

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2011 5:08 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Cairo Update 11/24, 2300

Fyi. Not great news.

From: Walles, Jacob
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2011 04:34 PM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Burns, William J
Cc: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Dibble, Elizabeth L
Subject: Fw: Cairo Update 11/24, 2300

FYI

Anne says the reaction in Tahrir is negative. She expects we are going to be presented with an energized demonstration tomorrow, with the possibility that security forces can't control it. Ganzouri may not last long.

Happy Thanksgiving!

From: Cutrona, Aimee
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2011 04:15 PM
To: NEA-ELA-DL: Walles, Jacob; 'Steven_N_Simon' <Steven_N_Simon>; 'Prem_G_Kuma' <Prem_G_Kumar>; SES-
O; Schwartz, Larry; Wittes, Tamara C; Blome, Donald A; Caudill, Mark A
Cc: Patterson, Anne W; Sievers, Marc J; ECPODistribution; Kabra, Patricia; Gollner-Sweet, Katharina; North, Walter (Cairo/DIR); Beed, John (Cairo DIR);
Brown, Todd J
Subject: Cairo Update 11/24, 2300

Immediate reaction to the reported naming of former Prime Minister (1996-1999) Kamal Ganzoury to replace PM Sharaf has been mixed, leaning toward negative. We have seen little enthusiasm for Ghanzoury as the leader of a new more assertive cabinet.

We also have seen no formal announcement from the SCAF. Satellite channel CBC is reporting that the SCAF leaked the news about Ganzoury to 'test the waters' with Tahrir demonstrators before making an official confirmed announcement.

Before becoming PM Ghanzoury was Minister of Planning and received his PhD in the U.S. When in government Ganzoury had a solid reputation as a technocrat (see bio below), but left office after accusations of corruption and a proported clash with then-president Mubarak After leaving office Ghanzoury did not speak publically until after the January 25 protests which he heralded as a new day for Egypt. Since then his name has been floated as a potential PM or presidential candidate.

Reaction

Media report that MB-FJP member Hamdi Hassan complained of another Mubarak Minister and called Ghanzouri 'too old.' Fellow Islamist and Nour Party member Yousri Hammad welcomed Ganzoury because he was dismissed by the former regime. Al-Wasat Party leader Abol-Ela Mady called the appointment 'bad news' and asked 'Is this an attempt to reproduce a subordinate prime minister?'

Liberals have mixed views as well. Activist Mamdouh Hamza commended the choice as 'Ganzoury has no political

ambitions and is concluding his political career'. Hamza told media Ghanzoury had confirmed he had been asked to stand up a new cabinet. However, Youth Activist Tarek al-Khouly (Youth Coalition and April 6) told AJ the choice of Ganzoury will 'provoke' Tahrir. The National Association for Change's Ahmed Darrag said the NAC rejects the appointment because his era as PM left some questions unanswered (related to corruption charges against him). Al Adl party's Mostafa El Nagar called Ghanzoury's appointment very provocative and said it will 'escalate the situation in Tahrir'. He added that Ghanzoury is 'too old to hold this responsibility.' Kifaya activist George Ishaq said he respects Ganzoury but wondered why the SCAF selected someone from the previous regime and not other rumored candidates without that same history.

Bio

Kamal Al Ganzoury

DOB: [REDACTED]

POB: [REDACTED]

Marital Status: [REDACTED]

Education:

Doctorate Degree in Economics from Michigan University

Career:

Member of Board of the Scientific Research and Technology Academy

Economic Consultant of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa

Member of the President's Association of Consultants

Member of the National Councils specified in Production, Education and services

Professor at the National Planning College - 1973

Undersecretary of Min. of Planning - 1974 - 1975

Governor of New Valley - 1976

Governor of Beni Suf - 1977

Head of the Planning Association - 1977

Minister of Planning - 1982

Min. Of Planning and International Cooperation - 1984

Deputy Prime Minister and Min. Of Planning and International Cooperation - 1986

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning - 1987

Prime Minister from 4 Jan 1996 - 5 October 1999 (was labelled the PM for the Poor)

• During his rule huge programs were implemented which concentrated on Production and Agriculture, including the Toshka project in the south of Egypt, as well as plans for populating Sinai. • The 2nd Metro line that connected Shubra Al Kheima and Al Moneib • Normalized relations between Egypt and the International Monetary Fund.

From: Cutrona, Aimee

To: NEA-ELA-DL; Walles, Jacob; 'Steven_N_Simon [REDACTED] <Steven_N_Simon [REDACTED]>

'Prem_G_Kumar [REDACTED] <Prem_G_Kumar [REDACTED]>; SES-

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Cc: Patterson, Anne W; Sievers, Marc J; ECPODistribution; Kabra, Patricia; Gollner-Sweet, Katharina; North, Walter (Cairo/DIR); Beed, John (Cairo DIR); [REDACTED]

Brown, Todd J

Sent: Thu Nov 24 19:13:24 2011

Subject: Cairo Update 11/24, 1900

1. (SBU) Tahrir has been largely quiet today as protest organizers plan for a million-man march on Friday November 25. Approximately thirty thousand protesters are currently in the square with numbers expected to increase throughout the evening. The MOH announced that a total of 38 have died and 3256 injured since clashes began. There are reports of small protests outside of Cairo with the largest, several thousand, taking place in Alexandria. A truce was brokered overnight between police and protesters that had been clashing on Mohamed Mahmoud Street. We have no confirmation of reports of ongoing clashes and the military has announced it has erected barricades calling in Statement No 86 on "Revolutionary youth" not to dismantle them. The SCAF issued an earlier statement (No. 85) calling on Egyptians to work together for stability and warning of dangerous times. It calls for cooperation in keeping police and protesters apart and prohibiting people from going on roofs nearby. The Sheikh of Al Azhar issued a statement supporting the right to protest and criticizing violence against protesters urging the MOI to issue orders to immediately halt the firing on fellow Egyptians.

2. (SBU) Press report that MOI Mandour El Essawy has been summoned as part of an investigation launched by the

public prosecutor into police handling of protests. In comments made on a private satellite news program this morning Al Essawy denied accusations on use of force and defended police actions. Separately, and head of the military police Major General Hamdy Badeen also appeared on another satellite news program this morning. He told viewers that the military had not been part of attacks on protesters and was not present in Tahrir when these reports surfaced.

Multiple Calls for a Million Man Demo

3. (SBU) Thirty eight revolutionary forces (including the Youth Coalition of the Egyptian Revolution and April 6) T issued a statement calling for a million man demonstration on Friday for "Martyrs' rights and Saving Egypt." The statement also announced a "road map" for the transfer of power no later than 15 May 2012. It calls for an immediate end to violence, the release of those detained during current protests and arrest of those responsible, restructuring the MOI and removal of corrupt officials, the formation of a national salvation government with authority to run the state, raising the living standard, cancelling the Shura Council in order to allow more time for People's Assembly and presidential elections and a "possible" postponing of PA elections by 2 weeks. Today, the Muslim Brotherhood has also announced it will participate in Friday protests with a different theme, calling it the Friday of Saving Al Aqsa, with the participation of Sheikh Yussuf Al Qaradawy.

Elections Will Go Forward

4. (SBU) At noon on November 24 the SCAF held a joint press conference with election officials confirming earlier commitments from SCAF Chairman Field Marshall Tantawi and Army Chief of Staff Enan that elections would start next week. SCAF Generals Mamdouh Shahin and Mokhtar Al Molla led the conference. They were joined by Higher Election Commission Chairman Judge Abdel Moez Ibrahim, MOI election expert General Rifaat Qomsan, and a representative from the MFA there to talk about overseas voting. SCAF representatives and the HEC also encouraged voters to participate on election-day. SCAF representatives denied reports that MOI El Essawy had claimed the MOI was not able to secure the elections. Judge Ibrahim denied reports that thousands of judges have said they will not participate in the election due to security concerns and opened his remarks by extending condolences to those injured in the last week. MOI's General Qomsan displayed ballots and explained voting procedure.

5. (SBU) Generals Molla and Shahine did not stick only to elections and spent some time during the conference justifying the SCAF's leadership of the transition and defending the military's reputation. Both cited the popular mandate for the military's rule, pointing to the constitutional referendum. Molla denied anyone was tried in military courts for political reasons and complained that human rights groups were biased in their reporting. They both complained that SCAF decision-making was hampered by lack of agreement among political forces. Molla was critical of protests as unrepresentative of the will of all Egyptians. He denied the army had ever fired on civilians and blamed an unknown 10 percent of protesters for the violence in Tahrir.

6. (SBU) Molla also reviewed the commitments made in Tantawi's speech and in Enan's meeting with political forces and said several of where already being implemented. He said the SCAF was still working on selecting a PM but that the new PM would select his own cabinet not the SCAF.

Rights Groups Join Those Calling for a Presidential Council

7. (SBU) Rights groups and several prominent Egyptian commentators/activists issued a statement today critical of the SCAF calling for an end to police action against protesters, "swift" transfer to a presidential council and the formation of a national salvation government and "preventing the SCAF" from a role in day to day governance. The statement also called for the release of all political detainees and cancellation of verdicts issued by military courts against civilians.

From: Shea, Peter T

To: NEA-ELA-DL; Walles, Jacob; 'Steven_N_Simon [redacted] <Steven.N.Simon [redacted]>
'Prem_G_Kumar [redacted] <Prem.G.Kumar [redacted]> SES-

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Cc: Patterson, Anne W; Sievers, Marc J; ECPODistribution; Kabra, Patricia; Gollner-Sweet, Katharina; North, Walter (Cairo/DIR); Beed, John (Cairo DIR); [redacted]
Brown, Todd J

Sent: Wed Nov 23 19:43:08 2011

Subject: Cairo Update 11/23, 1830

1. (SBU) The number of demonstrators in Tahrir Square increased throughout the day, reaching about 10,000 by mid-afternoon. Severe clashes continued on Mohamed Mahmoud Street near the Interior Ministry

headquarters until Army troops replaced police and a "truce" was established by mid-afternoon. However, shortly before 6:00 PM contacts reported that fighting had resumed, this time reportedly involving the Army. The Ministry of Health issued a new statement listing 35 deaths.

 Temporary Truce Near Interior Ministry

2. (SBU) A "truce" was established for a couple hours this afternoon on Mohamed Mahmoud Street after Army soldiers replaced Central Security Forces (CSF) riot police protecting the Interior Ministry building. Some media reported that "Al Azhar scholars" (likely referring to the Al Azhar Scholars Front, a Salafi group not formally associated with Al Azhar) brokered the truce after separating demonstrators and police. However fighting started again just before 6:00 PM. Embassy security staff reported that about 300 protestors charged the MOI headquarters, and some were killed in an Army counter-attack. However other contacts at the scene claimed that security services used the respite to launch a "surprise attack."

3. (SBU) Egyptian press reported this afternoon that PM Sharaf issued orders to MOI El Essawy, following the Ministerial Council meeting on November 20, to halt the use of violence against protesters in Tahrir Square and other cities. Sharaf asked El Essawy to refer all those who committed violations against demonstrators to the Public Prosecutor for investigation. The authority of both ministers is questionable, however, since Sharaf has now resigned and is serving in a caretaker capacity.

 Elections/New Cabinet

4. (SBU) Press reported that a number of "major political parties" are in discussions with the SCAF to postpone the first round of parliamentary elections for two weeks or more. Media also quoted Army Chief of Staff Sami Anan saying that the SCAF is in the process of forming a new government. According to some press, Mohamed El Baradei set conditions for heading a government, including that elections proceed as planned on November 28. (full report Septel)

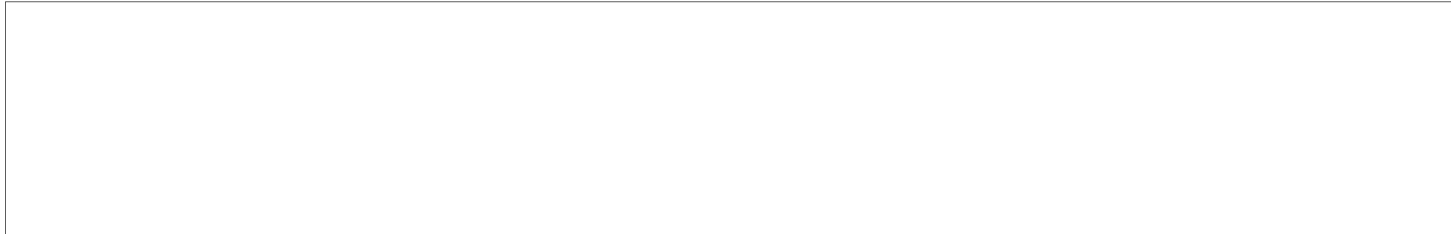
 Investigations in Tahrir

5. (SBU) In fulfillment of one of the promises made by Field Marshal Tantawi in his November 22 address to the nation, the Public Prosecutor's Office dispatched a team to Tahrir Square begin investigating the killing of protesters during the past several days.

6. (SBU) The SCAF issued Statement No. 83 today denying the use of "gas bombs" against demonstrators. Health Minister Dr. Amr Helmy, who visited Tahrir Square to investigate the type of tear gas used by security forces, said the spent canisters his team collected were manufactured in the United States and were not expired. He repudiated claims that nerve agents have been used and noted that some MOH personnel had been exposed to the tear gas used in Tahrir Square and reacted normally to it. Helmy announced that he was forming a committee to examine the samples and to report its findings. After making these remarks, Helmy was attacked by a group of demonstrators and fled in his vehicle.

7. (SBU) In another goodwill gesture, the SCAF announced the pardoning of 324 persons—all of whom appear to be civilians—convicted in military trials since January 28. Blogger Maikel Nabil Sanad, who began a three-year prison sentence on April 10 after he was convicted in a military court of “insulting the military institution and distributing false news that disturb the public security,” was not among those pardoned.

AMCIT Detainees



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SBU
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.