

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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Responses to Information Requests

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9 January 2014

EGY104723.E

Egypt: Treatment of overseas government employees, who were part of the Mubarak administration, upon their return to Egypt after the removal of President Morsi; treatment of these individuals by the Muslim Brotherhood (2013)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Information on the treatment of government employees who were part of the Mubarak administration upon their return to Egypt after the removal of President Morsi, including the treatment of these individuals by the Muslim Brotherhood, was scarce among sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

In correspondence with the Research Directorate, a representative of Amnesty International (AI) provided the following information about the treatment of overseas government employees who were part of the Mubarak administration upon their return to Egypt after the removal of President Morsi:

Most of the employees in the Egyptian Diplomatic Corp were hired during the Mubarak Administration. It is possible that individuals who held higher positions such as a Minister or were popular figures in Mubarak's ruling party, the National Democratic Party, may encounter some forms of discrimination; however to date the judiciary has been acquitting or releasing on bail high profile figures who previously worked in the Mubarak administration. (20 Dec. 2013)

The Associated Press (AP) similarly reports that "[s]everal senior Mubarak regime figures have ... been acquitted of criminal charges" (AP 19 Dec. 2013). Sources report that the Cairo criminal court acquitted former prime minister Ahmed Shafik and Mubarak's two sons, Alaa and Gamal Mubarak, of corruption charges (ibid.; AI 20 Dec. 2013). On 19 December 2013, AP reported that Ahmed Shafik has been living in exile since he lost the 2012 presidential election, and that the court's verdict "repeals standing instructions that Shafiq must be arrested on arrival at any of the country's entry ports, clearing the way for his return." Also on 19 December 2013, Reuters similarly reported that Shafik "will soon be free to return from self-imposed exile," and that, according to judicial sources, because of court rulings, "Shafik's name will be removed within days from a list of people whose arrest has been ordered, assuming no other cases are filed against him." Reuters also said that "Shafik's return would reflect the shift in the balance of power in Egypt since the army removed Mursi [also Morsi]" (19 Dec. 2013). Sources indicate that, in 2012, the former secretary general of the National Democratic Party, Safwat El-sherif, was released on bail (AI 20 Dec. 2013; *Daily News Egypt* 25 Dec. 2012).

Der Spiegel, a German newsmagazine, indicates that "power now lies with the supporters of deposed autocrat Hosni Mubarak" (9 July 2013). McClatchy DC, a non-partisan news website with offices in Washington and staff located in four continents (n.d.), reports that, according to a human rights lawyer in Egypt, "[a]ll the state security officers who were forced to retire after January 25th [the 2011 "revolution" (*The Guardian* 2 Mar. 2011)] are all back to their old jobs" (McClatchy DC 18 Sept. 2013). According to Al Jazeera, Nabil Fahmy, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States from 1999 to 2008, accepted the post of foreign minister in

Egypt's interim government in July 2013 (14 July 2013). *The New York Times* reports that "Egypt's new military-appointed government" named 19 generals and 6 civilians as provincial governors; two of the six civilians are "known as Mubarak loyalists" (13 Aug. 2013). According to the *New York Times*, a senior figure in Mubarak's former governing party was named as the new governor of Cairo, and "a prominent member of the governing party" before Mubarak was deposed was named as the deputy governor of Beheira Province (13 Aug. 2013). However, according to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an international network of policy research centres in the United States, Russia, the Middle East, China and Europe that aim to advance peace (Carnegie Endowment n.d.), 18 generals and 7 civilians were appointed as governors, and "the seven new civilian governors are former members or supporters of Mubarak's defunct National Democratic Party" (ibid. [2013]).

According to the AI representative,

Muslim Brotherhood (MB) members and supporters face discrimination at the hands of the authorities and society. They have been subject to arbitrary arrests, torture or other ill-treatment. Some are facing trumped up charges before the courts. As such the MB is not in a good position to target former diplomats who worked overseas. Some of the MB affiliated groups have launched violent attacks against officials or soldiers affiliated with the Ministry of Interior Affairs or Ministry of Defence. (20 Dec. 2013)

Media sources also report that thousands of supporters of [former president] Mohammed Morsi have been arrested (*The Wall Street Journal* 9 Sept. 2013; *Al Akhbar* 30 Oct. 2013). Media sources also indicate that the Egyptian government has formally listed the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group (Reuters 25 Dec. 2013; Euronews 25 Dec. 2013). Reuters reports that this designation "gives the authorities the power to charge any member of the Brotherhood with belonging to a terrorist group, as well as anyone who finances the group or promotes it 'verbally, or in writing'" (25 Dec. 2013). For more information on the treatment of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, see EGY104639.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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The Wall Street Journal. 9 September 2013. Matt Bradley. "Egypt Clamors for Military Leadership; a Movement to Nominate Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi as Egypt's Next President is Gaining Pace, Reflecting the Strengthening Public Appetite to Revive Another Military-backed Authoritarian Government." (Factiva)

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Attempts to contact the following organizations were unsuccessful within the time constraints of this Response: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies; Canada – embassy in Cairo; Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights; Egyptian Union of Young Human Rights Organizations; Egyptian Organization for Human Rights; McClatchy DC. A representative of the Egyptian Initiative of Personal Rights was unable to provide information within the time constraints of this Response.

Internet sites, including: Al Ahram English; Amnesty International; ecoi.net; Human Rights Watch; Mada Masr; United Nations – Integrated Regional Information Network, Refworld; United States – Department of State.

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