



Egypt – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 6 July 2015

Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Relationship with State authorities including army and police from 2011 to date. Treatment of /risk to MB members/supporters taking part in public demonstrations. Issue of surveillance of those taking part in protests. Any difference of treatment between low level and high ranking /profile supporters/ members.

A report from the Middle East Media Research Institute states:

“Since the Egyptian revolution, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) has come to play a central and overt role in the political arena; it is one of the most organized and popular movements in the country, especially in comparison to new movements that have recently arisen. Whereas the MB was outlawed and persecuted under the previous regime, since the revolution, it has entered a golden age. It has formed an official political party, the Freedom and Justice Party, and established large centers in Egypt's major cities, and its members have a strong presence in the media and in decision-making circles.” (Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) 25 October 2011) *Egypt's Islamic Camp, Once Suppressed by Regime, Now Taking Part in Shaping New Egypt – Part II: Muslim Brotherhood Prepares for Parliamentary, Presidential Elections*)

An article from UK newspaper The Guardian states:

“As the election nears, Egypt's fragile transition to democracy is slipping into turmoil. It is not just the killings, or the repetition of the generals' heated denials – on Thursday they insisted that they had nothing to do with the bloodshed, had no preference for who should be president, and had no desire to cling to power. It is that the process that was supposed to deliver a transition to democracy appears to have been undermined at almost every turn by Egypt's de facto rulers, creating a growing sense of disillusionment, not only with the army, but with parties such as the Brotherhood. Candidates have been disqualified, including the Brotherhood's own first choice, Khairat al-Shater, and Hazem Abu Ismail, the ultra-conservative whose supporters were gunned down and stabbed to death in Abbasiya on Wednesday. There have been rumours of postponements to the elections, sourced to the army; complaints to the electoral commission against the candidates who remain; and dishonest reporting of events by a state media still dominated by those once loyal to the old regime.” (The Guardian (5 May 2012) *Egypt's generals wait in the wings as battle for democracy sours*)

An article from the Saudi-owned pan-Arab newspaper Al Alarabiya states:

“Recent results from the presidential elections coupled with the verdict in former president Hosni Mubarak's trial reveal that a decades-old fight between the Brotherhood and the former regime is far from over and that it

continues to dominate and shape the country's political scene. Egyptians are as polarized today as they were during Mubarak's decades-old rule. The old regime, with its links to the military, has served the interests of many people who continue to support it. The Brotherhood relies on a wide base of staunch supporters and members linked in a web of complicated shared interests as well." (Al Arabiya (11 June 2012) *Mustapha Ajbaili: Egyptians are as polarized today as they were under Mubarak*)

An article from The Guardian states:

"Morsi will be Egypt's first civilian president since Gamal Abdel-Nasser and his fellow officers overthrew the monarchy in 1952. Hosni Mubarak was forced to quit in February 2011 though the generals who had backed him stayed on. Morsi's biggest problem is that the military are still there – the real power behind the throne." (The Guardian (24 June 2012) *Mohamed Morsi victory is a landmark for Egypt – but a qualified one*)

An Associated Press report states:

"Egypt's military has drawn up a plan to suspend the Islamist-backed constitution, dissolve the Islamist-dominated legislature and set up an interim administration headed by the country's chief justice if President Mohammed Morsi fails to reach a solution with his opponents by the end of a Wednesday deadline, the state news agency reported. The report Tuesday provided the first details on the road map that the military has said it will implement if Morsi fails to meet its ultimatum, as millions of protesters returned to the streets for the third straight day in their drive to force the Islamist president out of office. Protesters turned to a new target, massing a giant crowd outside Cairo's Qasr el-Qobba presidential palace where Morsi has been working in recent days though he was not believed to be inside in addition to filling wide avenues outside another palace, central Tahrir Square and main squares in cities nationwide. Morsi's supporters also increased their presence in the streets, after his Muslim Brotherhood and hard-line Islamist leaders called them out to defend what they say is the legitimacy of the country's first freely elected president. Tens of thousands held marches in Cairo and other cities. With the clock ticking on the military's ultimatum, many in the anti-Morsi and pro-Morsi camps were vowing to fight to the end." (Associated Press (2 July 2013) *Outlines of Egypt army's post-Morsi plan emerge*)

An article from the online edition of the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram states:

"Egyptian prosecutors ordered on Thursday the arrest of a number of senior members of the Muslim Brotherhood hours after the army ousted elected president Mohamed Morsi. These include the Brotherhood Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie and his deputy Khairat El-Shater. Security authorities are continuing their efforts to arrest Brotherhood members on charges of inciting violence and disturbing general security and peace, state news agency MENA reported. Late on Wednesday, Saad El-Katatni, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), along with Rashad Bayoumi, the deputy head of the Islamist movement were detained, security officials said." (Al Ahram Online (4 July 2013) *More top Brotherhood members arrested by Egypt prosecutors*)

A Voice of America News report states:

“Egyptian authorities say fighting between security forces and supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi has killed at least 74 people in Cairo and Alexandria since Friday. In one of the bloodiest periods since the Egyptian military toppled President Morsi earlier this month and put him under house arrest, Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood movement say police fired into unarmed demonstrators in Cairo's Nasr City, where members have been camped for weeks demanding his reinstatement. Egyptian official deny this, saying police only fired tear gas and that pro-Morsi marchers were responsible for the violence.” (Voice of America News (27 July 2013) *Scores of Demonstrators Killed in Egypt*)

A New York Times article states:

“Egypt's authoritarian government has harassed and repressed the Muslim Brotherhood for most of its existence. But for the last three decades the authorities stopped short of touching the group's revered leader, the supreme guide, who oversaw the country's most effective social, political and religious organization despite its outlawed status. On Tuesday, the new government installed by Gen. Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi provided the latest signal that it was breaking the old rules. Security forces armed with automatic rifles hunted down even the supreme guide, Mohamed Badie, 70, in a nondescript apartment where he had taken refuge, and then provided footage of the arrest to a friendly satellite network. It was the capstone of a sweeping campaign of arrests and shootings that has damaged the Brotherhood's core organization more than any crackdown in eight decades, sending the group into a confused retreat deeper underground than ever before.” (New York Times (20 August 2013) *An Egypt Arrest, and a Brotherhood on the Run*)

See also New York Times article which states:

“An Egyptian court on Monday issued an injunction dissolving the Muslim Brotherhood and confiscating its assets, escalating a broad crackdown on the group less than three months since the military ousted its ally, President Mohamed Morsi. The ruling, by the Cairo Court for Urgent Matters, amounts to a preliminary injunction shutting down the Brotherhood until a higher court renders a more permanent verdict. The leftist party Tagammu had sought the immediate action, accusing the Brotherhood of 'terrorism' and of exploiting religion for political gain. The court ordered the Brotherhood's assets to be held in trust until a final decision.” (New York Times (23 September 2013) *Egyptian Court Shuts Down the Muslim Brotherhood and Seizes Its Assets*)

A Washington Post article states:

“An Egyptian court on Monday banned the Muslim Brotherhood and its vast social services network in what could be a devastating blow to the Islamist organization, which swept Mohamed Morsi to the presidency just last year and has fiercely resisted the military coup that ousted him in July. The far-reaching ruling appears to apply to any group remotely associated with the world's oldest Islamist movement, granting temporary legal cover to the military-backed government of Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sissi to broaden a crackdown that has already left the Brotherhood battered. Hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood supporters have been killed and thousands have been arrested, including Morsi and other top leaders. Authorities have lately

reached inside mosques to bar thousands of Islamist-leaning preachers. The ban covers 'all the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood organization, the groups emerging from it, its associations, and any institution that branches from it or follows the group or receives financial support from it,' according to Egypt's state media outlet, MENA, which offered the only account of a ruling that has not been made public." (Washington Post (23 September 2013) *Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood is banned, and crackdown could broaden*)

An article from US-based online magazine The Nation states:

"The result has been a confusing, and increasingly atomized, political landscape. Of the disparate groups opposed to Morsi, some actively sought military intervention, fewer opposed any military role, while others—like Dawoud—stood by the military as it ousted the president, but eventually broke away in the face of mounting state violence and mass arrests of Islamists under the guise of a 'war on terror.' The military—which formed a coalition of convenience with the Brotherhood for much of 2011 to manage the post-Mubarak landscape and hold revolutionary aspirations and unfettered popular mobilizations in check—successfully co-opted the movement against Morsi and, along with the security establishment, emerged as the clearest winner from his overthrow." (The Nation (1 October 2013) *What Happened to Egypt's Liberals After the Coup?*)

A BBC News report states:

"The military-backed interim Egyptian government has declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group after blaming it for a deadly attack on a police HQ earlier this week. The group, whose candidate Mohammed Morsi won the presidential poll last year before being deposed by the military, had already been outlawed. Thousands of its supporters have been arrested in a crackdown. A Muslim Brotherhood leader vowed that protests would continue." (BBC News (25 December 2013) *Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood declared 'terrorist group'*)

An Arabian Business.com article states:

"An Egyptian court sentenced 183 supporters of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood to death on Monday on charges of killing police officers, part of a sustained crackdown by authorities on Islamists. The men were convicted of playing a role in the killings of 16 policemen in the town of Kardasa in August, 2013 during the upheaval that followed the army's ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Mursi. Thirty-four were sentenced in absentia. Egypt has mounted one of the biggest crackdowns in its modern history on the Brotherhood since the political demise of Mursi, the country's first democratically-elected president. Thousands of Brotherhood supporters have been arrested and put on mass trials in a campaign which human rights groups say shows the government is systematically repressing opponents." (Arabian Business.com (2 February 2015) *Egypt court sentences 183 Muslim Brotherhood supporters to death*)

An Irish Times article states:

"Mr Sisi was cheered by many, perhaps most, Egyptians, when he led a coup against Mr Morsi's increasingly unpopular government. Since taking power,

however, Mr Sisi's government has killed more than 1500 protesters, most of them supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, and jailed tens of thousands. Egypt's courts routinely sentence large groups of political dissidents to death after the most cursory of legal rituals that are a mockery of justice." (Irish Times (26 February 2015) *Sisi turns the screw in Egypt*)

An article from UK newspaper The Telegraph states:

"More than 500 backers of Egypt's blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood were arrested as clashes erupted on the anniversary of its 2011 uprising, a minister said Monday, in the biggest police sweep for months. Twenty people, mostly demonstrators, were killed Sunday when protesters clashed with security forces after Islamists called for rallies against President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government as Egypt marked the fourth anniversary of the toppling of ex-strongman Hosni Mubarak. Supporters of Mubarak's successor, Islamist Mohamed Morsi, have regularly clashed with security forces since he was ousted by then army chief Sisi in July 2013." (The Telegraph (26 January 2015) *Egypt arrests 516 Muslim Brotherhood backers on uprising anniversary*)

A report from the Xinhua General News Service states:

"Egyptian courts handed on Wednesday 126 citizens various sentences, acquitted 13 and released 68 over violence and terrorism charges. Giza Criminal Court sentenced 71 supporters of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood (MB) group to life in prison over attempted murder and church burning in 2013. It also sentenced two juveniles to 10 years in prison in the same case, official MENA news agency reported. The case dates back to August, 2013, as throngs of MB loyalists stormed public properties and police stations in reaction to security dispersal of Islamist sit-ins in Cairo and Giza that left about 1,000 of them killed and thousands more arrested." (Xinhua General News Service (29 April 2015) *Roundup: 136 Egyptians jailed, 68 released over violence charges*)

An article from the Egyptian newspaper Daily News Egypt states:

"The Ministry of Interior announced in a statement Thursday it has arrested 94 'middle ranking' Muslim Brotherhood leaders. People were arrested from Cairo, Daqahleya, Beheira, and Fayoum, the ministry's statement said. All are accused of belonging to a 'terrorist' organisation, violating public and private property, and planning attacks on the police and the military. The Muslim Brotherhood's official website has yet to release a statement on the arrests. A state-led crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood has been ongoing since the military ouster of former president Mohamed Morsi in July 2012. Local and international human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have repeatedly condemned the crackdown." (Daily News Egypt (14 May 2015) *94 'middle-ranking' Muslim Brotherhood leaders arrested: Interior ministry*)

An Amnesty International report, in a section titled "From Protest to Prison", states:

"While the new authorities claimed their legitimacy was based on mass protests, in the two years that have passed since Morsi's ousting, mass

protests have given way to mass arrests. The authorities have launched a sweeping crackdown aimed at stopping protests and silencing dissenting voices once and for all. While the crackdown began with Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, it has expanded far beyond them in the years since July 2013. As the arrests have continued, it has become very clear that the authorities have not forgotten the 2011 protests, nor have they forgiven those who succeeded in toppling the administration of Hosni Mubarak. Today, many of the young activists who played a role in the 2011 uprising and in the years beyond are in prison, joining the thousands of people jailed for their alleged support of Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood.” (Amnesty International (29 June 2015) *Egypt: Generation Jail: Egypt's youth go from protest to prison*, p.6)

This report also states:

“In the years after Mohamed Morsi’s ousting, the crackdown on dissent has expanded far beyond the President’s administration and the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. Today, even the most innocuous acts can make you a target for arrest. The authorities have made it clear that they see anyone who deviates from their political narrative as a threat, whether they be an internationally known political activist or just a student who is wearing the wrong T-shirt.” (ibid, p.18)

In a section titled “Actual or Perceived Muslim Brotherhood Supporters” this report states:

“The security forces have ruthlessly cracked down on supporters of Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood, with anyone connected to the movement or the ousted President at risk of arrest. Some of those who protested against Morsi’s removal did not support the President or the Muslim Brotherhood, but opposed his forcible removal by the military on principle, citing the threat to the rule of law. The crackdown has extended to the children of Muslim Brotherhood officials, as well as student activists who peacefully demonstrated on campus. The authorities have banned the Muslim Brotherhood itself, striking it from the list of approved NGOs and in December 2013 declaring it to be a “terrorist organization”. A court then ordered the dissolution of the Freedom and Justice Party, formed by the Muslim Brotherhood to contest legislative elections, in August 2014. In the months since, the Egyptian government has summarily ordered the closure and dissolution of hundreds of NGOs which officials have claimed were linked to the Muslim Brotherhood.” (ibid, p.24)

See also Amnesty International report which states:

“Death sentences have been handed down after grossly unfair trials. In 2014 alone, 509 people were sentenced to death in Egypt – up from 109 sentenced in the previous year. Most are Muslim Brotherhood supporters – suggesting that the death penalty has become a tool for purging the political opposition. Al-Sisi, who claims to be ‘saddened by even the loss of a single life’, has done nothing to halt the use of this punishment. And he has not reined in his security forces or ensured that those responsible for the unlawful killing of protesters are brought to justice.” (Amnesty International (3 June 2015) *Egypt: Beware al-Sisi’s claims of freedoms*)

A report from the Egyptian news agency Middle East and North Africa Financial Network (MENA) states:

“In extension of the state's crackdown on alleged Islamists to retain security and stability as part of the ‘war on terror’, nearly 3,977 were arrested in 2015 on charges of belonging to the banned Muslim Brotherhood group, according to the official reports of the Ministry of Interior. Daily News Egypt aggregated the reports published by the ministry from 2 January through 31 May 2015 on those arrested upon suspicion of belonging to the Brotherhood. The arrested were mainly categorised as middle rank Brotherhood leaders, members of specialised committees, or people wanted pending court sentences.” (Middle East and North Africa Financial Network (MENA) (14 June 2015) *3,977 people arrested in 2015 for alleged Muslim Brotherhood membership: Interior ministry*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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