



# News Coverage

prepared for: **The European Union delegation to Egypt**



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## ▪ Thematic Headlines

### ➤ Domestic Scene

- ✓ Presidential Race
- ✓ FJP Members of Parliament Seek to Overthrow Government
- ✓ Demonstrations against Constituent Assembly
- ✓ Moussa: Postponing Presidential Elections Undermines Egypt's Credibility
- ✓ Al-Azhar Moves to Confront Majority's Domination of Constituent Assembly
- ✓ April 6: Struggle against Former Regime is Ongoing
- ✓ Police Forces Seized 283.000 Liters of Smuggled Diesel Fuel
- ✓ Young Revolutionaries: Conflicting Political Forces Allowed Suleiman's Return

### ➤ Regional Development

- ✓ 1000 Copts Challenge Church and Travel to Jerusalem to Perform Pilgrimage



## Newspapers (7/04/2012)



Pages: 1, 4, 5.

Authors: Khaled Abu El-Ezz, Mohamed Ains (and others).

### Presidential Race



At the last moment, Omar Suleiman, former vice president, said he will run for presidency if his supporters were able to complete the endorsement forms required to join the presidential race.

“I was moved by your strong position and support and I saw your determination to change reality. I can only answer your call and run for presidency, despite of the difficulties and hurdles I explained to you in my previous statement,” Suleiman said in a statement for his supporters.

On the other hand, tens of thousands of Salafis poured into Tahrir Square on Friday to express their support to Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, amid controversy that surrounds the nationality of his mother. In a demonstration held under the title “We Will Not Allow Manipulation,” Abu Ismail’s supporters came from different governorates to demand allowing presidential hopeful to run and object to claims that his mother carries an American nationality.

Hamdeen Sabbahi, potential presidential candidate, arrived to the headquarters of the Presidential Elections Commission yesterday and presented nearly 44.000 forms of endorsement amid chants of his supporters.

Senior Judge Hatem Bagato, secretary general of the Presidential Elections Commission, stated that the commission will hold a meeting after closing the door to candidacy to examine the papers of each candidate. A list of presidential candidates who have met the



requirements will be announced on Monday. The commission will allow contestations by excluded candidates during the following days and the final list of candidates will be declared on April 26, 2012, he explained.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Masry Al-Youm: Pages 1, 4, 5; Al-Shorouk: Pages 1, 4, 5; Al-Akhbar: Pages 1, 3, 7, 8.



Pages: 1, 7.

Author: Amani Maged.

## **FJP Members of Parliament Seek to Overthrow Government**

The parliamentary bloc of the Freedom and Justice Party continues taking measures to withdraw confidence from Dr. Kamal El-Ganzouri's government.

Dr. Khaled Mohamed, a member of the FJP parliamentary bloc, said the MPs are determined to withdraw confidence from the current government. "Members of Parliament will not change their decision and they will implement all the necessary measures during this week's session to withdraw confidence from government through discussing the government's statement and issuing statements of rejection to the government's performance," said Mohamed.

Pages: 1, 6.  
Authors: Ibtisam Ta'lab, Mahmoud Gaweish (and others).

### Demonstrations against Constituent Assembly



Hundreds of members of various political parties and movements demonstrated Friday in Tahrir Square and in other governorates to protest the domination of Islamists of the Constituent Assembly. A number of members of syndicates also participated in Friday's protests demanding a "constitution for all Egyptians."

A mediation committee was formed in an attempt to study an initiative to solve the crisis of withdrawn members.

In Alexandria, hundreds of the Civil Democratic Coalition, which comprises 26 political parties and movements, demonstrated to express their discontent with the domination of Islamists over the constitution-drafting panel.

Dozens of young revolutionaries organized protests in Suez and Al-Daqahlia to demand a proper representation for all the political factions in the Constituent Assembly.

A number of withdrawn members confirmed that the set of regulations determined by the parliament to organize the work of the Constituent Assembly proves that the Muslim Brotherhood's members are deliberately ignoring the crisis of walkouts and that they insist on monopolizing the process of drafting the constitution.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Dostour: Pages 1, 4, 5; Al-Shorouk: Page 5; Youm 7: Pages 1, 4; Al-Akhbar: Page 8.

## Moussa: Postponing Presidential Elections Undermines Egypt's Credibility



Amr Moussa, potential presidential candidate, said the January 25 revolution saved Egypt, despite of all the attempts to hijack the revolution. He confirms that he predicted the breaking out of the revolution because of the unbearable conditions which prevailed in the country during the past 10 years.

In a meeting held yesterday at the Democratic Front Party, Moussa said that Egypt will lose a lot if presidential elections were postponed. "All the countries are expecting a new president for the country because Egypt is a central state in the region and its internal political developments impact many countries in the Arab world and outside," said Moussa.

He also stated that the new constitution must reflect all the segments of the society and must aim at creating a democratic state. He confirmed that he is against dissolving the current parliament and called on MPs to assume their responsibilities and solve the ongoing crises.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Dostour: Page 4.



Page: 4.  
 Author: Wael Fayez.

### Al-Azhar Moves to Confront Majority’s Domination of Constituent Assembly



Al-Azhar organized a conference under the title “Supporting Azhar’s Document: Towards a System of Fundamental Freedoms” to discuss ways of enforcing Al-Azhar’s document to protect Egypt’s identity in the new constitution.

Al-Azhar invited prominent intellectuals, actors, media figures and priests to the conference. The participants discussed ways to confront the domination and extremism of some Islamists over the Constituent Assembly. Al-Azhar sought to preserve the Egyptian identity with all its heritage and ethics in order to maintain the solidarity of its people and prevent possible plans of disintegration.

Scholars of Al-Azhar reaffirmed the importance of spreading the culture of participation and inclusion in the Egyptian society.

### April 6: Struggle against Former Regime is Ongoing



The April 6 movement, one of the leading revolutionary forces in the country, celebrated its fourth anniversary yesterday, amid continuous attempts to tarnish its image.

Ahmed Maher, the movement's founder and coordinator, said, "The revolution will continue because the former political regime refuses to give up their powers and gains. We are fighting enemies of the past and this struggle will probably continue for years until we see dignity, social justice and democracy in our country.

Maher predicted that the struggle for power will lead to more fragmentation among political forces. He said it is important to put more pressures to prevent the former regime from regaining power.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Shorouk: Page 5.



Page: 3.

Author: Ahmed Al-Sa'dawi.

### 1000 Copts Challenge Church and Travel to Jerusalem to Perform Pilgrimage



Around 1000 Coptic Orthodox Christians left Cairo Airport heading to Jerusalem to perform pilgrimage, clearly challenging the decision of the late Pope Shenouda III which banned pilgrimage because of the Israeli occupation of the city.

Priest Antonious of the Church of Resurrection in Jerusalem, told Al-Shorouk newspaper that the Coptic Orthodox Diocese "did not and will not invite Christians to visit Jerusalem to perform pilgrimage; however the Church cannot prevent anyone from visiting the city because it is the house of God."

Priest Antonious confirmed that the acting Patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church Bishop Pachomius is the only person who has the authority to prevent Coptic Christians from visiting Jerusalem.

Christians who visited the city are not considered pilgrims because they must obtain the approval of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, he explained.

**Similar news was reported in: Youm 7: Pages 1, 6 +**

**Coptic Christians who took the decision to visit Jerusalem are supporters of the normalization with Israel. A number of Coptic Christian businessmen continued challenging the public opinion and the decision of the late Pope Shenouda III and organized trips to Israel in a plan that will allow nearly 10000 Christians to visit the holy city.**



Page: 6.

Authors: Medhat Wahba, Ibrahim Ahmed (and others).

### Police Forces Seized 283.000 Liters of Smuggled Diesel Fuel



Police forces carried out intensive security inspections in Cairo and four other governorates, Al-Media, Luxor, Alexandria and Al-Beheira, to seize large amounts of smuggled diesel fuel.

Nearly 283.000 liters of subsidized diesel fuel was seized before criminals were able to sell it in the black market. The Ministry of Supply is discussing stronger penalties for persons accused of stealing subsidized goods to be a sentence of 3-7 years in prison.

The Ministry of Supply performed a sudden inspection of gas stations on Friday morning to make sure the petroleum products are available to the public with the official prices set by the government.

Similar news was reported in: Al-Akhbar: Page 4.



Page: 6.  
 Author: Walid Ebeid.

## Young Revolutionaries: Conflicting Forces Allowed Suleiman's Return



The revolution's youth were angered by the news of Omar Suleiman's decision to run for presidency. The majority of young revolutionaries expressed their complete rejection of Suleiman's presidential bid.

Sayed Abu El-Ela, a member of Egypt's Revolution Front, said he strongly reject that a military person comes to power because this is a direct threat against the gains of the January 25 revolution. "If Omar Suleiman succeeded in the upcoming elections, then it would mean that the military regime established by the 1952 revolution will prevail. We, as young revolutionaries, are against the way SCAF runs the affairs of the state during the transitional period and we are skeptic of their administration of the presidential elections," said Abu El-Ela.

Amer Al-Wakil, coordinator of Egypt Revolution Coalition, believes that Omar Suleiman's decision to run for presidency is not a coincidence as SCAF wants people to believe; however, it is planned in advance to spread more confusion among the people. Al-Wakil said that Suleiman's chances are limited given the strength of his Islamist opponents and the efforts of the revolution's youth to prevent figures of the former political regime from assuming power once again.

"This person, who is merely a duplicate of former president Hosni Mubarak, would have never dared to appear on the political scene again if it wasn't for the prevailing polarization of the political forces," added Al-Wakil.

### TV Coverage (06/04/2012)



**Channel: al-Hayah TV**  
**Program: al-Hayah al-Yom**  
**Presenter: Lubna Assal**

Omar Suleiman declares his intention to run the presidential elections.

A demonstration to Tahrir Square to support Hazim Abu Ismail.



**Channel: Ch 1**  
**Program: Akhbar Masr**  
**Time: 17:00:00**

Demonstrations in Tahrir against the Constituent Assembly.

Ayman Nour applies his papers to the High Presidential Elections Commission.



## Radio Coverage (06/04/2012)



### **News**

**Channel: Radio Masr**

**Time: 18:00:00**

A mass demonstration to Tahrir Square to support Hazim Salah Abu Ismail.

Demonstrations in Tahrir Square against the Constituent Assembly.

Omar Suleima will run the presidential elations.

Ayman Nour applies his papers to the High Presidential Elections Commission.

**Time: 25:00:00**

Hamadain Sabbahi applied his papers to the High Presidential Elections Commission.



**Channel: Al-Sharq Al-Awsat**

**Time: 17:00:00**

Demonstrations in Sues against the Constituent Assembly.

A demonstration to put pressure on Omar Suleiman to step back on his decision not to run the presidential elections.

## Internet Coverage (7/4/2012)



### We are all Khaled Saeed

Page member Ahmed Ali: I have confidence in the Egyptian people that we will protect the elections and will write the end of the legend of the former regime. We do not surrender. We either win or die.

Stencil: Omar Soliman, you will all be Khaled Saeed! [https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/555010\\_380353348681202\\_104224996294040\\_898010\\_734690652\\_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash3/555010_380353348681202_104224996294040_898010_734690652_n.jpg)

The revolution continues, inside each and every one of us. [https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/s720x720/398943\\_380361702013700\\_104224996294040\\_898022\\_908851578\\_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-ash4/s720x720/398943_380361702013700_104224996294040_898022_908851578_n.jpg)

Stakeholders do not like revolutions - Naguib Mahfouz, from his novel: Morning and Evening Talks. [https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/527139\\_380370558679481\\_104224996294040\\_898031\\_567626005\\_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/527139_380370558679481_104224996294040_898031_567626005_n.jpg)

### Egyptian Cabinet:

The Presidential Elections Commission will continue to receive presidential candidacy applications until tomorrow noon.



## The Muslim Brotherhood:

### Syria Muslim Brotherhood Issues Post-Assad State-for-All Commitment Charter

The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria issued a document which it called a pledge and Charter, and in which it stated its commitments for the future of post-Assad Syria, and vowed to establish pluralism and democracy in a civil constitutional State, with equality of all citizens – even in access to the country’s "highest level posts", and with full respect for human rights and freedoms.

In the text of the document, Syria’s Brotherhood said, "In this Covenant and Charter, we do solemnly pledge to all our people to commit to the letter and spirit of this Covenant to protect all rights, dispel fears and inspire trust, confidence and peace".

The group said that, "This Covenant and Charter offers a national vision and common denominators, adopted by the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria as the basis for a new social contract that establishes new national relationships of peace and harmony between all segments, components and hues of Syrian society, with all its religious, sectarian, ethnic, political and intellectual trends".

Further, the group added that it is committed to ensuring that future Syria is, "A modern civil state, based on a civil constitution that protects the fundamental rights of individuals and groups against any abuse or violation, and ensures equitable representation of all components of society... a democratic pluralistic State with a sophisticated power-cycling system, according to the finest standards of modern human thought, with a republican parliamentary system of government, in which the people choose their representatives and governors through the ballot box, in transparent, free and fair elections".

The group announced that it is committed to the creation of "A State of citizenship and equality, where all citizens are equal, with different ethnic backgrounds and religions, sects and convictions, where any citizen has the right to work the highest posts, on the bases of elections or efficiency, where men and women are equal in human dignity, and where women enjoy their full rights".

The document also indicated that “the future state shall be committed to human rights: dignity and equality, freedom of thought and expression, freedom of belief and worship,



freedom of information, political participation, equal opportunities, social justice... all citizens shall equally take part in state renaissance and defense and share wealth and resources. They shall also respect other ethnic, religious and sectarian groups' rights and privacy in all civil, cultural and social dimensions".

The group also pledged, "The new state shall condemn and fight terrorism, respect international conventions and treaties, work for security and stability on regional and international levels, and establish good relations with neighboring countries, especially the Lebanon". It also vowed that in the future, "There shall be no room for revenge or retaliation". Moreover, it said that, "Those who imbued their hands with the blood of the people, whatever their sects, ethnicity or denominations, have the right to fair, free and independent trials".

In conclusion, the document said, "This is our vision and our aspirations for our desired future. This is our pledge, our Charter and our covenant before God and before our people, before all people. This is a vision we confirm today, after a long history in national action, for several decades since the founding of the group, by Dr. Mustafa Sibai, in 1945.

"With our hearts open, we extend our hands to all our brothers and our partners in our beloved homeland, so our country should take its rightful place among civilized human societies".

For decades, the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria opposed the oppressive regime, which is controlled by top leaders of the Alawi minority. In the 1980s, Brotherhood action turned into armed conflict, during the Hama events in which tens of thousands of people fell dead and wounded.



Twitter

Wael Abbas:

I have a personal vendetta with Omar Soliman since they confiscated my laptop in the airport in 2009. They kept it for seven months! The stupid intelligence is interested in a laptop!

Rana, a supporter of Tawfik Okasha, knows the perils of protests. [https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/524447\\_330831496977617\\_146038068790295\\_883870\\_1458081232\\_n.jpg](https://fbcdn-sphotos-a.akamaihd.net/hphotos-ak-prn1/524447_330831496977617_146038068790295_883870_1458081232_n.jpg)

Yediot Ahronot: Amr Moussa has a Jewish half-brother.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4213321,00.html>

Okasha's threesome. [https://p.twimg.com/Ap1N\\_7tCQAAjkoX.jpg](https://p.twimg.com/Ap1N_7tCQAAjkoX.jpg)

Khaled Ali to file presidential application on Sunday April 8 at 9 am.

Asmaa Mahfouz:

Let's head to the square.

They arrested us to shut us up, but they do not know that the voice of the detainee is stronger than theirs.

The revolution is still on. Let's head to the square to call for freedom. Down, down injustice and corruption.

Iyad elbaghdadi:

To create change, you can either apply at the cause and have the effects propagate naturally, or you can arm-wrestle the effects themselves.

Those who prefer to arm-wrestle the effects, I tend to call the "artificialists". #PrevTweet  
Sometimes an evil idea captures & imprisons a person (or society), in which case I hate the idea, not the person or society. #PrevTweet

So even though I oppose the authoritarians, I don't hate them. What I do hate is that set of ideas that is "authoritarianism". #PrevTweets

For an idea to expand it has to capture minds. And it can't go around doing that if it hates those who carry those minds around. #PrevTweets

Ask a Libyan what #Gaddafi did, 36 years ago, today. #Libya

April 7 was #Gaddafi's annual "let's hang some university students & professors" day.

#Libya



### Arabist:

New on Arabist: Egypt presidentials: Suleiman in, Abu Ismail out?

<http://www.arabist.net/blog/2012/4/6/egypt-presidentials-suleiman-in-abu-ismail-out.html>

Considering that I have yet to see a personal appearance by Omar Suleiman, I am not taking his alleged statement to MENA seriously.

'Jackie Kennedy of China' at Center of Political Drama.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303299604577327472813686432.html>

Turkey Raises Cry Over Syria Exodus <http://on.wsj.com/HmfTtu>

### Gsquare86:

I love #NYC in the spring :) <http://twitpic.com/96fz9n>

I am lost in translation and time zones, so did Al Shatter withdraw? And Omar Suliman will kill us all?

### Wael Ghonim:

The Misdemeanors Court of the 6th of October City ruled in absentia an EGP 10,000 fine against those who accused me of espionage.

<https://www.facebook.com/WaelGhonim/posts/305960356143715>



## ▪ Publication overview

### ❖ **Al-Ahram: Egyptian state-run official daily newspaper**

Founded in 1875, is the most widely circulating Egyptian [daily](#) newspaper, and the second oldest after al-Waqa'i`al-Masriya (English: The Egyptian Events, founded 1828). It is majority owned by the [Egyptian government](#).

### ❖ **Al-Akhbar: Egyptian state-owned semi-official daily newspaper**

It was founded in May [1952](#) as a part of [Akhbar El Yom](#).

### ❖ **Al-Gomhoria: Egyptian state-owned daily newspaper**

An influential state-owned [Egyptian Arabic language](#) daily [newspaper](#). It was established in 1954.

### ❖ **Al-Shorouk: Egyptian daily independent newspaper**

Is a prominent Arabic newspaper published in Egypt [\[1\]](#) and several other Arabic nations It is a daily independent newspaper, covering mainly politics, militant affairs and sport.

### ❖ **Al-Masry al-Yom: Independent daily newspaper**

On 7 June 2004, it published its first edition. The paper initially circulated primarily amongst Cairo's intellectual elite, providing objective news coverage in the belief that good news would beat sensationalist reporting found in other Egyptian print media. After 3 years, it was challenging *Al-Ahram* for the status of being the national paper of record. Though

### ❖ **Tahrir: Daily independent newspaper**

### ❖ **Dostor: Daily independent newspaper**

### ❖ **Yom 7: Daily independent newspaper**



## Table of Content

<b>Newspapers:</b>	3-12
<b><u>Al-Ahram Newspaper</u></b>	
Presidential Race	3-4
FJP Members of Parliament Seek to Overthrow Government	5
<b><u>Al-Masry Al-Yom Newspaper</u></b>	
Demonstrations against Constituent Assembly	6
<b><u>Al-Gomhoria Newspaper</u></b>	
Moussa: Postponing Presidential Elections Undermines Egypt's Credibility	7
<b><u>Dostour Newspaper</u></b>	
Al-Azhar Moves to Confront Majority's Domination of Constituent Assembly	8
<b><u>Tahrir Newspaper</u></b>	
April 6: Struggle against Former Regime is Ongoing	9
<b><u>Al-Shorouk Newspaper</u></b>	
1000 Copts Challenge Church and Travel to Jerusalem to Perform Pilgrimage	10
<b><u>Al-Youm Al-Sabea Newspaper</u></b>	
Police Forces Seized 283.000 Liters of Smuggled Diesel Fuel	11
<b><u>Akhbar Newspaper</u></b>	
Young Revolutionaries: Conflicting Political Forces Allowed Suleiman's Return	12
<b><u>TV Coverage</u></b>	13-14
AL-Hayah TV	13
Channel 1	13
Links	14
<b><u>Radio Coverage</u></b>	15-16
Radio Misr	15
Al Sharq Al Awsat	15
Links	16
<b><u>Internet coverage</u></b>	17-21
Face book	17
The Muslim Brotherhood	18-19
Twitter	20-21