



THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF EGYPT 2012 SUPPLEMENT

Director's Note

Esteemed Delegates,

This is a supplement to the background guide for the Constitutional Convention of Egypt 2012. I hope everyone is very excited for this committee as events taking place in Egypt promise to make it a very unique and interesting experience. Please allow this supplement to serve you as an update as to exactly what to expect at this convention.

The first thing you should note below is the updated list of delegate positions. These are the final positions for the committee along with their basic descriptions. This supplement also includes a description of how the committee will work in terms of timing and an update on topics as well as a continuation of the timeline from the original background guide. For other information on position papers and how a crisis committee works, please refer to the original background guide as this is simply meant to be an update to address the continuing events in Egypt. If you have any questions about anything you find in this supplement, please email them to me through the GatorMUN secretariat at gatormun@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,

Melissa Neadle
Director of the Constitutional Convention of Egypt 2012
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Delegate Positions

These are the final positions for the committee! Note that the first six positions have been changed. The old position is in parentheses followed by the new position! The old positions which are in parentheses are here simply to show what has been replaced and are no longer positions in the committee nor are they relevant to the committee in any way.

(Speaker) Mohamed Morsy: Morsy is the Chairman of the Freedom and Justice Party, a party created by the Muslim Brotherhood and received the most votes in the Egyptian elections of 2011. As the leader of this party, his views closely reflect the party stances, including being a moderate Muslim who calls for a blending of Islamic law and traditions with modern democracy. His party argues for equality in almost all political positions except for the President of Egypt. However, its more moderate nature puts them at a disadvantage with the religious members of the country.

(Deputy Speaker 1) Emad Abdel Ghaffour: He is the current leader of the Al-Nur Party in Egypt, the party which received the second largest number of votes in the 2011 elections. His views reflect those of his party, including being ultra-conservative and wishing to implement Sharia Law in Egypt no matter how controversial. He also believes in Islamic dominance in

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all public matters of Egypt, putting him at odds with Christians and the secular demographic.

(Deputy Speaker 2) Ahmed Hassan Said: Said is one of the co-founders of the Free Egyptians Party, which is the party that received the third highest number of votes and was the strongest supported liberal party in the 2011 elections. He and his party wish for a secular and democratic government in Egypt that will create a stable and powerful free market economy for the country.

(Chair of the Committee on Legislative and Constitutional Affairs) Amr Hamzawy: Hamzawy is one of the founders of the Freedom Egypt Party and represents it in parliament. He had a strong role in the 2011 revolution along with other members of his party when they tried to create a compromise among the various groups participating. He is a liberal that wishes to promote anti-discrimination measures and to promote human rights in Egypt.

(Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee) Abu al-Ila Madi: Al-Ila Madi is the founder, president, and representative of the Al-Wasat Party in Egypt. He is a moderate Islamist that was originally part of the Muslim Brotherhood until it split over political arguments following the revolution. His party argues for tolerance between the different political, cultural, and religious groups in Egypt and calls for the new government of Egypt to be based on Islamic principles while maintaining equal rights for each citizen.

(Chair of the Committee on Arab Affairs) Moussa Moustafa Moussa: Moussa is the head of the El-Ghad Party also known as the Tomorrow Party in Egypt. His political views, like those of the party he now leads, are liberal and secular. He and his party strongly believe in a decentralized government to avoid a misuse of power such as what happened with Mubarak. This is also one of the few political parties that existed before the revolution, which gives them a strong legal backing with the people, but connects them in some ways to the Mubarak regime.

Minister of Social Solidarity and Justice: Dr. Gouda Abdel Khalek El-Sayed Mohamed: The doctor is in charge of taking care of the people of Egypt and is primarily concerned with the standard of living within the country. His most important duty is being in charge of foreign aid given to Egypt and how it is distributed among the people. Dr. Gouda Abdel Khlaek is a famous leftist professor of economics who has long criticized Mubarak's economic policies. He is a member of the unionist leftist party in Egypt and is one of the strongest candidates to head the party in recent years.

Minister of Religious Endowment: Dr. Mohamed Abdel Fadil Mohamed Abdel Aziz El-Qousy: El Oousy is in charge of the Mosques of Egypt and the legal issues that concern them. This position was first nationalized in an attempt to moderate the mosques especially since their tone can greatly affect foreign affairs. The Minister is best known for his recent claim that not all art is forbidden by Islam, (a new concept), making him a more liberal Islamic leader. He is a part of the Sunni Muslim society and is strongly against the Shia population.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mohamed Kamel Ali Amr: Ali Amr is an Egyptian diplomat who is the current Foreign Minister of Egypt. In the 1990s, Amr served as a counselor in the embassy of Egypt in Washington, then assigned as the ambassador of Egypt to Saudi Arabia and later made the permanent representative of Egypt to the World Bank. He was selected for

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the job in spite of not having been seen on the political scene in some time because he has no association with former President Mubarak, which is important considering his influence on Egyptian foreign affairs and economic policy.

Minister of the Interior: Mohammed Ibrahim Youssef Ahmed: Ahmed is the former chief of police for the district of Giza in the capital Cairo and is now the minister in charge of all the police forces in Egypt. The post is sensitive because police were accused of brutality during recent protests against the military. More than 40 people died in the riots.

Minister of Justice: Mohamed Abdel Aziz Ibrahim El-Gendy: El-Gendy is Egypt's current Minister of Justice and is responsible for justice and the court system in Egypt. This is especially pertinent in recent times considering the calls for justice following the Egyptian revolution of 2011. He also has an important opinion regarding the set-up of the justice system in the constitution to be created.

General Omar Suleiman: General Suleiman is the Vice President of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. He is also a former intelligence chief and retains many of his intelligence contacts. After the council took power following the leaving of Mubarak, his role significantly grew in power. He now is one of the primary representatives of the Armed Forces of Egypt and the revolution.

Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi: Field Marshal Tantawi is the leader of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and is also serving as a deputy prime minister of Egypt. He is the Commander in Chief of the Egyptian armed forces. His thoughts and opinions should be considered with great care by the rest of the constitutional convention.

Lieutenant-General Sami Anan: The Lieutenant-General is the armed forces Chief of Staff as well as the leader of almost 500,000 troops. He has played a critical role in the interim government of Egypt. His ability to co-ordinate among the military and the people, as well as his mediation abilities as seen by the United States, make him invaluable to this convention.

Air Marshal Reda Mohamoud Hafez Mohamed: Air Marshal Mohamed is the Air Forces Chief. This role is crucial from a military and defense standpoint. Due to his past serving as a liaison officer to the United States, as well as his position on the Council, his opinions about the constitution and Egyptian foreign affairs should be well heeded by the other members.

Notes on the Committee

As stated in the original background guide, this committee will begin its work in January 2012. The members of this convention will be charged first and foremost with creating a new constitution for Egypt but also with running the country as they are the leaders of Egypt. However, not all real life events up until January will be considered. For the purpose of this committee, only actual events that took place before December 1, 2011 will be acknowledged as having occurred. For events that the committee will consider having taken place in November that are of importance, please see the updated timeline below. Please note that we will follow the elections that have occurred in December and so representatives of the winning parties are now included in this convention in order to best represent the wishes of

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the people of Egypt.

Topics

The original list of topics for the committee will indeed be the primary topics of discussion, though delegates should remember that they must be prepared to deal with any issues that arise. These topics include: Incorporating Protestors' Demands into the Constitution and Policy, Reacting to International Pressures from the Western Powers and the Middle East, and Addressing Domestic Resistance and Living Conditions. However, while thinking about the issues involved in these topics as described in the original background guide, delegates should also consider some additional issues that could affect how the convention chooses to act.

One extremely contentious issue that cannot be ignored any longer now that elections have taken place is what, if any, role Sharia law should play in the new Egyptian government and the constitution. Will Egypt become a state ruled by Islam? Many in Egypt would support this. On the other hand, it could alienate secular members of Egypt and the numerous Christians in the country, as well as negatively effecting relations with Israel and the United States.

This committee also must decide what future relations the state will have with other nations, especially Israel and the United States. The peaceful relations with these countries that have been the policy of Egypt are a result of agreements made by Mubarak. Many now question whether these agreements are really representative of what the people of Egypt want, especially as there has been an increasingly negative sentiment directed towards the state of Israel which is supported by the United States.

Timeline

July

1 July 2011: The "**Friday of Retribution**"; Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in Suez, Alexandria and Tahrir Square in Cairo, to voice frustration with the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces for what they called the slow pace of change five months after the revolution.

8 July 2011: The "**Friday of Determination**"; Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in Suez, Alexandria and Tahrir Square in Cairo. They demanded immediate reforms and swifter prosecution of former officials from the ousted government.

15 July 2011: The "**Friday of the last ultimatum**".

September

9 Sept 2011: Thousands, mostly secular and leftist activists, arrive in Tahrir square to press military rulers to keep their promises of political reform.

10 Sept 2011:

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- Protesters storm the Israeli embassy in Cairo, forcing the Israeli ambassador to Egypt to flee. (*Sydney Morning Herald*)
- The military restore state of emergency.
- Egyptian activists denounce a political manipulation to restore the state of emergency and the return of the ancient regime.

November

19 Nov 2011: Clashes first erupt in Tahrir Square as demonstrators reoccupy the location in central Cairo. Central Security Forces deploy tear gas in an attempt to control the situation.

20 Nov 2011: Police forces attempt to forcibly clear the square, but protesters soon return in more than twice their original numbers. Fierce fighting breaks out and continues through the night, with the police again using tear gas, beating and shooting demonstrators.

21 Nov 2011: Demonstrators return to the square, with Coptic Christians standing guard as Muslims protesting the regime pause for prayers. The Health Ministry says at least 23 have died and over 1,500 have been wounded since 19 November. Solidarity protests are held in Alexandria, Suez, and at least five other major Egyptian cities. Dissident journalist Hossam al-Hamalawy tells Al Jazeera that Egyptians will launch a general strike because they have "had enough" of the SCAF.

28-29 November 2011: First phase of parliamentary elections. Voter turnout was exceptionally high at 59%. The Freedom and Justice Party, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, takes 49% of seats, followed by 20% for runner-up Al-Nour.

December

16 December 2011: Police attempt to disperse protestors who had been sitting-in to protest Ganzouri's appointment. The resulting violence leaves 7 dead.

20 December 2011: Thousands of women take to the streets of Cairo in response to a widely-distributed photo of a young woman being beaten by police as she was stripped of her clothing. It is the largest protest composed of mainly females in Egyptian history.

21 December 2011: Parliamentary elections are held. The FJP leads with 40% of the seats with Al-Nur coming in second with 25% of the vote. The Free Egyptians Party is the only other party to break double digits with 11%. Minority parties Egypt Freedom, Al-Wasat, and El-Ghad register 9%, 8%, and 7%, respectively.