break Out

Hamas and Egypt share responsibility of the people's suffering at Rafah crossing:" **Dreams of Return Dashed by the Bearded Traitor"**

"It seems clear that Hamas is the next link in the chain of the victim becoming the oppressor. When will activists, rise up and start calling out the abuse of power, control and oppression from WITHIN Gaza?! It is up to us to FIRST stop building our own chains that snakes and binds itself around our communities, and those who should be our most natural allies. And, if it is not stopped now – their grip on power will only grow stronger and more cemented in place making it much more difficult in the future"

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The Hunger Games

#PalestinianPrisoners / #Palhunger / #StrikingForDignity

Al Arabiya English

1200 Palestinian detainees start hunger-strike: Israeli Prisons Service



JeJe Alfarra

While thousands strive for food, Palestinian prisoners give it up willingly to strive for their dignity! #StrikingForDignity



Budour

A New Post by Yoav Haifawi: **Palestinian Prisoners and Palestine the Prisoner**

*"On April 17 we commemorate "**Yawm elAsir elFalestini**" – the Palestinian Prisoner's day. Thousands of Palestinian prisoners are preparing for a massive decisive hunger strike, after their basic rights and living conditions were severely eroded by their tormentors over the last years. The Arab awakening now shows the limits of the might of imperialism and all oppressors and the potential power of the mass struggle"*

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