

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

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Egypt

#Egywood - The Game Has Changed



Mahmoud Salem

The-Game

"If you noticed, Morsi rhetoric stopped being religious or Islamist, and more revolutionary. Sharia is no longer selling politically, with the population*. If it did, they would've used it, but they are also aware that the way they used to get votes or support will not work for a while. Political Islam is changing, and its practitioners no longer have their Halo's in the eyes of the public.* ***The next parliamentary elections will not have Islamists winning the majority, at all, either way. The Game has changed.*** *This next phase is going to be a doozy. Save your money, people. You are going to need it"*

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Marc Lynch

Calvinball in Cairo

"The best guide to the chaos of Egyptian politics is Hobbes. No, not Thomas Hobbes - Calvin and Hobbes*. Analysts have been arguing since the revolution over whether to call what followed a transition to democracy, a soft coup, an uprising, or something else entirely. But over the last week it's become clear that Egyptians are in fact caught up in one great game of Calvinball. Calvinball is a game defined by the absence of rules -- or, rather, that the rules are made up as they go along. Calvinball sometimes resembles recognizable games such as football, but is quickly revealed to be*

*something else entirely" [....] "**The only permanent rule is that the game is never played the same way twice. Is there any better analogy for Egypt's current state of play?"***

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Arabist

Egypt's Quantum Entanglement

"Egypt's seemingly endless transition appears to have entered a similarly bizarre quantum state, where things both are and are not. The deposed dictator, Hosni Mubarak, was supposed to be dying, then to have been clinically dead and then merely to be in a coma. Finally he was said to be fine, just injured from a slip in the shower. For about 24 hours, like Schrodinger's cat, Mubarak was both dead and alive" [.....] "Egypt is in such a state of confusion that not even a quantum physicist, never mind a political analyst, can make sense of it. For now, this has generated protests but no serious unrest. Rumors fly about this or that development, a concession here and a thinly veiled threat there. Tension is in the air, because sooner or later the box will be opened and the fate of a revolution revealed"

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Using Democratic Means for Un-Democratic Goals



Mostafa El-Hoshy

So with all this presidential election business, in reality the past 24 hours or so seem to have been quite good for SCAF:

The Full List of Achievements



Arabist

The SCC's Verdicts

"While I understand that the court mostly based its argument on electoral laws — the "unconstitutional" law electoral of 2011, replacing or amending previous ones being the chief problem — I was not sure what parts of the 2011 Constitutional Declaration the said law violated, particularly since previous decisions to dissolve parliament (in 1987 and 1990) often invoked in this case took place under a different constitution. Indeed, oddly, there are references to both the 1971 Constitution (under which many laws regulating

*political life where enacted) and the 2011 Constitutional Declaration now in place. The court itself at times seems to hesitate between the two, as if both were somehow still relevant rather than just the latter"[.....] "**Once again, the key argument of the court is that the 2011 electoral law discriminated against independents because while members of political parties could contest both the list system and the simple majority system, non-affiliated politicians could only take part in the simple majority races**. This, it ruled, is a violation of the principle of equality, as enshrined in Article 7 of the 2011 Constitutional Declaration"*

Read More + *Full Translation of the Verdicts*

An Instant Analysis of Egypt's New Constitution

"The supplementary constitutional declaration really does complete the coup in many obvious ways–basically returning martial law (in its more original sense rather than the "state of emergency" that just expired), making the military unaccountable, and grabbing back oversight of the political system for the military just weeks before the scheduled end of military rule. Most of this is clear on the surface and does not need much analysis"

Read More + *Full Text of The Constitutional Declaration*



Bassem Sabry

8 Tweets On Why Some are not that Angry, If not Actually Supportive, of the Regime's Recent Power Grab:

1- It should be noted that not everyone is angry with SCAF's recent actions. There is what appears to be a significantly large amount of

2- Amount of people who see SCAF as "stepping in at last second to save the process." I have heard this narrative from many people

3- Some of them express frustration with how political forces have been unable to reach any real consensus on constitutional issues

4- Some express worry and distrust with regards to the MB's aggressive grasp for power, some worry of violence in case Morsi fairly loses

5- Some find liberal and secular parties to be utterly worthless and incapable of having any real impact, and some see the political

6- Transition falling apart and of course (the greatest irony) some see SCAF predominantly as the (gasp) "protector of the civil state."

7- Of course, I DO NOT share this opinion. But I am sharing it to explain how diverse opinions on the subject are within the Egyptian street

8- The point I'm making is that the combined (and unique) failures of organized Egyptian political forces is making this more acceptable.





Mohamed El Dahshan

WWMBD? (What will the Muslim Brotherhood do?)

"There is a certain amount of schadenfreude at seeing the Muslim Brotherhood in such a weakened position, particularly since the loss of the parliament it controlled, and at the hands of the SCAF it so often cut deals with, sometimes at the expense of young lives" [.....]" There is also speculation that the Brotherhood will again cut a deal with the SCAF whereby they will acquiesce to the Constitutional Declaration in exchange for a Morsi presidency. ***All these elements mean that the main revolutionary groups and leaders are unlikely to come out in support of the Brotherhood on this one, both in distrust of the Islamists, but also in a bid to watch the SCAF and the Brotherhood weaken one another"***

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Sara Labib

A different perspective on the dissolution of parliament

"I would like to point out that the same parties and political leaders who insisted on a voting system they knew could be found constitutionally flawed and yet went ahead with elections despite that, would later on enact the political disenfranchisement law*. That law was declared unconstitutional as well by the Supreme Constitutional Court for being in blatant disregard of the respect for political rights among other things. The law meant that parliament could simply vote away fundamental individual rights if the required majority is met (and not through a court decision after due process). Additionally, the law signified that it would be acceptable for parliament to limit the choices of the very same people who voted that parliament in by excluding certain candidates from the race"*

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Egypt's Current Affairs: Combinations & Balance of Power



Nervana Mahmoud

Morsi Shafiq & Mubarak. Egypt's Conflicting Reports

"As for Mubarak, the obsession with a humiliated, politically irrelevant man indicates that ***Egypt still lives in the past and refuses to move forward to the future****. Meanwhile, Egypt's layers of governance are slowly eroding. Even the Judiciary is losing is credibility. Millions of Egyptians are struggling to earn a living, queuing for gas and diesel, and experiencing deteriorating security in many areas, while tension is rising at the Israeli border.* ***Unless both parties, SCAF and the Brotherhood, cease their lust for power, the country may descend into new dark era that makes 1954 seem like a walk in the park****"*



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President Morsi Shater Anan?

"It is difficult to figure out what is really happening in Egypt. Amid a tsunami of rumors, accusations, and conflicting reports, finding the truth is a very hard task" [.....] "For now, we have three possibilities:

Possibility 1: *A deal is brokered. In that case, Morsi will be President, but behind the scene, the true power will be in the hand of two figures; Anan and Shater. If they both found some common ground, it would be truly ground breaking.*

Possibility 2: *No deal, if defiance prevails and the two parties decide to test each other's ability to confront.*

Possibility 3: *A reelection in some districts, if they decide to agree to disagree and take Ramadan as "Hudna" (truce). Unlikely!*

As for what tomorrow will hold, will it be a sandstorm or a sunny day? Who know? We shall see"

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Michael Young

When the Dictator Dies a Footnote

*"**Did it really matter on Wednesday whether Hosni Mubarak was clinically dead, completely dead, or alive and dying in a suite at a military hospital in Maadi**? The death of a dictator is a dramatic moment in the life of a country, and usually one of great duplicity" [.....] "Mubarak doesn't seem to matter anymore. As the Egyptian armed forces impose their writ, prompting mass protests from those who fear that the gains of 2011 are being reversed, the old man has become a footnote. **Democracy requires much more than this to take hold, but one facet of a more democratic Egypt – or a Syria, Libya and Yemen – is when the death of a leader does not compel society to suddenly stop in its tracks in anticipation of an indefinite future**"*

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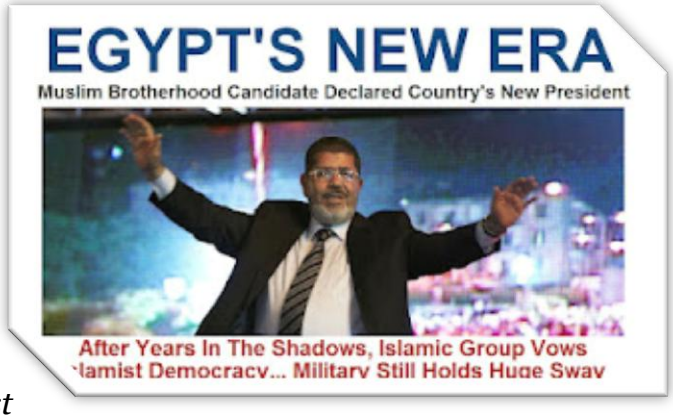
Mohamed Morsi – The "People's Servant"



Zeinobia

The 5th President of Egypt is .... Mohamed Morsi

*"**The presidential elections committee "PEC" has announced that Mohamed Morsi is the 5th President of Arab republic of Egypt by of the 51.54% votes**. Thousands are celebrating in Tahrir square currently. I see floods of the Egyptian flags. The protesters say "We will not leave, the military leave" On the other hand the supporters of Shafik are crying in front of his Presidential campaign HQ cursing Tantawy and Mubarak and chanting "Down with the military rule" I am happy that Ahmed Shafik has lost and I am happy that after #Jan25 we got the first civilian, a university professor to rule Egypt. Mursi is the fifth President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the 16th ruler of Egypt since 1805.He is the second political prisoner after Sadat to become the president of Egypt"*



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Arabist

President-Morsi

"The US' real favored outcome has been clear for a while: a strong, rooted civilian party restoring stability (and decent economic governance) in the Brothers and clear red lines on issues such as foreign policy (especially towards Israel) and unfettered bilateral military-to-military relations (overflight rights, fast-track Suez Canal access, etc.). ***In other words, some sort of understanding between the Brothers and the generals. In a sense, Egypt could use a breather away from the revolutionary fervor and responsible people getting the house in order.*** *But alongside with this comes worrying possibilities: an uneasy military-Islamist alliance, perpetually unstable, with the generals undermining the civilians and the Islamists resorting to populist antics in their impotence. It's a different time and a different set of circumstances, but late 1980s Sudan is not exactly an inspiring example of Islamist-military coexistence"*

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Borzou Daragahi

Egyptian President-Elect Mohamed Morsi's Speech

"We came to the world with a message of peace. **We will maintain international charters and conventions and the commitments and agreements Egypt has signed with the world**. We will also work to make the Egyptian system of ethics, and its civilizational identity, in addition to human values particularly in freedoms, respect for human rights, maintaining rights of women and children and abrogating all sorts of discrimination. We will establish, God willing, balanced relations with all world powers, we will establish balanced relations between us and other world countries based on common interests and mutual respect and benefits to all sides"

For the Full Speech



Alaa Bayoumi

Morsi's First Official Address: A departure!?

"Morsi's first official presidential address at Cairo University today was unprecedented on many symbolic levels. Yet, at the policy level it did not

sound as a clear departure from Mubarak's era policies or from known Muslim Brotherhood doctrines"[…..] "He said he wanted to work on achieving national unity among Palestinians, stopping the shedding of the Syrian people's blood, defending Arab security, and advancing Arab economic and military cooperation. He also said that he is not interested in exporting Egyptian revolution"[....] " Morsi's statement about Palestinian unity will be met by strong opposition by Israel and its supporters in the US .They will try to represent it as an evidence of a departure from old Mubarak's pro Israel policies"

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New Elite Replacing Old Elite & The Fear Factor



Bassem Sabry

Morsi Must Rise to Challenge of Inspiring a Divided Egypt

*"**Disheartened talk of "leaving the country because it does not feel like home anymore" echoed around me on social media and in the downtown café I visited later in the evening. Rumors and fears of investors fleeing with their capital and expertise also swirled.** And for some who voted for Morsi, they experienced a victory that was only partial, and bittersweet. Those voters saw Morsi as the lesser of two evils and a pragmatic and idealistic choice for a greater good. Consequently, they celebrated the fall of Shafiq, but not the rise of Morsi" [.....] "Furthermore, **many groups, including liberals and Coptic Christians, are understandably worried about the ascendancy of the Brotherhood to the highest office of the nation as well as the group's potential domination of future political life.** Investors are apprehensive about the volatile economic, political and security environments, while brain-drain and capital outflow is a significant fear in an already difficult economic situation"*

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Mahmoud Salem

The New Elite

"Given that being Elite is connected with being in power, when a new Elite comes into Power through a revolution, the old Elite have one of three options: 1) Leave the Country, 2) intermarry

with the new Elite and assimilate them, or 3) Stay in the country, bid your time with the risk of withering out. *Those were the exact three option that faced Egypt's Elite (back when they were part of an aristocracy) on the onset of the 1952 revolution, when the Army Officers became the new Elite. Some fled the country, some sat on the sidelines in bitterness awaiting a comeback that came for some and not for others, while others went ahead and intermarried with them to keep their social status, and assimilated them into their existing social dynamics and thus survived till this day. Unfortunately for them, that last option won't exactly work this time, due to the very special nature of the Muslim Brotherhood and how their social circle operates"*

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Egypt Liberals – What's Next?



Koert Debeuf

Morsi is a Blessing for Egyptian Liberals

"This is an opportunity for the liberal/secular/revolutionary camp. *With the election of Morsi a new era has started: the era of politics***.** ***In order to convert this potential in an electoral victory the following universal political laws should be taken into account:***

Don't try to negotiate functions in the government if you're weak. *Also forget about presidential teams, councils, etc. That's too late. Right now the only legitimate politician is Mohamed Morsi. The government is his responsibility, as are the realizations of this government. He is responsible, but also accountable for what will go wrong.*

Stop the fragmentation. ***Unite forces***. *It is of no use to have dozens of parties with the same program and the same aims. All the meetings with all party presidents led to nothing. Small parties with less than five Members of Parliament should realize that it doesn't make sense to continue alone.*

Talk about content not about tactics. *People want to hear about solutions for the problems they have and not about tactical games. Don't only talk about what you don't want, but also about what your vision, your agenda is for the future of Egypt.* ***Make a positive narrative in which solutions for the everyday problems have their proper place***.

The duty of the opposition is to oppose. *Be the watchdog of the new president and his government. Be constructive, give alternative solutions,*

but be harsh when needed. Play the role of the parliament and control the executive powers. But don't criticize everything. ***Pick your fights****.*

Talk to the people*. Explain to the streets what you want and why. And listen to what they really expect from you.* ***Only if you can convince the people about what you're doing, you can become an alternative and win elections****.*

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Karim Shafei

The Revolution that Started 10 Years Ago

*"**I always believed that January 25th was a clash of generations and not a revolt against a regime. It's a social revolution before being a political one**; an uprising by the youth and their contemporary values against the old and their decaying social structures. Judging by the number of youth and their average age, I sort of become confident that they will outnumber and outlive their opposition"*

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Bahrain

Bahraini Hizballah

BHPoliticsBlog

The End of "Bahraini Hizballah"?



"At the same time, however, the post-uprising period has also revealed several unintended consequences of the state's strategy, both of which have to do with the fact that the state, having once awakened Sunnis, now faces a very difficult task controlling and appeasing them. ***Mobilized to counter the threat of "Shi'a terrorists," Sunnis now wonder why the state is unwilling to see the job through****: why not arrest all those who continue to defy the state and take part in illegal protest activities, as well as those who incite others to do so? In particular,* ***Sunnis ask, why have the most senior leaders of***

*"**Bahraini Hizballah**" (i.e., al-Wifaq)--Shs. 'Isa Qasim and 'Ali Salman--somehow escaped punishment for what is now going on 15 months?"*

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The Royal Family Dynamics - Growing Tensions

A Conversation with Emile Nakhleh on Al Khalifa Family Dynamics

*"**I agree with the view that the Saudis would play a role in the succession to Khalifa**. The interesting analytic question is what impact the Saudi intervention in the internal affairs of the family will have on the on-going friction among the different centers of power within the royals. I am sure Shaykh Muhammad, as he did in the past, will try to stay above the fray. That's how he survived on the inside track! If the King loses the succession fight, Khalid bin Ahmed and Khalifa bin Ahmed (Royal Court and the Field Marshal) will likely dominate the scene with Saudi blessings and support. If this happens, I'm not sure they will be satisfied with keeping Hamad as a figurehead king or Salman as CP. **I certainly expect the growing tensions within the ruling family to become more public and the infighting more ugly. Perhaps for the sake of family survival, cooler heads would prevail**"*

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Syria



A Civil War: Yes/ No

Hanin Ghaddar

The Fabrication of Civil War in Syria

*"For people who've lived through the Lebanese civil war, one of the main collective memories we share is of the statues that were erected everywhere during the conflict" [.....] " **With our civil war wounds still half-open, watching Syria doesn't ring the same bells. That's because in Syria, there is a revolution.** The Syrian people are destroying their statues and getting rid of their immortal heroes. They are trying to overcome the sacredness of the Baath ideology and its leaders, which have trapped them for decades. Unlike us Lebanese, they aspire to demolish all that"*

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Michael Young

Must We Admit to a Civil War in Syria?

"There is no black or white definition of civil war. There are degrees of civil war. Those who deny that a civil war is taking place in Syria employ one classification to make their case. They point out, rightly, that we haven't reached the point of full-scale institutionalization of conflict. *We do not see Syrian society mobilized for war, with the Free Syrian Army having rationalized its forces, systematically managing a leviathan of warfare against Bashar Assad's regiments. We are nowhere near the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, for example, where military campaigns were the work of embryonic states"*

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Apparently FSA controls large swathes of Syrian-Lebanese border; Turks will ensure the same on their border. Walls are closing in on Assad.

Lebanon

Aoun And The Christians Changing Policy



Michael Young

General Electric



"Hezbollah has played him like a fiddle for years, but its links with the general have given him leverage that he never properly took advantage of. Twice, he won a majority of Christian seats in parliament, but has yet seen his appeal decline. Aoun has more ministers in this government than any single Christian politician has ever had, and yet he has made an absolute mess of things—alienating almost all of his cabinet allies, displaying unprecedented greed and annoying even Hezbollah" [.....] "And soon, if he is still among us when the next president is selected, Aoun will have to swallow the additional insult of seeing the presidency escape him for

a second (even a third) time. That won't ameliorate his relationship with Hezbollah, but don't expect the general to find anyone to burn tires in the streets on his behalf"

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The Arming Race of The Sunnis



Mustapha

Arming Tripoli's Fighters Demand, not Supply

"The general assumption in my previous posts was that powerful politicians and regional interests are showering people with arms and money to reach their own nefarious (or heroic depending on how you see it) ends. What I found out is that the dynamic is in reverse: ***It is the people who are clamoring for weapons, and Sunni politicians who are seeking popularity in a competitive field are obliging****"[.....]"Mr. Miqati is having it both ways. He has the reputation of arming the Sunnis against their enemies, which gives him street-cred in the Sunni street. But he also has plausible deniability to keep his reputation with moderates and the international community. He can always blame "rogue" elements in the Azm foundation of financing the fighters behind his back, while reminding us of the charity work in education and health that his foundation undertakes"*

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Nahr al-Bared Camp – Growing Tension





Moeali Nayel

Lebanese Army Attack civilians: Nahr al-Bared camp

Again I won't go into the details of how the Army reacted back in 2007 in Naher El Bared, but what i will for sure do is make sure that all of you on this list (all BCC'd) get to know the facts of today 15 of June 2012 attacks on Civilians, NON Armed population of Naher El Bared'

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Nahr al-Bared

Testimonies by residents of The Nahr el-Bared camp



Electronic Intifada

Palestinians in Lebanon rise up in protest at military murder of young refugee

"The latest attack by the Lebanese army against unarmed Palestinian refugees is not new or the first of its kind. In 2007 three civilians were killed by military fire while protesting the war on the camp and demanding to return to their homes. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have few, or no, rights. They are completely disconnected from the Lebanese system and they are banned from practicing more than 70 professions. They live in camps with the highest poverty levels in the country. Through their peaceful protest, the people of Nahr al-Bared have succeeded in lifting the siege for only one day, but a specter of uncertainty and insecurity still hovers over the camp. Solidarity and steadfastness are the only shields and weapons the people of the camp hold in their pursuit of a decent life"

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Muftah

Protests against Nahr El-Bared Shooting in Lebanon

"It has been eleven days since the Lebanese Armed Forces shot and killed young Ahmad Qasim, an 18-year-old Palestinian resident of the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp, after he was detained at a checkpoint on June 15 and asked for his personal identification papers. Whereas security sources report that the incident resulted from a standoff between local residents and the military, Rabih Salah, an eyewitness to the incident, gave the following explanation: "They stopped a young man on a motorbike, asked for his papers. Weirdly enough he gave it to them, and told them it was all legal [his papers]. On the spot a military officer shouted at him and told him to respect the officers when they talk to him, he seemed to have answered back; another soldier jumped over him and hit him with the bottom of his rifle."

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Run Away from Taif Agreement



Michael Young

No Escape from Taif

"The National Dialogue sessions are to resume later this month, and the March 14 coalition hopes to bring to the table the matter of Hezbollah's weapons. Will that undermine the ongoing discussions? Probably not, as there seems to be widespread support in Lebanon for the politicians and political parties to keep channels open"[....]"We shouldn't expect breakthroughs when it comes to Hezbollah's arms. But ***March 14 must reaffirm the importance of Taif as the framework for any future negotiations over power-sharing. If that means tying Taif into a debate over weapons, all the better. Nasrallah and Aoun are trying to run away from Taif. We mustn't let them****"*

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The Salafis' Leader Rising Star: Ahmad al-Assir

Al-Akhbar

Ahmad al-Assir: A Salafi with a Difference



*"Al-Assir himself never discussed political convictions or party affiliations with his followers or visitors. He is strictly opposed any direct or indirect participation in political campaigns, at elections, or other times.However, day by day, al-Assir was collecting dozens of questions and complaints related, ultimately, to what is happening in the country. His behavior did not change significantly after former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated. In fact, he said that he did not rule out the possibility that al-Qaeda was responsible. He did not exploit the issue politically. But the ensuing fierce political clash in the country, and growing Shiite-Sunni sensitivities, raised questions he could not ignore" [.....] "****But nobody in the sheikh's entourage can explain his campaign against Hezbollah, and his riding, by extension, the wave of Sunni-Shiite tension****. He has, of course, been gratified by the response. It has drawn supporters of the Future Movement in Sidon. Hariri aides in the city discovered that the man was pulling the rug from under their feet. It wasn't just the city's poor but even the wealthy families, and everyone feeling roused, whether directly against Hezbollah or against the regime in Syria"*

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The Salafi Distraction from Lebanon's Woes

"Assir created strife in Lebanon while claiming to preach against it. This hypocrisy continued when he called for "peaceful" demonstrations in Saida. ***His aim, he claims, is to address the issue of non-state (the Resistance) weapons. Claiming that these weapons – which are legitimized by the Taef Accords – are the source of instability in Lebanon opened a new can of worms and threatened the same instability we witnessed in the North Lebanon a month ago.*** *In an attempt to avoid such fate in Saida, other Sunni clerics have strongly urged Assir to halt his demonstrations for the sake of Lebanon"*

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Saudi Arabia



Naif Death Possible Consequences

Sultan Al Qassemi

Nayef's Demise: Relief for the Brothers?

"The demise of Saudi Crown Prince Nayef will have significant repercussions not only in the Gulf but also on the whole region, including Egypt. Over the past 18 months, both Saudi Arabia and Egypt have seen major developments: the fall of former President Hosni Mubarak, the death of former Saudi Crown Prince Sultan, a new Egyptian Parliament and its recent dissolution, the death of the second Saudi crown prince and now a new Brotherhood president in Egypt. While one country has seen changes induced by a popular uprising, the other was the result of divine intervention"

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Prince Nayef's death makes a big difference in the Middle East

"Perhaps the most important and obscure non-Arab file that Nayef was involved in was that of Pakistan. The Times reported in February that Saudi Arabia would consider buying nuclear weapons if Iran acquired any and that the most likely source for Saudi would be Pakistan – although both have denied such an agreement exists. The solid Saudi relationship with Pakistan is heavily dependent on close co-ordination between the interior and

intelligence authorities of both states in which Nayef played a significant role"

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Ahmed Al Omran

Saudi Government Accused of Using Judiciary of Silence Activists

"Three prominent Saudi human rights activists are facing serious charges in a series of court cases that took place over the last few weeks. The latest of these cases was brought against Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani, a founding member of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), and someone who has been tirelessly working to promote human rights in the country and bravely criticizing government's record on the subject. Al-Qahtani appeared in court in Riyadh earlier this week"

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Naif's Successor



An Old Letter from the New Minister

"Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, 71, is the youngest of the Sudairi Seven, the sons of the Kingdom's founder from his favorite wife Hassa bint Ahmed Al Sudairi. He was born in Riyadh, received his primary and secondary education at Princes School and Anjal Institute. He studied English at the University of Southern California, and graduated from Redlands College with a bachelor of arts in political science in 1968. Two years later he become deputy governor of Makkah, and in 1975 he was appointed deputy interior minister. As deputy minister, he served in the shadow of the late Prince Naif and was rarely in the limelight that some analysts even speculated that he might be passed over for the position of interior minister in favor of Naif's son Mohammad, a rising star who spearheaded the fight against al-Qaeda and served as the country's counterterrorism chief"

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Libya

Supreme Security Committee (SSC): The Call for Abolition



Positive Libya

SSC (Supreme Security Committee) should be erased from Libya we want two simple things a united Army and Police

Calls for SSC (Supreme Security Committee) Abolition

"Fourteen political parties and civil society institutions in Benghazi have called for the abolition the Supreme Security Committee (SSC) and its members to be integrated into the police force. The SSC was set up last September to re-establish law and order in the country at a time when in reality there were no police. It was initially headed by Ali Tarhouni. It was later incorporated into the Ministry of the Interior and presently acts in much the same capacity as the Civil Guard in Spain"

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Sudan

#SudanRevolts



Arabist

Arrests demonstrations in Sudan will coincide with coup

"The crackdowns have been going on since June 16th, when students from the University of Khartoum took to the streets, supported by opposition parliamentarians in the Sudanese legislature*. Protests have now spread across the country. Any demonstrations held on June 30th are expected to draw a large security presence because it is the anniversary of the coup that overthrew the government of PM Sadiq al-Mahdi"*

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Eric Reeves

Why the Khartoum Regime Will Fall

"The success of the current, rapidly growing rebellion in Khartoum and elsewhere in Sudan is far from assured. The National Islamic Front/National Congress Party regime—facing a serious domestic challenge for the first time in years—will use all the considerable force at its disposal to retain full control over national wealth and power. Brutality has already increased with the number and determination of protestors, who now include not only students but lawyers and other civilian constituencies*. And as the protests spread—to Omdurman and other parts of central Khartoum, to Sennar, el-Obeid, Wad Medani, Damazin (Blue Nile University), Gedaref, Kosti, and Port Sudan—there is even more pressure on this ruthlessly survivalist regime to emulate the tactics of Gaddafi in Libya and al-Assad in Syria. The coming days and weeks are likely to be extremely bloody" [.....] "But Sudanese with whom I've spoken in recent days are unanimous in their conclusion that now is the moment—that having come this far, there is no turning back. If the moment is lost, another may not come again soon. There is also a growing sense of the regime's vulnerability—a belief that after 23 years of NIF/NCP tyranny, the regime's leadership cannot react to the current economic crisis except with the most savage methods of repression. This in turn will only alienate more of the civilian population. What is certain is that insofar as this is a rebellion sparked most immediately by rapidly rising consumer prices, the regime is out of options. The broader economy continues an implosion that began over a year ago and is now accelerating; this is nowhere more conspicuous than in the rapid increase in the inflation rate"*

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A Statement from the Broad National Front to the Youth of Sudan



"The Broad National Front commends the courageous youth of our people; those facing the powers of injustice and tyranny bravely and the tools of oppression with open chests, armed with the faith of the eventuality of the "Inkaz" regime and the establishment of a free democratic government in a comprehensive civil state. Men and women in every corner of the nation, the nation's capital and in many

cities across Sudan have rushed out to call for the overthrowing of the regime"

For the Full Statement



Zeinobia

#Sudan Revolts: It is Getting Serious



It is no longer student's protests, it is developing to something else and unfortunately media is not paying attention as usual. We have to pay attention to this uprising in Sudan and support the people's demand; we paid a lot as a country for keeping silence on the crimes of El Bashir."

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Muftah

Protests Calling for Regime Change in Sudan Continue for a Tenth Day

"The revolt comes after 23 long years of conflict, oppression and restrictions of basic freedoms. The latest fiscal austerity measures, announced by President Al Bashir on June 18, 2012, and entailing 50-60% increases in fuel, sugar and an across the board tax hike, was ultimately the straw that broke the camel's back; the trigger for the long overdue revolt. The current situation in Sudan grows desperate as citizens struggle to make ends meet. Poverty in Sudan is endemic, currently at 46.5% overall and 57.6% in rural areas and growing more acute. Sudan's Human Development Index is lowest of all MENA countries - 169 of 187 overall"

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