

Global Conference on Business & Social Science-2014, GCBSS-2014, 15th & 16th December,
Kuala Lumpur

Obstacle Faced the Democratic Transition in Egypt in Muhammad Mursi Era

Ahmed A. M. Atawna^{a*}, Mohammad Redzuan Othman^b

^aUniversity of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 50603, Malaysia

Abstract

Egypt has had an influential role in the Arab and Muslim world. After the 25 January uprising (2011), the focus has been on the democratic transition process in this country, which has faced a lot of obstacles that make it very difficult, slow and prone to failure. These obstacles related to internal and external factors. The performance of Muslim Brotherhood, the opposition, the media, the counter-revolution and the deep state is very crucial in this transition stage. As well, the regional and international position from the elected authority has an effective role, particularly on the Egyptian economy.

© 2015 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Peer-review under responsibility of GLTR International Sdn. Berhad.

Keywords: Political Islam; Egypt; Muslim Brotherhood; Democratic Transition; Arab Spring.

1. Introduction

Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) became the ruling party in Egypt after the 25 January uprising. The Egyptian political scene showed that FJP is the only party that has the ability to lead Egypt in this stage. After dismantling the former ruling party, the National Democratic Party (NDP) and many new parties have realized they are not effective and popular in the Egyptian streets based on the parliamentary elections unlike the FJP, the political arm of Muslim Brotherhood (MB), who has the largest number of members, and a considerable number of leaders, figure, scholars, professors and experts. President Muhammad Mursi, for example, is an expert in engineering, and Sa'd al-Katatni, the FJP chairman is a professor. This made them more confident that they would be able to lead the post- 2011 uprising

* Corresponding Author. Tel.: +6-01128021032.

E-mail address: ahmed_atawna@yahoo.com

era, even they were alone. They believed that their team of experts will lead the renaissance of Egypt.

In short time, they spread throughout Egypt. With the help and support of MB, the FJP managed to open divisions in every district and city. They managed to conduct the internal elections all over the country and form a democratic party with elected leadership and institutions. Their organized mentality that had inherited from the parent movement (MB) helped them to form accurate and highly built party. They wrote and published the regulations, the election programs and the platform of the party in less than one year; while some of other political parties were still trying to organize themselves. They have published a strategic plan to rebuild Egypt and transform it to be a modern and developed country. Their project of renaissance clearly outlines the short and long terms plans, the comprehensive vision as well as the goals. On the other side, the opposition parties lack clear programs and visions.

Post- 2011 uprising Egypt needs a confident, strong and organized ruling party which is able to face threats and challenges fuelled by what called the deep state, the counter- revolution, the anarchy, lack of security, and the gangs. It also needs the support of the honest and loyal Egyptian people. For example, many problems have come to the surface directly after the uprising since Mursi was elected as a President of Egypt. The need for a strong ruling party became more necessary when the parties failed to make a national coalition. The lack of solidarity between the revolutionary parties resulted in the one-ruling party system again. The national responsibility and the response to the will of the people who elected the FJP party and his candidate Mursi forced FJP to move onward and defend the people interests.

2. Obstacles in the Road of Change

The path to the modern democratic state in Egypt is crowded with obstacles. The high ambition of the revolutionaries who suffered a lot to get rid of the autocratic regime is not easy to be achieved. Egypt is one of the third world states that never has an elected civil president, or government. People of Egypt have never enjoyed their freedom before the uprising. Their life for many years was a compound of fear, poverty, struggle, and wars. But they managed to keep the hope, moderation, tolerance, joy and patience. Their life has been a special blend that can be seen in Egypt only.

The special nature of the Egyptian people resulted in a civil uprising that could not get rid of all bad components of the former regime. The people and the leaders of the uprising and parties were very keen to have a peaceful uprising. The revolutionary parties did not use any violence or military means. This was considered as a triumph without heavy bloodshed, destruction or military confrontations, and it led to quick desired results. However, it was not able to uproot all the corrupted and unfriendly institutions of the previous regime.

Few months after the uprising grave difficulties started to appear in the democratic track. Many parties from inside and outside Egypt started to put sticks in the wheels of the transition. They have tried to hamper the change and development in every aspect of life. They want to send messages to the Egyptians and the people in the Arab world that the 'Arab spring' is not a real change and has a great risk on the future of their countries. These obstacles are briefly discussed below.

2.1. The Political deterioration under Mubarak

During Mubarak's era (1981-2011), the Egyptians were deprived of their basic political rights. All these rights were violated under the coverage of the corrupted laws enacted by the ruling party (NDP) to severe their interests and to rule the country alone. The emergency law had been imposed all the time, accompanied with an absence of pluralism, political freedom and freedom of expression and protest. The opposition leaders who tried to protest against this unjust situation were sent to prison. Most of them and MB leaders, in particular, had been arrested for many times including the current president, Mursi. The presidential elections did not happen, only, in advance known results, referendums to renew the mandate for the president was hold many times. The parliamentary elections had been faked every time (Tadros, 2012).

This situation led to the lack of political experience, especially among the opposition. They did not have the chance to practice politics. They did not have the chance to found parties and play a real role in the official political life. They did not have the opportunity to talk freely to the media. These parties were not able to build and produce political leaders equipped with political skills. It is noticeable that the prominent opposition political leaders, who are leading

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1111803>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1111803>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)