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#Morsi Press Conference

Rawya Rageh

Morsi says he will resign from Freedom & Justice Party if he becomes president

Morsi acknowledges FJP made mistakes in handling constituent assembly

Morsi: All Egyptian love the army. The military played a great role in protecting the revolution.

Morsi tries to reassure Copts, says there will be separation of powers in a 'national state

Morsi: The law guarantees the right to protest peacefully without intimidation thru emergency law

Morsi: Women represent more than half of the society in #Egypt, not just half. Working women rights are guaranteed

Morsi: Some claim Dr Morsi will force women to put on the veil. What's this empty talk? That's not what religion says.

Morsi: Those who want to wear a hijab, they are free.. Those who don't they are free too.

Morsi appeals to the disabled too, say their rights must be respected.

Morsi placates tourism sector fears, says tourism must be encouraged

Morsi: There is no need for the state of emergency. It MUST end.

Morsi promises re-trial of #Mubarak, others accused of killing protesters w 'serious evidence.

Post-Election Reflections



Hatem Rushdy

Five Neutral Criteria for Selecting Egypt's Next President

Well well well. Talk about a rock and a hard place. Just about everyone I speak with is not so much choosing a candidate as refusing his competitor. A mantra currently being repeated is "I am not voting for Morsy, I am just rejecting Shafik," along with its opposite number "I am not voting for Shafik,

I am just rejecting Morsy"[.....]" But if - like me - you don't like the idea of the boycott for a reason or another, here are five, non-ideological, Egypt-centric, criteria for helping you (and perhaps me) decide who to vote for"
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Wael Eskandar



Voting Shafik Meant Choosing Morsi

If you're one of those stubborn citizens of Egypt who voted for Ahmed Shafik, then congratulations, you've chosen Mohamed Morsi. Now that the run offs are between Shafik and Morsi, it becomes apparent that your anti-Islamist drive is leading to a near-certain victory for an Islamist. Here's why:

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Amin Elmasry

Post-Election Reflections

Voting Patterns: How Did the Vote Turnout This Way?

The Salafis disappeared!

Copts decided to vote as a bloc

The Muslim Brothers were much weaker

Remnants of the NDP and previous regime supported Shafik

Secular and leftist sentiment is still alive

The revolution still wins!

Mostly the second-tier candidates were competing in this election.

Low vote turnover.

*"**The most important demand for this constituency is maintaining a civil state through a strong constitution that provides clear protections for individual rights, free elections, and judicial independence**. This will be our main defense against the old or the new authoritarian state" [.....]"The ultimate question of whether to vote for Morsi or Shafik or to boycott the elections will only become clear based on the*

actions of the two candidates during the next three weeks and how they respond to the demands of the other 50% of the voters (as well as those who did not vote in the first round)"

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Mahmoud Salem

Don't Blame the Copts!

*"**Blaming the Coptic Christians for Shafiq is like blaming SCAF for "Hijacking the revolution", both are attempts to deflect personal responsibility and deny the simple truth that had the revolutionaries united behind one leader or presidential candidate, they would've easily won this election and been in the run-off already, with the Coptic vote firmly behind them.** But no, it's not our fault that we chose shitty candidates and ignored their plight for over a year, it's their fault for picking the least of all evils to them. They are not under any illusions over their choice, but when you have been facing rising and mounting hostility and danger from day one of this revolution, when you seem to be the one always paying the heaviest price, when you are a Coptic Christian, and hear about the verdict to release all Muslims suspects in the Abu Qurqas clashes and giving all Christian suspects life sentences not even a week ago, it's easy for you to understand why they voted the way they did. Many revolutionaries may feel that the Coptic Christians have abandoned the revolution with their choice, but the uncomfortable truth may be that the revolutionaries abandoned the Coptic Christians a long time ago, and are paying the price for it now"*

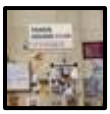
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I don't support Shafiq, but I will not enable or support the MB and neither should any self-respecting secular person.

So please, spare me your guilt trips. The MB will not win because of our idealism again. I am sick of being used by them.

Anyone who tells me that not supporting Morsy is support for Shafiq can suck it. I will not vote to have another family rule Egypt Sorry.

Morsy's brother in law is the head of the Shura Council, thus controlling state media. And that's the tip of the ice berg.



Jane Kinninmont

Egypt's Military Council and the Transition to Democracy by Maha Azzam

Egypt's transition to democracy has been undermined by the legacy of almost 60 years of consecutive rule by men from the military. Since the fall of Mubarak the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) has attempted to direct the process of democratization but has frequently responded to challenges through tactics reminiscent of the old regime.

The public's search for security and economic stability and the military's elevated position in the eyes of many have allowed the SCAF to maintain significant power during the transition period and often to outmaneuver its political opponents. However, its position and interests have been challenged by the democratic process. It is likely that the military institution itself will ultimately be subject to scrutiny, although much depends on the choice of president.

A withdrawal of the military from politics does not just mean a withdrawal from the limelight, something the SCAF has wanted; it is a process that requires its full separation from the political arena and non-interference in the parliamentary and constitutional process. This requires budgetary accountability and transparency, and means the military must not be above the law.

The failure to achieve a speedy transition to civilian rule will not only delay progress towards a fully democratic Egypt. It will also increase the polarization and conflict between the old guard and the 'new' Egypt, distracting attention from addressing the pressing economic and social demands of the majority of Egyptians.

Full Report

Presidential Election Run-Off - Scenarios Games



Hussein Ibish

Egypt's choice: The lesser of two evils

"Under current circumstances, especially with no clear process under way for creating a new constitution, the military and the Brotherhood will have to either craft a deal neither of them is at all comfortable with, or begin what is likely to be a bitter, dangerous and prolonged power struggle"

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Egypt Source Blog

Possible Scenarios for Electoral Alliances in the Run-Off

Shafik's best hope under any of these three scenarios is to leverage his natural base of support in the bureaucratic state apparatus and take advantage of his financial and media connections. *His main objective will be to raise the overall rate of participate in the run-off (only 46.6 percent of Egyptians voted in the first round) in order to in the mitigate the weight of Islamists, who appear to have voted at higher rates than non-Islamist in the first round" [....] "**Morsi's strategy will be to maximize the Salafi vote and persuade Salafis who voted for Aboul Fotouh in the first round,** or abstained from voting entirely in protest of Hazem Saleh Abu Ismail's controversial disqualification by the electoral commission"*

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Zack Gold

A Worst-Case Scenario in Egypt?

"The SCAF has shown over and over that it has no interest in giving up military prerogatives. As such, a contest between the military and the Brotherhood will continue to simmer. Egyptian voters must decide if they prefer that conflict out in the open or behind the scenes. A Shafik presidency could block the independent parliament's ambitions on behalf of the military, and a President Morsi would always have the possibility of a coup in the back of his mind. Neither scenario is particularly democratic"

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#EmergencyLaw – It's Payback Time



Sanjeev Bery

Is Egypt's "State of Emergency" Finally Over?

*"Since Mubarak's ouster over a year ago, security forces have tortured, shot, and killed protestors with impunity. Thousands of Egyptian civilians have experienced military trials. Not only must these violations be stopped, but their perpetrators must be investigated and brought to justice. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces – Egypt's military government – has operated with reckless impunity as it has crushed protests in the post-Mubarak environment. **It is time for the decades of abuse to end"***

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Ikhwanweb

Fact: 32,000 Muslim Brotherhood members in Egypt were detained under old regime using #EmergencyLaw

Under Egypt #EmergencyLaw, Mubarak ignored or over-ruled more than 62,000 court rulings that were in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood

Under Egypt #EmergencyLaw,more than 1400 companies owned by members of Muslim Brotherhood were shut down

Under Egypt #EmergencyLaw, more than 3200 MB leaders were banned from traveling,11000 were forced to leave their work in various jobs

Under #EmergencyLaw, 44,000 Muslim Brotherhood students were arrested, expelled, excluded from student unions, or kicked out of dorms

Full Report

#MubarakTrial - Catch-22



Bassem Sabry

The Mubarak Trial's Verdict - catch-22



"But assuming that the prosecution's case is indeed weak, that puts us in a catch-22, as one friend was reaffirming yesterday to me. In that scenario, if the verdict is consequently "not guilty" based on sound legal technicalities (I'm mainly speaking about the Protesters' Killing Case), then he would have escaped all responsibility for the death of protesters exposed to extreme violence by his regime's security forces. And if a guilty verdict was passed with such an ostensibly weak case without formidable technical backing, then it would be a politicized verdict, which would be a problem in its own way that raises concerns on the impartiality of the legal system"

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Mahmoud Salem

Pay attention, the speech, everything is for public consumption. This is not about you. #MubarakTrial

Ladies& Gents, we apologize 4 the interruption of service for the past 17 month, & have resumed our regular programming. Love, The Regime



Sultan Al Qassemi

Judge: The trial took 49 sessions, 250 hours, 60,000 pages #Egypt



Jack Shenker

Nooses, scales of justice and martyrs' families outside the #MubarakTrial in New Cairo

The Egypt Monocle

Mubarak and Adly sentence to life in prison. Alaa, Gamal and Adly's aides acquitted. #MubarakTrial



Wael Eskandar



The Mubarak Trial: A Theatrical Review

"Had the SCAF not been a dictatorship meddling with the judiciary system, the likelihood of believing this was a real trial would have increased greatly*. This is compounded with their reluctance to try Mubarak for a very long time and the constant rumors about his ailing health that was once one of the country's taboos. Had Mubarak been brought in on a wheel chair rather than a stretcher and had he acted the part, the play would have been more believable"*

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Is It A Proxy War?



Susan Rice



Three scenarios could materialize in Syria. They are mutually exclusive:

First & best: Syria wakes up, stops killing, and adheres to its obligations under multiple UNSC resolutions. Not a high probability.

Second possible outcome - Russia/China need to agree - UNSC & international community assume responsibilities, exert pressure on Assad.

Third & worst: violence intensifies spills over, and exploits sectarian fissures. UNSC unity gone. Annan plan gone. Most probable now.

Time we talk about Syria options in stark terms. To let this become a proxy war would be to basically concede a violent regional wildfire.

#Assadspeech – Terrorism – Minority - Monsters



Ezzedine Said



Assad: Elections were the perfect response "to the criminal killers and those who finance them"

Assad: The masks have fallen and the international role in the Syria events is now obvious

Assad: Seeking a political solution and fighting "terrorism" two different things

Assad: "terrorists" will not stop unless we stop them ourselves

Assad: we are not facing a political problem but a **"project to destroy the country"**

Assad: A new government "soon" in Syria

Assad: No dialogue though with opposition "seeking foreign intervention"

Assad: **We will continue to "firmly" fight "terrorism"**

Assad: The Syrians are "intelligent" and does not blindly imitate what happens elsewhere

Assad: **A "minority" did not understand that Syria's regional role is targeted**

Assad: The state has proved it's' "credibility" in pushing for reforms

Assad: When it comes to Syria's interest "there should be no gray area"

Assad: **Houla massacre and others committed by "monsters"**

Assad: **A minority is pushing to "destroy the country"**

Assad Mocks the "**advices of democracy coming from the nations of slavery**"

Lebanon

Al-Qaeda – Targeting Shiite Leaders



Alakhbar News

Al-Qaeda in Lebanon: Murmurs of Assassinations

"Lebanese security agencies have strong evidence that al-Qaeda has been planning to target high level political and religious figures – including the speaker of parliament – with the aim of provoking sectarian strife" [.....] "Tasks included surveillance of Christian religious sites in Mount Lebanon and the North, and preparing for the assassination of Shia and Christian political and religious figures" [.....]" ***In the second half of May, there appears to have been a further influx of al-Qaeda envoys to Lebanon****"*
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Are we Heading to a Military Coup- General Jean Kahwaji



Zaher

The Lebanese Army Wants To Do It Again, Again And Again

"Unsigned signs and posters expressing support to the army have suddenly cropped up in the streets in Beirut. The army wants to convince us that they are savior the country. Ok-ish, not going to get into this argument now, but

this method is a pretty cheap way, especially when posters are showing the army chief General Jean Kahwaji himself" [.....] With current President Michel Sleiman insisting that he wants to leave by the end of his presidential term, it looks the army has started an early presidential campaign, whose posters are being funded from my TVA money. I really want my money back"

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Déjà Vu - #TripoliLB - Sunni vs. Alawite



Jenan Moussa

Clashes back in North Lebanon between Tripoli's rival neighborhoods.



Salam Hafez

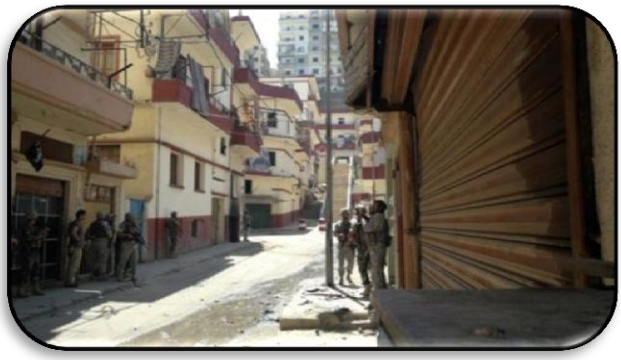


"From the start of the Syrian revolution, the city, and North Lebanon as a whole, has seen many pro-revolution rallies, with many roads and buildings decorated with anti-Assad slogans and revolutionary flags. Revolutionary songs blare at the Syria Taxi rank in al Tal. Some in the neighborhood of Ibeh and Abu Samra adopt extreme sectarian views at Salafi rallies attended by Dai al Islami al Shahal and other notable clerics such as Salem al Rifai and Omar Bakri Mohammed, who Salafis and organizers of the sit-in claim has no real support. But the constant theme of those rallies and speeches is that the fight will continue until one side or the other is victorious"
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#TripoliLB rocket explodes in Nijmeh sqr. Most intense fighting between Jabal/Tibaneh. 12 dead 50 injured

Army has been given permission to fire at all armed factions in the city, this should be interesting.

Army is not trusted by some Sunni community, could lead to major escalation in tensions if seen taking sides





Iran

Are The Saudis Bluffing?

Tehran Bureau

Iran, Saudi Arabia, and a Global Game of Risk

"Prince Turki al-Faisal, former chief of Saudi intelligence, explained to NATO officials that if "dysfunctional" Iran tried to take advantage of unrest in the Middle East and persisted with its uranium enrichment program, the Saudis were prepared to take decisive action. The Iranian regime's "hold on power is only possible if it is able, as it barely is now, to maintain a level of economic prosperity that is just enough to pacify its people." Flooding world oil markets with surplus Saudi crude would drive oil prices down and deny Tehran the billions required to balance its budget, finance its nuclear ambitions, and maintain social harmony" [.....] "Fast forward to May 2012 and oil is still priced at over $100 per barrel, ***Iran's nuclear program is moving forward, and the Saudis have not moved against the oil markets.*** *Was Prince Turki serious when he delivered his threat, or was it intended as a bluff in an increasingly dangerous game of high-stakes strategic poker?*

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Palestinians

#Palestinian Spring



Leil-Zahra

Abir Kopty is addressing now question of "where is the #Palestinian spring" Responds #Palestinian struggle started way before the "springs"

"**When we talk about popular resistance, we mean unarmed resistance opens to everyone in society**"

The P.A. is also participating in the repression of the Palestinian people. **Some activists got arrested for criticizing Abbas**

Abir now is tackling the #Palestinian authority after as she said "**I criticized Israel & Oslo now we have to criticize our own mistakes**"

Abir says that **what is needed is not electing a parliament that operates under the blessing of the occupation, but a popular resistance body**

Silence of the international community & **the corruption of P.A. in face of Israeli terrorism affect morals of the Palestinian people**.

Abir says despite everything the Palestinian struggle is continuing, International, solidarity is as important as local mobilizations in Palestine

She says everyone taking part in demos in Palestine is risking a lot, detention, being shot, being killed, or arrested later if photographed

Working with Israelis is a controversial point, but even those who work with them limit to Anti-Zionists, Supporting BDS (A campaign of Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel) & Right of Return

Abir says the issue of visits to Palestine under Israel is still an ongoing debate; she views the **Mufti visit as normalization Egypt**

Abir now tackling what she calls "**popular frustration**" which is sometimes **creating a problem for massive participation in actions Palestine**

Abir says that since the Palestinian authority is not representative, nor is the media, **social media is a tool to get the message across**

Israeli attacks are multi-layered & range from house demolitions, withdrawal of identity cards & right to access to Palestine.