



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Egypt

Egypt – EGY35912 – Al-Ghad Party
23 December 2009

1. Please provide an update on the situation of Al-Ghad and the treatment of its members.

Current Treatment of Al-Ghad members

Most of the information in relation to the Al-Ghad party, since the 2005 presidential election, has been primarily concerned with the imprisonment of its former leader, Mr Ayman Nour, and the internal struggle and disputes over leadership of the party. Very little information was found in regards to the current treatment of Al-Ghad members.

Though the US Department of State 2008 Human Rights Report on Egypt did refer to the continuing incarceration of Mr Nour, it did not express concern for the treatment of Al-Ghad members.¹ Similarly, the Human Rights Watch World Report 2009 and the Amnesty International Report 2009 on Egypt did not refer to mistreatment of Al-Ghad members but focused more on the continuing arrest of Muslim Brotherhood members.²

The US Department of State 2008 Human Rights Report on Egypt noted that the government's respect for freedom of association and speech had declined and that security forces arbitrarily detained people for political purposes:

The government's respect for human rights remained poor, and serious abuses continued in many areas. The government limited citizens' right to change their government and continued a state of emergency that has been in place almost continuously since 1967. Security forces used unwarranted lethal force and tortured and abused prisoners and detainees, in most cases with impunity. Prison and detention center conditions were poor. Security forces arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals, in some cases for political purposes, and kept them in prolonged pretrial detention. The executive branch placed limits on and pressured the judiciary. The government's respect for freedoms of press, association, and religion declined during the year, and the government continued to restrict other civil liberties, particularly freedom of speech, including Internet freedom, and freedom of assembly, including restrictions on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Government corruption and lack of transparency persisted.³

The same report went on to say that even though opposition political activists, journalists, and NGOs continued to advocate for political reform and openly criticized the government: "the wide-scale detentions of Muslim Brotherhood members, lawsuits against independent

¹ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Egypt*, February – Attachment 1.

² Human Rights Watch 2009, *World Report – Egypt* – Attachment 2; Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Egypt* <http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/egypt> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 3.

³ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Egypt*, February, Introduction – Attachment 1.

journalists, and government restrictions on civil society organizations led many observers to charge that the government sought to curtail criticism and activism.”⁴

Though this statement supports the view that vocal opponents of the current government may be subject to harassment and even arbitrary detention, this does not appear to occur on all occasions and to every vocal opponent of the current government. Who the Egyptian local authorities choose to focus their attention on at any one time is likely affected by other factors. For example, Amnesty International reported that in 2008 “the government clampdown on political opposition groups intensified” in April three days before local elections were held and a day before a planned general strike was to occur.⁵ Similarly, Amnesty International also reported that (in addition to the arrest of student activists, members of the 6 April Group, the Kefaya Movements and the Muslim Brotherhood) a number of Al-Ghad members were arrested in April 2009 as a result of their participation in national strike demonstrations.⁶

Background

The Al-Ghad Party (also known as the Tomorrow Party, Hizb el-Ghad, al-Ghad, Al Ghad, al Ghad, or El Ghad)⁷ is an active political party in Egypt founded by Ayman Nour that was granted licence in October 2004.⁸ In 2009, *Egypt Today* reported that it has a following of approximately 27,000.⁹

Al-Ghad “seeks constitutional reform to reduce the power of the presidency and an end to the country's emergency law”.¹⁰ *Al-Ahram Weekly*¹¹ also notes that Al-Ghad calls for democratic reform, with an emphasis on secularism and promoting the empowerment of women. Its main concern is combating poverty and solving the average citizen's problems. Al-Ghad also calls for a parliamentary rather than a presidential system, wherein the government is formed by the party with a parliamentary majority and executive power rests with the prime minister,

⁴ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Egypt*, February, section 2(a) – Attachment 1.

⁵ Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Egypt* <http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/egypt> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 3.

⁶ Amnesty International 2009, *Egypt: Authorities must end suppression of peaceful protestors*, 6 April <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/021/2009/en> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 4.

⁷ DIMA Country Information Service 2007, *Country Information Response Ref: EGY8833- Egypt: Al Ghad Party*, 8 January – Attachment 5.

⁸ ‘Egypt’ 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library, p.397 http://library.cqpress.com/phw/phw2009_Egypt – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 9.

⁹ ‘Meet the Leaders’ 2009, *Egypt Today*, September <http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=8632> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 7.

¹⁰ ‘Egypt’ 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library, p.397 http://library.cqpress.com/phw/phw2009_Egypt – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 9.

¹¹ *Al-Ahram Weekly* is an English language weekly newspaper published in Cairo, Egypt by *Al-Ahram*. *Al-Ahram* is the most widely circulating Egyptian daily newspaper. The Egyptian government owns a controlling share of the stocks of the paper and appoints the editors. Its content is controlled by the Egyptian Ministry of Information: ‘Al-Ahram’ 2009, Wikipedia, updated 18 December <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Ahram> – Accessed 22 December 2009.

rather than the president.¹² The party has one representative in the lower house of Parliament, the People's Assembly but does not hold any seats in the upper house, the Shura Council.¹³

2005 Presidential Election

The Egyptian presidential election of 2005, scheduled on 7 September 2005, was deemed the first allegedly contested presidential election in Egypt's history.¹⁴

However, on 29 January 2005, Mr Nour was stripped of his parliamentary immunity and arrested on charges of fraud relating to allegations that the Al-Ghad party had forged signatures during its registration.¹⁵ An English independent newspaper, the *Daily News Egypt*, reported that "Although the authorities insisted that Nour's trial was fair and independent, the arrest was seen by many as politically motivated".¹⁶ Mr Nour described the charges as being "fabricated" and aimed at curbing his political future.¹⁷

In March 2005, Mr Nour was freed and began a campaign for the Egyptian presidency.¹⁸

In the 2005 presidential election Mr Nour polled second to the current president Mr Hosni Mubarak, polling 8% of the vote to Mr Mubarak's 89%, a result Mr Nour alleged was rigged.¹⁹

Post Election Events

Al-Ahram Weekly reported that shortly after the presidential poll, Mr Nour's leadership was challenged by his deputy, Mr Moussa Mustafa Moussa and three other members of the party's

¹² El-Nahas, M. 2004 'Tomorrow's party today' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.715, 4-10 November <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2004/715/eg6.htm> – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 8.

¹³ 'Tomorrow Party' 2009, Wikipedia, updated 20 October http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomorrow_Party – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 6. Please Note: **Wikipedia is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is compiled collaboratively by volunteers.** Wikipedia articles can be useful introductory reading for a new topic, and the list of references in Wikipedia articles can provide useful leads to reliable sources. Many Wikipedia articles can be highly reliable, especially in regards to non-controversial historical or factual matters, and Wikipedia uses preventative measures against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy. However, the collaborative nature of Wikipedia makes it vulnerable to contributors with overt or covert agendas, and Wikipedia articles are thus prone to unacknowledged bias. 'Meet the Leaders' 2009, *Egypt Today*, September <http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=8632> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 7.

¹⁴ 'EGYPT: Year in Brief 2005 – Chronology of democratic events' 2006, *IRIN News*, 9 January <http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=26038> – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 40.

¹⁵ MacQueen, B. 2009, 'The release of Ayman Nour and liberal opposition in Egypt', *Politik*, National Centre for Excellence for Islamic Studies Australia website, 3 March <http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/blog/bmac/166> – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 38; 'EGYPT: Year in Brief 2005 – Chronology of democratic events' 2006, *IRIN News*, 9 January <http://irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=26038> – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 40.

¹⁶ Mazen, M. 2007, 'Frustration, infighting mars the retreating Al Ghad party', 7 October, *Daily News Egypt* <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=9664> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 10.

¹⁷ 'Newsreel: Appeal for pardon' 2006, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.812, 14-20 September, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/812/eg1.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 11.

¹⁸ Williams, D. 2005, 'Egypt Frees An Aspiring Candidate' *Washington Post*, 13 March <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29477-2005Mar12.html> – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 39.

¹⁹ 'Profile: Ayman Nour' 2005, *BBC News*, 24 December <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4558054.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 12.

higher committee.²⁰ In October 2005, Mr Moussa held a general assembly that elected him as the new president of Al-Ghad.²¹ Mr Moussa and his supporters were denounced by Mr Nour as “state agents”.²² *Al-Ahram Weekly* also reported that Mr Moussa's attempted coup was seen by many commentators “as a state-orchestrated attempt to mire the party in internal disputes”.²³

Al-Ahram Weekly reported that the Al-Ghad party split immediately before the November 2005 parliamentary elections.²⁴ *BBC News* also reported that in November 2005, Mr Nour lost his parliamentary seat to a ruling party candidate - another result that he claimed was “rigged”.²⁵

On 24 December 2005 Mr Nour was sentenced to five years in jail.²⁶ *BBC News* reported that a co-defendant at the trial complained he had been forced to make a false confession.²⁷

Timeline of Media Reports on the Al-Ghad party

As noted previously, most of the recent media reports are concerned with the detention of Mr Nour and disputes over party leadership.

2006 May *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported that the Cassation Court rejected Mr Nour's appeal for a retrial.²⁸

2006 September *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported that Mr Nour's family called upon political activists to lobby for his release through a presidential pardon.²⁹

Al-Ahram Weekly also reported that Mr Nour's health was deteriorating in jail due to his coronary condition, diabetes and high blood pressure. He claimed to have been subject to unjust and harsh treatment, which led him to go on a number of hunger strikes.³⁰

²⁰ El-Nahhas, M. 2007, ‘Same struggle, different party’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.835, 8-14 March, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/835/eg7.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 13.

²¹ Mazen, M. 2007, ‘Frustration, infighting mars the retreating Al Ghad party’, 7 October, *Daily News Egypt* <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=9664> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 10.

²² El-Nahhas, M. 2007, ‘Same struggle, different party’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.835, 8-14 March, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/835/eg7.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 13.

²³ El-Nahhas, M. 2007, ‘A free alternative? The Ghad Party remains mired in legal disputes’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.857, 9-15 August, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/857/eg6.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 14.

²⁴ Howaidy, A. 2006, ‘Post-party hangover’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.779, 26 January – 1 February, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/779/fr2.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 15.

²⁵ ‘Profile: Ayman Nour’ 2005, *BBC News*, 24 December <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4558054.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 12.

²⁶ ‘Egypt’ 2009, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition*, CQ Press Electronic Library, p.394 http://library.cqpress.com/phw/phw2009_Egypt – Accessed 22 December 2009 – Attachment 9.

²⁷ ‘Profile: Ayman Nour’ 2005, *BBC News*, 24 December <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4558054.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 12.

²⁸ ‘Newsreel: Appeal for pardon’ 2006, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.812, 14-20 September, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/812/eg1.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 11.

²⁹ ‘Newsreel: Appeal for pardon’ 2006, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.812, 14-20 September, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/812/eg1.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 11.

³⁰ ‘Newsreel: Appeal for pardon’ 2006, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.812, 14-20 September, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/812/eg1.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 11.

- 2007 March** *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported that elections for the chair of the Al-Ghad Party saw Mr Ihab El-Kholi emerge as front-runner though there were internal accusations of vote rigging.³¹
- 2007 May** *Adnkronos International* reported that Mr Nour's wife, Gamila Ismail, alleged that the prison guards beat her husband while they were taking him to court for a hearing at his trial in Cairo.³²
- 2007 July, 31** *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported that the Political Parties Committee had recognised Mr Moussa Mustafa Moussa as the legitimate chairman of the Al-Ghad party.³³ However, the *Associated Press* reported that Mr Nour's wife, Gamila Ismail, and others in the party opposed Mr Moussa's takeover.³⁴
- 2007 August** *Al-Ahram Weekly* reported that Mr Nour's petition for early release on health grounds had been quashed by the Administrative Court.³⁵
- 2008 January, 17** The US Department of State 2008 Human Rights Report on Egypt noted that the European Parliament issued a resolution criticising Egypt's human rights record and calling on the government to release Mr Nour.³⁶
- 2008 September** *The Daily Star Egypt* reported that Al-Ghad President Ehab El-Khouly had stepped down from his position following the collective resignation of 21 members who said the party was run haphazardly and "according to personal whims."³⁷
- 2008 November, 6** A number of media sources reported that the Al-Ghad headquarters caught on fire as a result of clashes between supporters of Mr Nour and those of Mr Moussa. Reports state that 37 Al-Ghad members were questioned by police.³⁸ Mr Nour's wife, Gameela Ismail, accused the

³¹ El-Nahhas, M. 2007, 'Same struggle, different party', *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.835, 8-14 March, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/835/eg7.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 13.

³² 'Opposition campaigner beaten in jail, says wife' 2007, *Adnkronos International*, 17 May – Attachment 16.

³³ El-Nahhas, M. 2007, 'A free alternative? The Ghad Party remains mired in legal disputes', *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.857, 9-15 August <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/857/eg6.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 14.

³⁴ 'EGYPT: Egyptian protesters torch opposition headquarters' 2008, *Miami Herald*, source: *Associated Press*, 7 November – Attachment 17.

³⁵ El-Nahhas, M. 2007, 'A free alternative? The Ghad Party remains mired in legal disputes', *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.857, 9-15 August <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2007/857/eg6.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 14.

³⁶ US Department of State 2009, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Egypt*, February, Section 3 – Attachment 1.

³⁷ Fadl, E. 2008, 'El-Khouly steps down after 21 Ghad party members resign', *Daily News Egypt*, 17 September <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=16548> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 18.

³⁸ 'EGYPT: Egyptian protesters torch opposition headquarters' 2008, *Miami Herald*, source: *Associated Press*, 7 November – Attachment 17 ; Carr, S. 2008, 'Ghad members questioned over fire, clashes' *Daily News Egypt*, 7 November <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=17662> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 19 ; Basiony, D. 2008, 'Party on Fire' *Egypt Today*, December <http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=8271> – Accessed 16 December 2009 –

ruling National Democratic Party of involvement in burning the party's building.³⁹ A privately owned independent publication, *Egypt Today*, also reported that eyewitnesses claimed that during the clash there were no police or security in the area and the public prosecutor's office has since said that several of those with Mr Moussa appear to have been hired thugs, not party members.⁴⁰

Shortly after this, it was reported that Mr Nour's supporters clashed with security forces during a demonstration in which they were allegedly protesting the burning of their headquarters.⁴¹

- 2009 February, 8** The *Arab Reform Bulletin* reported that an administrative court reversed the decision to appoint Mr Moussa as head of the Al-Ghad party. The court instead awarded leadership of the party to Mr Ihab al-Khouly, who is associated with Mr Nour.⁴²
- 2009 February, 18** *BBC News* reported that Mr Nour had been released early from prison on 'health grounds'.⁴³ He was due for release in July 2009.⁴⁴ *The Daily News Egypt* reported that Mr Nour is currently barred from participating in elections, as the Egyptian government has excluded him from participating in politics for five years after his release.⁴⁵
- 2009 April, 6** Amnesty International issued a public statement calling on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and release of all those arrested and detained because of their call for, or participation in, recent national strike demonstrations. It noted that at least 34 people remained in detention after a wave of arrests with many reportedly beaten by the police. Police detained student activists, members of the 6 April Group, the Kefaya Movements, the Muslim Brotherhood **and**

Attachment 20 ; El-Nahas, M. 2009 'Pointless parties' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no. 928, 1- 6 January <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/928/eg5.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 21.

³⁹ 'EGYPT: Egyptian protesters torch opposition headquarters' 2008, *Miami Herald*, source: *Associated Press*, 7 November – Attachment 17.

⁴⁰ Basony, D. 2008, 'Party on Fire', *Egypt Today*, December <http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=8271> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 20

⁴¹ 'EGYPT: Egyptian opposition clashes with security forces' 2008, *Earth Times*, source: *Deutsche Presse Agentur*, 10 November – Attachment 22.

⁴² 'Egypt: Rulings on Security at Cairo University, Al-Ghad Leadership' 2009, *Arab Reform Bulletin*, February <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/arb/?fa=show&article=22726> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 23.

⁴³ 'Egypt's Nour lays out his plans' 2009, *BBC News*, 19 February <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7899357.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 24; 'Egypt's Nour released from jail' 2009, *BBC News*, 18 February <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7899357.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 25.

⁴⁴ El Nahas, M. 2009, 'The party resumes' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no. 936, 26 February- 4 March, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/936/eg7.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 26.

⁴⁵ Bassam, R & Jones, K. 2009, 'Ayman Nour faces setbacks prior to 2011 elections' *Daily News Egypt*, 13 July <http://www.thedailynewsegyp.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=23091> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 27.

members of the Al-Ghad political party including Mohamed Abdel Rahman of the Al-Ghad political party (emphasis added).⁴⁶

2009 May

The International Crisis Group and the *Christian Science Monitor* reported that Mr Nour was burnt by an unknown attacker on 24 May 2009.⁴⁷ Mr Nour accused the ruling National Democratic Party of being behind the attack, and ties it to the announcement of his candidacy in 2011.⁴⁸

2009 July

Media reports noted that state security cancelled two seminars for Mr Nour in Fayoum and Damietta.⁴⁹

Al-Ahram Weekly reported that since his release Mr Nour had undertaken political tours covering all of Egypt's governorates as part of his "Knocking on Doors" campaign, an attempt to attract people back to the Al-Ghad Party. It also noted that Mr Nour announced his intention to stand as a candidate in the 2011 presidential election and that he would contest Article 25 of the penal code which bans convicted felons from practising their political rights for six years after the date of their release.⁵⁰

2009 October, 14

Al-Ahram Weekly reported that opposition figures gathered at the headquarters of the Al-Ghad Party to announce the beginning of a campaign to prevent President Hosni Mubarak's son, Gamal, from succeeding his father.⁵¹

2009 October, 21

Two blog sites reported that: "40-50 'thugs' -- plainclothes state security -- assaulted Ayman Nour at one of his offices, in the Bab al-Sharqiya neighborhood in Cairo. The men reportedly assaulted members of the al-Ghad party and confiscated Nour's personal computer; his press secretary, Ahmed Abdel Gawad, was reportedly arrested. The raid came shortly before a conference of the "Poets

⁴⁶ Amnesty International 2009, *Egypt: Authorities must end suppression of peaceful protestors*, 6 April <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/021/2009/en> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 4.

⁴⁷ International Crisis Group 2009, 'Crisis Watch No.70' ICG website, 1 June http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/crisiswatch/cw_2009/cw70.pdf – accessed 2 June 2009 – Attachment 28 ; Stack, L. 2009 'Egyptian dissident speaks out after 'fire-bomb' attack incident' *The Christian Science Monitor*, 26 May – Attachment 29.

⁴⁸ Stack, L. 2009, 'Egyptian dissident speaks out after 'fire-bomb' attack incident' *The Christian Science Monitor*, 26 May – Attachment 29.

⁴⁹ 'Banning A Seminar For Al Ghad Party' 2009, The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information website <http://www.anhri.net/en/reports/faiom/07.shtml> - Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 30; Bassam, R & Jones, K. 2009 'Ayman Nour faces setbacks prior to 2011 elections', *Daily News Egypt*, 13 July <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=23091> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 27.

⁵⁰ El-Nahas, M. 2009, 'Seeking the limelight' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no.957, 23- 29 July, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/957/eg6.htm> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 31.

⁵¹ El-Nahas, M. 2009, 'Yes and no' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no. 969, 22- 28 October, <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/969/eg11.htm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 32; Knell, Y. 2009, 'Egypt opposition tries to rebound' *BBC News*, 21 October <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8315952.stm> – Accessed 15 December 2009 – Attachment 33.

Against Succession" group, part of the larger anti-succession coalition that Nour announced last week to protest the potential transfer of power from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to his son Gamal."⁵²

2009 October, 29 A newspaper published by the Al Shaab opposition party, *Al Sha'b*, reported that Mr Nour and his assistants "were violently assaulted with clubs by thugs who beat him and his assistants, particularly his media assistant Ahmad Abd-al-Jawad, as they were leaving a restaurant in al-Ghardaqah after a tour they made in the Red Sea Governorate where they met with the members of the al-Ghad Party Committee in al-Ghardaqah."⁵³

2009 November *Agence France Presse* reported that Mr Nour alleged that he had been barred by Egypt's Prosecutor General from travelling to the United States to take part in a seminar.⁵⁴

⁵² Carlstrom, G. 2009, 'Egyptian security forces storm Ayman Nour's office' *The Majilis*, 21 October <http://www.themajilis.org/2009/10/21/breaking-egyptian-security-forces-storm-ayman-nours-office> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 34. Please Note: *The Majilis* blog site claims to be a "clearinghouse for unbiased Middle East news, analysis and commentary" and is hosted by two American citizens; Maree, M. 2009, "Security raids Ayman Nour offices during 'Egyptians Against Succession' meeting", *The Arabist*, 21 October <http://arabist.net/archives/2009/10/22/security-raids-ayman-nour-offices-during-egyptians-against-succession-meeting/> – Accessed 16 December 2009 – Attachment 35. Please Note: *The Arabist* blog site claims that it "is dedicated to covering the politics and culture of the Arab world. It is published and maintained in Cairo, with contributions from journalists and researchers working in the region".

⁵³ "Attack by 'thugs' on Egyptian party leader said to have been political" 2009, *BBC Monitoring*, source: *Al-Sha'b*, 29 October – Attachment 36.

⁵⁴ 'Egypt: Egypt bars opposition's Nur from travel to US' 2009, *Agence France Presse*, 5 November – Attachment 37.

List of Attachments

1. US Department of State 2009, Country reports on Human Rights Practices for 2008 – Egypt, February.
2. Human Rights Watch 2009, *World Report – Egypt*.
3. Amnesty International 2009, *Amnesty International Annual Report 2009 – Egypt* <http://thereport.amnesty.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/egypt> - Accessed 16 December 2009.
4. Amnesty International 2009, *Egypt: Authorities must end suppression of peaceful protestors*, 6 April <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE12/021/2009/en> - Accessed 16 December 2009.
5. DIMA Country Information Service 2007, *Country Information Response Ref: EGY8833- Egypt: Al Ghad Party*, 8 January. (CISNET EGY8833CQ)
6. ‘Tomorrow Party’ 2009, Wikipedia, updated 20 October http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tomorrow_Party - Accessed 16 December 2009.
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12. ‘Profile: Ayman Nour’ 2005, *BBC News*, 24 December <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4558054.stm> - Accessed 15 December 2009.
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15. Howeid, A. 2006, ‘Post-party hangover’, *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue no. 779, 26 January – 1 February <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/779/fr2.htm> - Accessed 15 December 2009.
16. ‘Opposition campaigner beaten in jail, says wife’ 2007, *Adnkronos International*, 17 May. (CISNET Egypt CIX177413)

17. 'EGYPT: Egyptian protesters torch opposition headquarters' 2008, *Miami Herald*, source: *Associated Press*, 7 November. (CISNET Egypt CX213840)
18. Fadl, E. 2008, 'El-Khouly steps down after 21 Ghad party members resign', *Daily News Egypt*, 17 September
<http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=16548> - Accessed 15 December 2009.
19. Carr, S. 2008, 'Ghad members questioned over fire, clashes' *Daily News Egypt*, 7 November <http://www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=17662> - Accessed 15 December 2009.
20. Basiony, D. 2008, 'Party on Fire' *Egypt Today*, December
<http://www.egypttoday.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=8271> - Accessed 16 December 2009.
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<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/928/eg5.htm> - Accessed 16 December 2009.
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