



الشبكة الدولية للحقوق والتنمية
Global Network For Rights And Development



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development and Human Rights



International Institute for Peace
Justice and Human Rights

Report of the Joint Observation Mission:

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 26 – 28 May 2014

**Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD),
International Institute for Peace Justice and Human Rights
(IIPJHR) and Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights
(MAAT)**



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Executive Summary

The Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), the International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights (IIPJHR), and the MAAT Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights received accreditation to observe the 2014 Presidential elections in Egypt. According to the guidelines issued by the Egyptian Presidential Election Committee (PEC), they have also formed a joint observation mission based on a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by all three parties.

The Joint Mission committed itself to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers as well as to Egypt's laws and regulations. The mission included persons of diverse political and professional skills, backgrounds, as well as proven integrity. This experienced team observed the election through the lens of their expertise in electoral processes and principles, international human rights, comparative election law and administration practices, comparative political processes, and country specific considerations. The mission also respected the importance of balanced diversity of citizenship, demographics, as well as gender diversity in the development and composition of the team and its leadership. Thus, the observers represented 22 countries: Norway, Russia, Latvia, Spain, Armenia, Jordan, Belgium, France, Zambia, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Austria, United States of America, Portugal, Sudan, Finland, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Zimbabwe, and Germany.

The Joint Mission defined its objectives as follows:

- To contribute to the transparency of the elections;
- To contribute to Egypt's transition to democracy;
- To support the Egyptian citizens' right and wish to vote.

The mission included 2,614 observers (124 international and 2,490 local) and aimed to monitor three phases of the election process: pre-election period, days of elections, and post-election period. The first group of the observers arrived on 10 May 2014 to follow the pre-election period which included activities such as campaign and candidates' rallies, voters' education, media coverage of the election's preparation, and the situation in Egypt. The complete mission of 2,614 observers was deployed on 23 May 2014. During the days of the elections, the observers were divided into 850 groups and assessed 10,323 polling stations in 25 governorates. The assessment of each polling station was undertaken based on the checklists as presented in Appendix 1. The data of all checklists was summarized.

In conclusion, the two phases of the joint observation mission closed on 29 May 2014 with a press conference in which the leadership team, as well as the international observers of the mission, congratulated the people of Egypt on the election process and expressed their wish for the future success and development of Egypt. Preliminary results and recommendations were also presented. More than 1000 delegates and representatives from various governorates were in attendance, and this event was also widely covered by the local and international media.

The Joint Mission stated that the Egyptian people have experienced a unique process toward democratic transition, and despite the fact that minor errors and inaccuracies occurred, these do not

shed a negative light on the overall results of the electoral process. Therefore, the mission highly recommends the implementation of the relevant article in the Egyptian constitution for founding a permanent electoral commission in order to circumvent any future inaccuracies which may impede the Egyptian people's strong desire to establish sustainable democracy.

The Joint Mission was honored to be a part of the 2014 Egyptian Presidential Election and contribute to promoting its transparency, integrity, and success. The Joint Mission expresses its hope that these contributions will support Egypt's development and a smooth transition to democracy. We wish success to Egypt, being one of the most influential countries in the Middle East, and commend their achievements thus far towards a path to democracy.

Historical and Political Background

Post-Arab Spring Developments

Egypt's 2014 Presidential elections are the culmination of a long political transition that has seen two revolutions in just three years. Since the step down of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, Egypt has undergone three full years of change and events searching for peace, security and democracy. After the second revolution on 30 June 2013, Egypt was run by a transitional government endorsed by national consensus and a new constitution was approved by an overwhelming majority during the referendum of January 2014.

The 2011 Egyptian revolution that successfully led to the step down of Mr. Mubarak found its support amongst both secular and Islamic movements within Egyptian society. After decades of the oppressive regime, the Egyptian people had had enough. Massive demonstrations, particularly at Cairo's Tahrir Square, led to a decision to shift power to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in February 2011. The SCAF forced Mr. Mubarak to resign, suspended the 1971 constitution two days later, and issued the first Constitutional Declaration, which endorsed the SCAF with a temporary executive and legislative power until the election of a new parliament and president. In response to the demonstrators' demands, the SCAF opened a pluralistic democratic process for all political groups, set a tentative election schedule for a referendum of the constitutional amendments in March, and scheduled parliamentary elections from November 2011 to January 2012.

2011-2012 Parliamentary Elections

The parliamentary elections took place from November 2011 to January 2012 and led to a major victory by the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP), which achieved a solid plurality with thirty-five percent of the votes. The conservative Salafists, who had traditionally abstained from political activity, won twenty-two percent; alarming some that potential cooperation of both parties would allow for an Islamist domination of the new Parliament by a clear majority. The liberal and secular parties, on the other hand won a collective twenty percent. International observers qualified these elections as "a formative step in Egypt's struggle for democracy but had reservations about the broader context in which the elections were held".

The parliamentary elections reflected the reality of an Egyptian society divided along religious and secular lines. The Muslim Brotherhood, an organisation deeply rooted in Egypt since 1928, quickly became the most popular party amongst Islamist leaning voters. More conservative Islamists aligned with the Salafist party, who had traditionally abstained from political activity and were historically at odds with the Muslim Brotherhood for their decision to renounce violence and join politics in 1980 (Eskisar, 200). Liberals, on the other hand, were even more fractionated into socialists, social democrats, Nasserists, and traditional liberals.

The original mandate of the new Parliament was to create a 'constituent assembly' to draft a new constitution. Disagreements on several issues between Parliament members, such as the role of the military, the form of government, and the role of Islamic jurisprudence, however, postponed the assembly's establishment.

Nevertheless, in June 2012, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that the electoral law used to elect the Parliament was unconstitutional, thereby dissolving the parliament and thus fueling uncertainty about the transitional process.

First Presidential Elections after January 25th, 2011 revolution

Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood candidate and the chairman of the FJP, won the first election round by twenty-five percent. Ahmad Shafiq, former chief of the Egyptian airforce and the last-serving

prime minister under Mubarak, received twenty-three percent of the vote. Nasserite candidate Hamdeen Sabahi came in third with twenty-one percent.

Non-religious parties collectively gained almost fifty percent of the votes, but no individual candidate could challenge either Morsi or Shafiq. The nearly fifty percent of eligible voters that were opposed to both candidates in the first round, largely due to respective affiliations with the Muslim Brotherhood and the Mubarak regime, were vocally discontent. Many organisations and political parties launched boycott movements and vote spoiling campaigns in protest during the run up to the second round of the elections.

A run-off election was held between Morsi and Shafiq on 16 and 17 June 2012. Morsi won fifty-two percent of the vote and was declared winner of the election by Egypt's Election Commission. He was sworn in as Egypt's first democratically elected president on 30 June 2012.

Egypt under Morsi's Governance

The newly elected President Morsi was immediately faced with several major challenges: severe economic decline and political instability caused as a result of the suspension of the constitution and dissolution of parliament. Despite these challenges, the Egyptian people realised their political efficacy, and maintained high expectations for positive changes and reform in their country.

The drafting of the new constitution quickly became controversial, revealing a growing polarisation of the political environment. While Muslim Brotherhood leaders felt that the new constitution should reflect the public opinion expressed in the recent election, Salafists saw the drafting as an opportunity to formally recognize the Sharia in constitutional law. Liberals, on the other hand, argued that the draft should promote and defend universal equal rights, irrespective of any election outcome.

This conflict led to massive demonstrations by liberal and secular groups demanding the cancellation of the upcoming referendum on the draft constitution scheduled for December 2012. As violent clashes with Morsi supporters developed, liberal party members and representatives of Egyptian churches decided to withdraw from the preparation work.

Irrespective of the debate over the new constitution, President Morsi earned critics across the entire country for a number of controversial policies that consolidated power to his party. Secular parties and government critics alleged that Morsi was reserving top positions within the government and administration for members of the Muslim Brotherhood, to the detriment of the opposition. Conflicts arose between the Morsi administration and various administrative bodies, particularly police forces, as these institutions were traditionally manned by civil servants since the regime of Hosni Mubarak.

President Morsi also garnered mass disapproval with a controversial move to challenge the authority of the Egyptian courts. Morsi effectively asserted his supremacy over the judiciary by unilaterally declaring that his decisions would have immunity against judicial review until the new constitution became effective. Even if intended as a temporary ruling, this statement was perceived as the legal foundation of a potential Morsi dictatorship.

In spite of growing concerns within Egyptian society, a new constitution was approved by the Egyptian constituent assembly in November 2012 and subsequently passed by a referendum held in December. The final vote count found sixty-four percent in support of the draft, although turnout was a mere thirty-three percent. The constitution was signed into law by President Morsi in December 2012.

Morsi's Ouster and the SCAF Rule

The political situation deteriorated during Spring 2013, as many perceived the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafists to be directing Egypt towards an Islamic state. Strife and intolerance towards religious minorities increased and calls for President Morsi's resignation were echoed from several liberal and youth

organisations. One youth organisation, Tamarud, reportedly gathered 22 million signatures supporting the disposal of the Morsi government and early elections.

The protests reached their peak on 30 June 2013, exactly one year after Morsi became president. Millions of Egyptians protested in central Cairo and town squares across the country demanding his dismissal, estimates range from 30 million to 33 million protesters. On 1 July, the Supreme Council for Armed Forces, issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the political parties to either heed the protesters' demands or the military will assume its national responsibility as it did on 11 February 2011.

On 3 July 2013, the national powers represented in political parties and powers, official religious institutions, public figures, youth movements and armed forces decided to dismiss President Morsi. The 2012 constitution was immediately suspended and a new administration was established under the leadership of the chief justice Adly Mansour, Head of the Constitutional Court as the interim president. Clashes immediately erupted between pro-Morsi supporters and security forces, which led to waves of protests and violence. The Jihadists associated with the Muslim Brotherhood committed murder and violence against civilians, Christians, police and army members in Sinai, Cairo and the other governorates.

Some of Morsi's supporters occupied al-Nahda and Rabaa al-Adawiya squares in the middle of Cairo for more than a month and half, where they led marches towards the governmental institutions. Several reports indicated that the sit-in was not peaceful and hindered daily life in Egypt, which caused the Egyptian government to break it up after several ultimatums. According to the Egyptian Health Ministry, clashes at al-Nahda and Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque on 14 August 2013, left 595 civilians and 43 police officers dead.

In September 2013, the Muslim Brotherhood group was banned from carrying out any activities based on evidence indicating their support of terrorism and involvement in the explosions and murders that targeted civilians, police and military members. The courts further acted by seizing the group's funds, and Morsi was set for trial, charged with incitement of murder and violence.

2014 Constitutional Referendum

The interim President Mansour appointed a ten-member judicial committee to prepare proposals for amendments to the suspended 2012 constitution. These proposals were presented to the fifty-member constituent assembly in September for further evaluation. In December 2013, a final draft was handed over to the interim President bringing it forward for the public referendum.

The preparations for the referendum and the dismissal of President Morsi were faced with a series of protests from the Muslim Brotherhood and their allies.

The draft constitution was finalised and released to the public in early December 2013. It was then put to a popular referendum in January 2014. Over 98 percent of participants of the referendum voted in favour of the new constitution. According to official results, only 38.6 percent of registered voters participated in the referendum, an increase of 5,6% from the 2012 constitution. Those who were against the constitutional draft simply abstained from taking part in the referendum, which explains why the percentage of votes in favour of the constitution was high.

GNRD observed the referendum and according to general observations, the public attitude was mostly positive towards it. The GNRD team of observers recorded only minor errors such as an excessive number of voters in the polling stations, the limited capacity of the polling stations, insufficient equipment, and in some cases a lack of training for the administrative polling staff.

The new constitution strengthened public freedoms and preserved the state's civic nature. It consolidated the judiciary powers, and the military status. It also gave more rights to women and disabled people. However, Islamic Sharia was reaffirmed as the principal source of legislation, but a controversial Article that would

have allowed religious leaders to determine its implications for public policy was removed, which threatened to turn Egypt into an Islamic state.

2014 Presidential Elections

According to legal procedures, any aspiring presidential candidate is required to collect 25,000 endorsement forms from Egyptian citizens. In the 2014 presidential elections, only two candidates submitted their applications to the Presidential Election Commission - Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a former army chief, who had recently resigned from the military to run for presidency, and Hamdeen Sabahi, a well-known leftist politician and head of a political alliance called the Popular Current. In the 2012 presidential vote Sabahi held third place after Mohamed Morsi and Ahmed Shafik.

Other major political groups either did not nominate any candidates or those who initially expressed willingness to run for presidency, withdrew their candidacy at a later stage. More specifically, the three candidates of the 2012 elections - Ahmed Shafiq, Amr Moussa and Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, announced that they would not run for presidency. Mortada Mansour, Head of the Zamalek Club and Khaled Ali, a labor lawyer and former presidential candidate, withdrew their candidacies. The current president at the time, Adly Mansour also stated that he would not run for the presidency.

The majority of the above-mentioned candidates declared their support for one of the two candidates. They attributed their withdrawal to a desire to prevent the fragmentation of votes. However, Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh and Khaled Ali declared that they would not run for presidency due to their opposition to some of the electoral governing procedures.

Several Islamic parties pledged an alliance to boycott the presidential elections, such as the National Alliance to Support Legitimacy, a pro-Muslim Brotherhood group.

In the lead up to the presidential elections, terrorist operations continued to target police, military members and civilians. The Muslim Brotherhood and their allies continued their call for a boycott of the elections. This period also witnessed the issuing of judiciary rulings against members of the Muslim Brotherhood, who were accused of practicing violence and murder.

Electoral Institutions and the Legal Framework for the Presidential Election

Legal Documents and Electoral Institutions

While the president's political role, rights and duties are defined in Articles 139 to 162 of the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, voted during the elections that took place on 14 -15 January 2014, the conditions of the presidential elections and the legal framework are defined by the presidential decision No. 22/2014, "Presidential Election Law", issued by interim president Adly Mansour on 8 March 2014, replacing laws number 174/2005 and 73/1956.

As defined in Article 1 of the election law, a candidate had to fulfil eight criteria:

- be of an Egyptian origin and nationality;
- the spouse and parents of a candidate can only hold Egyptian citizenship;
- be at least 40 years old;
- hold a higher educational qualification;
- enjoy fully his/her civil and political rights;
- not be convicted for any felony or crime;
- shall have performed or been exempted from military service;
- shall be free from any physical or mental illness that may influence the performance of the duties as a president.

Article 2 states that the applicant must be endorsed by at least 20 members of the House of Representatives or by at least 25,000 citizens who are eligible to vote, from no less than fifteen governorates, with a minimum of one thousand supporters from each governorate.

The election is direct, secret and the president must be elected with an absolute majority (Art.1). After his/her election, the president assigns the Prime Minister of the new government, who must win the “confidence of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives within 30 days” in order to be effective (Art. 146, Constitution).

The supervising authority of the 2014 presidential elections in Egypt was the Presidential Elections Committee (PEC). The legal framework of its role and duties were defined in Chapter II of the Presidential Elections Law.

The Committee was headed by Anwar Rashad al-Assi, who was also chief of the Supreme Constitutional Court (SCC).

Other members of the PEC included:

- Nabil Salib Awadallah El-Erian, chairman of Cairo's Appeal Court
- Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Razeq Hassan, deputy chairman of the High Constitutional Court
- Ezzat Abdel-Gawad Ahmed Omran, deputy chairman of the Cassation Court.
- Essameddin Abdel-Aziz Gad El-Huq, deputy chairman of the State Council

The PEC had the exclusive rights to monitor the elections, beginning from the selection of polling and vote-counting stations, supervising the election campaigns, the registration process until the announcement of the final results. It had to make sure that polls were monitored by local judges and had the full responsibility over the choice of international and local election observers, as defined in Article 6 of Presidential Law.

Furthermore, as stipulated in Article 7, the PEC had complete immunity to appeals issued by other legal bodies.

Under Article 27 of the Presidential Decision 2014, sub-committees were established by the PEC to oversee the voting and counting procedures, and were to be chaired by a member of a judicial body. Provided there are no objections and provided they are in one location, the chairman could do so effectively.

During alternations, in coordination with competent bodies, the PEC could determine the number and assign a secretary and a sufficient number of alternates for every general and sub-committee. The PEC could also assign judicial bodies to chair sub-committees, chairs, and members of the general committees. In addition, under the accordance of the PEC, each candidate was entitled to appoint a representative among voters for each committee. This however, had to be done two days in advance of the elections, in writing to the competent Court of First Instance, according to Article 30 of the Presidential Decision 2014.

According to the PEC, 16,000 judges participated in the monitoring and supervision of the presidential polls. Chapter IV of the Presidential Law defines all penalties regarding crimes, such as violence or threats against PEC members (44, 46), employees not fulfilling their duties and thus disrupting the voting or counting process (45), exceeding the prescribed ceiling amount for the electoral campaign (49), using threats or violence in order to prevent voters to complete their votes or trying to influence them (52).

Voting Procedure

Egypt's proportional representation elections were held on 26-28 May 2014 for Egyptians living domestically in Egypt.

The Presidential Elections Commission (PEC) had set rules so that the first day of voting would run from 9am until 9pm, while the second day would also start at 9am but would not close until the last vote. As it was decided to hold a third day of the elections, the PEC stipulated that all three days of voting would last until 9pm.

Articles 32 and 33 of the Presidential Decision no. 22/2014 on Presidential Elections Law established the voting process framework.

When voting, each voter will mark a ballot paper that is handed to them by the committee chairperson. On the back-side of each ballot there will be an election date and a PEC seal. In the voting room there will be a voting booth for each voter to make their vote in secret. Their folded ballots are then to be placed in the ballot box. Following this procedure, the voter will sign their individual name, stamp their finger against their name, and immerse their finger into indelible ink that lasts for 48-hours.

Voters that happen to be in a governorate that differs to his or her place of birth will be able to vote in the competent polling station in that governorate, subject to respective rules and regulations.

Voting Abroad

In order to vote, expats had to first register on the voters' database, then present a valid national identity card or a passport along with their national number.

The PEC cancelled pre-registration for Egyptian expat voters for the 2014 presidential election. These voters were able to vote in Egyptian embassies between 15 and 19 May 2014 by simply providing their passport or national identity card. Expat voting was originally scheduled to end on 18 May, however, due to high turnout, the period was extended to 19 May.

There were 144 embassies and consulates in 124 countries that served as polling stations throughout the elections. However there was no possibility to vote from some countries, including Syria and Libya. Voters residing in these countries had to travel to nearby countries to vote.

The voting process abroad was conducted via a secured electronic system that linked to all polling stations. This system fulfilled seven criteria:

- Allowing those outside of Egypt to exercise their electoral right without previous registration
- Those already registered in the past voting process will be able to exercise their electoral vote in any other premises where this can be undertaken
- Enabling those previously registered abroad to vote inside their state without further registration
- Making sure that those who wish to vote abroad have already been registered and therefore will not be able to vote more than once in any other polling station
- Affirming within the central database the registration of the voters that are abroad
- Ensuring that those who voted abroad cannot vote within The Arab Republic of Egypt
- This system will enable voters abroad voting in the first round to exercise their right to vote in the second round inside the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Counting Procedure

According to the Presidential Elections Law of March 2014, results of the vote must be announced within 5 days of receipt of vote tallies from the Egyptian polling stations and centres. The presidential outcome must win by an absolute majority of valid votes otherwise a runoff must take place.

According to the results announced by the Presidential Elections Committee, Mr. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi won a landslide victory in the Egyptian presidential election, securing 23,780,114 of the votes cast, while Mr. Hamdeen Sabahi received 757,311 votes. It is estimated that there were 1,040,000 invalid votes.

The representatives of the joint mission observed the counting process and stated that generally the process went smoothly and fast with minor errors. The recommendations for improvement are presented in the related section of the current report.

From a legal point of view, there are two articles (28 and 37) of the Presidential Decision 2014, which provides a framework concerning the closure of the voting process when each sub-committee counts the votes. They determine the number of registered voters on their committee's lists, count the number of cast votes, the number of valid and invalid ballots, and the total number of votes that each candidate obtained.

The General Election Committee is responsible for compiling the results of the votes. These aggregate results are recorded in a protocol for all committees supervised by the judicial body chairperson. The chairperson and the chairs of sub-committee must sign the report. This protocol is to be repeated three times and signed by both the chairperson and the committee secretary. Upon request, a copy of the numbers list may be given to the candidates' agents/representatives. The protocol is then to be sent to the PEC and the signed copies that are now stamped with the seal are sent to candidates or their agents/representatives. At this point the chairperson can announce the results.

Pre-election Developments

Voters Registration

All Egyptians 18 years of age are eligible to vote in the Presidential elections, excluding citizens with certain criminal records and members of the armed forces.

The Presidential Elections Committee (PEC) is responsible for the preparation and oversight of the voter registration database, which is updated throughout the preparatory period of the presidential election. This database is automatically formulated from the national identity data of the Civil Status Authority of the Ministry of the Interior.

The PEC has regulated that Egyptian citizens, both living abroad and residing domestically, are authorized to vote. All Egyptians residing within the country are registered automatically to their respective governorate according to their declared place of residence. Citizens also have the right to vote in another governorate other than their place of residence, providing that they pre-registered before 10 May 2014.

Voters Education

The Presidential Elections Committee (PEC) is the main responsible body for voter education. The PEC seeks the help of other ministries such as the Ministry of Information and Communication and the Ministry of Local and Administrative Development. These ministries, which work under the supervision of the PEC, are further key bodies responsible for voter education. These institutions provide voters with regulatory, electoral, and official information through press conferences and press releases.

While these bodies seek to augment voter turnout through election education, it is worth noting that voting is compulsory for registered citizens. Article 43 of the Presidential Decree no. 22/2014 regarding the regulation of presidential elections states that any person whose name is listed in the voter's database must vote; those who fail to vote may be subject to a fine that shall not exceed £E500 .

The following section outlines the various implementations of voter education through official media, unofficial media, state educational system, and the CSO sector.

Official sources of education

During the campaign, candidates used many communication tools and media outlets to interact with voters, promote their campaigns, and explain their platforms. Official sources of education include government offices and ministries, candidates and their political parties, and the press (newspapers, radio and TV).

As nearly 44% of Egypt's 81 million citizens use the Internet, candidates utilised a variety of online forums to communicate educational information to voters. Facebook, Twitter, websites, and blogs were just some of the methods campaigns used. Online chats and video conferences were sometimes used in lieu of meetings, often for security and travel concerns. State Information Service also provides information online and PEC has extensive information about the elections online, for example a citizen can check online utilizing their ID-number if they are eligible to vote.

While online communications are common, the majority of voters still rely on traditional media outlets to remain educated and informed. The government, ministries, candidates and supporters use a combination of press, radio, newspapers and TV to convey information about the election and platform messages. Printed press is the most common media used to contact voters; newspapers and journals often feature candidate portraits, interviews, and press conferences reports. Many traditional media outlets, such as newspapers and TV stations, have begun to use websites to amplify their publications and increase viewership.

These sources contain certified, serious, and trusted information. Nevertheless, media sources are broadly viewed by the general population as biased towards a particular candidate or party.

Unofficial Sources

Many Egyptian voters also educate themselves through a plethora of political websites, blogs and networking accounts. The reliability of these sources is often questionable, as they are often run by small groups of citizens that wish to communicate a specific perspective on current events. These websites and blogs are not written by information professionals and many fail to attain the level of veracity implored by professional journalism standards. Nevertheless, these sources will present themselves as legitimate and trustworthy in the interest of persuading the maximum number of voters.

Voter education is the corner-stone of a well-functioning democracy. The constituency needs not only a firm understanding of civic engagement, rights and duties, but also a fundamental comprehension of election laws and democratic principles. Democracy cannot function without participation and an informed populace.

Voters' education and the proliferation of election awareness is still a very sensitive issue in Egypt. The growth of Internet media has significantly increased pressure on candidates and official information sources to deliver consistent and accurate information. It is worth noting, however, that roughly a quarter of the population is illiterate, and rely solely on TV and radio for all information.

Civic Education

The importance of civic education as a tool to promote voter turnout and civic engagement, particularly amongst the youth, cannot be understated. The most efficient way of reaching Egypt's youth is through the primary and secondary school systems, which have a number of venues and teaching resources that could be invaluable for reinforcing the importance of civic education.

Civic education has progressively appeared in public schools over the past decades. School curricula was nearly devoid of all civic education before the regime of Hosni Mubarak, although during his leadership, lessons centred around nationalistic values rather than emphasizing the importance of democracy and citizenship. Yet since the revolution, the focus on democratic principles, voting, and civic engagement have greatly improved. In the absence of nationally unified curricula, however, civic education is largely left to the discretion of the teacher.

To improve this situation, many domestic and international NGOs have begun to implement numerous alternative educational programs and projects on civic education designed to strengthen civil society and encourage the dissemination of civic education throughout the country. For example, NGOs such as the Egyptian Association for Educational Resources implemented “Project Citizen” focused on themes related to citizenship.

In 2012, the American University hosted a productive consultation about Civil Society and Civic Education in Cairo. The final report of this consultation, however, underlined that while over 29 organisations are involved in civic education in Egypt, only 21% are working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to improve curricula in public schools.

In an attempt to gauge levels of civic education and perceptions of political efficacy in the upcoming election, the GNRD observation mission took to the streets of Old Cairo to interview voters. The GNRD and the International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights combined efforts with the local partner Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights.

After splitting into two groups, the mission moved slowly through the main roads, back alleys, and shopping centres of Old Cairo, meeting citizens from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and demographics. The observation mission measured election education by asking voters if they knew the exact date of the elections, what type of documentation was necessary to vote, and if they knew the exact location of their polling station. The mission was pleased to report that nearly every respondent knew the location of their respective polling station and required documentation; only 6 did not know the date of the election. Some respondents declared that they would boycott due to their discontent with one or both candidates. Some voters expressed that they had not yet decided if they were going to vote. These sentiments appeared to be concentrated strictly amongst male respondents, as all females expressed their desire to vote.

When asked if they thought voting was important, nearly all respondents answered positively. When asked, nearly all female respondents remarked that they teach their children about the importance of voting. The team noted a high degree of excitement, enthusiasm, and openness amongst all respondents. Nevertheless, these findings are not intended to be statistically representative due to the limited sampling size; the mission aimed to gauge election education and the general climate of public perceptions on voting.



Candidates

The Presidential Elections Law of March 2014 explains that if there is only one candidate contesting the presidential elections, that contestant must receive the votes of at least 5% of eligible voters. However, this would only occur if one of the two candidates were to withdraw their candidacy, resulting in a single candidate contesting the election. This however did not occur.

Eligibility of candidates

The PEC Decree no. 7/2014 states the guidelines that are to be followed by any person seeking candidacy for the position of president of the republic of Egypt. The Decree sets decisions regarding citizen endorsement. It can only be a citizen who provides a signature that is verified by the ratifying officer to endorse a person seeking candidacy.

Nomination of the candidates

The PEC Decree no. 14/2014 states that voters whose names are registered in the database according to the provisions of law no. 73/1956 shall be called to vote at polling stations to elect the president of The Arab Republic of Egypt. Applications for candidacy were made available between 31 March 2014 and 20 April 2014 in the State Information Service in Salah-Salem Street in Cairo.

Submission of the applications

The Presidential Decision no. 22/2014 on Presidential Elections Law, Decree no. 12/2014 describes the process for submitting applications for candidacy.

Nomination took place between 31 March and 20 April 2014 whereby the Committee received the relevant documents from those seeking nomination. Any objection made by a nominee against an application was held between 24-26 April 2014, with a possibility to be extended by one day based on merit. Those rejected could have appealed between 28-29 April 2014, and the Committee made its decision on appeals on 30 April 2014 and 1 May 2014.

Any application deadline for the presidential candidacy was on 9 May 2014.

Deliberation of the candidates by the PEC

The PEC Decree no. 18/2014 lists the number of endorsers for both candidates of the presidency. Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi possessed 188,930 endorsers, which exceeds the 25,000 signatures required from at least 15 out of 27 Egypt provinces. Hamdeen Sabahi gained 31,555 endorsements. Upon justification, this decree gave candidates room for objection of the other party on 22-23 April 2014 between 9am and 8pm.

Final list of the candidates

Article 1 of the PEC Decree no. 25/2014 declares that both Mr. Abd El-Fattah Said Hussein Khalil El-Sisi, and Mr. Hamdeen Abd El-Mo'ti Abd El-Maqsoud Sabahi would be included in the final candidates list for the Presidential Election.

Campaign

Regulatory framework

The procedure for the opening of the electoral campaign period in Egypt starts, according to the time schedule made public by the PEC, after the "announcement of the final list of candidates in order of applications for candidacy received, and its publication of the list in the Official Gazette and in the al-Ahram and al-Akhbar newspapers". This event took place on Friday 2 May 2014, and the campaign remained open until the last official day of the campaign, Friday 23 May 2014.

During that period, the PEC defines a campaign as "the activities carried out by the candidate and his supporters, aimed at convincing voters to choose the candidate, through closed and public meetings, dialogues, the publication and distribution of electoral campaign materials, the display of posters, banners

and the use of audio-visual media, print or electronic, and any other activities permitted by the law or by the decrees of the PEC" (Article 18).

During the legal period that the electoral campaign is open (21 days), the candidates, officials and parties should adhere to the provisions of the Constitution, the law and the decrees of the PEC. As stated in article 19 of the decree, the following actions shall be prohibited:

- Exposure of the private lives of any of the candidates.
- Threatening of national unity or the use of religious slogans or calls for discrimination among citizens.
- Use of violence or threats to use violence.
- Giving gifts, donations, in-kind or cash assistance, or other benefits or promises of providing any such benefits, whether directly or indirectly.
- Use of buildings and facilities, as well as means of transportation and movement owned by the state or by state-owned companies or the public sector for electoral campaigning in any form.
- Use of government departments, public facilities, worship houses, schools, universities and other education institutions, whether public or private, and headquarters of civil society associations and organisations for electoral campaigning purposes.
- Spending public funds, and those of state owned companies and the public sector, as well as funds of civil society associations and organisations for the purposes of election campaigning.
- Writing by any means on the walls of government or private premises for the purposes of election campaigning.

The Regulation of the Presidential Elections, through article 49, stipulates that “a fine of not less than ten thousand pounds and not more than five hundred thousand pounds shall be imposed to whoever contravenes the prohibitions provided for in article 18, before mentioned.

Security during campaign

Political campaigning shall be conducted in a fair and free atmosphere. Independent from any interference from either administrative bodies, violence, or intimidation towards parties or candidates in the act of expressing –with freedom- their views or positions. During the 21 days of campaigning, there shall be no disruption of campaign meetings. Citizens should not fear reprisals for enrolling in campaign activities. At this stage, security shall not be used as an argument to suspend fundamental rights.

According to international standards, there must be an "effective and timely" judicial remedy available in case candidates' or parties' rights are violated during the campaign. Furthermore, according to legal regulations, there should be no political campaigning during the two days before election day. Once there we could assess if this political silence was ensured, by visiting the headquarters of political parties, or if we receive any input (complaint) reporting of any party supporter campaigning.

Campaign financing

Transparent and fair regulation of campaign finance is one of the key steps in electoral campaign observation, which ensures that every citizen has the same right to participate in the electoral process. During the Presidential elections in Egypt, the legal framework concerning campaign finance is stipulated under articles 22 and 26 of the Presidential Decree no. 22/2014 on the Regulation of the Presidential Elections and under the PEC decree no. 9/2014 on the Regulation Governing the Finance of Electoral Campaigns.

The PEC has decided that each candidate can spend a maximum of twenty million pounds in the first round and, in case of a run-off election, the maximum amount shall be five million pounds. Article 2 of the PEC decree no. 9/2014 points out that every candidate shall finance their campaign with “his own money”, however “he may accept donations in cash or in kind from Egyptian natural persons”. According to the same

article, donations shall not “exceed two percent of the maximum amount specified for spending on electoral campaign”. The rules regarding campaign donations apply to “any legal person, Egyptian or foreign, as well as any foreign State or body, International Organisation, or any entity where a foreigner is a shareholder”. The contributions or support from “any foreign natural person” are also prohibited.

When it comes to receiving in-kind donations, the candidate is required to maintain track of them, keeping a register where any donation shall be recorded. The register must include information, such as date of receipt, name of the donor and a list of donated items and their value. Article 4 of PEC decree no. 9/2014 orders a daily communication between the candidate and the Committee about what has been recorded in this register. The day after the electoral campaign, the candidate shall hand over the completed register to the PEC.

Candidates are required to open a local currency account in one of the two designated Egyptian banks, The National Bank of Egypt (NBE) or Banque MISR, “where all fund marked for his electoral campaign are to be deposited” (footnote article 3). A daily communication between the candidate and the Committee shall monitor the funds deposited in the account and their source, at the same time the candidate is required to notify his objects of expenditure from the mentioned account. No other financing of the electoral campaign may take place from sources outside this account.

Within 15 days after the announcement of the election results, the candidates or their representative are required to present a statement of all donations received, their source and nature, funds spent on the electoral campaign and objects of such expenditure.

Ensuring adherence to the regulations governing electoral campaigns (including the sources of financing) as set forth in Decree Law no. 22/2014, shall be implemented by the Committee, who also may take the necessary actions in response to violations and criminal acts committed in this regard. In cases of violations, a report with the Committee’s findings, outlining actions taken may be submitted to the PEC.

Regarding the candidates’ campaign accounts, the Central Auditing Organisation (CAO), shall audit and submit a report on the outcomes of its findings to the PEC, within fifteen days from the date of referral of such accounts to the CAO by the PEC.

The Regulation of the Presidential Elections guarantees that sanctions “of not less than ten thousand pounds and not more than five hundred thousand pounds” shall be imposed to “whoever spends on the electoral campaign any amounts others than those deposited in the bank account referred to in Article 23 (and specified on Article 3 of the PEC decree no. 9/2014) or spends the deposited amounts in the said bank account for non-electoral campaign purposes”. The same fine may be imposed to “whoever exceeds the prescribed ceiling amount for expenditures in the electoral campaign”.

Role of Media

Articles 70-72 of the 2014 Egyptian constitution guarantees freedom of the press. However, media may be subject to limited censorship in times of war or general mobilisation, for a specified period based on juridical and constitutional procedures.

According to estimates, 70% of media outlets in Egypt are owned by parties other than the state. Generally, there is a high threshold for criticism in Egypt, however some of the channels accused of inciting violence and discrimination were closed after the revolution on 30 June. Online media platforms and social media websites mostly have an unlimited threshold.



Television remains the most popular form of media among the population. According to a Broadcasting Board of Governors report, 94.1% of Egyptians used the two state-run national TV stations, the six regional channels and the 23 private networks as the main source of information.

On the other hand, the same report stated that 17.3% of Egyptians used the radio as a news source at least once a week.

Participation of Women

Women's political role and rights in Egypt

Historically, women have been a major influence in the Egyptian public and political sphere and they demonstrated an active position in the past elections too. Half of the Egyptian population is female, the literacy rate is rising and almost 50% of Egyptian women over 25 have completed secondary education. Five million women are the sole provider of 30% of families, but legislation doesn't recognize her as a provider.

Since the late 19th century, women's influence in Egyptian political life has constantly increased. In 1923, Huda Sha'arawi founded the Egyptian Feminist Union (EFU) aiming at social and political equality of women and men. In 1942, the Egyptian Feminist Party was founded followed by the organisation Bint al-Nil.

Full political rights for women including the right to vote have been accorded for the first time in the 1956 constitution during Nasser's presidency. While the law of 1956 granted the "Exercise of Political Rights", no specific mention regarding gender equality was made except for the interdiction of "campaigning activities [...] based on distinction as to gender [...]". A quota of seats in parliament for female candidates was implemented in 1979, but abolished in 2011.

According to Article 11 of the 2014 Constitution, equality between women and men shall be in all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, women should have the right to hold public and senior management positions, in judicial bodies and authorities.

Mobilization through civil society

While women's public (political) participation and economic possibilities were limited under Sadat's and Mubarak's regimes, their political activism emerged in a new form during the Arab Spring through mass mobilisation and public speeches. Moreover, Egyptian women are particularly active in the civil society sector and associations strengthening women's rights.

Nevertheless, women's political participation in Egypt is impeded by on-going discrimination, targeted violence or threats of violence and sexual harassment. In this regard, after 30 June 2013, the transitional government adopted intense legal measures to address the sexual harassment of women.

The **National Council for Women** is one example of female civil society organisation in Egypt. Established in 2000, the council aims to empower women through social, economic and political emancipation through training programs for women in politics in order to support female public expression, awareness raising and educational programs. A special emphasis is put on the role of women in campaign and election processes.

The National Council for Women obtained observer status from the Presidential Elections Committee for the current elections. It stresses the importance of voting as it gives women a chance of emancipation by "breaking the silence, going beyond the kitchen and speaking on the real issues of the country". Furthermore, the organisation participated in the writing of Article 11 of the 2014 Constitution (see above).

Role of women at previous elections

The representation of women in parties, local councils and in parliament is generally weak, with the exception of 2010 (13%), women's representation in Egyptian parliament has stagnated around 2%. In the 2011/2012 parliamentary elections, 9 women were elected MPs.

During the 2011-2012 parliamentary election, as well as throughout the 2012 presidential election, women have been underrepresented both as candidates and as voters. Furthermore, women's participation during campaign phases was weak. Reasons are the high rate of illiteracy, lack of information, social pressure and threats.

Moreover, due to the registration system for the Egyptian elections, women have been under registered due to missing birth certificates. This was the case during the 2011-2012 parliamentary elections in Egypt, where an estimated 3 million women were undocumented. On the other hand, women have been increasingly present as poll workers at the polling stations.

During the constitutional referendums in 2012 and 2014, a high participation of women has been observed. Women have been active during all phases of the elections and an important presence of women as poll station workers has been noticed. Furthermore, there has been an improvement in checking the identity of veiled woman thanks to the presence of female polling staff.

Role at current elections

Women demonstrated a high turnout at the past elections and a high participation in rallies. In rural areas, some women faced problems exercising their rights to vote as their registration could not be completed due to missing IDs.

As for the administration of the elections, it is important to note that there are no women in the PEC, and according to the National Council for Women only 1 out of 10 judges at the polling centres was female.



Participation of Youth

Egypt's Youth

Egyptian youth were at the heart of the January 25th Revolution and have continued to play a key role in political reform in Egypt. The Egyptian youth have proven themselves to be both responsive and politically engaged, and were the driving force behind several grassroots campaigns, such as the April 6, youth movement, that was instrumental in the step down of Hosni Mubarak in 2011. The actions and attitudes of the youth can be attributed to the fact that they have been hit the hardest by the economic crisis and slow recovery. While unemployment in Egypt is 13%, youth unemployment has risen to nearly 30%.

Youth aged 18-35 make up 31.81% of Egypt's 86 million population. Voters aged 18-24 account for 15.42% of the population and 24.57% of the electorate. Voters aged 25-35 account for 16.39% of the population and 26.10% of all voters.

Past Election Participation

Youth are frequently active in informal political processes, such as civic engagement and protests, but they participate significantly less in formal processes such as voting. Youth participation has declined significantly since the 2012 presidential election.

During the 2013 Constitutional referendum, youth turnout was reportedly startlingly low. While there are no official exit polls to support the demographic claim, the low 32.8% overall turnout is largely attributed to the lack of youth presence. Unofficial estimates claim that as little as 30% of youth voted. Opinions vary on the reasons behind the disappearance of the youth vote but many cite disillusionment with politics. The youth need training and awareness programs that aim at involving them in the institutional political process through political parties and elected councils. Officials from the Higher Electoral Commission acknowledged the youths' limited participation and cited the elections coinciding with mid-year exams as the reason for low turnout.

Nevertheless, several pre-election polls show that youth voter preferences were almost evenly divided between the two presidential candidates. According to a RANN public opinion research, 42.55% of voters aged 18-24 and 55.64% of voters aged 25-35 confirmed support for General Sisi.

Current Election Participation

Participation of youth was relatively low in the current elections and high compared to the participation in the referendum on the constitution. The youth vote was estimated to be around 30% to 40% according to polls conducted by the mission.

Role of Local and International Observers



The presence of impartial, independent and legitimate international and local observers is an important condition for conducting transparent and fair elections. This is particularly significant for societies in transition that have experienced political and social unrest, as it can be an opportunity to receive an impartial evaluation of the processes that enable people to express their political will and contribute to building a desired socio-political system.

According to the Presidential Elections Committee (PEC) Decree no. 6/2014, the observers' organisations for the Presidential Elections 2014, should have complied with the following criteria:

- Have a proven record of impartiality and integrity;
- Have observation of elections, human rights, and democracy support as part of the original scope of the mandates thereof;
- Have former experience in the field of observing elections.

In addition to these qualifications, GNRD fully adheres to the UN Declaration of Principles for International Election Observers and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers and fully commits to principles of transparency and integrity during election observations.

For the current presidential elections the PEC has accredited the following international observers:

- The Arab League
- African Union
- Carter Center
- Transparency International
- Democracy International
- European Union
- Global Network for Rights and Development
- International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
- African Union

Having successfully observed the 2014 constitutional referendum, GNRD in cooperation with its local partner NGO MAAT for Peace, Development and Human Rights (MAAT) and the International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights (IIPJHR) has been accredited to observe the 2014 Egyptian Presidential Elections. The GNRD-MAAT-IIPJHR mission was based on a joint internal agreement of codes of conduct and rules in order to guarantee a transparent and efficiently organized observation process.

Overall, the joint GNRD-MAAT-IIPJHR mission comprised 2614 people who inspected 10,323 polling stations in 25 provinces.

As a result of this cooperation, and based on previous experience, the observers were able to gather more information from various geographical areas, proceed using a specially introduced methodology and form a fuller picture of the electoral process.

Furthermore, the heads of GNRD, MAAT and IIPJHR met with representatives of Democracy International, Carter Center and the Arab League who explained their observation methodologies for the current elections. The Carter Center applied a technical approach based on monitoring the legal and political aspects with a total of 10 observers present during the pre-election phase. While they weren't observing the polling stations, around 3 members stayed in order to provide information for internal use. The Arab League has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the High Election Committee and deployed 100 observed in 22 governorates working with checklists at the polling centres. Democracy International deployed 20 medium-term observers and 80 short-term observers in 25 governorates.

Election Days

During the election days, 2614 observers were divided into 850 groups (800 groups included only local observers and 50 groups included international observers) to observe and assess the voting process in 25 governorates. The assessment of each polling station was done with the help of the checklists presented in Appendix 3. The observers used different types of checklists for the following process: 1. Opening of the polling stations on the first day, 2. Opening of the polling stations on the second and third day; 3. Voting during the days of elections; 4. Closing of the polling stations on the first and second day; 5. Closing and counting on the third day.

During the three days of elections, observers assessed 10,323 polling stations. The summarised results of the main checklist points are presented below:

Total number of observed polling stations – **10,323 (1108 by international observers)**. In **89,4%** of cases the observers accessed the polling centres without any restrictions but in 10,6% of cases, observers faced some problems.

Overall assessment of the polling centres given by the observers:

- *Very good* – 32,3%
- **Good** – 60,2%
- *Bad* – 4,4%
- *Very bad* – 3,1%

Assessment of the security of the polling centres:

- *Over secured* – 11,4%
- **Well-secured** – 63,3%
- *Adequate* – 20,9%
- *Poor* – 3,5%
- *None* – 0,9%

The most common problems noted by the observers were the presence of campaign materials and campaign activities in and around polling stations, presence of unauthorised persons inside the polling stations in 14,1% of the observed polling stations; lack of locks on the polling boxes (at 9% of polling centres) and not private polling booths (at 7,6% of polling stations).

Long queues were noticed at 23,4% of the observed polling centres just on the first day, with very minor exceptions for the second and third days.

84,8% of the polling stations were staffed according to the requirements.

At 56,6% of polling stations, candidates' agents were present at the polling stations; at 15% of the polling stations the observers met media representatives; at 17,9% - domestic observers were present; and at 10,5% - other international observers were met.



In 84,6% polling stations all essential elections materials were present.

At 79,4% of polling stations the voting was always done in secrecy; at 11,9% - mostly all the time in secrecy; at 4,9% sometimes in secrecy; and at 3,8% the voting was done without secrecy.

At 94,3% of the polling stations its administration did not receive any complaints.

As a general comment of the mission the following statement was made: *The Egyptian people have gone through a unique experience towards democratic transition, and despite the fact that minor errors and inaccuracies occurred, those do not shed a negative light on the overall results of the electoral process. Therefore, the mission highly recommends implementation of the relevant article in the Egyptian constitution for founding a permanent electoral commission, in order to circumvent any future inaccuracies, which might hinder the Egyptian people's committed resolve to attain sustainable democracy.*

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Joint observation mission of the Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), MAAT Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights and the International Institute for Peace, Justice and Human Rights (IIPJHR) was honoured and pleased to congratulate Egypt's citizens for the Presidential

elections. The past election was a step towards democracy and the joint mission is glad to be a part of this process and contribute to its transparency, success, and truthfulness.

The joint mission is glad to present its general comments and recommendations below.

General comments:

1. High turnout of voters on the first day (queues), low turnout of voters on second and third days
2. High turnout among elderly people and women. Low participation of youth
3. The polling stations were provided with sufficient security
4. Generally correct implementation of the voting procedure with minor errors
5. The priority access to the polling stations was given to disabled, elderly people and women. When necessary, additional assistance was provided.
6. The observers were mostly given free access to polling stations and provided with necessary information, however there were some cases where observers faced problems in accessing the polling centres
7. Campaign activities and presence of campaign materials are regarded as the most common problem
8. Celebrations were noted around most polling stations on the first day
9. Closing and counting process went smoothly and fast with minor errors

Recommendations:

1. Organize better coordination and communication between judges, military, and police at polling stations to ensure clear and smooth operations (especially at opening and closing)
2. Ensure better promotion of voter education for ballot use on public Television and radio for illiterate voters; (many judges reported that illiterate voters were unable to vote unassisted)
3. Provide better training for the polling stations authorities as to voting procedures, counting processes, the presence of international observers and the regulations relating to their activities
4. Revise legislation to define specific and concrete criteria for changing election procedures
5. Better enforcement and monitoring of regulations relating to campaign activities on election day all over the country, including in and around polling stations
6. Prohibition of the participation and presence of unauthorized persons in opening, closing, and counting procedures must be strictly enforced
7. Avoid interference and presence of any security personnel or armed individuals inside polling stations
8. To encourage greater voter participation, consider a “none of the above” category on the ballots

Annexes

Appendix 1: Check-list form for the evaluation of the voting procedure at the polling stations

Check-list for Joint Observation Mission

Egyptian Presidential Elections 2014

Opening 26 and 27 May

Governorate:
Name/Number of the polling centre, numbers of stations in the centre:
Number of the group:
Name of the observer who filled in the checklist:.....
Number of registered voters:
Time of arrival:
Time of departure:

Outside the Polling Center				
1.	Were you allowed to enter the polling centre without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
2.	Please, assess the security of the polling centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-secured • Well-secured • Adequate • Poor • None 			
3.	Did you observe any of the following problems in the polling centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent incidents • Campaign materials • Campaign activities • Unauthorized persons (civilians with guns) • Intimidation of voters • Indication of vote buying • Bussing activities • Other (specify) • No 			
4.	Did you observe long queues of voters outside the polling stations?	YES	NO	
5.	Was the voters' list displayed in an accessible place?	YES	NO	N/A
6.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	N/A
Inside the Polling Centre/Station				
7.	Was the polling stations overcrowded?	YES	NO	
8.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	N/A
9.	Did you observe any campaign materials inside the polling station?	YES	NO	N/A
10.	Did you observe any campaign activities inside the polling centre/station?	YES	NO	N/A
10.a	If YES, please comment: _____ _____ _____			

11.	Did you observe any presence of unauthorized people inside the polling	YES	NO	
11.a	If YES, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel • Civilians with guns • Religious, traditional leaders • Party officials • Authorities • Other (specify) 			
11.b	If YES, were they requested to leave?	YES	NO	
12.	Was the polling station administration staffed according to the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the polling station • Secretary (ies) • Other members of the staff 			
13.	Were any of the essential election materials missing?	YES	NO	
13.a	If YES, please specify in the list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate polling booth(s) • Transparent boxes with a sticker of the polling station number • Voters' lists • "Pink list" of outside the country voters • Transparent plastic envelopes for lists and minutes • Adequate number of plastic locks • PEC seal with the polling station number • Adequate number of indelible ink bottles • Adequate number of cardboard boxes for keeping used ballots • Plastic sacks to keep unused ballot papers 			
14.	Were these people present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' agents (1 agent per candidate) • Media representatives • Domestic observers • Other international observers 			
Opening Procedure				
15.	Did the polling station open at 9:00am?	YES	NO	
15.a	If NO, indicate the reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient polling staff • Materials were not in place • Problems with security • Other (specify) 			
16.	Did the head of the polling station verify that the ballot boxes are empty in the presence of the attendants?	YES	NO	
17.	Did the head of the polling station lock the boxes with four plastic locks?	YES	NO	
18.	Were you allowed to observe the procedure without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
18.a	If NO, please comment: <hr/> <hr/>			

Comments

Please provide details of any irregularities that occurred in the polling station, indicating the number of the question. You should provide explanation for the questions which you answered NO.

Overall assessment of the process

- **Very good**
- **Good**
- **Bad**
- **Very bad**

Check-list for Joint Observation Mission

Egyptian Presidential Elections 2014

Opening 28 May

Governorate:
Name/Number of the polling centre, numbers of stations in the centre:
Number of the group:
Name/Identification of the observer who filled in the checklist:.....
Number of registered voters:
Time of arrival:
Time of departure:

Outside the Polling Station

1.	Were you allowed to enter the polling centre without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
2.	Please asses the security of the polling centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-secured • Well-secured • Adequate • Poor • None 			
3.	Did you observe any of the following problems in the polling centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent incidents • Campaign materials • Campaign activities • Unauthorized persons (civilians with guns) • Intimidation of voters • Indication of vote buying • Bussing activities • Other (specify) • No 			
4.	Did you observe long queues of voters outside the polling stations?	YES	NO	
5.	Was the voters' list displayed in an accessible place?	YES	NO	
6.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	

Inside the Polling Station

7.	Was the polling stations overcrowded?	YES	NO	
8.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	
9.	Did you observe any campaign materials inside the polling station?	YES	NO	
10.	Did you observe any campaign activities inside the polling station?	YES	NO	
10.a	If YES, please comment: _____ _____			
11.	Did you observe any presence of unauthorized people inside the polling centre/station?	YES	NO	

11.a	If YES, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel • Civilians with guns • Religious, traditional leaders • Party officials • Authorities • Other (specify) 			
11.b	If YES, were they requested to leave?	YES	NO	
12.	Was the polling station administration staffed according to the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the polling station • Secretary (ies) • Other members of the staff 			
13.	Were any of the essential election materials missing?	YES	NO	
13.a	If YES, please specify in the list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate polling booth(s) • Transparent boxes with a sticker of the polling station number • Voters' lists • "Pink list" of outside the country voters • Transparent plastic envelopes for lists and minutes • Adequate number of plastic locks • PEC seal with the polling station number • Adequate number of indelible ink bottles • Adequate number of cardboard boxes for keeping used ballots • Plastic sacks to keep unused ballot papers 			
14.	Were these people present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' agents (1 agent per candidate) • Media representatives • Domestic observers • Other international observers 			
15.	Did any candidate agents stay in front of the polling station to guard the	YES	NO	
Opening Procedure				
16.	Did the polling station open at 9:00am?	YES	NO	
16.a	If NO, indicate the reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient polling staff • Materials were not in place • Problems with security • Other (specify) 			
17.	Did the head of the polling station verify that the ballot boxes are empty in the presence of the attendants?	YES	NO	N/A
18.	Did the head of the polling station lock new boxes with four plastic locks?	YES	NO	N/A
19.	Were you allowed to observe the procedure without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
19.a	If NO, please comment: _____ _____			

Comments

Please provide details of any irregularities that occurred in the polling station, indicating the number of the question. You should provide explanation for the questions which you answered NO.

Overall assessment of the process

- **Very good**
- **Good**
- **Bad**
- **Very bad**

Check-list for Joint Observation Mission

Egyptian Presidential Elections 2014

Voting

Governorate:

Name/Number of the polling centre, numbers of stations in the centre:

Number of the group:

Name of the observer who filled in the checklist:.....

Number of registered voters:

Number of voters that had already voted at the time of your arrival:

Time of arrival:

Time of departure:

Number of voters that had already voted at the time of your departure:

Outside the Polling Station

1.	Were you allowed to enter the polling centre without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
2.	Please asses the security of the polling centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-secured • Well-secured • Adequate • Poor • None 			
3.	Did you observe any of the following problems in the polling centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent incidents • Campaign materials • Campaign activities • Unauthorized persons (civilians with guns) • Intimidation of voters • Indication of vote buying • Bussing activities • Other (specify) • No 			
4.	Did you observe long queues of voters outside the polling stations?	YES	NO	
5.	Was the voters' list displayed in an accessible place?	YES	NO	
6.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	

Inside the Polling Station

7.	Was the polling stations overcrowded?	YES	NO	
8.	Were the voting instructions displayed in a visible place?	YES	NO	
9.	Did you observe any campaign materials inside the polling stations?	YES	NO	
10.	Did you observe any campaign activities inside the polling stations?	YES	NO	
10.a	If YES, please comment: _____ _____			
11.	Did you observe any presence of unauthorized people inside the polling	YES	NO	

11.a	If YES, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel • Civilians with guns • Religious, traditional leaders • Party officials • Authorities • Other (specify) 				
11.b	If YES, were they requested to leave?			YES	NO
12.	Was the polling station administration staffed according to the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the polling station • Secretary (ies) • Other members of the staff 				
13.	Were any of the essential election materials missing?			YES	NO
13.a	If YES, please specify in the list: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Adequate polling booth(s) 3. Transparent box (s) with a sticker of the polling station and four locks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voters' lists 4. Indelible ink bottle (s) 5. Ballot boxes stamped by the PEC stamp 				
14.	Were these people present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' agents (1 agent per candidate) • Media representatives • Domestic observers • Other international observers 				
Voting Procedure					
15.	Did the head of the polling station require to present legally acceptable identification before	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
16.	Did you see any voter who was turned away?			YES	NO
16.a	If yes, indicate the reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had already voted • Did not have a proper ID • Was not in the voters' list • Illegal reasons • Other (specify) 				
17.	Did you observe any ballot paper which was not stamped with the PEC	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	NO
18.	Was the voting done in secrecy?	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
18.a	If <u>not always</u> , specify the reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate voting booth • Crowded room • Interference by others (except in the case of elderly/disabled voters) • Marking ballot outside the booth • More than one person in a booth at once • Other (specify) 				
19.	Did the voter deposit the ballot inside the ballot box by himself / herself?	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
20.	Did every voter sign/mark against their name on the voters' list?	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never

21.	Did the polling station's secretary sign in the voters' list after each voter?	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
22.	Did the voter immerse their finger into the indelible link?	YES			NO
23.	Was the voting procedure for disabled persons/elderly people organized properly?	YES			NO
24.	Was the process free of irregularities?	YES			NO
24.a	If NO, indicate the reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplicate voting • Ballot box stuffing • Interruption of voting • Insufficient ballots • Wrong ballots • Influencing voters' choice • Intimidation of voters • Other (specify) 				
25.	Were you allowed to observe the procedure without any restrictions?	YES			NO
26.	Did the observers receive any complaints?	YES			NO
26.a	If YES, please comment: <hr/> <hr/>				
27.	Did the polling staff receive any complaints?	YES			NO
27.a	If YES, please comment: <hr/> <hr/>				

Comments

Please provide details of any irregularities that occurred in the polling station, indicating the number of the question. You should provide explanation for the questions which you answered NO.

Overall assessment of the process

- Very good
- Good
- Bad
- Very bad

Check-list for Joint Observation Mission

Egyptian Presidential Elections 2014

Closing 26 and 27 May

Governorate:

Name/Number of the polling centre, numbers of stations in the centre:

Number of the group:

Name of the observer who filled in the checklist:.....

Number of registered voters:

Time of arrival:

Time of departure:

Outside the Polling Station

1.	Were you allowed to enter the polling centre without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
2.	Please assess the security of the polling centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-secured • Well-secured • Adequate • Poor 			
3.	Did you observe any of the following problems in the polling centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent incidents • Campaign materials • Campaign activities • Unauthorized persons (civilians with guns) • Intimidation of voters • Indication of vote buying • Bussing activities • Other (specify) • No 			

Closing of the polling station

4.	Were there any voters queuing outside the polling stations at 9pm?	YES	NO	
4.a	If YES, were they allowed to vote?	YES	NO	
5.	What time exactly did the polling station close?			
5.a.	If early closing, what was the reason? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All voters voted • Unrest • Other (specify) 			
6.	Were these people present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' agents (1 agent per candidate) • Media representatives • Domestic observers • Other international observers 			
7.	Did you observe any presence of unauthorized people inside the polling	YES	NO	

7.a	If YES, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel • Civilians with guns • Religious, traditional leaders • Party officials • Authorities • Other (specify) 			
7.b	If YES, were they requested to leave?	YES		
8.	Was the polling station administration staffed according to the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the polling station • Secretary (ies) • Other members of the staff 			
9.	Did the head of the polling station close the ballot box in a manner that prevents insertion of any additional ballot papers?	YES	NO	
10.	Were the ballot boxes safely stored?	YES		
11.	Did the polling staff place all ballot papers, voters' lists, and committee's forms in an envelope and stamp it?	YES	NO	
12.	Did the head of the polling station properly close the voting premises?	YES		
13.	Did any candidate agents stayed in front of the polling station to guard the stored boxes?	YES	NO	
Comments				
<i>Please provide details of any irregularities that occurred in the polling station, indicating the number of the question. You should provide explanation for the questions which you answered NO.</i>				
Overall assessment of the process				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good • Good • Bad • Very bad 				

Check-list for Joint Observation Mission

Egyptian Presidential Elections 2014

Closing and Counting 28 May

Governorate:

Name/Number of the polling centre, numbers of stations in the centre:

Number of the group:

Name of the observer who filled in the checklist:.....

Number of registered voters:

Time of arrival:

Time of departure:

Outside the Polling Station

1.	Were you allowed to enter the polling centre without any restrictions?	YES	NO	
2.	Please asses the security of the polling centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-secured • Well-secured • Adequate • Poor • None 			
3.	Did you observe any of the following problems in the polling centre? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent incidents • Campaign materials • Campaign activities • Unauthorized persons (civilians with guns) • Intimidation of voters • Indication of vote buying • Bussing activities • Other (specify) • No 			

Closing of the polling station

4.	Were there any voters queuing outside the polling stations at 9pm?	YES	NO	
4.a	If YES, were all these people allowed to vote?	YES	NO	
5.	What time exactly did the polling station close?			
5.a.	If early closing, what was the reason? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All voters voted • Unrest • Other (specify) 			
6.	Were these people present? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates' agents (1 agent per candidate) • Media representatives • Domestic observers • Other international observers 			
7.	Did you observe any presence of unauthorized people inside the polling	YES	NO	

7.a	If YES, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security personnel • Civilians with guns • Religious, traditional leaders • Party officials • Authorities • Other (specify) 			
7.b	If YES, were they requested to leave?	YES	NO	
8.	Was the polling station administration staffed according to the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of the polling station • Secretary (ies) • Other members of the staff 			
Counting Procedure				
9.	Did the counting start right after closing?	YES	NO	
9.a	If NO, please comment:			
10.	Did the polling staff count the number of the signatures in the voting list?	YES	NO	
11.	Did the polling staff count the numbers of unused ballot papers?			
12.	Did the head of the polling station open the ballot box in the presence of the attendants?	YES	NO	
13.	Did the head of the polling station unfold the ballot papers one by one and put them on their backside?	YES	NO	
14.	Did the polling staff count and separate the following ballots in an impartial and objective way? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdel Fattah el-Sisi • Hamdeen Sabahi • Invalid 			
15.	Did the number of the used ballots match with the number of the signatures in the voting list?	YES	NO	
16.	Did the polling staff put the used ballot papers in cardboard box and secure it?	YES	NO	
17.	Did the polling staff put the unused ballot papers in a plastic sack and seal it with a lock?	YES	NO	
18.	Did you observe any interference to the process?	YES	NO	
18.a	If YES, by who? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media representative • Candidate agent • Unknown person • Voter • Observer • Security • Other (specify) 			
19.	Did the counting stop at any moment?	YES	NO	
19.a	If YES, indicate the reason:			
19.b	If YES, were you able to observe the materials when the counting stopped?	YES	NO	

20.	At what time did the counting end?			
21.	At what time were the results announced?			
22.	Please point the following numbers:			
	Registered voters:			
	Signatures in the voters list:			
	Ballots received:			
	Unused ballots:			
	Valid ballots:			
	Invalid ballots:			
	Abdel Fattah el-Sisi			
	Hamdeen Sabahi			
23.	Did the head of the polling station announce the results in the presence of the attendants?	YES	NO	
24.	Was the report of results signed by the head of the polling station, candidate agents and the secretary (ies)?	YES	NO	
25.	Was a copy of the report handed to candidate agents upon their request?	YES	NO	
26.	Were you able to observe the process without restrictions?	YES	NO	
Problems and irregularities				
27.	Did you observe any unrest in or around the polling station during the	YES	NO	
28.	Did you observe intimidation of polling staff members?	YES	NO	
29.	Was the counting process hampered by overcrowding?	YES	NO	
30.	Was the counting process hampered by disorganisation?	YES	NO	

Comments				
<i>Please provide details of any irregularities that occurred in the polling station, indicating the number of the question. You should provide explanation for the questions which you answered NO.</i>				
Overall assessment of the process				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good • Good • Bad • Very bad 				

Appendix 2: The issued reports by the Presidential Election Observatory.

First Report : The Period For Nomination

Preamble

This is the first report issued by the "Presidential Elections Observatory", a mechanism of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights to observe the presidential elections (Egypt 2014). The first round of the elections was decided to be held on 26 and 27 May 2014, whilst the process was initiated on 31 March by opening the door to submit candidacies.

Through the observatory, the Maat Foundation followed the procedures of the electoral process, including the call for applications to the presidential elections, electoral campaigns, voting, counting and the announcement of the results.

The presidential election is considered the second step in the three-stage roadmap for Egypt's democratic transition, which was drafted in July 2013. The presidential election is important for Egyptian society, which has already passed the Constitutional Referendum in January 2014.

Management of the Elections' Procedures

According to Article No. 3 of the Presidential Decision No. 22 of 2014, on "Presidential Elections Law" issued by the Interim President on March 2014, the Presidential Elections Committee (PEC) chaired by the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court, comprises of the following members:

- The President of the Cairo Court of Appeals;
- The most senior deputy of the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court;
- The most senior deputy of the President of the Court of Cassation;
- The most senior deputy of the President of the State Council.

The Presidential Elections Committee's work is subject to decision No. 12 of 2014 issued on 30 March 2014 on the regulations for the PEC competence. It is also considered an executive statute for the presidential elections law. According to the Law and its executive statute, the PEC shall hold exclusive responsibility for the following:

1. To oversee the preparation of the voter registration database on the basis of the data obtained through the national identification number records, its contents and the method of its revision, verification and updating, and to supervise the registration process and the correction of lists;
2. To announce the opening of the period for Nomination to run for the presidency of the Republic;
3. To establish the required nomination procedures to run for the presidency of the Republic, and to supervise their implementation;
4. To receive applications for nomination to run for the presidency of the Republic, and examine and verify the fulfilment of all conditions by the hopeful applicants;
5. To identify the competent authority to certify the medical check-ups for the candidates;
6. To compile and publicize the final list of candidates and announce the deadline and procedures for withdrawal of candidates;
7. To determine the date of commencement and closure of the electoral campaign;
8. To set up the regulatory rules governing the election campaign as provided for in this law, and to ensure their implementation in a way that ensures equality among all candidates in accessing state-owned media, whether audio or visual or newspapers and publications of media institutions, for the purpose of election-related propaganda, and to take appropriate measures when regulations are violated;

9. To establish rules and procedures to notify candidates for the presidency of the Republic of the decisions issued by the PEC;
10. To call the voters to vote for the election of the President of the Republic, and to fully supervise the polling and counting procedures;
11. To set up rules and regulations governing the involvement of local and international media and CSO's in following (watching) the electoral process;
12. To formulate the necessary regulations to organize the work of the PEC, and how to discharge its competencies;
13. To decide on all matters referred to it by the general electoral committees;
14. To make final decisions on all election-related challenges, appeals and grievances;
15. To receive compiled electoral results, and determine the final results of the election and publicize them.

The law grants immunity to the Committee's decisions in article No. 7 stating; "the PEC decisions shall be final and binding by themselves. They may not be challenged in any manner or in front of any body. The PEC decisions shall not be impeded or repealed in any way".

The immunity given to PEC decisions was controversial, not only amongst political powers but also amongst some judicial authorities. According to the presidential institution, the General Assembly of the Constitutional Court approved it on the grounds that the PEC is a judicial committee, not an administrative committee. Therefore, the immunity granted to its decisions does not contradict the constitution, although the legislation department at the State Council refused the immunity.

At the political level, several political powers announced their endorsement of the immunity granted to PEC decisions, including ElMasreen AlAhrar Party and the Conference Party. However, some political powers declared a neutral position regarding the situation, including AlWafd Party and AlNoor Party. Other political powers headed by the supporting powers of potential presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi as well as Hamdeen Sabahi himself, strongly rejected the immunity.

The Nomination for the Presidency Period's Regulatory Procedures

The Presidential Elections Law issued by Presidential decision No. 22 of 2014 and its Executive Statute issued by the PEC decision No. 12 of 2014, set the conditions that candidates for the presidency of the Republic must meet:

1. The candidate must be registered in the voters database;
2. The candidate must be Egyptian born to Egyptian parents;
3. Neither the candidate, nor any of the candidate's parents or spouse, shall have ever acquired citizenship of another country;
4. The candidate shall be in possession of a higher educational qualification;
5. The candidate shall be in full enjoyment of his/her civil and political rights;
6. The candidate shall not have been convicted for any felony or crime involving moral turpitude, or dishonesty, even if the candidate had been rehabilitated thereafter;
7. The candidate must have performed, or been legally exempted from, the military service;
8. The candidate shall not be less than 40 years of age on the day of opening the period for candidates nomination;
9. The candidate shall be free from any physical or mental illness that may influence the performance of the duties and functions of the President of the Republic;
10. The candidate shall have to obtain endorsement by no less than twenty members of the House of Representatives; otherwise, be supported by at least twenty-five thousand citizens eligible to vote, from no less than fifteen governorates, with a minimum of one thousand supporters from each such

governorate. In all cases, it is prohibited to extend support or endorsement for more than one candidate.

Considering the current absence of the House of Representatives, the Law stated; "the first presidential elections to be held after the enactment of this law, and before the parliamentary elections, shall be based on the citizens' support option".

The PEC decision No. 12 of 2014, stipulated that the opening procedures of the Nomination period for the 2014 presidential elections of the Arab Republic of Egypt, would take place from Monday, 31 March 2014 to Sunday, 20 April 2014. The PEC shall receive the candidates' applications during this period between 9.00h and 20.00h except for the final day when the applications submission ends at 14.00h.

The PEC approved a form for the citizens' support for nominees to the presidency, according to the constitution. The form to be completed must show the verified individual data of the nominee, as well as the personal data of the supporting citizen, her/his national ID card number and place of residence. The form shall also include a statement by the citizen, saying that they have not already supported this or any other candidate and that the submitted data is accurate and valid.

The Most Significant Observations regarding the regulations for the Opening of the Period for Nomination

1. The period of 21 days, as determined by the PEC, is relatively short to collect twenty-five thousand citizens' support forms for the presidential candidates from those registered at the real estate and documentation registry offices;
2. The relative delay in the Presidential Elections Law issuance, and the delay in the issuance of the regulatory decision for the electoral process by the PEC. The Law was issued on 7 March 2014, whilst the decision was issued on 30 March 2014;
3. The lack of adequate awareness by the PEC regarding the citizens' support form and how it should be filled in;
4. The PEC employed modern technology in this process, specifically two-thousand electronic ID card readers were provided, along with training on how to use them for the real estate and documentation registry offices and other employees supervising the completion of the "citizens' support for nominees" forms;
5. The PEC avoided a serious problem that occurred in the previous presidential elections committee related to the high turnout of non-serious applicants. This problem was avoided by withdrawing the nomination papers from the PEC, meaning that the applicant's submission of the specified documents need be done only once, with no need to obtain other documents from the PEC based on the latest decision;
6. The free registration of the citizens' support for nominees forms, either at the registration office or at the real estate and documentation registry, assisted hopeful voters in supporting the electoral candidates.

The Most Important Aspects Observed During the Period for Nomination

First: The Official Candidates

The period for Nomination concluded with the application of two presidential candidates, following the collection of the required number of citizens' support for candidates forms and completion of the application process to run for the Presidency of the Republic. The two applicants for the presidential candidacy were:

- Abdul Fattah ElSisi, who submitted 188,930 citizens support for candidates forms and completed the application procedures for candidates, submitting his application on 14 April 2014;
- Hameen Abdul Atti Sabahi, who submitted 31,555 citizens support for candidates forms and completed the application procedures for candidates, submitting his application on 19 April 2014;

Recent days have witnessed a withdrawal announcement from the process by one of the candidates, Mr. Morteda Mansour, a well-known public figure who announced his candidacy and collected citizens' support forms. Meanwhile, a famous media figure, Ms. Bothina Kamel declared that she did not succeed in collecting the minimum number of required forms (25,000).

Second: The State Agencies Stance

- a) During the supporting forms collection stage, the governor of ElWadi ElGedid announced his completion of a citizens' support form for candidacy applicant, Abdul Fattah ElSisi and also published videos showing his completed support form. Rather than dismiss the governor, Prime Minister Ibraheem Mehleb, followed protocol and summoned the governor before the Cabinet speaker so that he could announce that he had submitted his resignation, rather than be dismissed;
- b) Hamdeen Sabahi's campaign stated that they observed statements from a number of ministers regarding the presidential elections that lacked neutrality. Although Sabahi's campaign declared that the Cabinet refused to receive a complaint from them regarding this, the campaign's counsel, Tarek Negida stated that he went to the Cabinet on the morning of Wednesday, 16 April 2014, where he had a meeting with Ambassador Hossam ElTaweel, the Cabinet's speaker and delivered the complaint prepared by the campaign's legal committee;
- c) Coinciding with the opening of the door for candidacy, we documented a statement from General Adel Labib, current Local and Administrative Development Minister, who despite having assured the government and ministry's neutrality towards the candidates declared; "Field Marshal ElSisi's announcement of running for presidential elections is considered a milestone in both Egypt history's and future, the decision reflects the Field Marshal's patriotism and his sense of responsibility towards his country, considering the great challenges facing the country"
- d) The state television allowed two of the candidates to appear on TV in relatively large spaces. One of them was candidacy applicant Abdul Fattah ElSisi to announce his candidature, and the second is Hamdeen Sabahi and some of his campaign's members in a TV show hosted by Dr. Ma'moun Fendi.

Third: Administrative and Logistical Procedures

Complaints from some of candidacy applicant Mr. Hamdeen Sabahi's campaign officials were recorded and regard the lack of delivery of the citizens' support forms to the governorates on the specific date; the lack of delivery of ID e-readers to several real estate and documentation registry offices and employees inability to handle them in other offices; the refusal of the real estate and documentation registry's managers and employees to complete citizens' support forms for Hamdeen Sabahi. The complaints came from Wadi Degla, Maadi; Esna centre, Luxor governorate; ElSiouf, Alexandria; Damietta; North Sinai; Quen; Giza; Suez; Red Sea; Gharbia; and Benha, Qalioubya.

We documented a delay in completing the citizens' support forms at some of the real estate and documentation registry offices in Sohag due to blackouts, whilst some employees failed to use the e-reader.

Four: Frictions Between Candidates' Campaigns

In general, there was no systematic violence or repetitive influential frictions between the supporters of either campaign. However in regards to the collection of supporters form, there were some specific incidents which are documented as follows:

- i. We documented a complaint from Mohamad ElLeily, member of Hamdeen Sabahi's campaign at Port Said, who was reportedly attacked by an individual inside the real estate and documentation registry office, during the campaign's collection of supporting forms for Sabahi's presidential candidacy. When he tried to file a report at the police station in court, the policemen told the victim to choose between withdrawing his report or be put in confinement with his assaulters until referred to the prosecutor. The campaign withdrew the report to preserve the safety of the victim and to protect him from possible attacks in custody;

- ii. The real estate and documentation registry office at Abassya witnessed scuffles between Hamdeen Sabahi's supporters and Abdul Fattah El Sisi's supporters on 5 April 2014;
- iii. An altercation occurred at Esta centre in Fayoum between Hameen Sabahi's campaign members and the Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit's security due to the fact that one of the campaign members, Abdul Nasser ElLawaj glued Sabahi's picture on the bank's security room;
- iv. Amr Badr, one of the coordinators for the potential presidential candidate, Hamdeen Sabahi, reported that he was stopped by police at Mazalat-Shubra on 12 April 2014;
- v. 3 injuries occurred during altercations between Muslim Brotherhood students and Field Marshal ElSisi's candidacy campaign supporters at Damanhour-Behira. The campaign members happened to be in front of the real estate and documentation registry office, located opposite Damanhour college when the emergence of a Muslim Brotherhood march, led to scuffles, the slinging of stones, and hit-and-run between the two sides on 2 April 2014.

Fifth: Escalating Violence Coinciding with the Call for Candidacy

- The Muslim Brotherhood students at Al-Azhar University set cars on fire at the university garage on Sunday, 30 March 2014;
- Clashes between Muslim Brotherhood students at Beni Suef University, and taxi and microbus drivers in the city, after an attempt by the students to cut off the road in front of the university. The students chanted slogans against the army and police;
 - o There were 3 explosions from improvised bombs towards a security forces deployment surrounding Cairo University, which caused the death of Brigadier. Tariq AlMerjawi, and wounded five;
- The Muslim Brotherhood students broke into the Dean's office at the Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University, in protest against the decision to dismiss two of their colleagues. They broke a number of glass paintings in the building and the former deans tablet, whilst chanting slogans against the Dean and Ministry of the Interior. The students set off fireworks at the theoretical faculties square at Shatby and chanted against the Ministry of the Interior and ElSisi, whilst raising former president Mohamed Morsi's picture painted on white flags, demanding his release;
- Dozens of ElSisi supporters demonstrated in front of ElKa'ed Ibrahim Mosque in Alexandria after Friday prayers, they set fire to Rabiaa slogans, and chanted supportive slogans to ElSisi, the army, and police, 4 April 2014;
- Clashes between AlHilal and Nubian tribes in Aswan due to disagreements between them both led to the deaths of 29 people, 5 April 2014;
- The administrative security personnel at Ain Shams University found a bag containing 12 homemade bombs inside the campus, when security forces combed the university in anticipation of the presence of other bombs, 8 April 2014;
- 8 students were injured in clashes between supporters of deposed president Mohamed Morsi and his opponents at the Higher Institute for Engineering and Technology at Kafr El-Sheikh. After the MB students organized a demonstration denouncing the nomination of Field Marshal ElSisi for presidency, they chanted slogans against the army and police. The slogans provoked ElSisi's student supporters and clashes took place between the two sides where 8 students from both sides were slightly injured, 8 April 2014;
- A homemade bomb was found at Mustafa Mahmoud Square, Mohandseen. Security forces were able to defuse a homemade bomb made up of nails, gunpowder, explosive materials, and a mobile chip, ready to go off and planted in one of the billboards in the square, 10 April 2014;
- Police officer, Capt. Ahmed Sawafat ElHasry was injured in the city square on 6 October 2014, following the explosion of a homemade bomb which targeted his car;
- Clashes occurred between security forces and MB supporters during a protest march at Nile St in the AlArb'een district. The Muslim Brotherhood set off fireworks and police responded with tear gas and cartridges, 11 April 2014;

- There was an audio explosion of a makeshift bomb in front of Qeft central hospital, Qena, before the arrival of the Minister of Health and Major General. Abdul Hamid ElHagan, Governor of Qena. They were attending the opening of the hospital following recent renovations, 12 April 2014;
- The village residents of Chaha protested in Mansoura center at Kafr ElSheikh by cutting off Mansoura–Dekernes road. They were protesting against the burning of three cars and attacks which had been made to a number of Field Marshal ElSisi supporters' homes by unknown assailants. The protesters were demanding that the security agencies investigate the matter and arrest the culprits, 12 April 2014;
- There was an explosion in front of Dokki police station at Galaa Square, Giza, which injured a citizen who was transferred to Ben Sina Hospital for treatment, 15 April 2014;
- 25 citizens were injured in the wake of an Audio Explosion inside Manshyet ElSalam prep school for girls, Tema Alamdid, Sinbillawain Center, Dakahlia. The injured were taken to hospital for treatment and injuries sustained varied from suffocation to catalepsies, 15 April 2014;
- Explosion of a homemade bomb in the central island, in front of the main gate of Fayoum stadium. This did not lead to any injuries, 17 April 2014;
- Bomb blast in a traffic booth at Lebanon Square, Mohandseen, resulted in the death of officer Mohammad Jamal, from the General Directorate of Traffic and the injury of a policeman. Lebanon Square was closed to comb for bombs and search for the culprits, 18 April 2014;
- An improvised bomb was defused next to a hospital in New Damietta, where a foreign body was discovered next to the hospital and reported to the police forces. It turned out to be a bomb filled with gasoline and nails and was prepared to explode, April 20, 2014.

Final Conclusions and Recommendations

The stages which involve “opening the doors for nomination” and “receiving the candidates’ applications” are significant in any election and mark the process right until the end. These preliminary stages determine the extent of the different authorities' commitment to rules that guarantee equal opportunities for hopefuls to submit candidacies. They also serve to reveal the extent of the authorities' commitment to realise voters’ rights in declaring which candidates they want to support.

Given the polarised climate which Egypt has experienced over the months that followed the consensus of the people's will to isolate the former president Mohamed Morsi, and popular consensus for a future road map with specific features and timings, the following-up of procedures and workflow of the candidacy stage is gaining increasing importance.

In light of what has been observed in terms of the practices and procedures and given the objective analysis of the legal and regulatory environment concerning the period for nomination of the presidential elections in Egypt from 31 March to 20 April 2014, we can generally say that the process went smoothly and did not witness any violations contradicting the international standards for free and fair elections. We did not witness anything that would have prevented the candidates from meeting the legal requirements of applying for candidacy and obtaining the required numbers of citizen support forms.

To a large extent, equal opportunities were realised during the two stages. The use of modern technology by the PEC was a welcome trend that can be built upon in the future.

However, there were some logistical and organisational problems relating to procedures that need to be revisited to ensure they are not repeated in the future. Such issues include the short time period to submit candidacies, slow administrative procedures observed in some of the real estate and registry offices, along with the break-down of some of the ID e-readers.

The delay in issuing legislation and regulatory decisions and the lack of adequate awareness regarding them must be remedied in the future in order to allow potential candidates to submit their applications and for their supporters to adequately prepare for the management of the collection of the citizens' support forms.

The report takes into account the statements by some of the presidential candidates' campaigners of being harassed whilst collecting the citizens' support forms. It is also worth mentioning the growing frequency of violence and demonstrations during the opening of the nomination period that "do not commit to being peaceful". This raises legitimate questions as to whether this violence and these demonstrations are related to the attempts by some parties who belong to organisations supporting the isolated president Mohammed Morsi to thwart the electoral process and provoke a climate of fear, pushing voters to not exercise their right to support their chosen candidate and vote.

The Voters' Evaluation of the Presidential Elections 2014 : The first report

Introduction

At the end of the call for presidential candidates, the final list officially confirmed that there would be only two candidates, Mr. Abd Elftah Alsisi, and Mr. Hamdeen Sabahi. There were no appeals from either candidate regarding the other's running conditions.

When comparing the political environment of the third presidential election with that of previous elections that took place in 2005 and 2012, keep in mind that people have gained experience in each subsequent election, which has contributed to raising their level of political awareness each time.

The Methodological Framework:

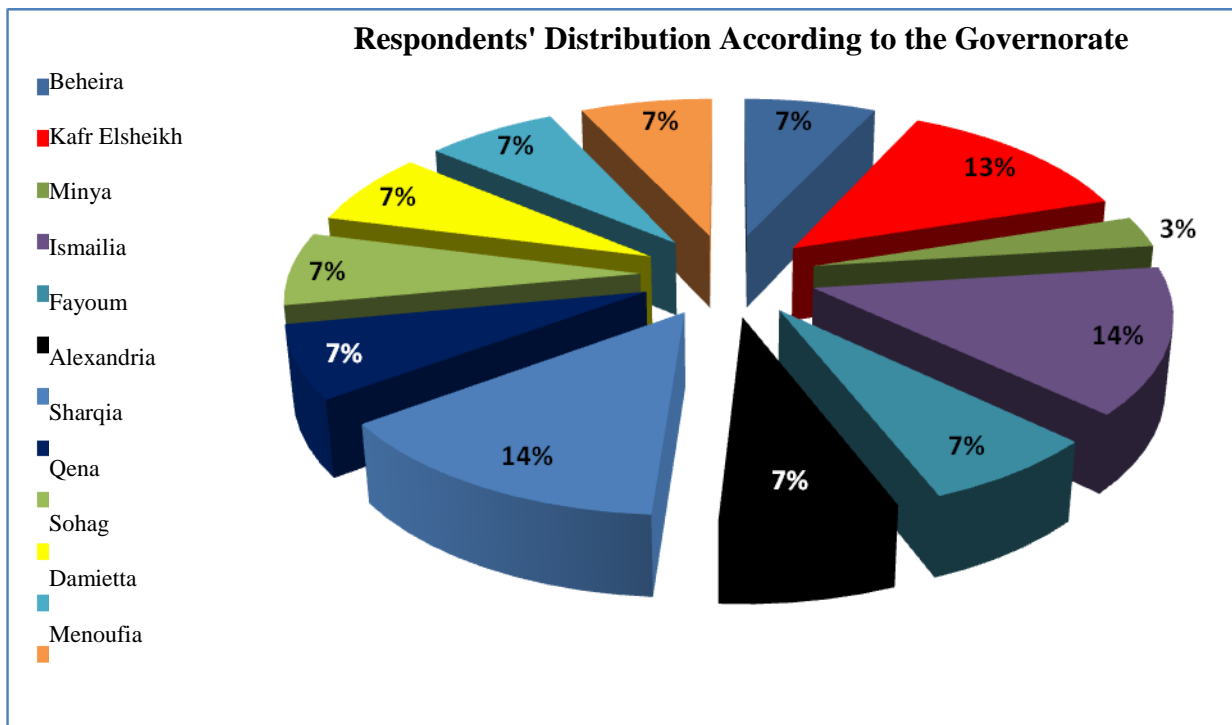
This report presents the results of primary voters' opinions in regards to several issues related to the electoral process. The data was collected using a sample surveying method and people from many Egyptian governorates that represent the different variations in social, cultural, and economic backgrounds in Egypt were surveyed. The sample size was 2175 people and the survey was conducted between Thursday, 1 May 2014 and Friday, 2 May 2014.

The distribution of the voters according to the governorate:

The total number of people surveyed was 2175 and people were divided between twelve governorates as follows:

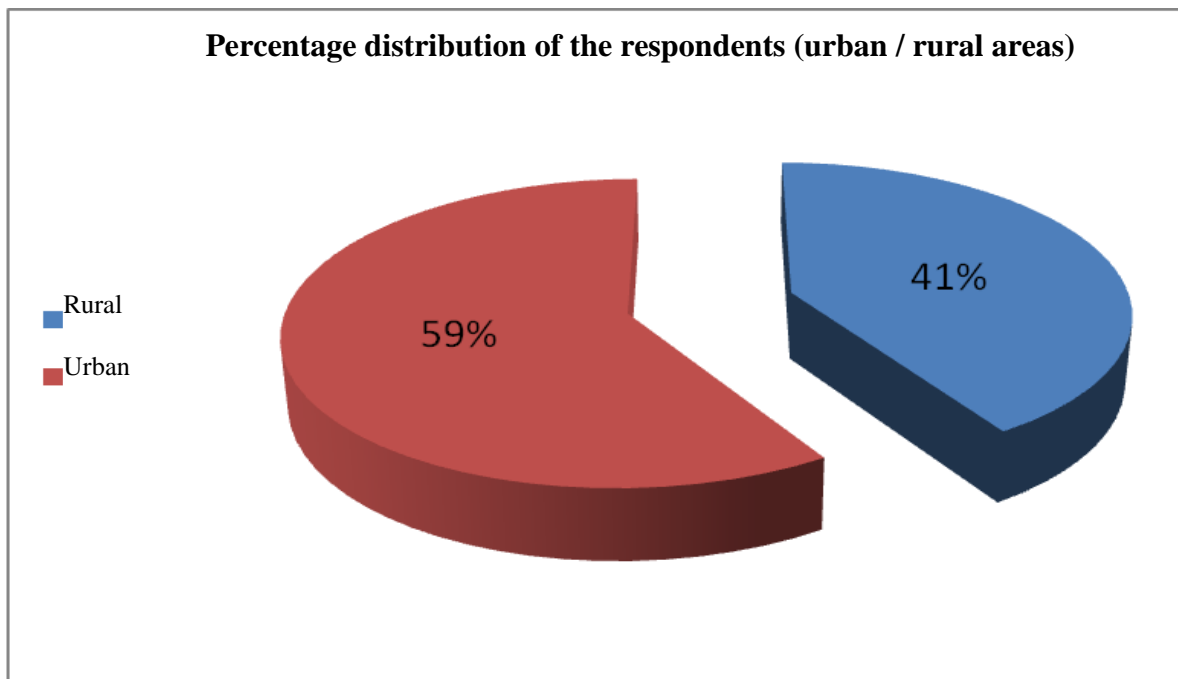
Quantitative and descriptive analysis of the voters poll on the presidential election, 2014

Al Beheira 7%, Kafr El-sheikh 13%, Minya 3%, Cairo 14%, Ismailia 7%, Fayoum 7%, Alexandria 14%, Sharqya 7%, Qena 7%, Sohag 7%, Damietta 7%, Monofia 7%.



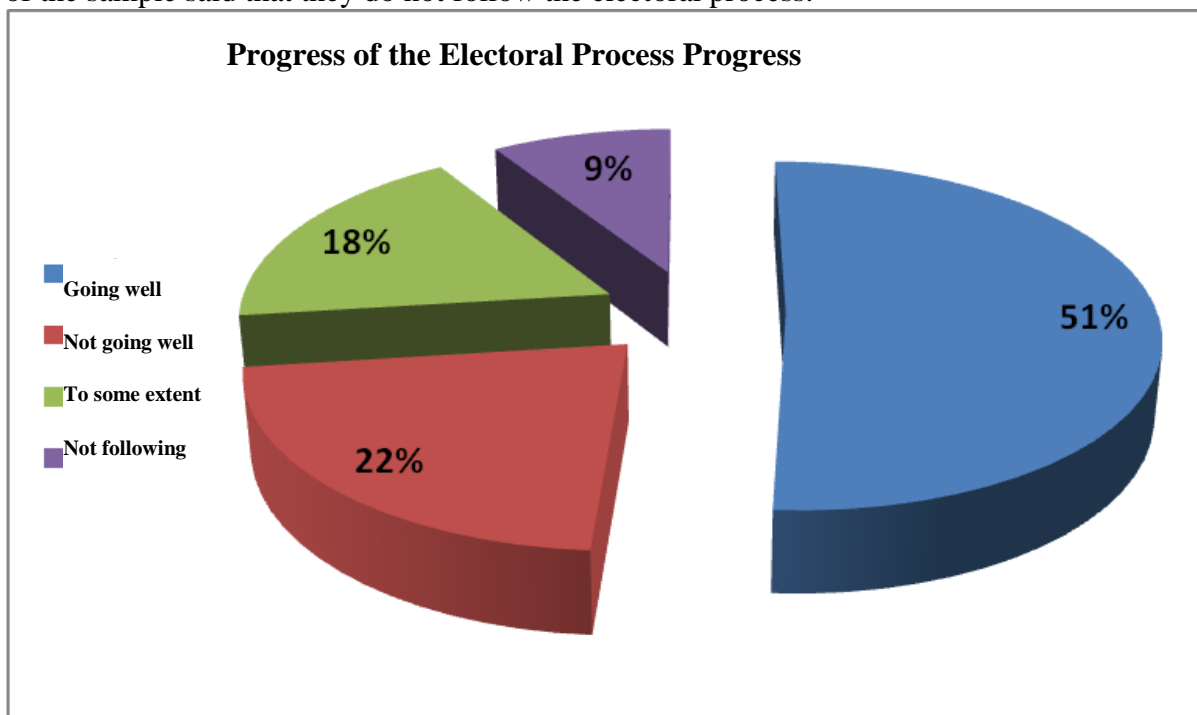
The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample (Urban/ Rural):

The voters in the sample have been divided with 59% in urban areas and 41% in the rural areas, as shown in the chart:

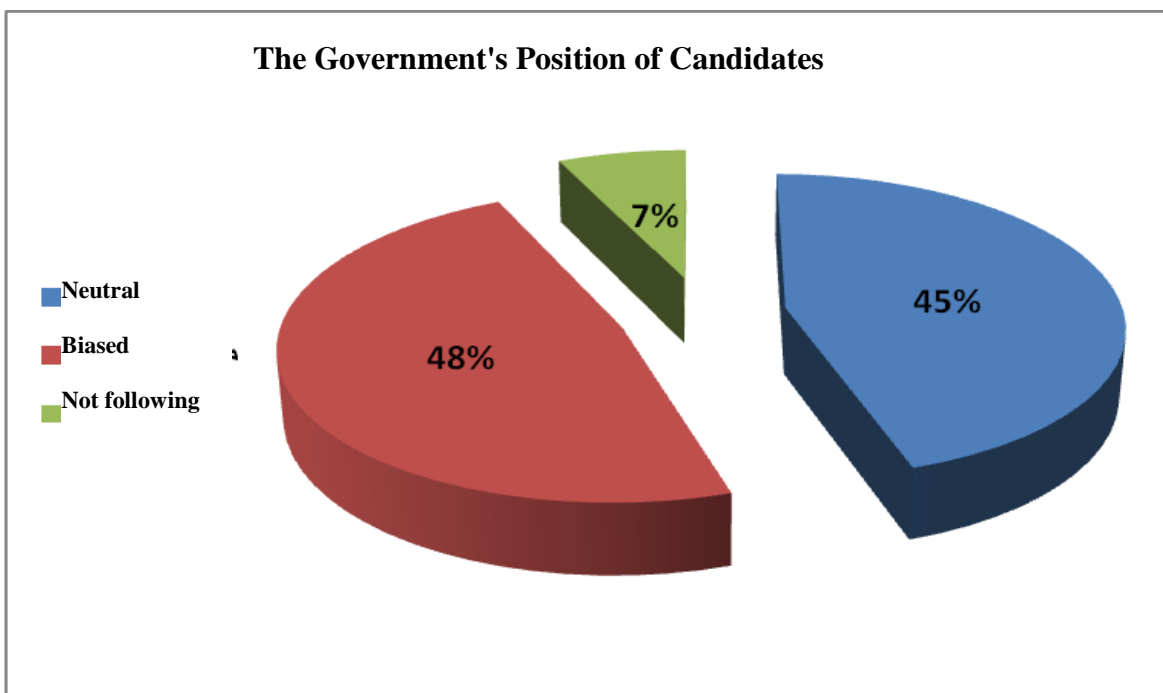


The Relative Distribution of Voters' perception of the nature of the electoral process:

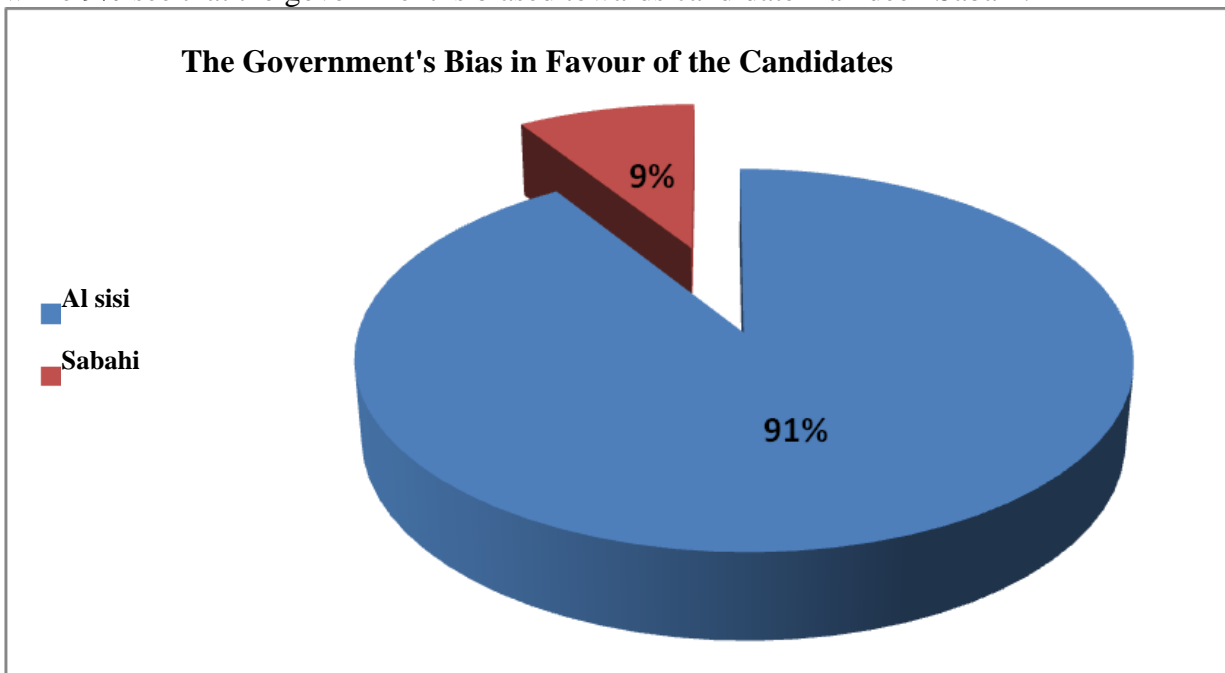
51% of the voters' sample consider that the electoral process is going well, while 22% of them see that the process is not going well and 18% of the sample sees that that to some extent the process is going well. 9% of the sample said that they do not follow the electoral process.



The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample regarding government stances towards the candidates: According to 45% of the voters' sample, the government stance has equally distanced itself from the candidates and is completely neutral, while 48% believe that the government is biased and supports a particular candidate. The other 7% of the sample represents those who said they don't follow the government's stance.

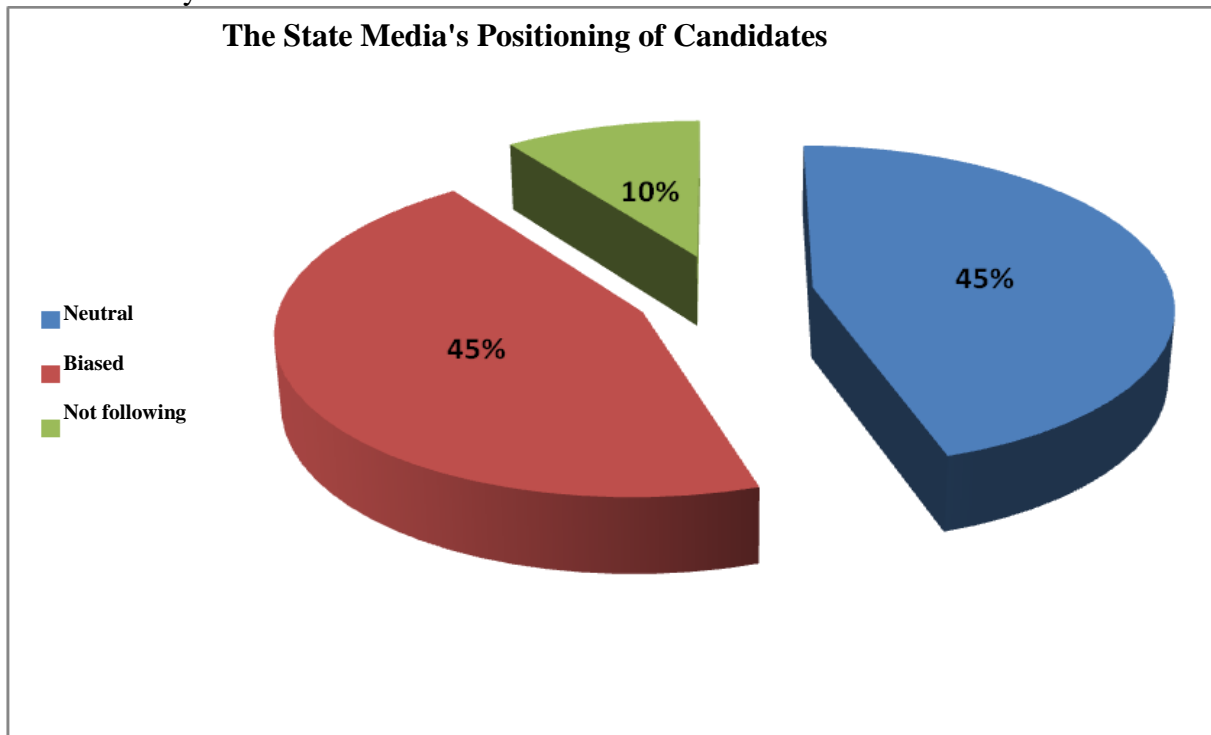


The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample regarding government bias towards a particular candidate: 91% of the people surveyed consider that the government is biased towards candidate Abd El-ftah Al-sisi, while 9% see that the government is biased towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.



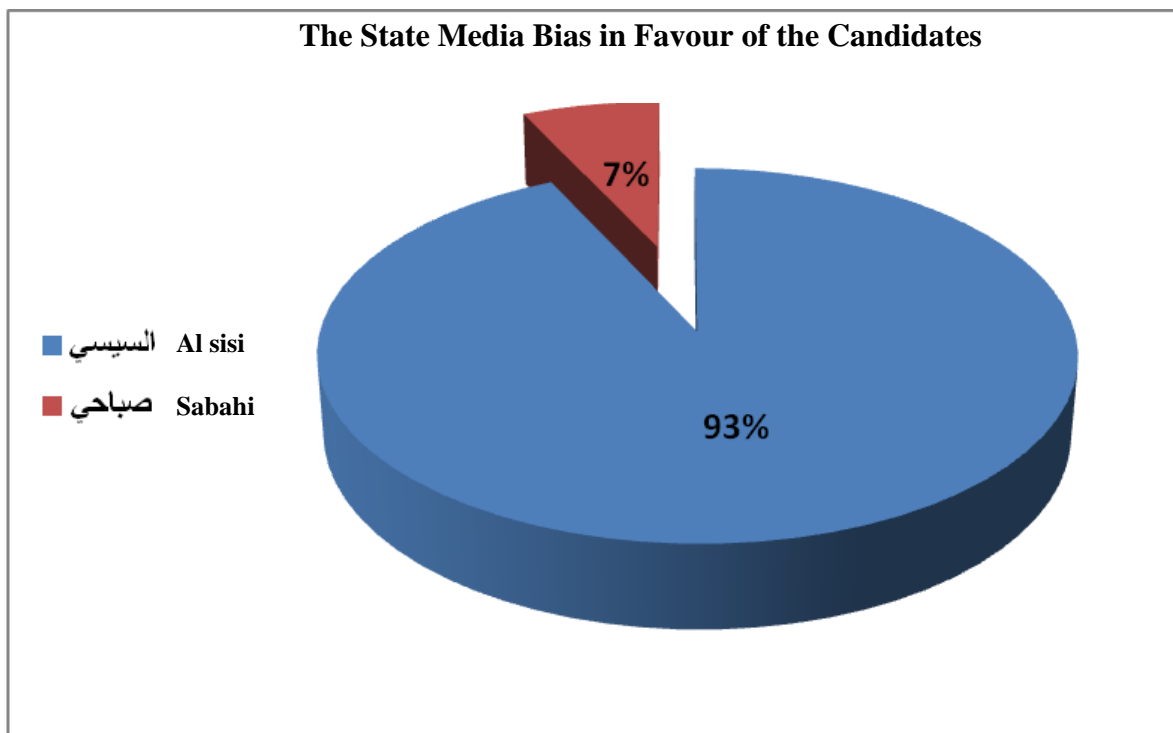
The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample regarding their view of the state media stance towards the candidates:

According to 45% of the voters' sample, the state media is neutral and does not support a particular candidate, 45% see that the state media is biased and supports a particular candidate, while the final 10% stated that they do not follow the issue.



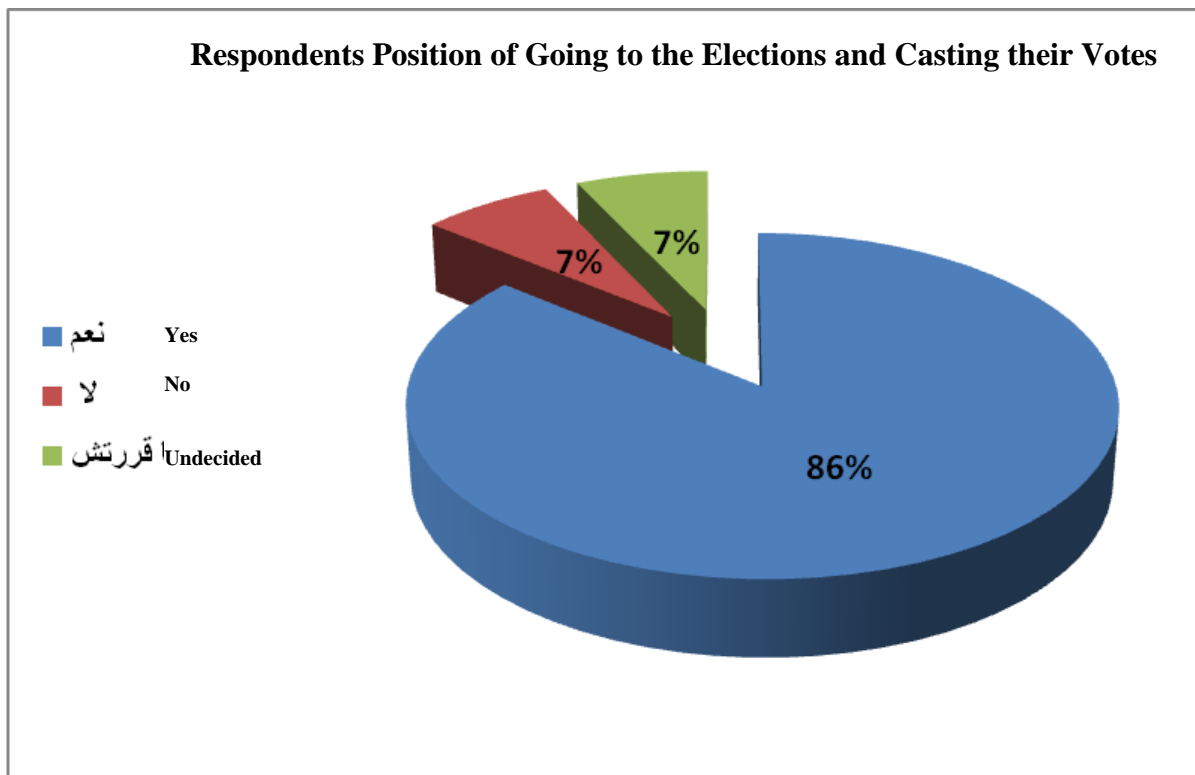
The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample according to the state media bias towards a particular candidate:

According to 93% of the voters' sample, the state media is biased towards Abd El- ftah Al-sisi, while 7% of them see that the state media is biased towards Hamdeen Sabahi.



The Relative Distribution of the voters' sample regarding their desire to vote in the elections:

86% of those surveyed said that they are going to vote in the next presidential elections, while 7% of the sample said that they are going to boycott it and not vote. The remaining 7% have not yet decided if they are going to vote in the elections or not.



The survey aims to identify the viewpoints of Egyptians regarding the next presidential elections. The citizens in the sample have been surveyed to find out the extent of their knowledge regarding the electoral process and their intention to participate, as well as which candidate they intend to support and the orientations of the Egyptians who are still undecided.

The sample was designed so that it included 2175 people divided between the following governorates: Beheira, Ismailia, Fayoum, Sharqya, Quena, Sohag, Demietta and Monoufia, each representing 7% of the total sample size. Meanwhile, the governorate Kafr El-sheikh represented 13%, Minya 3%, Cairo 14% and Alexandria 14%.

Individuals were divided between both rural (41%) and urban (59%) areas, which demonstrates the growing interest in voters' opinions in rural areas. This can be explained by the fact that rural voters represent a large voting bloc, following new trends of political openness. Furthermore, they are able to turn the scales in any upcoming election.

We used the statistical package SPSS to carry out the statistical analysis and estimated the sampling error with confidence degree of 95%. One of the most significant results of the survey showed that 51% of the voters' sample considered that the electoral process is going well, which is proof of the confidence of the largest section of the community in regards to the integrity of the electoral process. Furthermore, this is a good democratic indicator that proves the good political atmosphere that the country enjoys.

In terms of the stance of the government towards the candidates, the ratio was near even. 45% of the voters think that the government is neutral and stands at a distance from all the candidates and 48% of the sample see that the government is biased towards one of the candidates. According to voters surveyed, Abd El-ftah

Al-sisi has the biggest share of government support and 91% of the voter's sample think that the government is biased towards him against Hamdeen Sabahi.

In terms of the state media stance supporting candidates, the results were similar with the previous question regarding the support of the government towards one of the candidates. This is an unsurprising outcome and shows that voters think government and the state media are two sides of the same coin. It is expected that those who believe that the government is supporting a particular candidate, will believe that state media supports him too. According to 45% of the voters, the state media stands at one distance from all the candidates, while the same ratio sees that the state media is biased towards a particular candidate. In addition, 93% of people surveyed consider that the state media is biased towards the candidate Abd El-ftah Al-sisi.

In terms of voter participation, 86% of the total sample size indicated that they will vote in the elections.

The Voters' Evaluation of the Presidential Elections 2014 : The second report

Introduction

The Egyptian presidential elections entered the penultimate stage, after the electoral campaign platform was launched on 3 May. Electoral competition was limited between two presidential candidates: Mr. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi , and Mr. Hamdeen Sabahi.

The final stage of electoral campaigning definitely had a direct impact on the voters' evaluation for the electoral process. Therefore, the presidential elections observatory at Maat Foundation for "Egypt 2014" is keen on evaluating the varying periods during the electoral process. This is the second report to be issued in the context of this series.

Methodological framework of the report :

The data was collected using the Cadastral Survey method in a number of Egyptian governorates, representing social, cultural, and economic diversity in Egypt. The sample size was estimated at 2175 people and data were collected on Tuesday 6 May 2014 and Wednesday 7 May 2014.

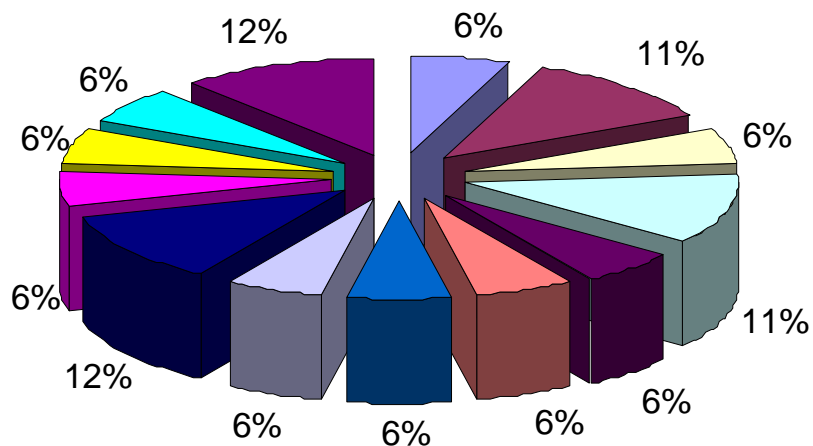
Voters distribution according to the governorates:

The total number of individuals in the voters sample reached 2175 individuals, distributed between thirteen governorates as follows:

ElBehira 6%, Kafr El-Sheikh 11%, ElMinya 6%, Cairo 11%, Ismailia 6%, Fayoum 6%, Beni Suef 6%, ElSharkia 6%, Alexandria 6%, Qena 6%, Sohag 6%, ElQaliobya 12%, ElMinofeya 12%.

- ElBehira
- Kafr El-Sheikh
- ElMinya
- Cairo
- Ismailia
- Fayoum
- Beni Suef
- ElSharkia
- ElQaliobya
- Alexandria
- Qena
- Sohag
- ElMinofeya

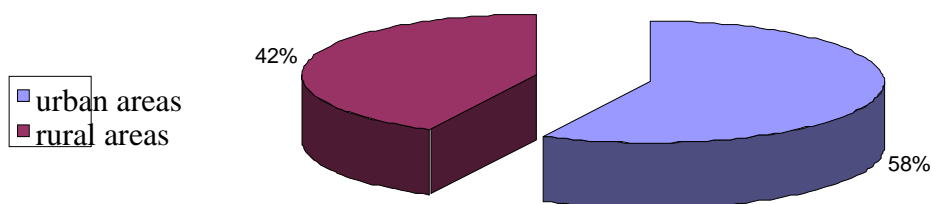
Respondents' Distribution According to the Governorate



Percentage distribution of the respondents (urban / rural areas):

The distribution of respondents for the sample included 58% urban area residents and 42% rural area residents. The following figure shows the percentage distribution of the sample.

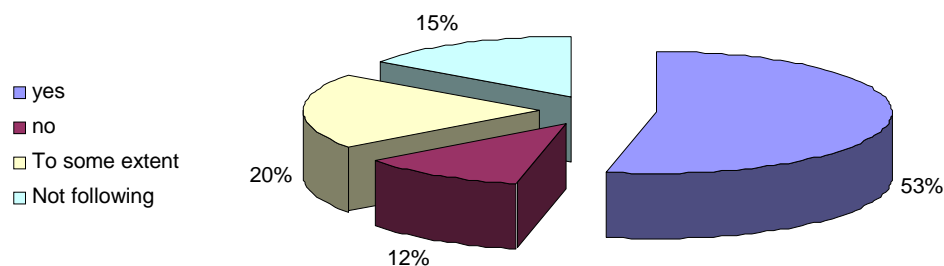
Percentage distribution of the respondents (urban / rural areas)



Respondents percentage distribution in terms of the perception of the nature of the electoral process' progress

53% of the respondents stated that they believe that the electoral process is going well, while 12% reported that the process is not going well. 20% of the respondents stated that the electoral process is going well to some extent and 15% of the respondents stated that they are not following the progress of the electoral process. The results indicate a 2% rise in the proportion of those who believe that the electoral process is going well, when compared to the results of the first evaluation (51%).

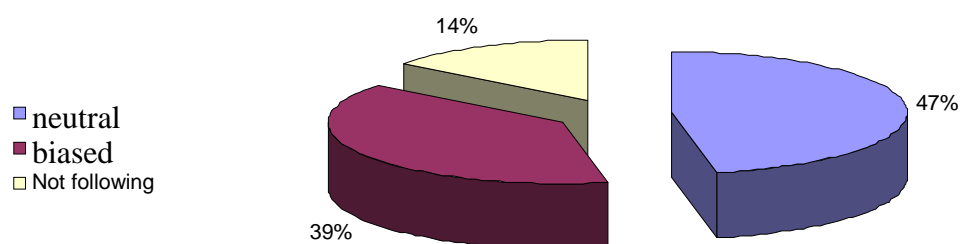
The Electoral Process Progress



Respondents relative distribution according to their view of the government's positioning of candidates

47% of the respondents stated that the government stands on an equal footing between the two candidates and is completely neutral, while 39% reported that the government is biased and supports a particular candidate. 14% of the respondents reported that they were not following the government's position. The results reveal an increase in the proportion of those who believe that the government is neutral, up 2% from the result of the first evaluation (45%).

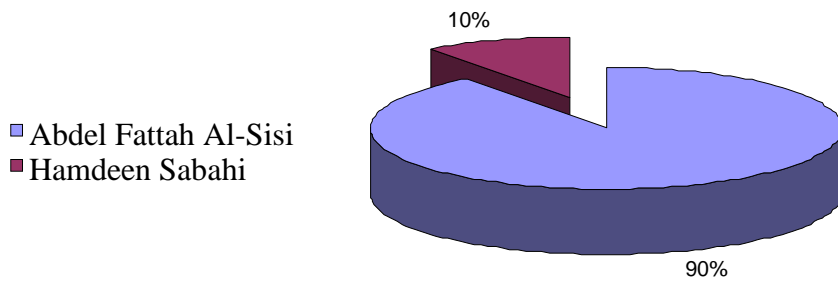
The Government's Position of Candidates



The respondents relative distribution in terms of the government's bias towards a particular candidate

90% of the respondents who previously reported that the government is biased towards a particular candidate stated that the government is biased in favour of the candidate Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, while 10% of them reported that the government is biased in favour of the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

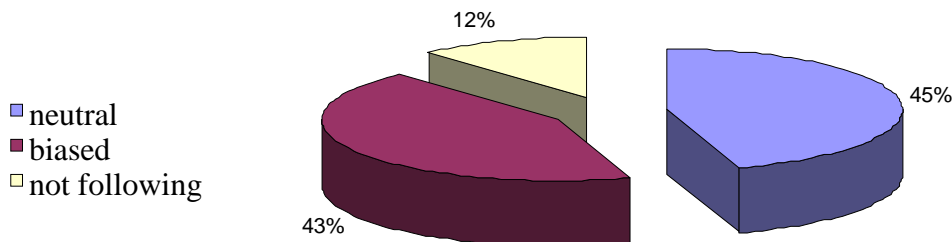
The Government's Bias in Favour of the Candidates



Respondents relative distribution according to their view concerning the state media's position of candidates

45% of the respondents reported that the state media is neutral and does not support a particular candidate, while 43% of the sample stated that the state media is biased, not neutral and supports a particular candidate. 12% said that they were not following the situation.

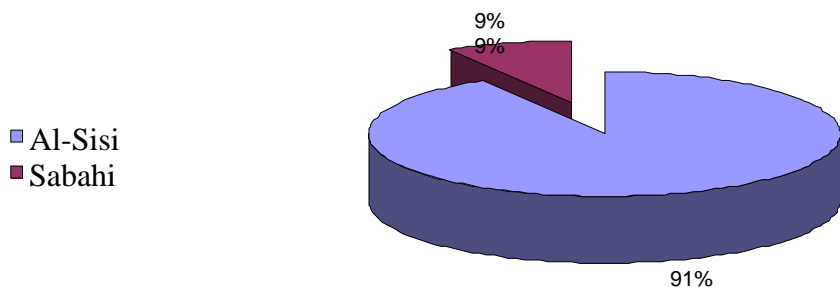
The State Media's Position of Candidates



Respondents relative distribution concerning the state media bias towards a particular candidate

91% of the respondents who reported that the state media is biased towards a particular candidate mentioned that the media is biased towards the candidate Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, while 9% of them reported that the state media is biased towards the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

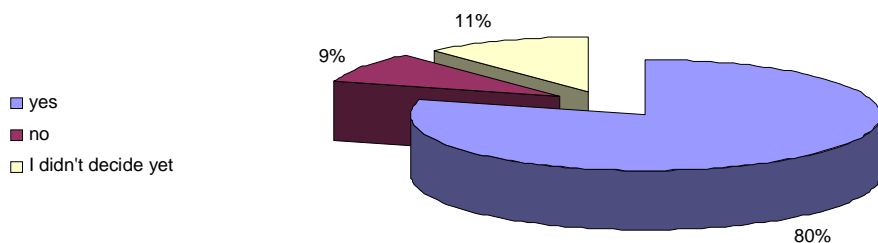
The State Media Bias to a Particular Candidate



Relative distribution of the respondents regarding their position on voting in the elections

80% of the respondents reported that they intend to vote in the upcoming presidential election, while 9% of the respondents stated that they would boycott and have decided not to participate in the elections. 11% of the sample stated that they have not yet decided whether they will vote or not.

Respondents Position of Going to the Elections and Casting their Votes



Methodological framework of the report :

The report presents the third voters' survey on issues relative to the electoral process. The data was collected using the Cadastral Survey method in a number of Egyptian governorates, which represent social, cultural, and economic diversity in Egypt. Data was collected on Wednesday, 14 May and Thursday, 15 May 2014.

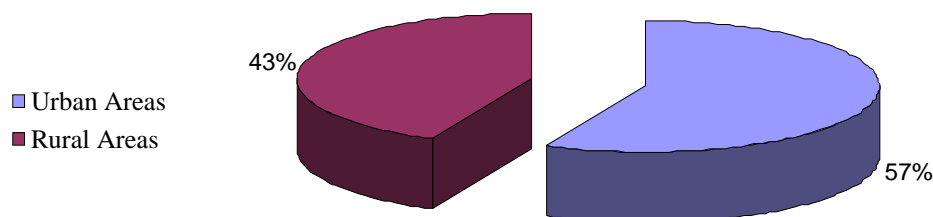
The total number of voters in the sample reached 2175 individuals, distributed between twelve governorates as follows:

ElBehira 7%, Minya 7%, Cairo 15%, Dakahlia 7%, Fayoum 7%, Giza 15%, Sharkia 7%, Qena 7%, Ismailia 7%, Alexandria 14%, New Valley 3%, North Sinai 4% (of the total sample)

Relative distribution of the respondents (urban / rural areas):

The respondents distribution included 57% urban areas residents and 43% rural areas residents, as shown in the following figure:

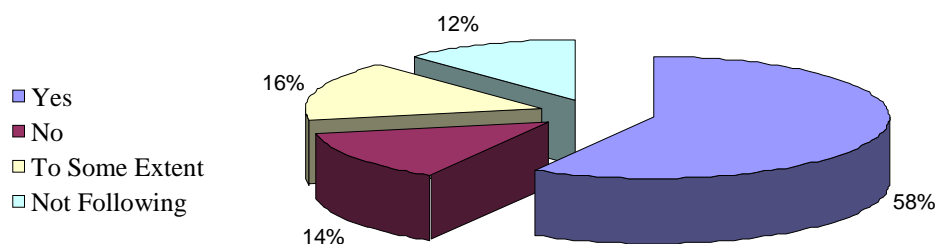
Relative Distribution of the Respondents (Urban / Rural Areas)



Respondents relative distribution in terms of the perception of the nature of the electoral process' progress

58% of the respondents stated that they believe that the electoral process is going well, while 14% reported that the process is not going well. 16% of respondents stated that the electoral process is going well to some extent and 12% of the respondents stated that they are not following the progress of the electoral process. The results indicate a 5% increase in the proportion of those who believe that the electoral process is going well, compared to the results of the second survey (53%), and an increase of 7% when compared to the results of the first survey (51%).

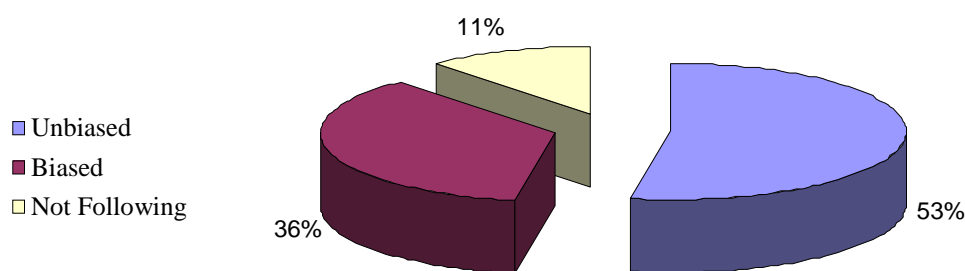
The Electoral Process Progress



Respondents relative distribution according to their view of the government's positioning of candidates

53% of the respondents stated that the government stands on an equal footing between the two candidates and is completely neutral, while 36% reported that the government is biased and supports a particular candidate. 11% of the respondents reported that they were not following the government's position. The results point out an increase in the proportion of those who believe that the government is neutral by 5% compared with the last survey (47%).

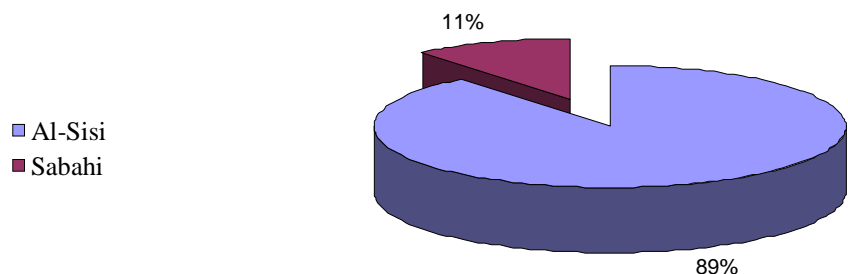
The Government's Position of Candidates



The respondents relative distribution in terms of the government's bias towards a particular candidate

89% of the respondents who previously reported that the government is biased towards a particular candidate, stated that the government is biased in favour of the candidate, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, while 11% of them reported that the government is biased in favour of the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

The Government's Bias in Favour of the Candidates

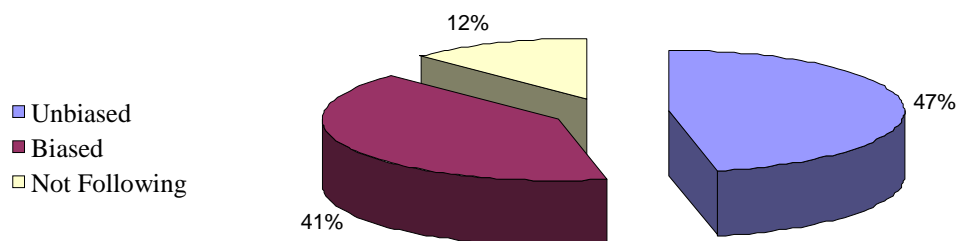


Respondents relative distribution according to their view concerning the state media's position of candidates

47% of the respondents reported that the state media is neutral and does not support a particular candidate, while 41% of the sample stated that the state media is biased, not neutral and supports a particular candidate. 12% said that they were not following the situation.

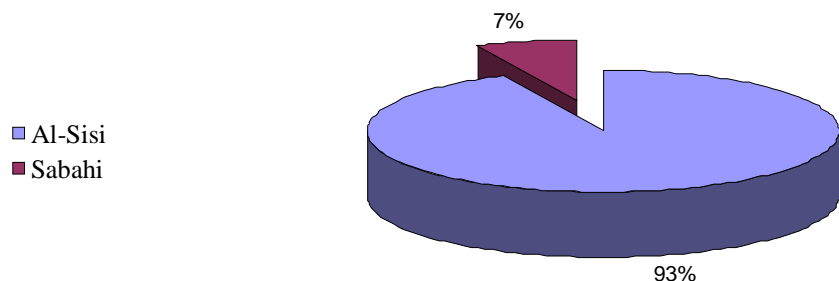
It is notable that the percentage of those who believe that the media is unbiased increased by 2% compared with the last survey.

The State Media's Position of Candidates



Respondents relative distribution concerning the state media bias in favour of a particular candidate
 93% of the respondents who reported that the state media is biased in favour of a particular candidate, mentioned that the media is biased in favour of the candidate Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, while 7% of them reported that the state media is biased in favour of the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

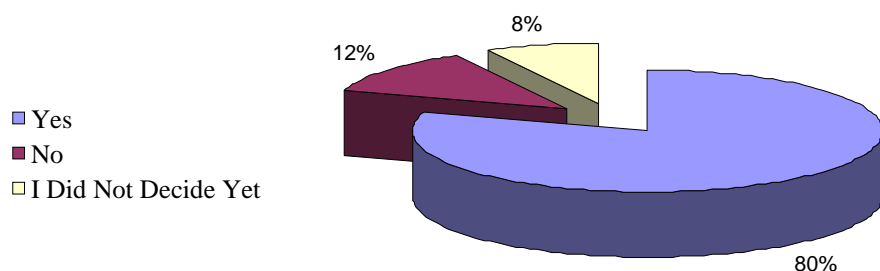
The State Media Bias in Favour of a Particular Candidate



Relative distribution of the respondents according to their position on casting their votes in the elections

80% of the respondents reported that they intend to vote in the upcoming presidential election, while 12% of the respondents stated that they will boycott it and have decided not to participate in the elections. 8% of the sample stated that they have not yet decided whether they will vote or not.

Respondents Position of Going to the Elections and Casting their Votes



Results Summary

- i. 58% of the voters sample believe that the electoral process is going well;
- ii. 5% increase in the respondents who believe that the electoral process is going well;
- iii. 53% of the voters sample believe that the government is unbiased and stands on an equal footing between the two candidates;
- iv. 5% increase in the respondents believing that the government is unbiased rather than the last conducted survey;
- v. 47% of the respondents believe that the state media is neutral and stands on an equal footing between the two candidates, an increase of 2% compared to the last conducted survey;
- vi. 80% of the respondents pointed out that they will vote in the upcoming presidential election.

Methodology of the report:

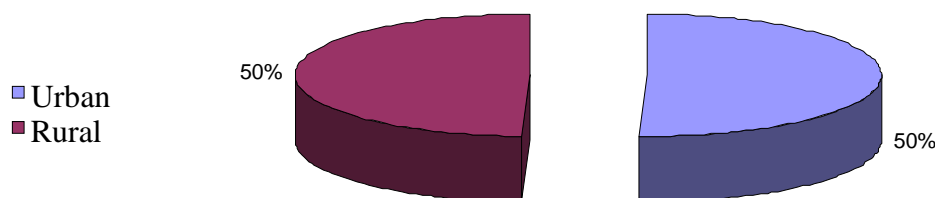
The report presents the fourth voters' poll results on opinions regarding several issues related to the electoral process. The data has been collected using a sample survey method from a number of Egyptian governorates that represent the varying social, cultural and economic differences in Egypt. The data was collected on Wednesday, 21 May and Thursday, 22 May 2014.

The sample size of voters is 2175 individuals, divided into 12 governorates as follows: Cairo, Port Said, New Valley, Aswan, Sohag, Beni Suef, South Sinai, Ismailia, Elsharqia, Kafr El-Sheikh, Behera, and Fayoum

Relative distribution of Voters sample (Rural- Urban):

50% of the voters in the sample were living in urban areas and 50% in rural areas. The following figure shows the relative distribution of the sample.

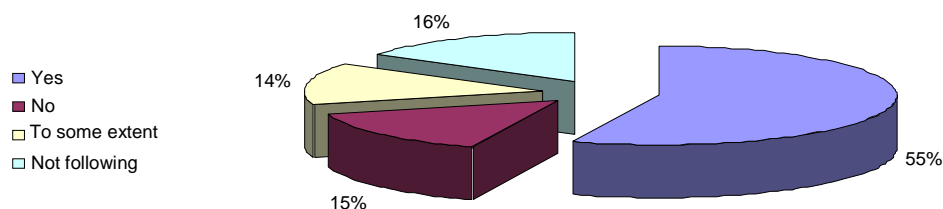
Relative distribution of Voters sample (Rural- Urban)



The relative distribution of the voters sample in terms of the perception of the nature of the electoral process:

55% of the voters sample believe that the electoral process is going well, 15% of them reported that the process is not going well, 14% indicated that to some extent that the electoral process is going well, while 16% of the respondents said they are not following up the progress of the electoral process. It is noted that there is a 3% decrease in terms of people who believe that the process is going well compared to the last conducted poll (the percentage was 58%), an increase of 2% compared to the second survey (the percentage was 53%) and an increase by 4% compared to the first survey (the percentage was 51%).

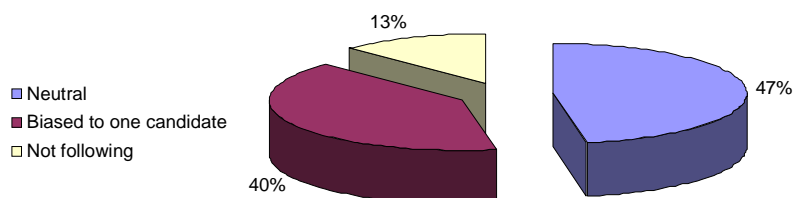
The electoral process progress



Relative distribution of the voters' sample in terms of their perception of the government stance towards both candidates:

47% of the voters in the sample reported that the government stands on an equal footing towards the two candidates and is completely neutral. 40% of respondents reported that the government is biased and supports a particular candidate and the rest representing 13% of the sample stated that they weren't following the government's position. These conclusions reflect a 6% decrease in the percentage of those who believe in the impartiality of the government stance compared to the last survey (the percentage was 53%). Whilst it is equal to the percentage of the second survey (the percentage was 47%).

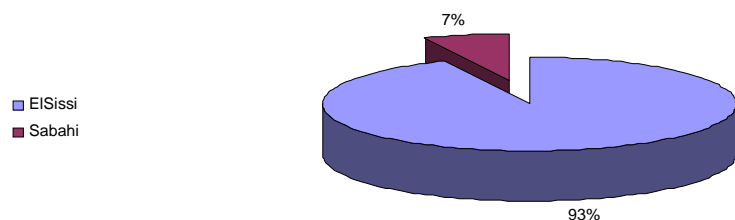
The government's stance towards both candidates



The relative distribution of voters' sample in terms of the government bias in favour of a particular candidate:

93% of the voters' sample reported that the government is biased in favour of candidate Abdel El-fattah ElSissi, whilst 7% reported that the government is biased in favour of candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

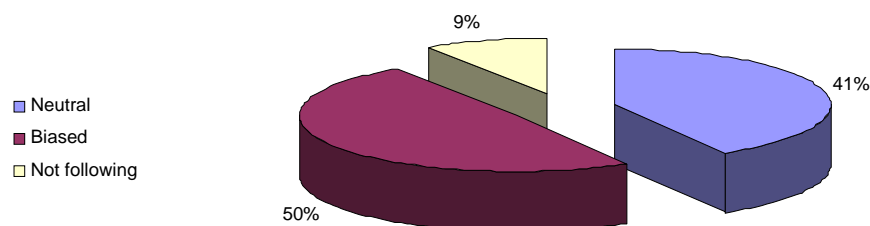
Government bias in favour of a particular candidate



Relative distribution of the voters' sample in terms of the media stance towards both candidates:

41% of the voters' sample reported that the state media was neutral and didn't not support a particular candidate, 50% of the respondents said that the government media is biased, is not neutral and supports a particular candidate, and the rest representing 9% were not following. It is noted that there is a decrease in the percentage of voters who believe that the state media is neutral by 6% compared to the last survey, where the percentage was 47%.

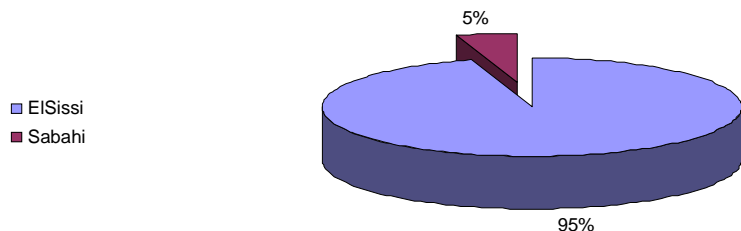
Media stand from both candidates



The relative distribution of voters sample in terms of the state media bias in favour of a particular candidate:

95% of the voters' sample said that the state media is biased in favour of a particular candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, while 5% reported that the state media is biased in favour of the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

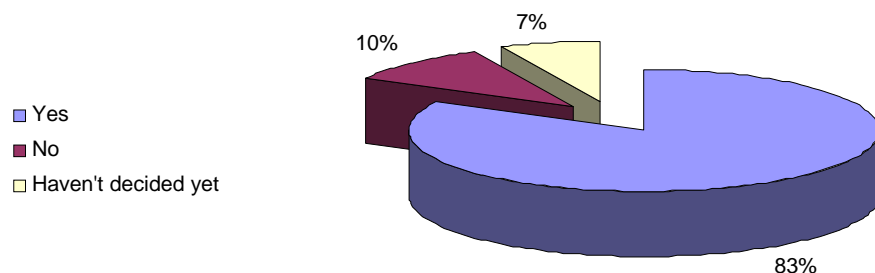
State media bias in favour of a particular candidate



The relative distribution of the voters' sample in terms of their position regarding casting a vote in the election:

83% of the voters' sample stated that they are intending to cast their votes in the upcoming presidential election, 10% of the sample said that they will boycott it and will not vote in the elections, while 7% of the sample haven't yet decided yet whether they will vote or not. It is noted that there is a 3% increase in the percentage of those who have decided to vote in the election compared to the last survey (80%).

Voters' stand from casting their votes in the election



Summary of conclusions:

- 55% of the voters' sample believes that the electoral process is going well.
- There is an increase in the percentage of people who believe the electoral process is going well by 3% compared to the last poll conducted.
- 47% of voters believe that the government is neutral and stands an equal distance from both candidates.
- There is a 6% decrease in the number of people who believe that the government is neutral compared to last poll conducted.
- 41% of voters believe that the state media stands an equal distance from both candidates, which reflects a 6% increase from the last poll conducted.
- 83% of the voters' sample indicated that they would cast a vote in the upcoming presidential election.

Preface:

The Egyptian presidential election, launched on 31 March 2014, is considered to be the second phase of the road map that was agreed on by the national powers at the beginning of July 2013. This road map was created in response to the extensive popular protests witnessed by Egypt over many months and which reached a peak on 30 June 2013. Egyptians rallied in various squares, demanding the isolation of former President Mohamed Morsi and calling for early presidential elections to be held.

The Presidential election passed through two major phases, the first being the stage of receiving applications for candidacy, which began on 31 March 2014 and ended on 20 April 2014. The second stage involved receiving appeals and announcing the final list of candidates and ran from 21 April 2014 until 2 May 2014.

The presidential race then entered its main phase before the beginning of the final stage, with the start of electoral campaigning, which was launched on 3 May 2014 and ended on 23 May 2014.

According to the official list of candidates for the presidential election, two candidates were announced:

1. Candidate Saeed Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who served as Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister before making his resignation to run for the elections.
2. Candidate Hamadeen Abdul Ati Sabahi, a well-known Egyptian politician and the founder of the Egyptian Popular Trend. He was a candidate in the last presidential elections, held in May 2012 and came third.

The media plays an important role in the electoral process, whether through generating awareness and motivation to participate in general, through helping voters with the composition of their convictions, or the choice between the candidates and the comparison between the electoral programs offered by each candidate.

During the exercise of this mission, the media should be committed to professionalism, objectivity, codes of media ethics and must not violate the legislative frameworks governing the media coverage of the electoral process. Although it is not required that all media remain neutral towards the candidates, the state owned media must be completely neutral when reporting about both candidates.

In this context, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights through the "Observatory of the presidential elections - Egypt 2014" is concerned with monitoring and evaluating the performance of different media channels during the electoral process, in order to ascertain the extent of the commitment of these organisations in complying with the regulatory legislations.

About the report and its methodology:

This is the first report issued by the "Observatory of the presidential election - Egypt 2014" regarding the assessment of media performance. A sample was taken from 26 April 2014 to 2 May 2014, which represents the stage that immediately precedes the stage of the electoral campaign. This report includes a sample of the three main types of media, namely:

1. News sites: during the period covered by the report, 16 news websites were followed-up and monitored: Al Masry Al Youm, Al-Ahram, Elyoum elSabea, ElWafd, Elshrouq, Al Jazeera news, aredet elshaab website, Elmasryon website, Ekhwan online website and Rasd website. In addition, there were some foreign news websites: Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Time, Le Monde and the Daily Telegraph.

2. TV Shows: Several programs were evaluated on the following channels: CBC, Sada elbalad, On TV, the first Egyptian television, Nile News, Elarabia, Elaraia news, AlJazeera, AlJazeera Egypt live, Rabaa, Elhyah. In total, 27 TV stations were assessed.
3. Social media pages: certain pages on social networks were chosen to be monitored, including: the official pages for both candidates' campaigns, the page of youth movement Mobaser April 6, as well as other pages with large numbers of fans adopting opposing views towards the electoral process.

The monitoring process depended primarily on a careful follow-up to TV shows, news sites and social media pages by a set of trained observers, in order to extract two types of information, namely:

1. Quantitative information, including digital statistics to classify the information published according to its stand towards the key actors in the electoral process (the candidates, the election commission, civil society organisations responsible for watching over the electoral process).
2. Qualitative information that reflects the nature of the published information and evaluates the performance of media outlets according to known standards, as well as evaluating the most significant materials that violate the rules and media codes of conduct or the regulatory legislative frameworks.

Quantitative measurement and calculation:

1. For television channels, the time allotted to each of the main components, including the overall electoral process, the Election Commission, presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and candidate Hamdeen Sabahi has been counted in minutes. The time for each channel was divided according to its stand, whether it be negative, positive and neutral. Following this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total minutes of coverage for each actor within the TV programs that were monitored during the period.
2. News sites were monitored according to the number of topics published for each actor, then the topics have been categorised according to their stand between negative, positive and neutral. Following on from this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total topics obtained by an actor within the website that was monitored during the period.
3. For social media pages, the number of posts shared have been measured for each actor. The topics have been categorized according to their stand between negative, positive and neutral. Following this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total topics obtained by an actor within the social media page that was monitored during the period.

Legal frameworks governing the media coverage of the elections:

Article VI of the Presidential Elections Law has identified the terms of reference for the Presidential Election Commission, which include establishing the rules governing the participation of the media and civil society organisations, both Egyptian and foreign in following the electoral process. Accordingly, the committee responsible for monitoring the media publicity for the presidential election has set rules and standards regarding media performance during the electoral process as follows:

- Specialty TV channels and the major ones such as fada'ya masrya, first channel, Nile News, the radio network program, public radio broadcasts and regional Egypt must provide equal periods of airtime to both candidates to present their electoral programs.
- Prohibiting any paid broadcast advertisements for any of the presidential candidates within the state-owned media in the news reports, during live broadcasts or during any of the events taking place.
- The media is not permitted to publish any opinion polls on the presidential election unless it provides full information about the party that surveyed people and the party that took over the financing of the poll, as well as the questions contained, the sample size, where the survey was conducted, the method of conducting the poll, the methodology of collecting data, its history and the potential error in the results. Furthermore, five days before the start of polling day until the end, no opinion polls can be published or broadcast.

- The Committee in charge of following-up, monitoring and evaluating media publicity and advertising for the presidential elections in 2014, is responsible for ensuring the professional standards in all types of media content that are monitored and followed up, including radio stations and public and private TV channels.

The results of the monitoring process:

First: The coverage of the TV material related to actors and key issues:

The results contained in the tables (numbers 1, 2, 3, 4) relate to the trends of coverage on the TV channels in regards to the actors and the key issues related to the electoral process (the overall electoral process, the Election Commission, presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and candidate Hamdeen Sabahi). The revealed set of results are as follows:

The position of the Egyptian private channels covered by monitoring:

There is evidently a bias from Egyptian private channels covered by the monitoring towards the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, compared to the other candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. We found that the tendency of channels CBC, On TV and Sada Elbalad lean towards candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in a positive way in 64%, 62% and 92% of cases, respectively. On the other hand, the corresponding rates for the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi were 12% 14% 20%.

There are violations amongst some private Egyptian TV channels, where it is known that the producers are pro candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and against the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. Sometimes, they throw accusations and defame Hamdeen Sabahi. A sample of phrases that have been monitored in a program "Ala mas'olity" offered by Ahmed Moussa, are as follows:

- "People running Hamdeen Sabahi's Campaign in Cairo are part of terrorism"
- "Your daughter is a fraudulent thief"
- "Do not say you are the revolutionary candidate because you took 14 checks for 4 million pounds from great powers in the NDP. If you don't reply today, I will stalk you in all conferences and say you are a liar".

The position of the official TV Channels:

Official Egyptian TV channels are characterised by a more neutral position between the two candidates. Despite the similar amount of time allocated to interview each candidate, it has been noted that there is a significant variation in the quality of the coverage between each of them, particularly on the first channel of the Egyptian television, Program Sabah elkher ya masr. For example, the program often covers a news worthy story for Hamdeen Sabahi, while focusing on covering opinions which support candidate Abd Elfattah El-Sisi. In general, there has been positive coverage for candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the Nile News channel, and the first channel at 22% and 41% respectively, compared with 4% and 10% towards the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

The position of the Arab channels:

There are three channels in the sample of monitoring which treat the revolution of 30 June as a military coup. Accordingly these channels take a political stance which is against the procedures that followed the 30 revolution, including the road map and the elections. These three channels are: Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera Egypt Live and Rabaa. Through monitoring the performance of these channels during the period covered by the report, the following was observed:

1. Al Jazeera Egypt and Rabaa channels take a negative attitude in the vast majority of the cases against the electoral process, the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the Committee of the presidential election and to a lesser extent against the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.
2. There is strong decline of professional neutral coverage from these three channels, highlighted by their opposition to the electoral process in general and in particular the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, without covering both sides of the story.

3. Rabaa channel rarely airs a program that is without insults and accusations of apostasy and treason against the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi
4. The coverage of the three channels reveals the lack of neutrality and professionalism in general in their coverage of the electoral process in Egypt.
5. Regarding the monitoring of other Arab Channels (Elarabia, Elarabia news), the results of the report have revealed their impartiality towards the electoral process, the candidates and the election commission in most cases and the reliance on news coverage. However, there are slight differences in the Al-Arabiya news regarding the ratio of positive coverage for candidate Abdel Fattah Sisi versus candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, which is 24% in favour of the former candidate, compared to 20% for the later.

Table (1) the relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the period covered by the report towards the electoral process

Media channel	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
CBC	0%	95%	5%	
On TV	0%	96%	4%	
Nile News	0%	90%	10%	
First Egyptian Channel	0%	97%	3%	
ElJazeera	45%	10%	45%	
ElJazeera Egypt Live	78%	4%	18%	
Elarabia	0%	42%	58%	
ElArabia	0%	51%	49%	
Rabaa	98%	0%	2%	
Sada Elbalad	0%	90%	10%	

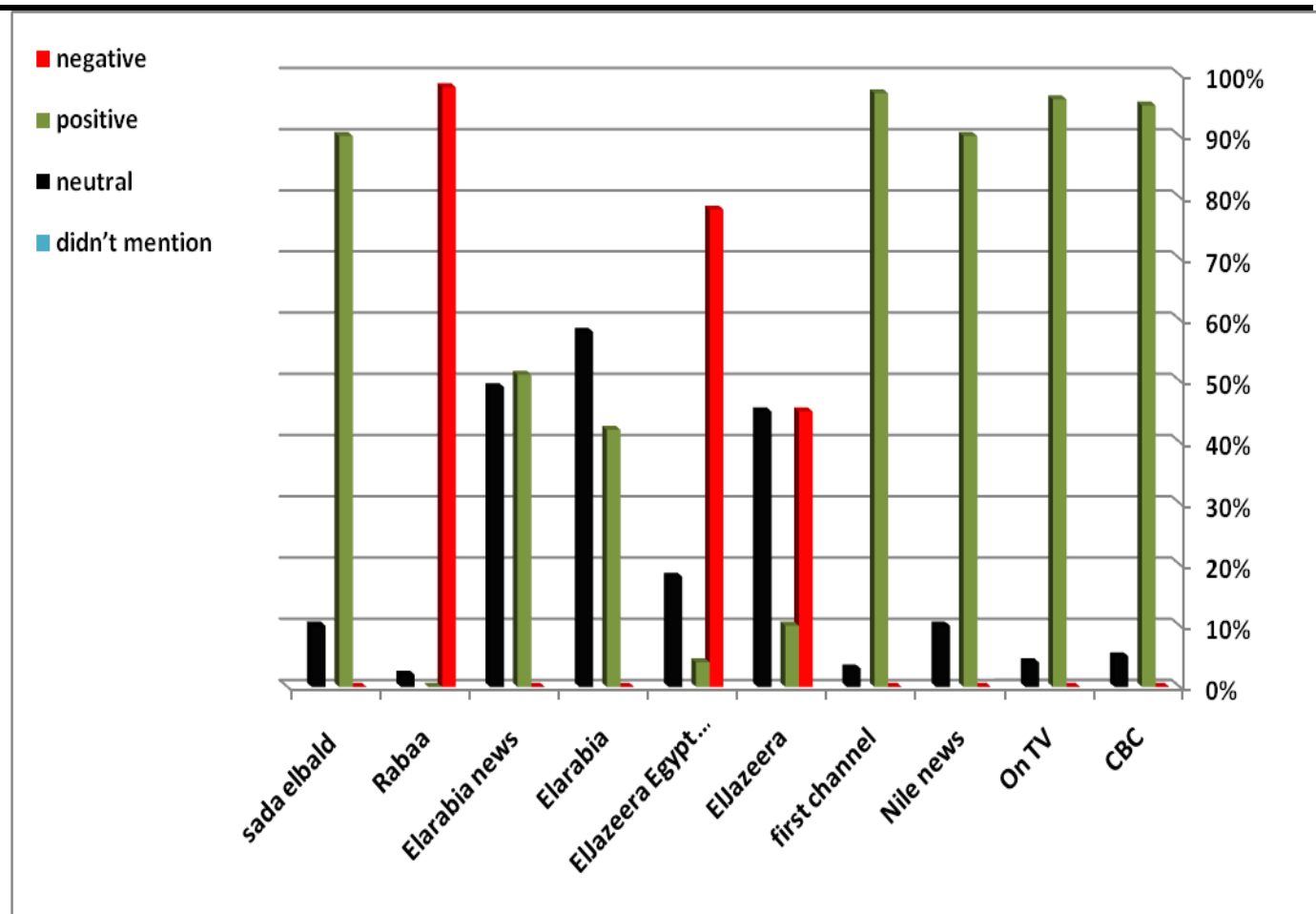


Table (2) the relative distribution of the position of the TV material published during the period covered by the report towards the Election Commission.

Media channel	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
CBC	0%	20%	80%	
On TV	0%	22%	78%	
Nile News	0%	10%	90%	
First Egyptian Channel	0%	15%	85%	
ElJazeera	20%	0%	80%	
ElJazeera Egypt Live	30%	0%	70%	
Elarabia	0%	0%	100%	
ElArabia	0%	0%	100%	
Rabaa	80%	0%	20%	
Sada Elbalad	0%	35%	65%	

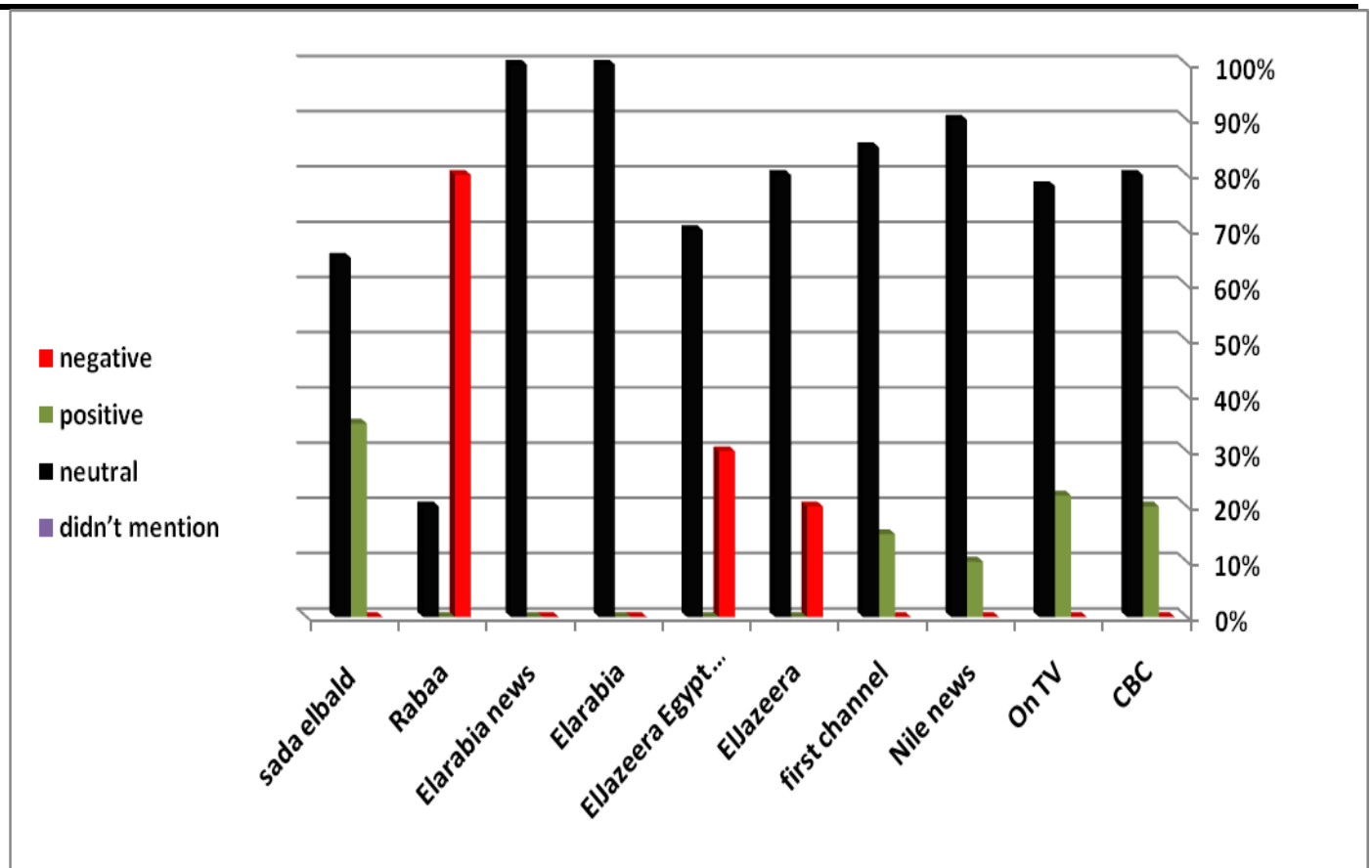


Table (3) the relative distribution of the position of the TV material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi.

Media channel	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
CBC	0%	74%	26%	
On TV	0%	62%	38%	
Nile News	0%	22%	78%	
First Egyptian Channel	0%	41%	59%	
ElJazeera	46%	12%	42%	
ElJazeera Egypt Live	67%	10%	23%	
Elarabia	0%	16%	84%	
ElArabia	10%	24%	66%	
Rabaa	84%	0%	16%	
Sada Elbalad	0%	92%	8%	

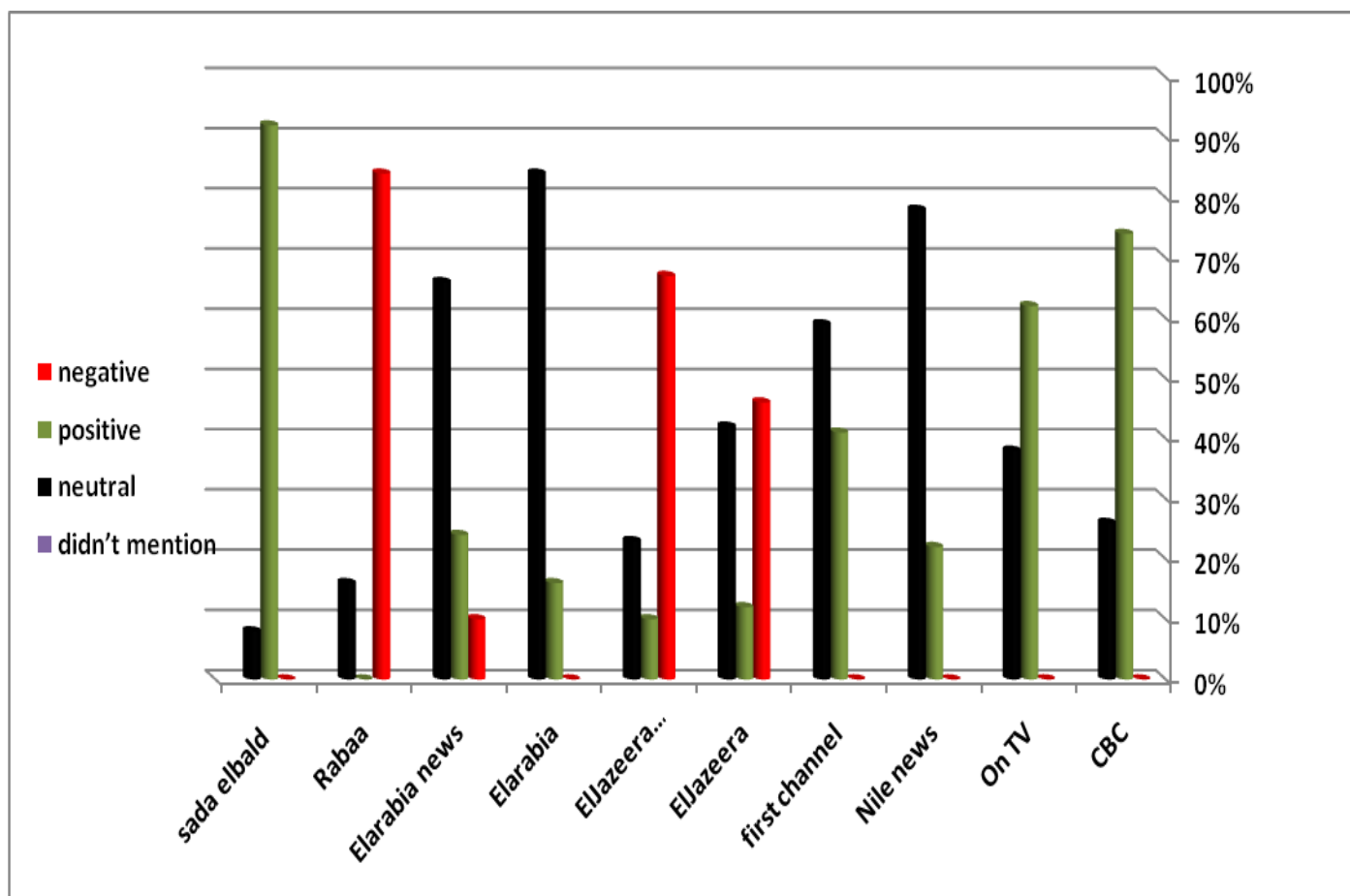
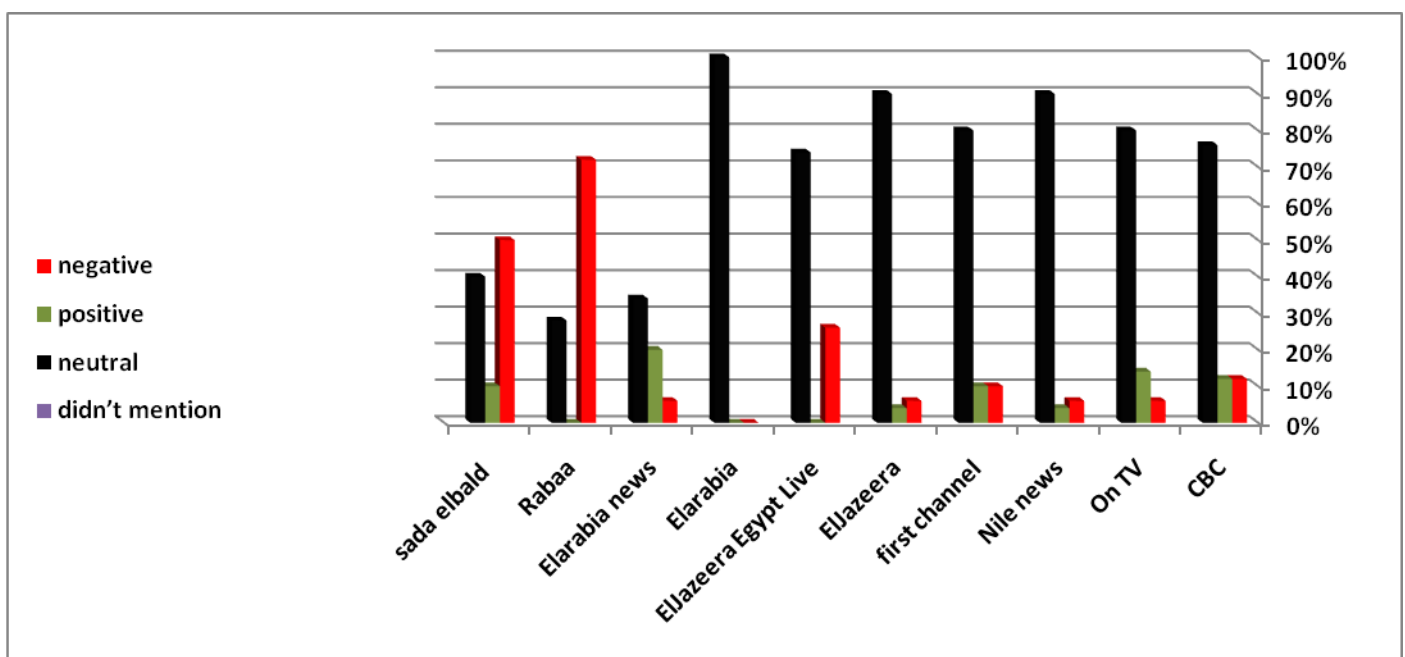


Table (4) the relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

Media channel	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
CBC	12%	12%	76%	
On TV	6%	14%	80%	
Nile News	6%	4%	90%	
First Egyptian Channel	10%	10%	80%	
ElJazeera	6%	4%	90%	
ElJazeera Egypt Live	26%	0%	74%	
Elarabia	0%	0%	100%	
ElArabia news	6%	20%	34%	
Rabaa	72%	0%	28%	
Sada Elbalad	50%	10%	40%	



Second: Coverage of news sites

The numbers indicated in the tables 5, 6, 7, 8 and trends related to coverage by news sites for the electoral process, the Committee on the presidential election and the presidential candidates (Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Hamdeen Sabahi) indicate the following:

1. The proportion of positive coverage for presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is higher in the newspapers: Al-Ahram, Elyoum Elsabea and El-wafd compared to coverage for presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. The same applies for negative coverage, although Al-Ahram is more inclined towards neutrality.
2. Elwafd was strongly biased in its coverage in favour of presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi (which is consistent with the official position of the party).
3. Al-Jazeera news was covering the electoral process, the election commission and the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and was divided between negative and neutral coverage.
4. The monitoring coverage of Ekhwan Online and Rasd to the electoral process was characterised by severe negativity and repeated attacks on presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.
5. The covered foreign websites were to a large extent lacking objectivity, as they were treating the elections as if Abdel Fattah al-Sisi had already won. Also there was a permanent link between El-Sisi and what they called "a coup against the legitimate president".

Table (5) distribution relative to the position of material published during the period covered by the report about the electoral process

Website	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
El-Ahram	0%	10%	90%	
El-Sheroq	5%	5%	90%	
ElJazera news	35%	0%	65%	
Elyoum Elsabea	2%	30%	68%	
Elshaab	50%	0%	50%	
Ekhwan Online	60%	0%	40%	
Elwafd	0%	25%	75%	
Rasd	66%	0%	34%	
Washington post	50%	10%	40%	
Le Monde	20%	0%	80%	
Daily telegraph	0%	0%	100%	
TIME	0%	0%	100%	
Wall Street Journal	20%	0%	80%	

Table (6) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards the Election Commission.

Website	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
El-Ahram	0%	0%	100%	
El-Sheroq	0%	0%	100%	
ElJazera news	30%	0%	70%	
Elyoum Elsabea	0%	10%	90%	
Elshaab	30%	0%	70%	
Ekhwan Online	40%	0%	60%	
Elwafd	0%	0%	100%	
Rasd	60%	0%	40%	
Washington post	0%	0%	100%	
Le Monde	0%	0%	0%	100%
Daily telegraph	0%	0%	0%	100%
TIME	0%	0%	100%	
Wall Street Journal	0%	0%	100%	

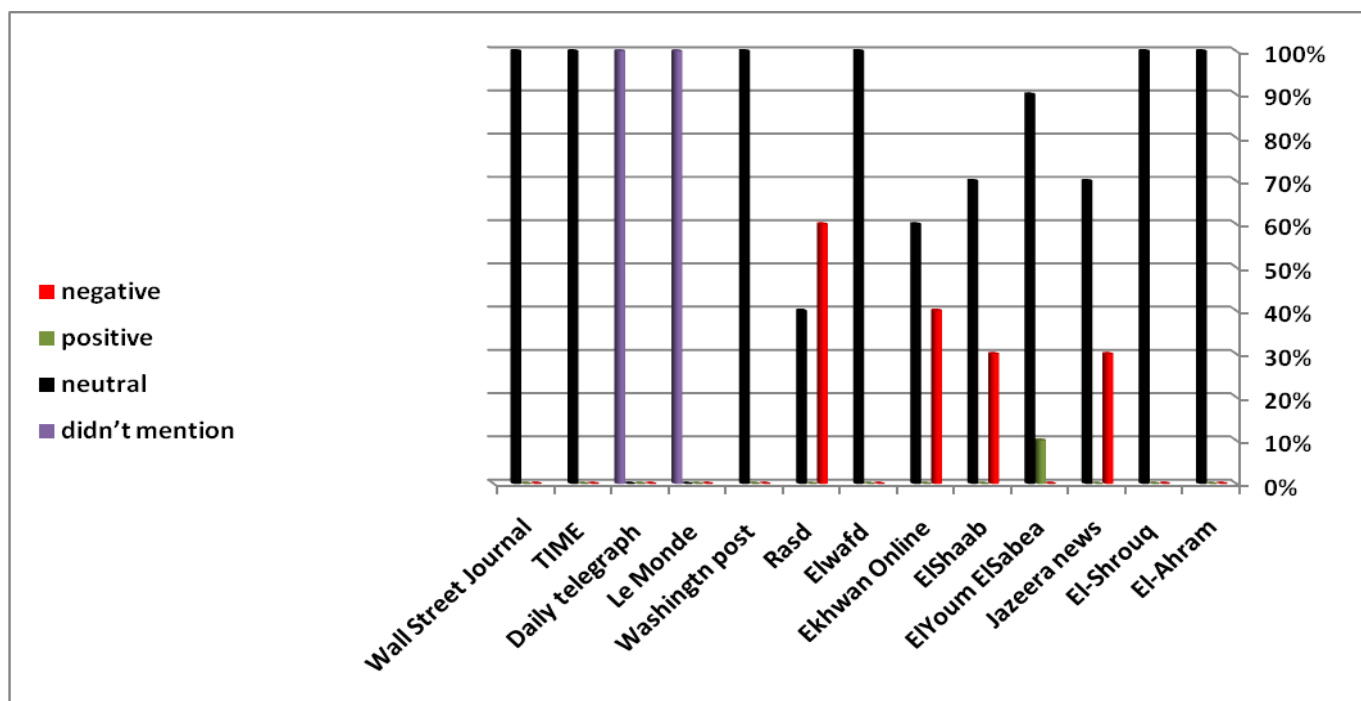


Table (7) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi.

Website	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
El-Ahram	0%	30%	70%	
El-Sheroq	25%	40%	35%	
ElJazera news	50%	0%	50%	
Elyoum Elsabea	0%	40%	60%	
Elshaab	100%	0%	0%	
Ekhwan Online	100%	0%	0%	
Elwafd	0%	60%	40%	
Rasd	90%	0%	10%	
Washington post	60%	0%	40%	
Le Monde	30%	0%	70%	
Daily telegraph	0%	0%	100%	
TIME	0%	0%	100%	
Wall Street Journal	20%	0%	80%	

Table (8) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi

Website	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
El-Ahram	10%	10%	80%	
El-Sheroq	10%	10%	80%	
ElJazera news	10%	0%	90%	
Elyoum Elsabea	15%	25%	60%	
Elshaab	25%	0%	75%	
Ekhwan Online	30%	0%	70%	
Elwafd	25%	10%	65%	
Rasd	40%	0%	60%	
Washington post	0%	0%	100%	
Le Monde	0%	0%	0%	100%
Daily telegraph	0%	0%	100%	
TIME	0%	0%	100%	
Wall Street Journal	0%	0%	100%	

Third: Coverage of social media pages:

By analysing the data contained in tables 9, 10, 11 and 12, as well as the related trends observed in the social networking pages regarding the electoral process and the parties, we have come up with the following findings:

1. Official pages for candidates tend to adhere to the publicity of the candidate and cover positive activities, whilst avoiding any insults against the other candidate. However, we spotted three “posts” that criticized the candidate's rival on the presidential campaign page of Hamdeen Sabahi.
2. Mobasher April 6 is taking a neutral stance in the coverage of the electoral process and the performance of the election commission. However, its positive coverage of candidate Hamdeen Sabahi far exceeds that of candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (70% positive coverage for Hamdeen Sabahi versus 0% for the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi). At the same time, the coverage of the negative candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was clearly frequent and prominent.
3. Pages, which are known for their anti 30 June revolution orientation and the benefits resulting from it, had similar negative coverage of the entire electoral process and presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. There was less regarding presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi and the Committee of the presidential election .
4. The opposing pages to the electoral process insulted the candidates and the Presidential Election Commission. They were also characterised by many posts, which had words that came close to being obscene and punishable by law .

Table (9) distribution relative to the position of material published during the period covered by the report about the electoral process

The Page	Position of the press material (percentage of time dedicated to the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
Official page for El-Sissi campaign	0%	40%	60%	
Official page for Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign	10%	20%	70%	
Official page for daam elsharaia	80%	0%	20%	
Enta ail ekhwangy page	100%	0%	0%	
April6 live	0%	0%	100%	
Emsk flol	60%	0%	40%	
Nabd ekhwan	100%	0%	0%	
Elsharaia w elshariaa page	100%	0%	0%	

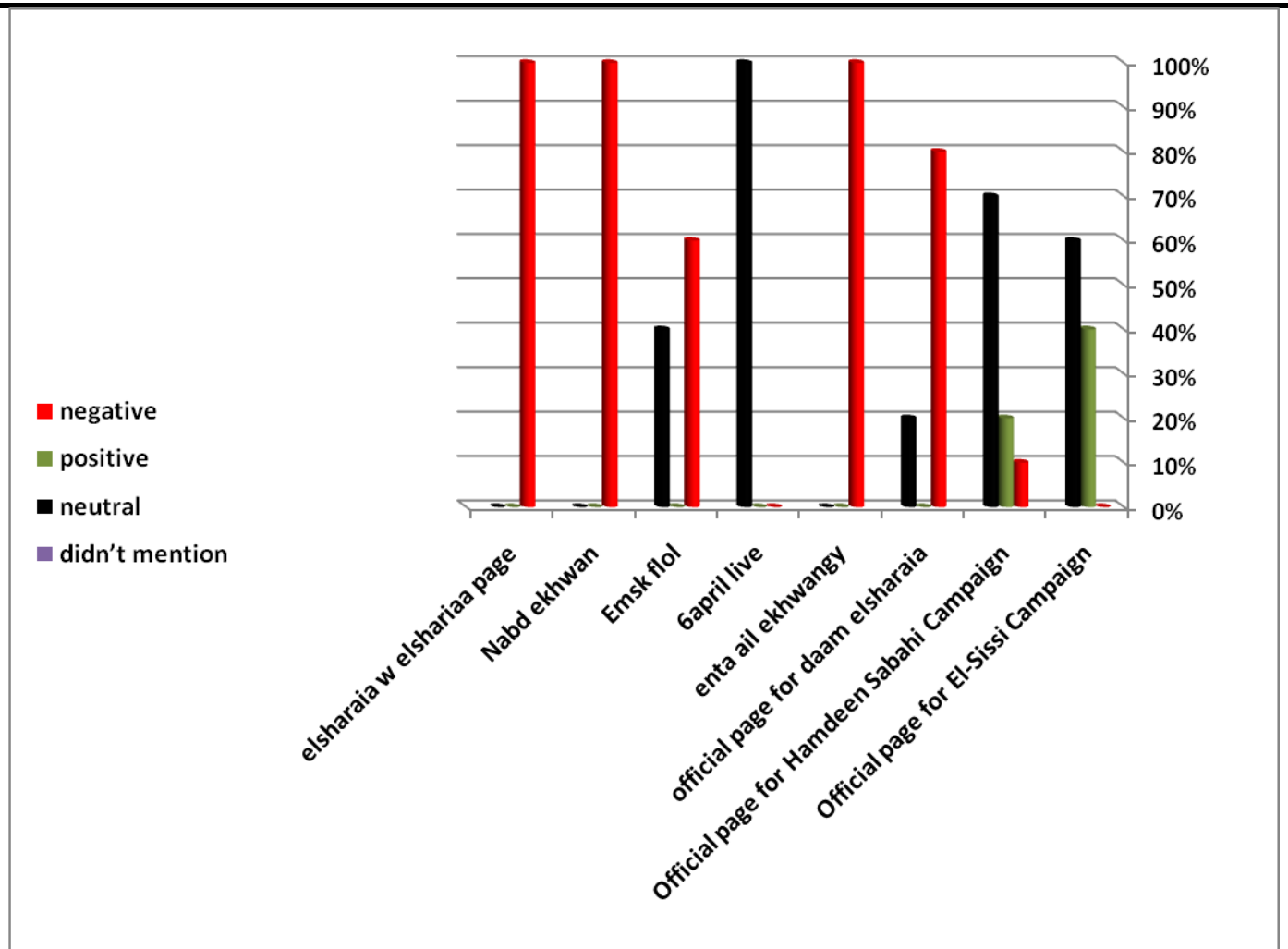


Table (10) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards the Election Commission.

The Page	Position of the press material (percentage of time dedicated to the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
Official page for El-Sissi campaign	0%	30%	70%	
Official page for Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign	10%	10%	80%	
Official page for daam elsharaia	50%	0%	50%	
Enta ail ekhwangy page	100%	0%	0%	
April 6 live	0%	0%	100%	
Emsk flol	70%	0%	30%	
Nabd ekhwan	80%	0%	20%	
Elsharaia w elshariaa page	80%	0%	20%	

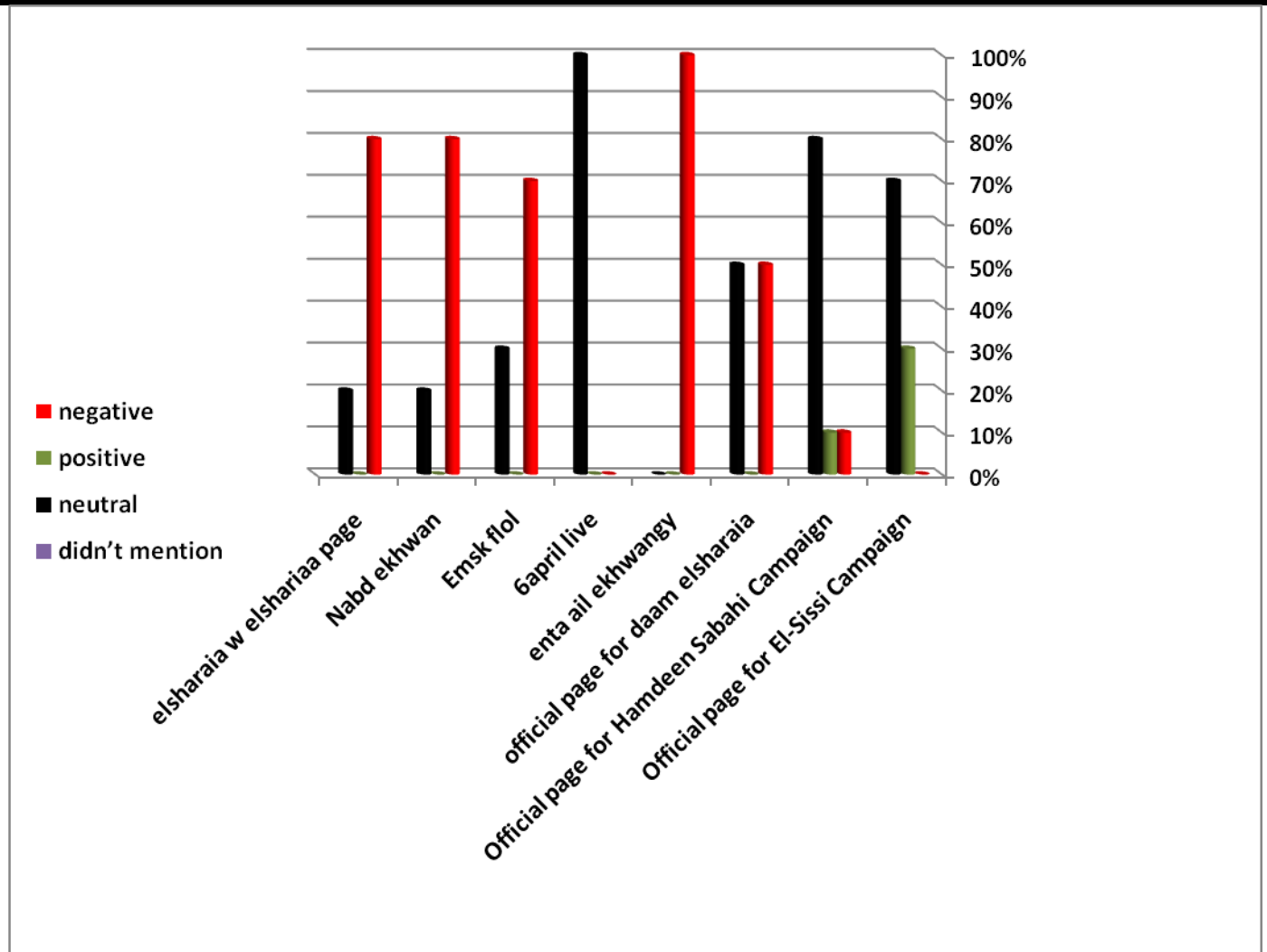


Table (11) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Abd El-Fattah El-Sisi.

The Page	Position of the press material (percentage of time dedicated to the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
Official page for El-Sissi campaign	0%	100%	0%	
Official page for Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign	66%	0%	33%	
Official page for daam elsharaia	100%	0%	0%	
Enta ail ekhwangy page	100%	0%	0%	
April6 live	60%	0%	40%	
Emsk flol	100%	0%	0%	
Nabd ekhwan	100%	0%	0%	
Elsharaia w elshariaa page	100%	0%	0%	

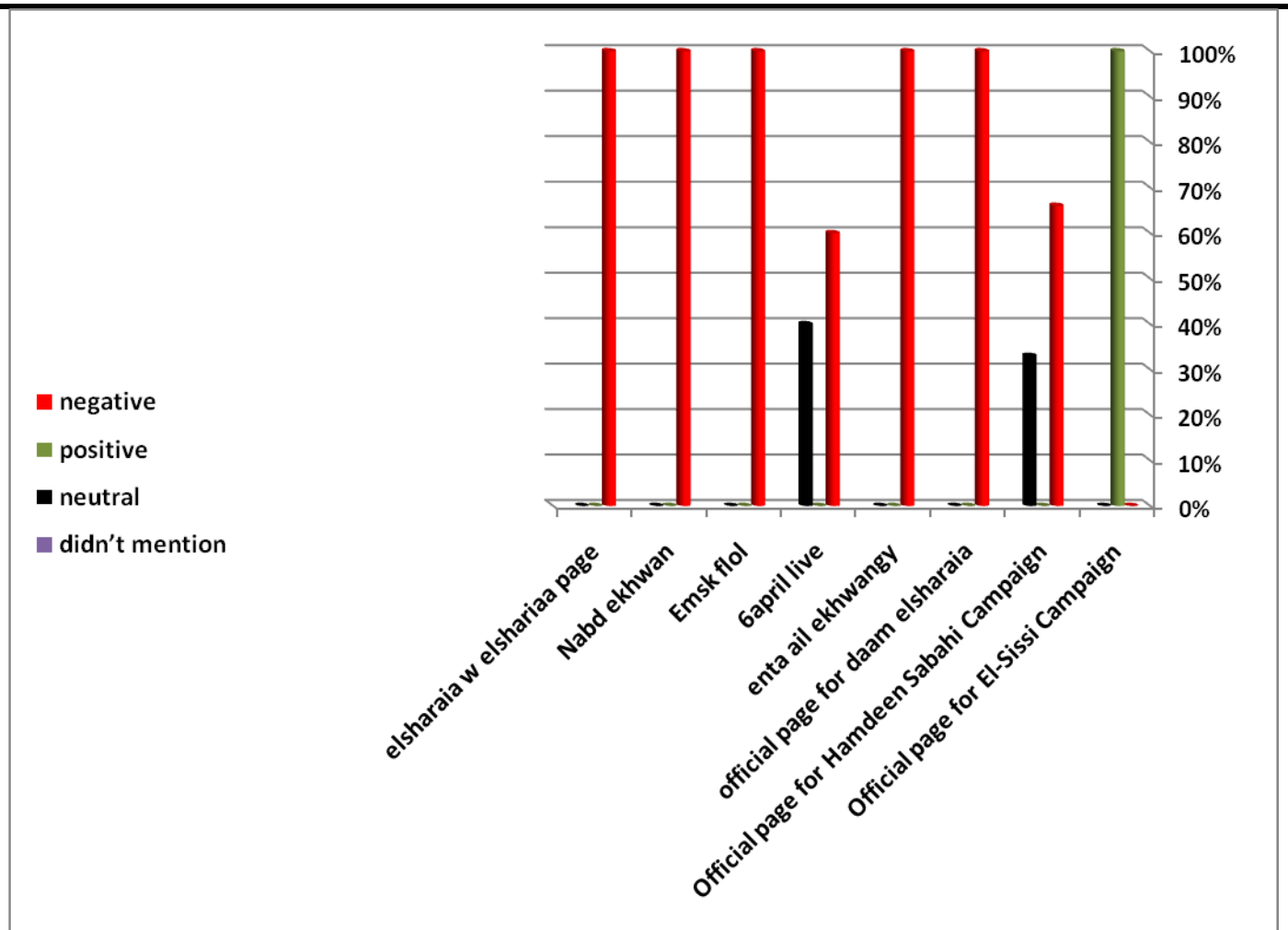
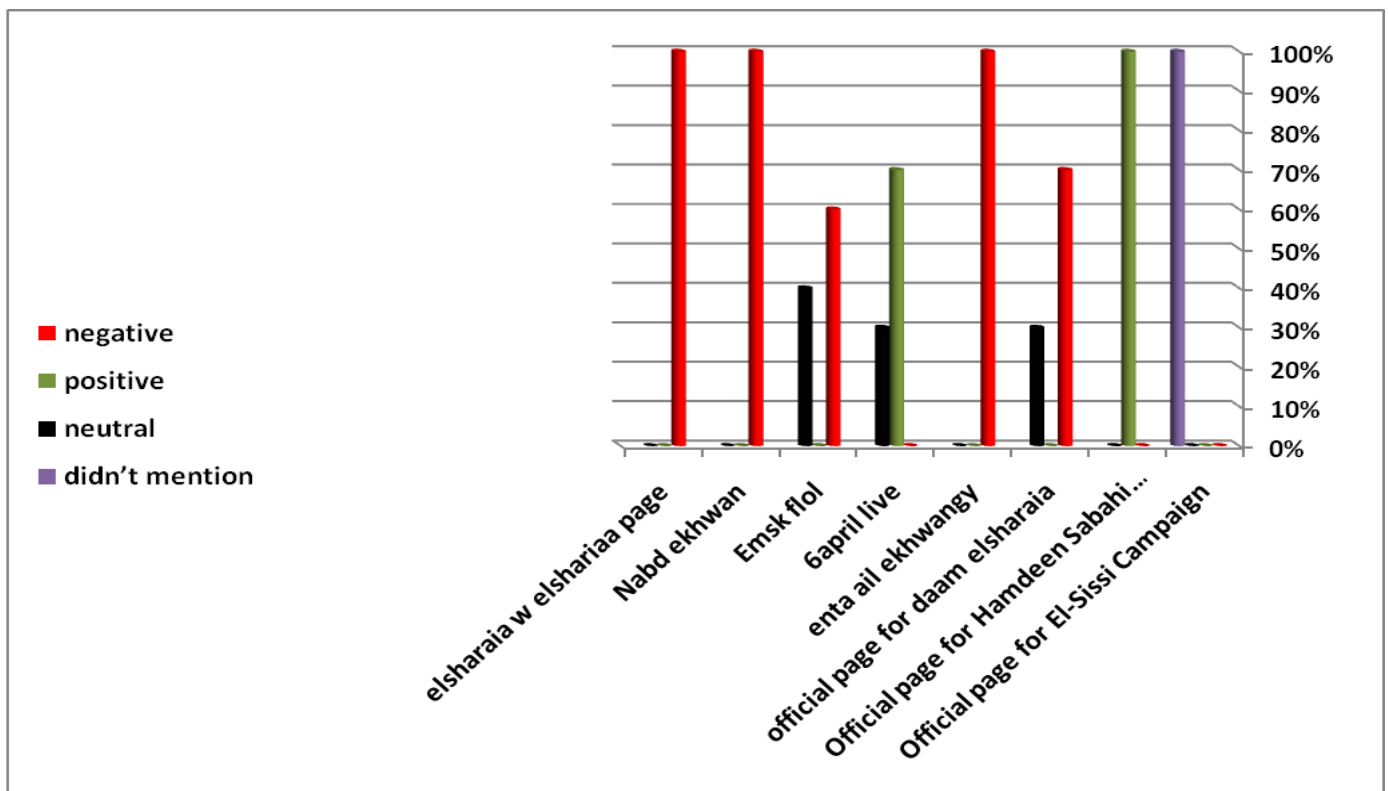


Table (12) the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the period covered by the report towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi

The Page	Position of the press material (percentage of time conducted for the actor)			
	negative	positive	neutral	Didn't mention
Official page for El-Sissi campaign	0%	0%	0%	100%
Official page for Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign	0%	100%	0%	
Official page for daam elsharaia	70%	0%	30%	
Enta ail ekhwangy page	100%	0%	0%	
April 6 live	0%	70%	30%	
Emsk flol	60%	0%	40%	
Nabd ekhwan	100%	0%	0%	
Elsharaia w elshariaa page	100%	0%	0%	



The final conclusions and recommendations

Through analysing the trends of media coverage to the electoral process during the period covered by the report (26 April 2014 to 2 May 2014), we can conclude by saying that the private media in Egypt is impartial to the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, much more than it is for presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. Moreover, official media sources are trying to be neutral, but the quality of coverage (not quantity) tend to favour presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi relatively more .

In contrast, the media coverage affiliated with the anti 30 June revolution lacks objectivity and professional standards in terms of its treatment of the electoral process. It has a negative attitude towards its coverage for the electoral process and even more so for presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Otherwise , the employment of some of social media pages to verbally cursing and swearing (criminal law often) against candidates is unacceptable at all.

In this context, we recommend the implementation of the Presidential Election Commission's decisions and codes of conduct for media. There is also a need for monitoring of the performance of cyberspace and social media pages during the election process to ensure compliance with ethical rules in the electoral competition .

Evaluating the media coverage of the electoral process: The second report (3 -13 May 2014)

Media plays an essential role during the electoral process as it affects the voters' opinions regarding the candidates and provides them with multiple options for decision-making. Furthermore, the voters' free choice is based primarily on obtaining adequate and genuine information that reflects the truth, due to the fact that media represents the voice of the voters. The media is also considered to be one of the actors that ensures the elected representatives will implement the promises they made to voters. Furthermore, free, fair and transparent elections cannot be achieved without a media that gives all candidates equal and balanced opportunities.

In this context, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights and through the "Presidential Elections Observatory - Egypt 2014" is keen to monitor and evaluate the performance of different media outlets during the electoral process, in order to assure their commitment to legislation, and the established standards for the media in dealing with the electoral process and its progress.

About the report and its methodology

This report comes in the middle of the period allocated for electoral campaigning for the presidential candidates, which began on 3 May 2014 and ended on 23 May 2014. Following this, comes a period of electoral silence. This report is the second in a series of reports issued by the Observatory.

It evaluates the media performance included in the media sample during the report period (3 -13 May 2014), represented in three types of media:

1. News sites: During the report period, the following news websites have been followed-up and monitored: AlMasry AlYoun, AlAhram, Youm7, ElWafd, Alshrouq, Al Jazeera news, Elshaab, Elmasryoun, Ikhwan online and Rasd. Foreign news websites were also monitored including: Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Times, Le Monde and the Daily Telegraph;
2. TV Shows - including some of the programs showed on the following channels: CBC, Sada Elbalad, On TV, the first channel - Egyptian television, Nile News, Alarabia, Alaraia Alhadath, AlJazeera, AlJazeera Egypt live, Rabea, and Alhyat. In total, 27 TV programs were monitored.;
3. Social media pages: several social pages were chosen to be monitored, including the official pages for the candidates' campaigns, youth movements pages such as Mobasher 6 April, as well as other pages with large numbers of fans adopting opposing stances towards the electoral process.

The monitoring process depended primarily on accurate follow-ups for TV shows, news sites and social media pages via a set of trained observers, to extract two types of information as follows:

1. Quantitative information, including numeric statistics for the classification of published information material according to its stand towards the key actors in the electoral process such as the candidates, the Presidential Election Committee and civil society organisations responsible for following up the electoral process;
2. Qualitative information that reflects the nature of the published information material, and evaluates the performance of the media outlets according to the adopted standards, as well as documenting the most important materials that violate the rules and codes of conduct of media or the regulatory legislative frameworks.

Quantitative measurement and computation:

1. For television channels, the time allocated to each of the main actors was measured in minutes and included observation of the overall electoral process, the Presidential Election Committee, presidential candidates Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and Hamdeen Sabahi. Then the measured time for each channel was divided according to its tendency to negativity, positivity or neutrality. Thus the approximate percentage for each tendency out of the total minutes dedicated to the actor was extracted for each TV program that was monitored during the reporting period;
2. New sites were monitored according to the number of topics published for each actor and then categorised according to their tendency to negativity, positivity and neutrality. The approximate percentage for each tendency was extracted out of the total topics obtained by the actor within the website that has been monitored during the mentioned period;
3. For social media pages, the number of statuses posted for each actor was measured. The statuses were then categorized according to their stance between negativity, positivity and neutrality. Following on from this process, the approximate percentage for each tendency was extracted out of the total topics obtained by an actor within the social media page that has been monitored during the period.

The results of the monitoring process:

First: the coverage of the TV material related to actors and key issues:

The data contained in tables No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 relate to the trends of TV coverage for the actors and the key issues relative to the electoral process including: the overall electoral process, the Presidential Election Committee, presidential candidates Abdel Fattah AlSisi and Hamdeen Sabahi. The results below indicate the following:

The position of the monitored Egyptian private channels:

1. The daily monitoring of the targeted satellite channels indicated a positive bias of the Egyptian private channels beyond 83% towards the electoral process, while the negativity tendency of the Egyptian private satellite channels did not exceed 3.6%. Their unbiased informative handling of the electoral process was estimated at 13.4% as shown in Table No. 1;
2. The daily monitoring of the target satellite channels showed that the Egyptian private channels had a 92% positive bias towards the PEC, while the negative bias of Egyptian private satellite channels did not exceed 1.4%. Their unbiased informative handling of the PEC was estimated at 6.6%, as shown in table No. 2;
3. There is obvious bias from the monitored Egyptian satellite channels in favour of the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, compared to his counterpart candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. We found a positive bias by CBC, On TV, and Sada ElBalad towards candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi in 82%, 49% and 90% of cases respectively, while the respective corresponding rates for the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi were 30%, 47% and 22%;
4. The private Egyptian channels are negatively biased towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi compared to his counterpart candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, which indicates the channels' negative direction against candidate Hamdeen Sabahi on CBC, On TV, and Sada ElBalad. The negative percentages were respectively 5%, 3% and 35% for the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi and 0%, 7% and 3%, for the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi;
5. There were violations amongst some of the programs broadcast on the Egyptian private channels, where presenters are well known supporters of the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi. Sometimes, they would throw accusations against Hamdeen Sabahi and defame him. An example of this was observed on a program called "on my responsibility" presented by Ahmed Moussa. Some phrases were:
 - a. Shame on Egypt after two revolutions that somebody like you who does not work and does not produce anything will run for president. If you will not answer me tonight I will follow you during every conference to make a liar out of you;

- b. Sabahi is deceiving people by his agenda and is playing on every rope just to win votes and will not implement anything.

The state TV position:

The state TV channels show more neutrality towards the two candidates. However, despite the similar amount of time dedicated to the coverage of each candidate, meaningful differences were monitored in the quality of coverage for each of them. For example, on the first channel on the Egyptian television program "Good Morning Egypt", there would often be news coverage of Hamdeen Sabahi, while the focus remained on broadcasting supportive opinions towards the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi. In general, the positive coverage for candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi on the Nile News and the first channel was 22%, and 41% respectively, compared with 4% and 10% for the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

The Arab Channels Position:

There are three channels in the monitoring sample which treat the revolution of 30 June as a military coup and adopt an opposing political stance to the procedures that followed, including the road map and the elections. Those channels are: AlJazeera, AlJazeera Live Egypt, and Rabea. Monitoring the performance of those channels during the report period indicated the following:

1. Al Jazeera Live Egypt and Rabea channels are adopting a negative attitude in the vast majority of cases against the electoral process, the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi and the Presidential Election Committee, and to a lesser extent against the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi;
2. High declining rates of professional neutral coverage in the three channels, which is evident in the hosting of guests who hold one particular opinion opposing the electoral process in general or the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, without presenting the other side;
3. Rabea channel hardly airs any program without insults and accusations of apostasy and treason towards candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi;
4. In general, the coverage of the three channels lacks neutrality and professionalism in their coverage of the electoral process in Egypt;
5. It is worth mentioning that Rabea channel did not mention candidate Hamdeen Sabahi at all during the report period, it solely focused on insulting the other candidate.

Regarding the other monitored Arab channels such as Alarabia and Alarabia Alhadath, the report results revealed an impartiality towards the electoral process, the candidates and the PEC in most cases, along with their news coverage. Still, significant differences were revealed in Al Arabiya Alhadath during the report period, with respect to the positive coverage rate for candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, compared to Hamdeen Sabahi. The channel was 43% in favour of Abdel Fattah AlSisi, compared to 0% for Hamdeen Sabahi.

Table No. 1: The relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the report period towards the electoral process:

Media Channel	The Press Material Tendency (Percentage of the Allocated Time for the Actor)			Did not address it
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	
CBC	8%	82%	10%	
Sada Elbalad	3%	72%	25%	
On TV	0%	92%	8%	
Nile News	0%	83%	17%	
1 st Channel Egyptian TV	76%	8%	16%	
Al Jazeera	78%	4%	18%	
Al Jazeera Live Egypt	0%	18%	82%	
Alarabia	1%	70%	29%	
ElArabia Alhadath	89%	0%	11%	
Rabaa	0%	95%	5%	

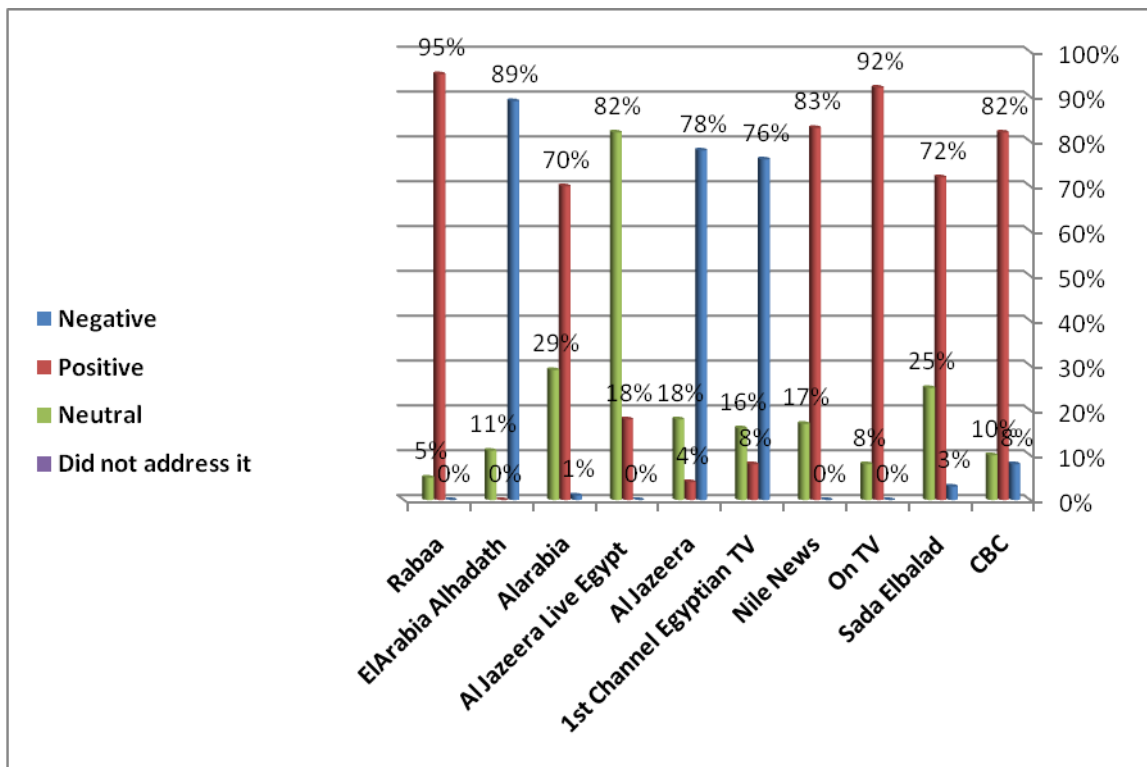


Table No. 2: The relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the report period towards the PEC:

Media channel	The Press Material Tendency (Percentage of the Allocated Time for the Actor)			Did not address it
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	
CBC	3%	89%	8%	
Sada Elbalad	1%	93%	6%	
On TV	8%	40%	52%	
Nile News	0%	94%	6%	
1 st Channel Egyptian TV	0%	80%	20%	
Al Jazeera	18%	0%	82%	
Al Jazeera Live Egypt	63%	7%	30%	
Alarabia	0%	12%	88%	
ElArabia Alhadath	0%	23%	77%	
Rabaa	0%	0%	0%	100%

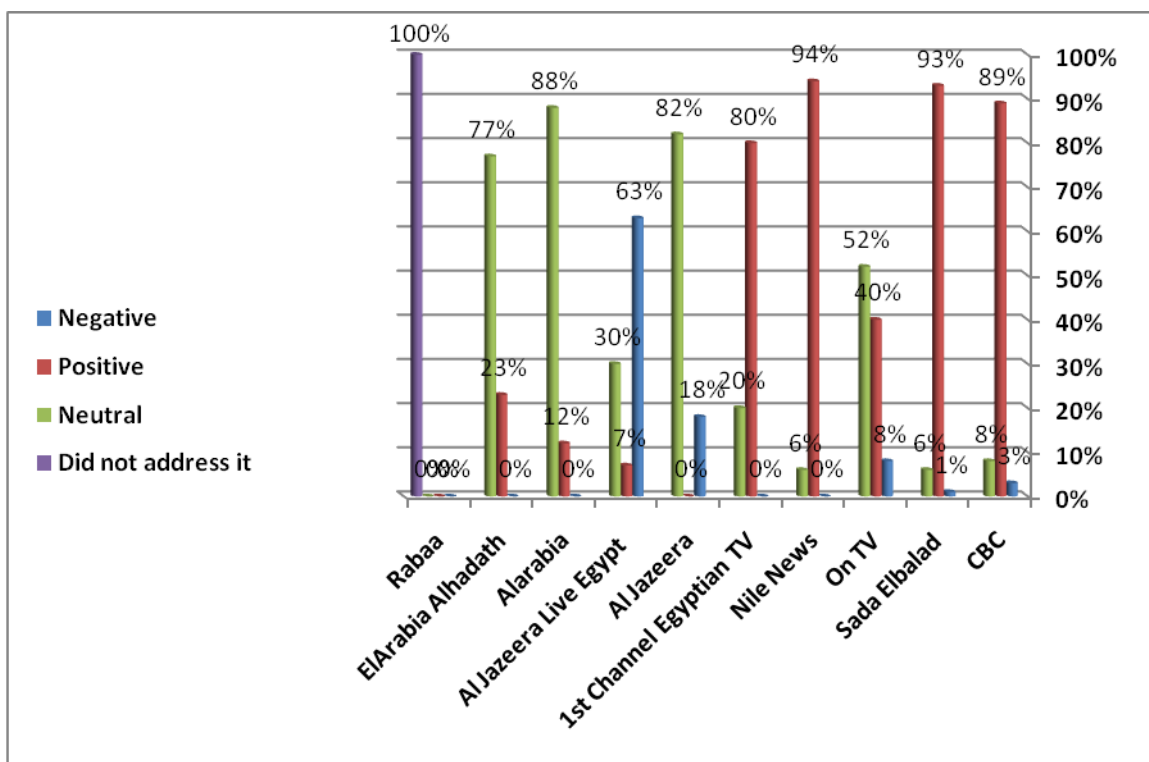


Table No. 3: The relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the report period towards candidate Abdel ElFattah AISisi.

Media channel	The Press Material Tendency (Percentage of the Allocated Time for the Actor)			Did not address it
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	
CBC	0%	82%	18%	
Sada Elbalad	3%	90%	7%	
On TV	7%	49%	44%	
Nile News	0%	8%	92%	
1 st Channel Egyptian TV	1%	33%	66%	
Al Jazeera	71%	0%	29%	
Al Jazeera Live Egypt	83%	3%	14%	
Alarabia	0%	2%	98%	
ElArabia Alhadath	16%	43%	41%	
Rabaa	84%	0%	16%	

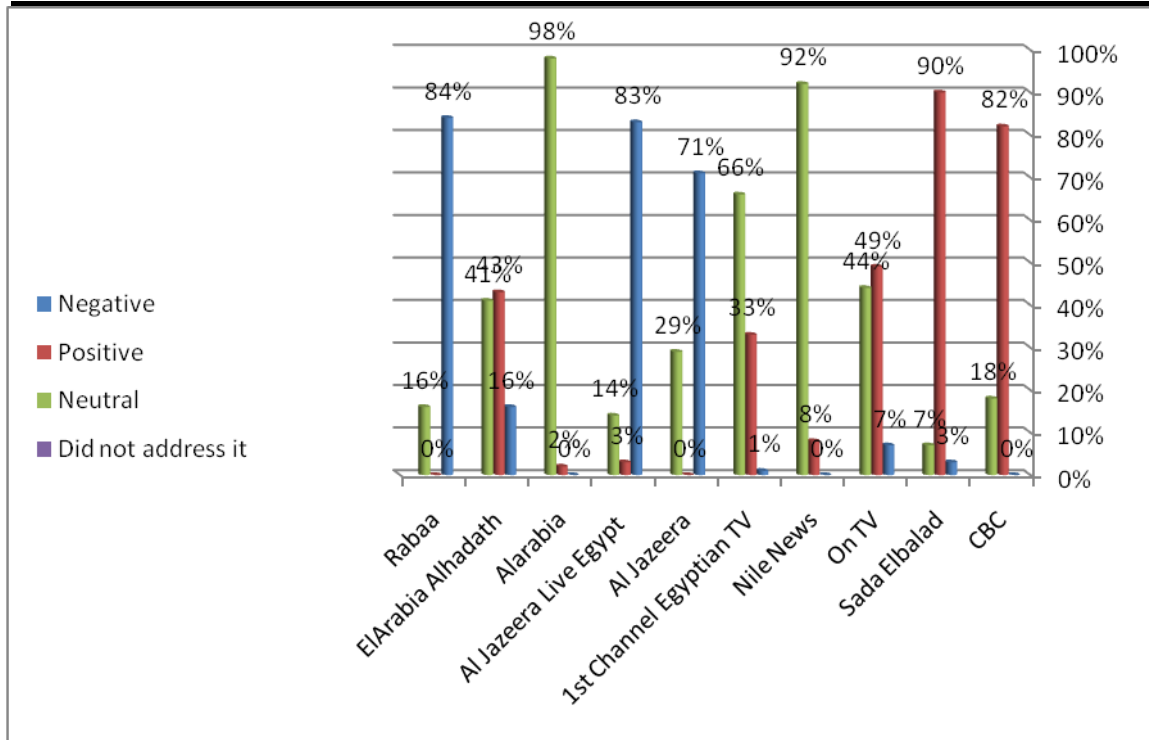
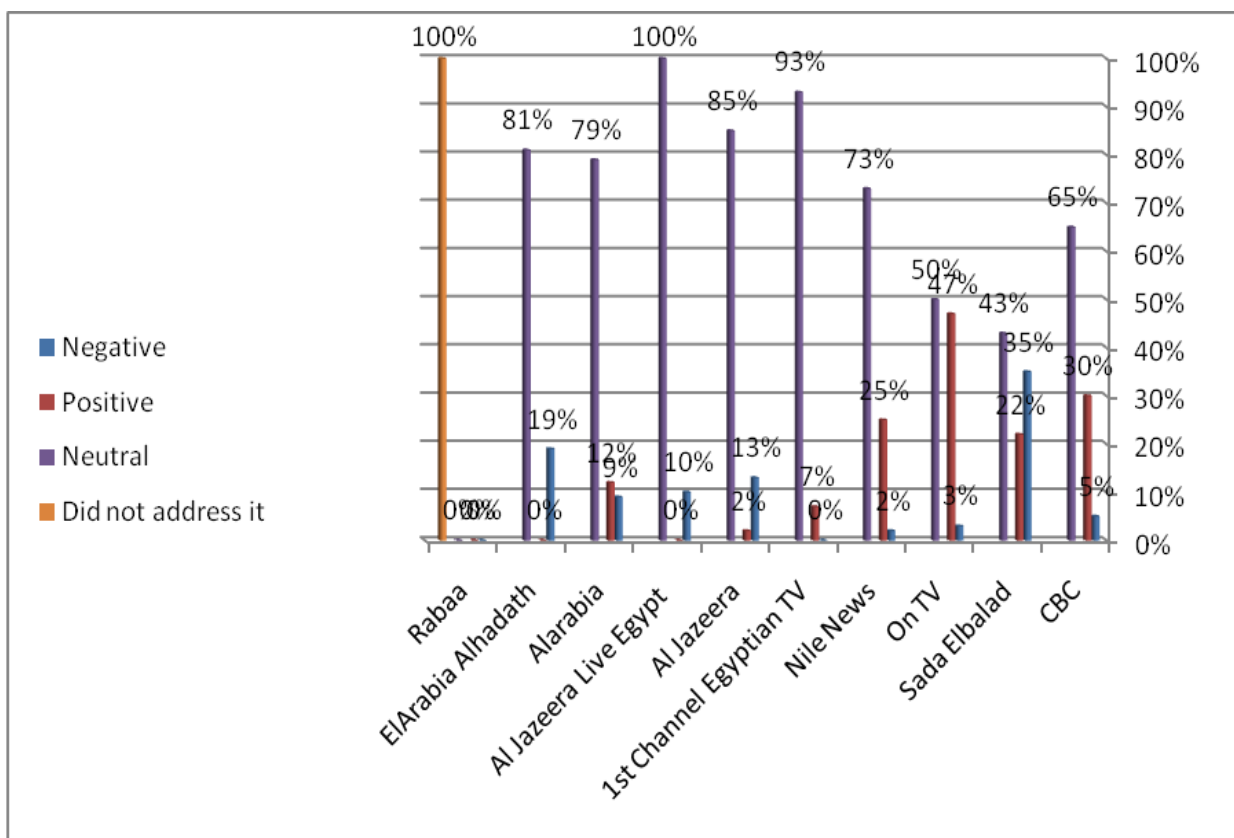


Table No. 4: The relative distribution of the direction of the TV material published during the report period towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

Media channel	The Press Material Tendency (Percentage of the Allocated Time for the Actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
CBC	5%	30%	65%	
Sada Elbalad	35%	22%	43%	
On TV	3%	47%	50%	
Nile News	2%	25%	73%	
1 st Channel Egyptian TV	0%	7%	93%	
Al Jazeera	13%	2%	85%	
Al Jazeera Live Egypt	10%	0%	100%	
Alarabia	9%	12%	79%	
ElArabia Alhadath	19%	0%	81%	
Rabaa	5%	0%	0%	100%



Second: News Sites Coverage

Tables No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 are dedicated to monitor the following news sites: AlAhram, AlShorouk, AlJazeera News, Youm 7, Elshaab, Ikhwan Online, AlWafd, and Rasd, with regard to their handling of the electoral process in its various aspects including: the electoral process in general, the Presidential Election Committee, and the presidential candidates Abdel Fattah AlSisi and Hamdeen Sabahi. The results are as follows:

1. There is more news coverage for presidential candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi in different news sites, compared to coverage for presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi;
2. AlJazeera News, Ikhwan Online, Elshaab, and Rasad focus on negative coverage of the electoral process, especially in regards to candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, with an almost complete absence of news coverage for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. These sites include certain words that vilify one of the presidential candidates such as:

The phrase owner	The phrase	The source
Journalist Ayat ElOraby	“AlSisi is the new dictator in the banana republic”	Rasd
Journalist Selim Azouz	“AlSisi is the Zionists’ server in Egypt”	Ikhwan Online
Journalist Ayat ElOraby	“AlSisi is a new version of Gaddafi”	ElShaab

3. The AlAhram site was neutral in general with respect to the various aspects of the electoral process, and focussed on highlighting some of the positives related to the electoral process, particularly in relation to the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, without losing sight of some of the positives related to his counterpart Hamdeen Sabahi;
4. AlWafd website focused largely on news about the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, with relative less focus on his counterpart candidate Hamdeen Sabahi;
5. Private news sites such as Youm7 and Shorouk were neutral regarding their treatment of the electoral process. They largely focussed on information regarding presidential candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, without overlooking informational relating to candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

Table No. 5: the relative distribution of the orientation of the published material towards the electoral process during the report period

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Didn't address it
EIAhram	16%	3%	81%	
ElShorouk	6%	4%	90%	
Al Jazeera	0%	25%	75%	
Youm7	7%	2%	91%	
ElShaab	0%	66%	34%	
Ikhwan Online	0%	80%	20%	
ElWafd	8%	5%	87%	
Rasd	0%	59%	41%	

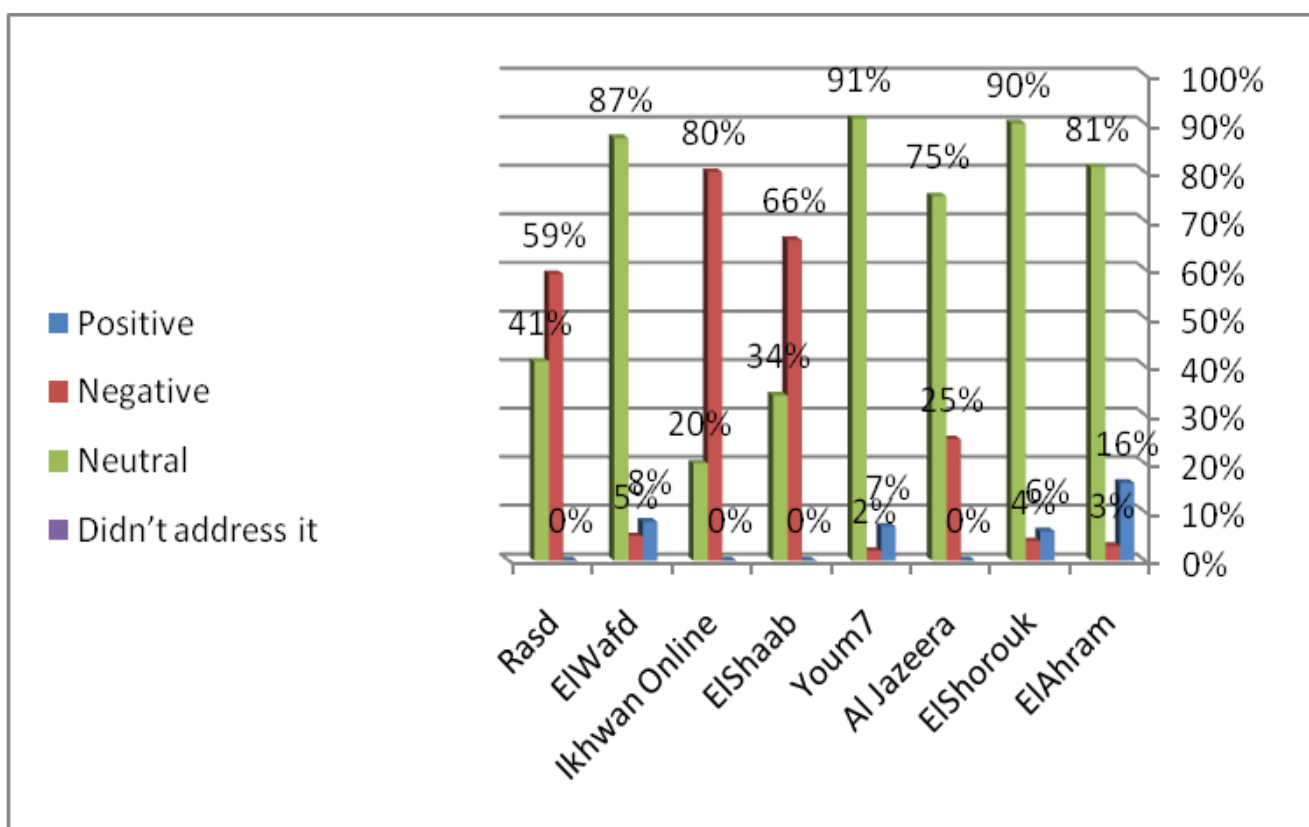


Table No. 6: the relative distribution of the published material's direction during the report period towards candidate Abd EIFattah AISisi

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Didn't address it
EIAhram	20%	1%	79%	
ElShorouk	9%	4%	87%	
Al Jazeera	0%	25%	75%	
Youm7	10%	2%	88%	
ElShaab	0%	67%	33%	
Ikhwan Online	0%	80%	20%	
ElWafd	10%	4%	86%	
Rasd	0%	61%	39%	

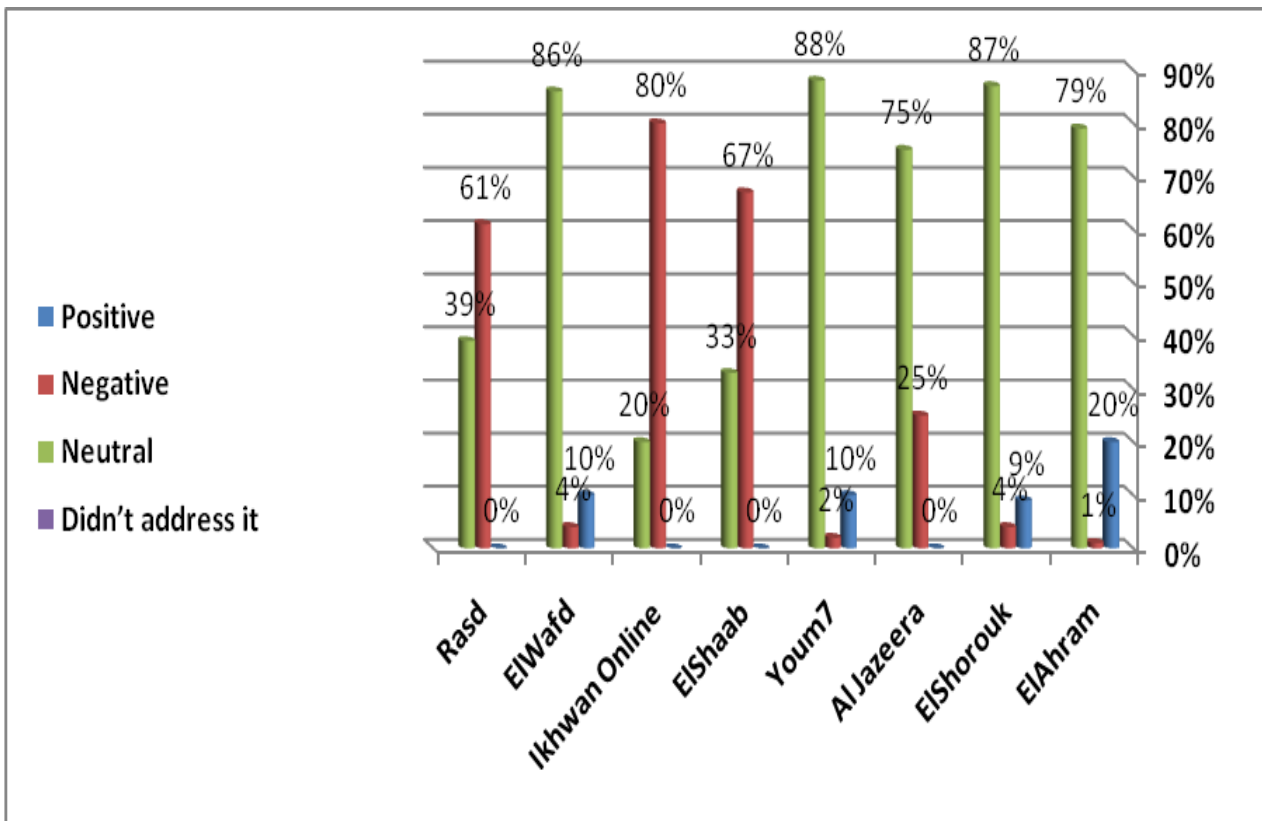


Table No. 7: the relative distribution of the published material's direction during the report period towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Didn't address it
ElAhram	3%	7%	90%	
ElShorouk	2%	9%	89%	
Al Jazeera	0%	0%	100%	
Youm7	4%	4%	92%	
ElShaab	0%	88%	12%	
Ikhwan Online	0%	100%	0%	
ElWafd	3%	9%	88%	
Rasd	0%	47%	53%	

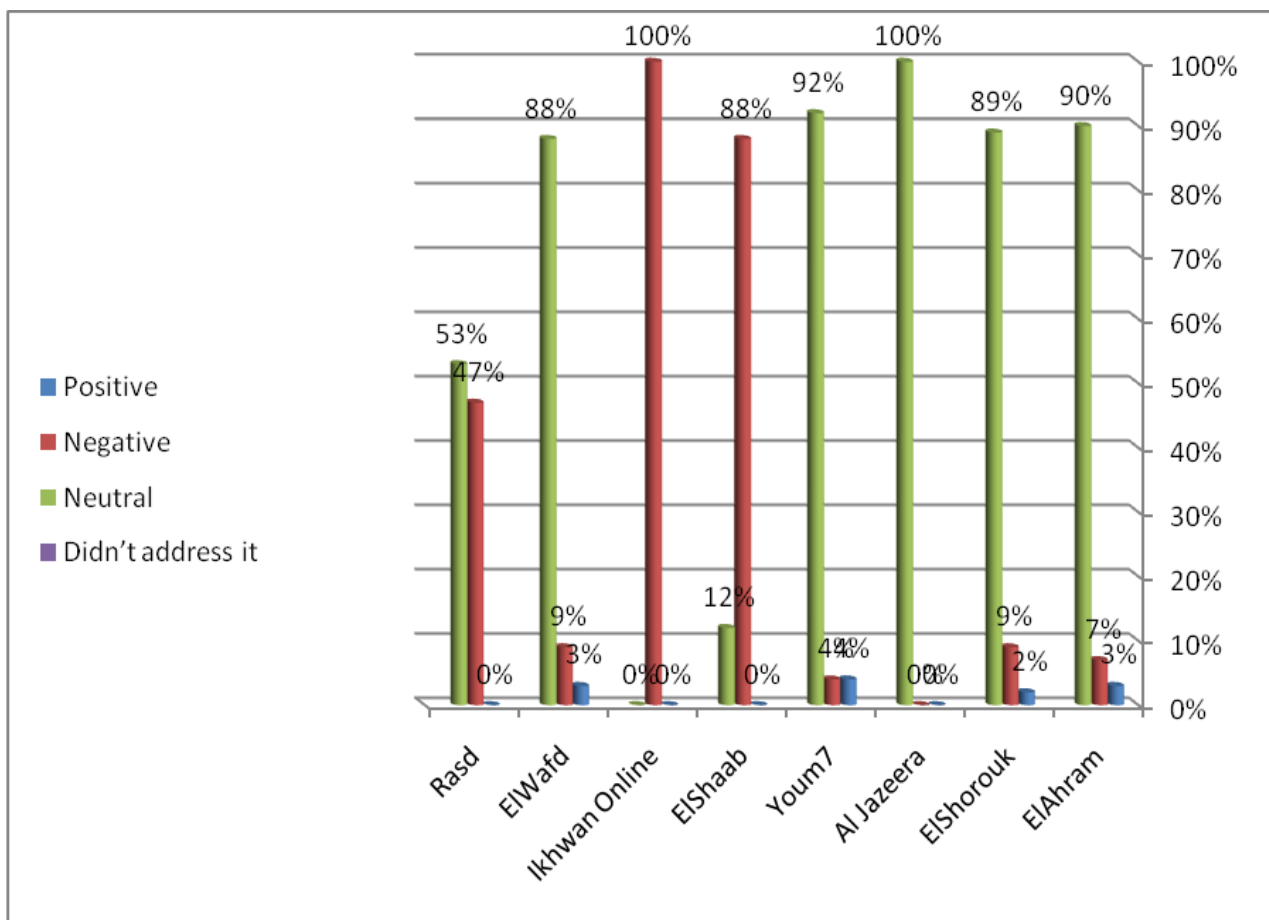
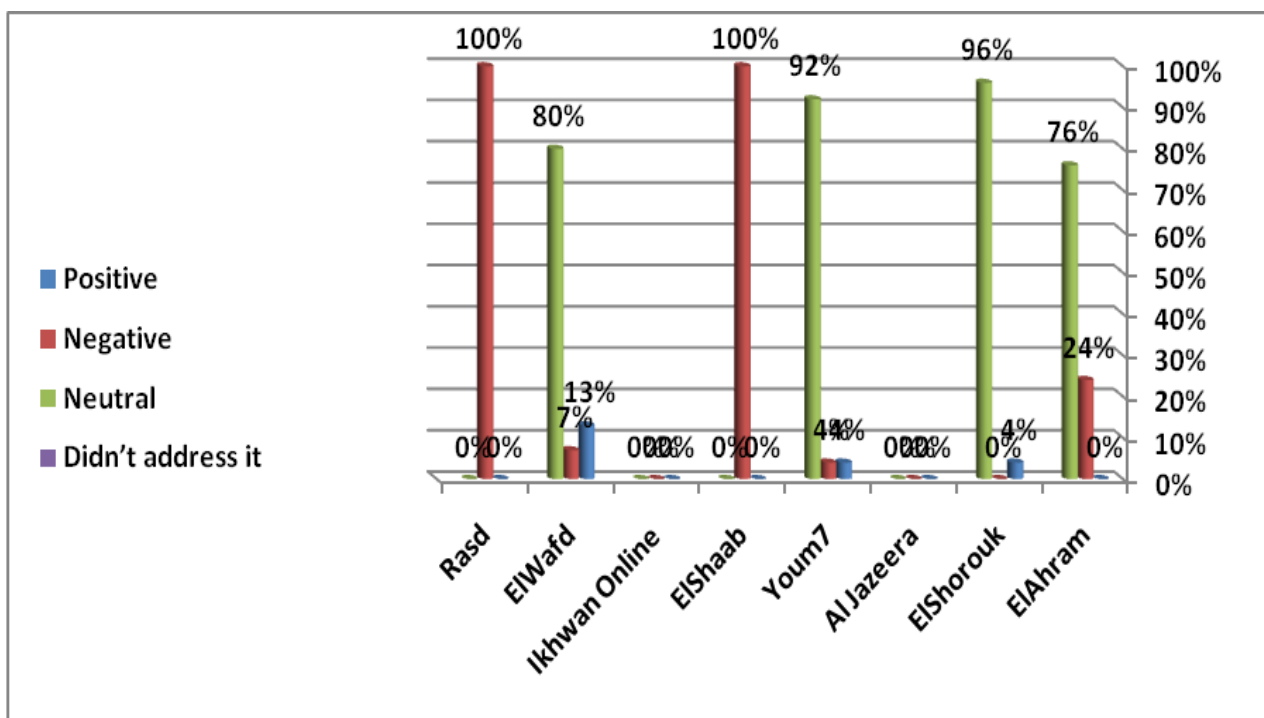


Table No. 8: the relative distribution of the published material’s direction during the report period towards the PEC

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Didn't address it
EIAhram	0%	24%	76%	
ElShorouk	4%	0%	96%	
Al Jazeera	0%	0%	0%	
Youm7	4%	4%	92%	
ElShaab	0%	100%	0%	
Ikhwan Online	0%	0%	0%	
ElWafd	13%	7%	80%	
Rasd	0%	100%	0%	



Third: coverage in the social media pages:

Analysis of the data below in tables No. 9, 10, 11, and 12 highlight the trends in social media coverage towards the electoral process and its parties. The results are as follows:

- 1 The official pages of both candidates Hamdeen Sabahi and Abdel Fattah AlSisi only address their news, events, campaigns, and television interviews and do not mention the other candidate;
- 2 Pages affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and those opposing the revolutionary wave on 30 June and beyond, do not deal with the electoral process. They do however, deal with the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi with offensive remarks and to a lesser degree, candidate Hamdeen Sabahi who they describe as an extra. Besides their absolute rejection of the electoral process, there were also calls to protest in front of the Egyptian embassies and consulates during the voting of Egyptians abroad. The Legitimacy and Sharia page was monitored and it was found there were calls to boycott the elections, as in the statement published on the pages of the National Alliance to support legitimacy and reject the coup;
- 3 The page of Mubasher 6 April tries to be neutral and objective, however, it published several pictures and videos that mock the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, and it made use of an offending hashtag dedicated for the candidate in some of the online news that was posted.

Table No. 9: the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the report period towards the electoral process:

Social Media Page	The Press Material's Direction (Percentage of the Dedicated Time for the Actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
AlSissi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	100%	
Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	100%	
National Alliance to support legitimacy and reject the coup	100%	0%	0%	
You are a brotherhood guy	100%	0%	0%	
Mubasher 6 April	40%	5%	55%	
Emsek felol	99%	0%	1%	
Nabd elikhwan	100%	0%	0%	
Legitimacy and Sharia	100%	0%	0%	

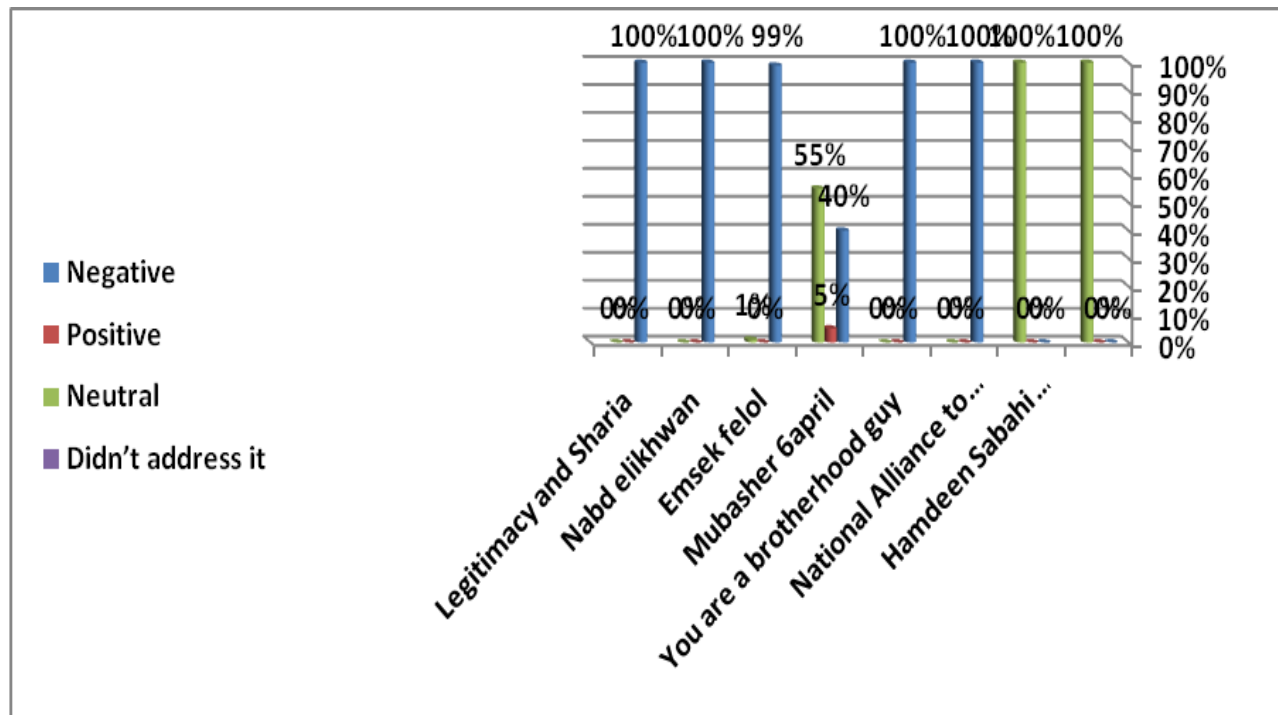


Table No. 10: the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the report period towards the PEC:

Social Media Page	The Press Material's Direction (Percentage of the Dedicated Time for the Actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
AlSissi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	0%	100%
Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	0%	100%
National Alliance to support legitimacy and reject the coup	0%	0%	0%	100%
You are a brotherhood guy	0%	0%	0%	100%
Mubasher 6april	0%	0%	0%	100%
Emsek felol	0%	0%	0%	100%
Nabd elikhwan	0%	0%	0%	100%
Legitimacy and Sharia	0%	0%	0%	100%

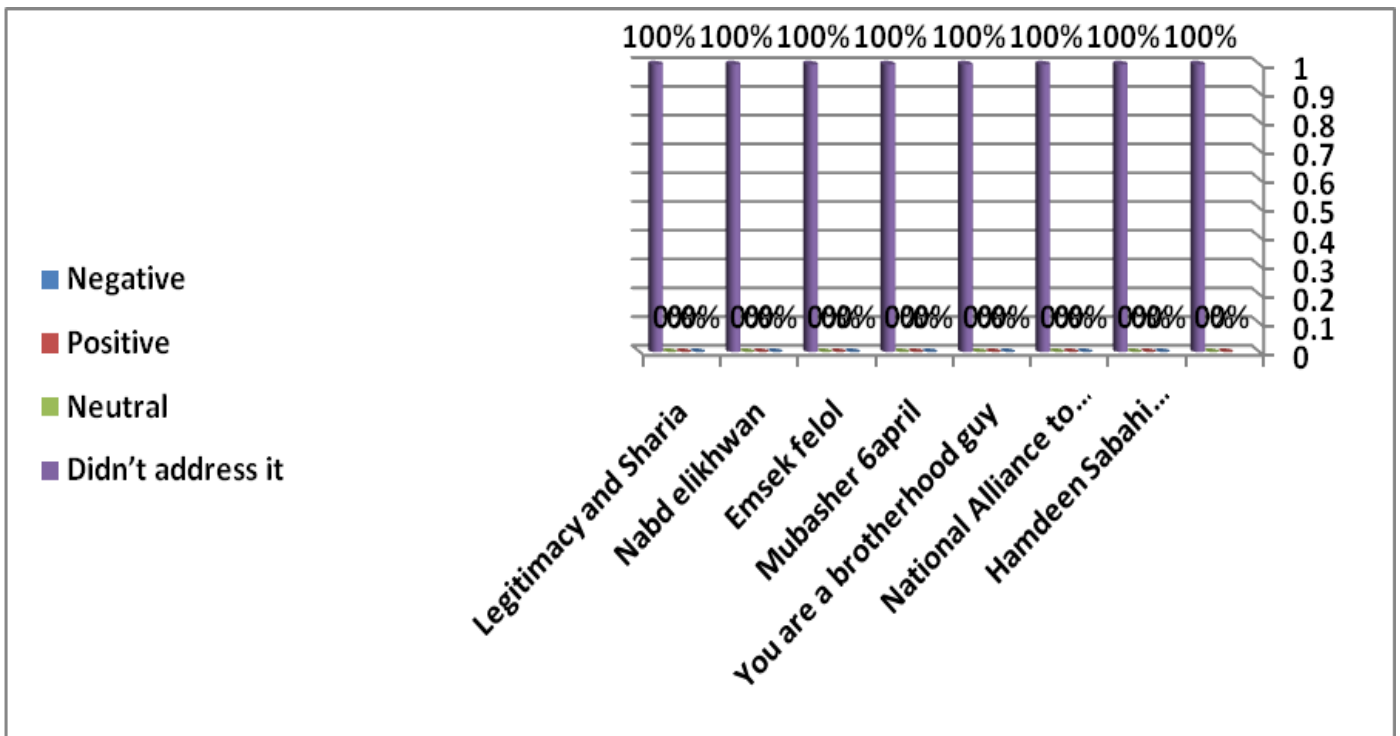


Table No. 10: the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the report period towards candidate Abdel Fattah AISisi:

Social Media Page	The Press Material's Direction (Percentage of the Dedicated Time for the Actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
AlSissi Campaign's Official Page	0%	100%	0%	
Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	0%	100%
National Alliance to support legitimacy and reject the coup	100%	0%	0%	
You are a brotherhood guy	100%	0%	0%	
Mubasher 6 april	60%	5%	35%	
Emsek felol	100%	0%	0%	
Nabd elikhwan	100%	0%	0%	
Legitimacy and Sharia	100%	0%	0%	

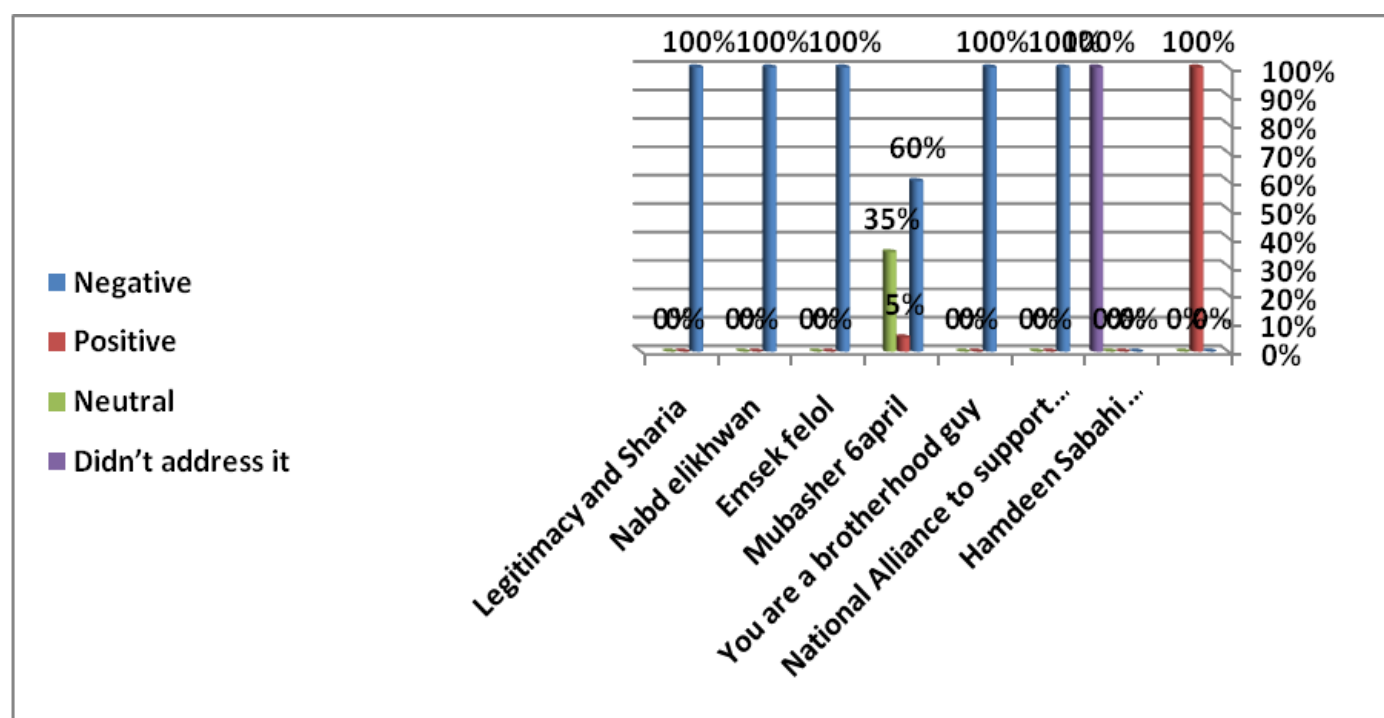
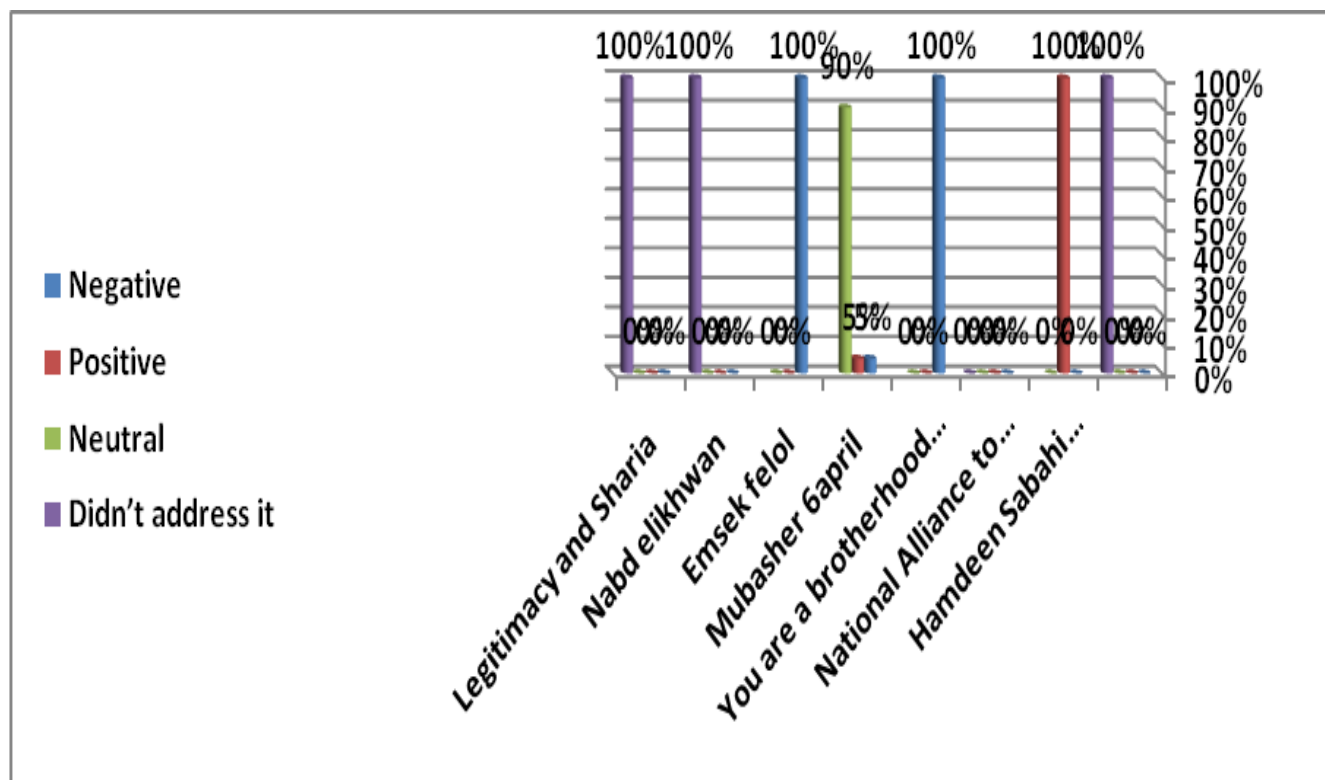


Table No. 12: the relative distribution of the direction of the material published during the report period towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi:

Social Media Page	The Press Material's Direction (Percentage of the Dedicated Time for the Actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
AlSissi Campaign's Official Page	0%	0%	0%	100%
Hamdeen Sabahi Campaign's Official Page	0%	100%	0%	
National Alliance to support legitimacy and reject the coup	0%	0%	0%	100%
You are a brotherhood guy	100%	0%	0%	
Mubasher 6 april	5%	5%	90%	
Emsek felol	100%	0%	0%	
Nabd elikhwan	0%	0%	0%	100%
Legitimacy and Sharia	0%	0%	0%	100%



Analytical Annex: How does the French press deal with the Egyptian presidential election?

During the period covered by this report, we monitored a multi directional sample of the French press. The right wing monitored newspapers included: Le Figaro, Le Monde and L'Express, and the left wing newspapers included: Les Échos and Libération.

The media monitor of the right wing newspapers indicated that they were not objective enough, while the content of their news reports were written out of context. The treatment of the Egyptian presidential elections in these newspapers was based on the fact that the procedures for the election were prepared and well-known since the removal of the president Mohamed Morsi. Furthermore, everything that is happening now is just a bureaucratic process to complete the formal process that will make AlSisi the president, as reiterated by Le Figaro more than once.

When those newspapers reported the news on Hamdeen Sabahi's candidacy for president, they did not talk enough about him. They introduced Sabahi as the candidate who came third in the presidential elections in 2012, which were won by the now isolated president Mohamed Morsi. They also described him as the candidate competing with AlSisi, the latter being the most likely to win the elections.

When reporting on a TV interview featuring AlSisi, the newspapers only focused on his statement that there will be no Muslim Brotherhood in the event of win. However, l'Express included the events detailing the break up of the sit-ins in Rabea and Renaissance squares, despite having little link to the featured interview.

The news for determining the election dates on 26 and 27 May did not address the details of the organisation of the elections. Instead, coverage focussed on the fact that AlSisi, who isolated the first elected president Mohamed Morsi, is the most likely to win the upcoming elections, as his popularity makes it harder for his opponent Hamdeen Sabahi to win. L'Express reiterated its earlier views by mentioning that the break-up of the sit-ins in Rabea and Renaissance squares were unnecessary.

Le Monde gave the least coverage to the Egyptian presidential elections, with only a single article published about AlSisi, where it was reported that he said in a television interview that in the event of the Egyptian people demanding his departure, he would do it immediately. In addition, it was reported that he had previously asked a number of journalists not to focus on the issues of democratic reform and freedoms and ignore the risks to national security and the hardships facing Egyptians due to the large number of protests, limiting people's ability to earn a living. The article pointed out that the elections would be held on 26 and 27 May 2014 between AlSisi, the candidate most likely candidate to win, and Hamadeen Sabhi who represented the left wing.

The left wing newspapers were more objective in their news publishing, despite unnecessarily mentioning the events regarding the break-up of the sit-ins in Rabea and Renaissance squares, which were mentioned in the same article that reported on AlSisi's TV interview, and had nothing to do with the news. These newspapers focused on other points in AlSisi's TV interview, other than his statement regarding the lack of the Muslim Brotherhood's existence in the event of his win. These other points included his promise that the military will not interfere in the political process and that there would be improvements in the living conditions for Egyptians within two years if everything were to work out as he wished.

The articles concerning General Abdel Fattah AlSisi's resignation and his decision to leave the military institution in order to run for presidency were also objective, Libération covered the news by introducing AlSisi, his growing up and opinions regarding him by both some supportive and opposing political experts.

The left wing newspapers were also objective in their coverage of the views of Muslim Brotherhood members regarding ALSisi's candidacy. Les Échos quoted Ibrahim Munir, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood's political bureau, regarding his opinion on the ALSisi candidacy, who said that there will be no balance nor safety in the event of the arrival of ALSisi as president, especially since the Muslim Brotherhood are considered a terrorist group and most of its leadership are in prison.

The difference between left-wing and right-wing newspapers in their coverage of Hamdeen Sabahi's presidential candidacy is also clear. The right wing newspapers introduced Sabahi as the candidate who came in third during the presidential elections in 2012, which were won by president Mohamed Morsi, who was then isolated by the army. On the other hand, the left-wing newspapers were more objective regarding their portrayal of Hamdeen Sabahi. They introduced him as the leader of the left Front in Egypt, who was opposed to Sadat and Mubarak and who obtained 20% of the vote in the 2012 elections. In addition, they included the various views of several intellectuals regarding Hamdeen Sabahi's candidacy for the presidency.

The left-wing newspapers covered the news related to the European Union's observation of the Egyptian presidential election held on 26 and 27 May 2014. This was the first time that the European Union observed the elections in Egypt, however the right-wing newspapers did not discuss this in their news publications.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The current report reveals the continuing bias of most of the private media in favour of a particular candidate, which is consistent with the findings of the Media Performance Evaluation Committee, established by the Minister of Information. The Minister indicated that a large number of satellite channel programs demonstrated their prejudice towards a particular candidate, by increasing the amount of news about him in the news bar and by giving more opportunities to his supportive guests, rather than his opponents.

At the same time, the state media was more neutral in its treatment of news regarding the candidates, whilst media outlets affiliated with, or pro-Muslim Brotherhood continued to offend the candidates and negatively dealt with the electoral process in general. The report also revealed negative selective handling of the Egyptian presidential election by the French press, especially by the right-wing newspapers.

Although the private media is not legally obliged to be neutral, the report recommends the need for a commitment to neutrality for moral reasons, especially as the media are the source of information and knowledge for a broad spectrum of citizens who rely on them to form their opinions and attitudes relating to the electoral process. The report also recommends the need to implement legal articles that criminalise the defamation of candidates and prohibit the violation of their private lives.

Evaluating the media coverage of the electoral process: The third report, (14-23 May 2014)

Preamble

The electoral campaigning phase ended on the evening of 23 May 2014, followed by the period of silence which marked the debut of the pre-voting phase.

Given its interest in the media and its role during the presidential elections, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, through the "Presidential Elections Observatory - Egypt 2014", is keen to monitor and evaluate the performance of different media outlets during the electoral process, in order to assure their commitment to electoral legislation.

About the report and its methodology

This is the third report issued by the Presidential Elections Observatory – Egypt 2014, regarding the evaluation of the media's performance included in the sample between 14 May 2014 and 23 May 2014. The sample represented in the report includes three types of media:

1. News sites: During the report period, the following news websites were followed-up and monitored: AlMasry AlYoum, AlAhram, Youm7, AlWafd, Alshrouq, Al Jazeera news, Elshaab news, Elmasryoun, Ikhwan online and Rasd. Foreign news websites were also monitored and included: Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Times, Le Monde and the Daily Telegraph;
2. TV Shows: Including some of the programs showed on the following channels; CBC, Sada Elbalad, On TV, the first channel - Egyptian television, Nile News, Alarabia, Alaraia Alhadath, AlJazeera, AlJazeera Egypt live, Rabea, and Alhyat. In total, there were 27 TV programs that were monitored;
3. Social media pages: several social pages were chosen to be monitored including the official pages for the candidates' campaigns, youth movement pages such as Mobasher 6 April, as well as other pages with large numbers of fans adopting opposing stances against the electoral process.

The monitoring process depended primarily on accurate follow-ups of TV shows, news sites and social media pages via a set of trained observers, in order to extract two types of information as follows:

1. Quantitative information: including numeric statistics for the classification of published information material according to its stand towards the key actors in the electoral process such as: the candidates, the Presidential Election Committee, and civil society organisations responsible for following up the electoral process;
2. Qualitative information: that reflects the nature of the published information material, and evaluates the performance of the media outlet according to the adopted standards, as well as documenting the most important materials that violate the media rules and codes of conduct or the regulatory legislative frameworks.

Quantitative measurement and computation:

1. For television channels, the time allotted to each of the main components, including the overall electoral process, the Election Commission, presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and candidate Hamdeen Sabahi has been counted in minutes. The time for each channel was divided according to its stand, whether it be negative, positive and neutral. Following this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total minutes of coverage for each actor within the TV programs that were monitored during the period.
2. News sites were monitored according to the number of topics published for each actor, then the topics have been categorised according to their stand between negative, positive and neutral. Following on from this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total topics obtained by an actor within the website that was monitored during the period.
3. For social media pages, the number of posts shared have been measured for each actor. The topics have been categorized according to their stand between negative, positive and neutral. Following this, the approximate percentage for each stand was extracted out of the total topics obtained by an actor within the social media page that was monitored during the period.

The position of the monitored Egyptian private channels:

1. The daily monitoring of the target satellite channels indicated a rise in the positive bias of the Egyptian private channels by 89% towards the electoral process versus 83% during the previous report, while the negativity tendency of the Egyptian private satellite was 0%. Their unbiased informative handling of the electoral process was estimated at 11% versus 13%, as shown in Table No. 1;

2. The daily monitoring of the target satellite channels showed the Egyptian channels' positive bias was 18% towards the PEC, whilst the negative bias of the Egyptian private satellite channels did not exceed 0%. Their unbiased informative handling of the PEC was estimated at 82%, as shown in table No. 2;
3. There is obvious bias from the monitored Egyptian satellite channels in favour of the candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, compared to his counterpart candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. The results show a positive stance by CBC, On TV, and Sada ElBalad towards candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, with the respective percentages of 70%, 63% and 60%. Whilst the corresponding rates for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi were 18%, 15% and 47%.
4. In terms of a negative stance, there was clearly a bias toward the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi compared to his counterpart candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, which shows the channels' negative direction against candidate Hamdeen Sabahi by CBC, Sada Elbalad, and ON TV channels. The negative rates were respectively as follows: 10%, 38%, and 20% for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, yet for candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi they were 0% on all channels.

It is already clear that there is a bias in favour of presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, although news relating to presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi or his campaign are also broadcast, so it won't seem so obvious that the media is focussing solely on the first candidate. The observations of the channels and programs handling the electoral process, indicated the following:

- **CBC's channel "here is the capital" program:** had a single position towards presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, portraying him as a president of necessity, whilst presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi was treated as someone newsworthy. The program had a positive attitude, encouraging people to vote.
- **The possible program:** presented by Khairy Ramadan assesses some of the balances during the observation period between the two presidential candidates. However, this did not work due to the obvious bias in favour of president candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, which had a negative impact on the presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, as his vision that he talked about during several TV interviews was not shown. This program had a positive attitude and encouraged people to vote.
- **Egypt elects the president program:** Diaa Rashwan, the show's presenter, tried to make a balanced program but was not successful, due to the fact that most of the guests and analysts he hosted were supporting presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and thus demonstrated a positive bias towards him. Presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi was ignored in terms of discussing his election program, and instead the Al-Sisi election program was highlighted. The program also had a positive attitude to encourage people to vote.
- **ON TV Morning program:** had a single position supporting presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and dealt with the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi timidly by broadcasting short news about his campaign and his tour in the provinces. However, most of the episodes revolved around the electoral program of the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The program had a positive attitude regarding the encouragement of citizens to participate in the presidential elections.
- **Egypt's President Program:** played a major role in raising awareness of the electoral programs of both candidates and included audience participation of those with diverse ideas and different political orientations. It dealt with the presidential election with the utmost impartiality and participated actively in educating citizens along with reading Egypt's future through both election programs.
- **On My Responsibility program:** broadcasted on Sada ElBalad channel had an obvious bias in favour of presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The program's presenter mocked and was sarcastic towards candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. Furthermore he allowed the guests on his program to insult Hamdeen Sabahi and engage in personal and family matters with comments such as:
 - *Hamdeen Sabahi is competing with the invalid votes;*
 - *Hamdeen Sabahi will divide the country and his first decisions will be to release the Muslim Brotherhood terrorists from prison, the Muslim Brotherhood supports him;*

- *Hamdeen Sabahi's election agenda is lying and he is lying to you, I bet that he won't implement one word of it.*

The official TV stance:

Egyptian TV channels were almost completely neutral towards the Supreme Elections Committee, the electoral process and candidates. In general, the neutral handling of the news regarding candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was estimated at 100% for the Nile News Channel and 87% for the 1st Channel - Egyptian TV. Whilst for candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, it was measured at 100% and 72% respectively.

Whilst the 1st channel - Egyptian TV, handled the electoral process very positively and urged citizens at home and abroad to participate in the elections, it handled candidates' news campaigns briefly and did not allocate airtime for them. However, it focused on the PEC news and the readiness of Egyptians abroad to vote. It addressed the 4 days of vote for Egyptians abroad via correspondents in several countries and through Egyptian ambassadors.

The 1st channel's only mistake was airing footage of Egyptians in front of embassies abroad raising al-Sisi pictures and making CC signs which is considered unprofessional. The channel considered the expats' turnout as the greatest in history and was able to market the idea significantly.

The Nile News Channel addressed the electoral process neutrally and focused on the telling of the news. It pursued the same line as the first channel regarding broadcasting news and broadcast all the election videos aired by the first channel.

The position of the Arab channels

The monitoring sample includes three channels that treat the 30 June Revolution as a military coup. Al Jazeera channel is neither neutral nor objective in presenting and covering the presidential elections. In all of its programs, the presenters try to mix news to convince the Egyptians that they are under a military coup which does not reflect reality. The channel is trying to overlook the views of Egyptians and their right to determine their own destiny. In addition, it is offending a particular candidate and is calling for a boycott of the elections and questioning its fairness, which is in violation of the rules governing media performance, election coverage and is a flagrant violation of international treaties and conventions relating to freedom of opinion and expression.

We monitored Al-Jazeera's television programs including the Opposite Direction; Beyond the News; without Borders; the Revolution Talk; and the Egyptian Scene. Beyond the News program did not address any news related to the electoral process, Without Borders and the Opposite Direction programs did not address any news related to the electoral process, and the Egyptian Scene program was not neutral and was promoting offensive ideas related to presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

In addition, Al-Jazeera Live was neither neutral nor objective and the show's presenters took an anti-election stand, attempting to ignore Egyptians' opinions and rights in determining their own destiny. Moreover, they were promoting what is considered to be an insult for a particular candidate and were calling for a boycott to the elections and questioning its fairness. This is a contravention of the rules governing the performance of the media coverage of the elections and is considered a flagrant violation to conventions and international treaties related to freedom of opinion and expression.

The performance of the Rabea channel during the last week was characterised by a major absence of professionalism and commitment to justice towards the candidates. Moreover, the programs were not free from the usual "cursing", charges of apostasy and misrepresentation of the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Furthermore, the program was hosting guests who are along the opposition line and support the National

Alliance to support Legitimacy against the coup and similar parties, whilst there were no other opinions presented.

According to the monitoring process of the programs on Rabaa channel last week, the following remarks were made on these programs:

1. The "News Brief" program presented by Mohammed Shokir, Abdel El-Moneim Saad and Abdullah Al-Mahi.
 - The News Brief program included news about human chains and demonstrations carried out by supporters of legitimacy against the presidential elections, which they described as "bloody presidential elections". They were insulting candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, calling him "the butcher", in addition to news about the election process in general; and there was hardly any news about the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.
2. Hasad Rabaa Show, presented by Abdullah ElMahi.
 - As usual, the presenter Abdullah ElMahi takes a negative attitude towards the electoral process and especially the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The program showed general news about human chains and demonstrations against the presidential election and the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The program also presented several issues related to the election under the title "blood comic elections" and "farcical play of elections " and "elections on the remains of the Egyptians ", whilst hosting guests who are in favour of these opinions.

Examples of replies to one of the discussions:

- Aly Hafez, poet of the Revolution said: the comic named elections, we called it an old play, and we saw it more than 100 times, and we memorize who is the hero and who are the extras, who is in the scenes starting from ElSissi and Sabahi, passing to Mortada Mansour and Mustafa Bakry.
 - Adel Rashad "member of the legitimate parliament" said: who wants to vote for Sabahi, he is participating in the game, as Sabahi has neither political nor social life, he wants to find a job, and be a candidate that the media talks about.
3. Dros Sawria Show, presented by Wagdy Ghonem.
 - Wagdy Ghonem has not allocated an entire episode to the presidential election, but his episodes were not free of libel against candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Although, it's not his business, he always described El-Sisi as the wicked one who prefers to be with dancers.
 - As an example, Wagdy Ghonem said to ElSissi, you are a corrupt and criminal, the liar comes to say I'm honest, he swears to God to guard the constitution and the Laws, so isn't he a liar? He said I'm not going to run for presidency, May God take revenge on him, what honesty is he talking about, you traitor and butcher.
 4. Misr Islamia Show, presented by Assem Abdel ElMaged.
 - Assem Abdel ElMaged did also not allocate a full episode for the presidential elections last week. However, the presenter insulted ElSissi continually throughout his episodes, that turned out this week to be largely about religious classes and sessions, in contrary to previous episodes that allocated a part for religion and another for politics.
 - Example of such a statement: The AlNour Party supported the coup leader, who brought all these sins to Egypt, and they want to reward him as a president of Egypt, those that brought sins to Egypt. They want to follow this by voting in the coup leader in the election game, and they know it's a war on Islam.
 5. Rabaa Nahar Show, presented by Salama Abd Elkawi.
 - Last week, Salma Abd Elkawi, the show's presenter allocated a part of the show related to Sharia, which is the fatawaa related to the prohibition of participation in the presidential election

and asserts what is not legally permissible, in addition to insulting the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Examples:

- Who participates in the election play is like the man who poured pure water on the hands of the contaminated. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi wants to legitimise the coup, he wants to give legitimacy to the takeover of Egypt and wants to wash the treason and shame after he broke his oath to God and President Mohamed Morsi.
- We must put the words traitor and murderer before ElSissi's name. Anyone who supports ElSissi is involved in the treason and the murder, because just by going to the polling stations is sharing the crime.

Regarding the other monitored Arab Channels (Elarabia, and Elarabia Elhadas), the results of the report have revealed their impartiality towards the electoral process, the candidates and the Presidential Election Commission in most cases, and depended on news coverage. However, large differences emerged within Alarabia Elhadas' report regarding the positive coverage for Abdel ElFattah ElSissi versus candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. The report was 35% in favour of candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, versus 21% for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi.

Table No. 1: The relative distribution for published TV material throughout the period covered by the report on the electoral process:

**The trend of the published material
(percentage of time dedicated to each actor)**

Media Channel	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
CBC	0%	87%	13%	0%
Sada Elbalad	0%	96%	4%	0%
On Tv	0%	83%	17%	0%
Nile News	0%	13%	87%	0%
Channel 1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Al-Jazeera	73%	0%	27%	0%
Al-Jazeera Mobasher Masr	84%	2%	14%	0%
Alarabia	0%	3%	97%	0%
Elarabia Elhadas	7%	35%	58%	0%
Rabaa	89%	0%	11%	0%

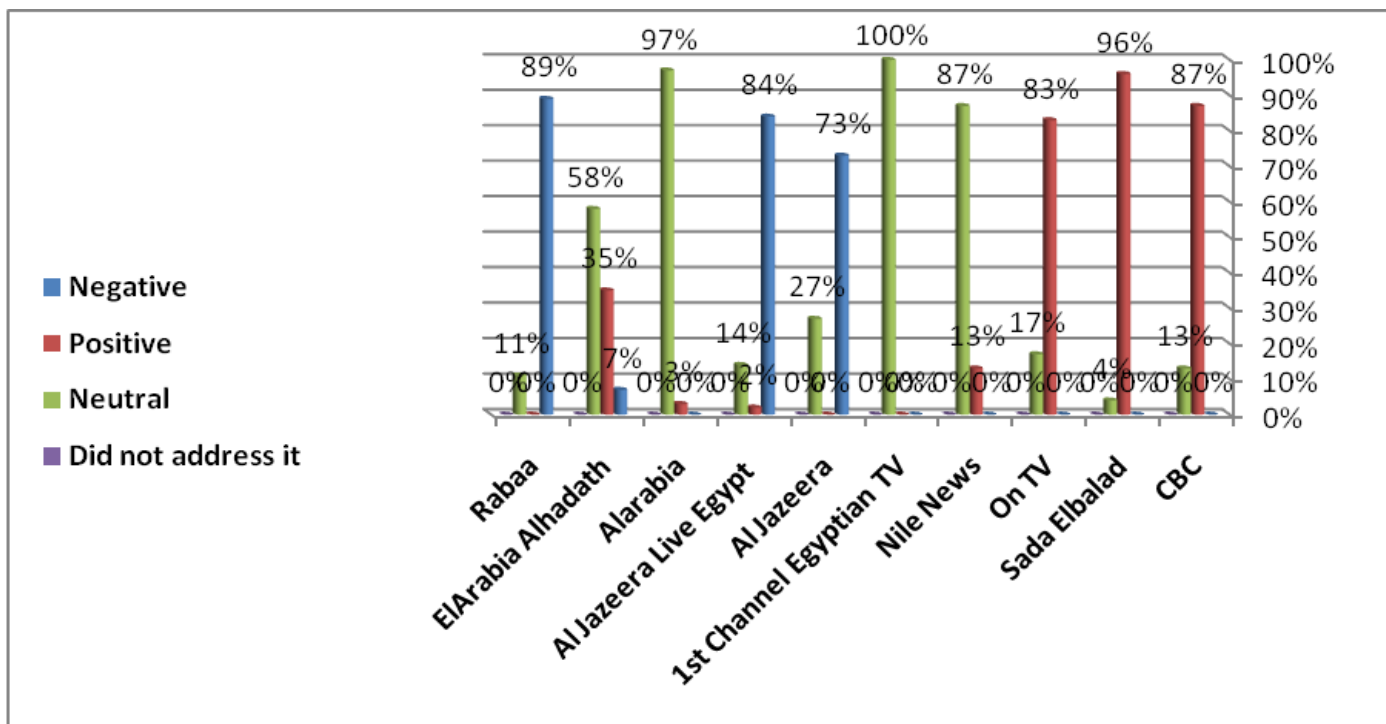


Table No. 2: The relative distribution for published TV material throughout the period covered by the report on the Presidential Election Commission:

Media channel	The trend of the published material (percentage of time specified by to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
CBC	0%	36%	64%	0%
Sada Elbalad	0%	18%	82%	0%
On Tv	0%	0%	100%	0%
Nile News	0%	0%	100%	0%
Channel 1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Al-Jazeera	0%	0%	0%	100%
Al-Jazeera Mobasher Masr	77%	0%	32%	0%
Alarabia	0%	0%	0%	100%
Elarabia Elhadas	0%	47%	53%	0%
Rabaa	100%	0%	0%	0%

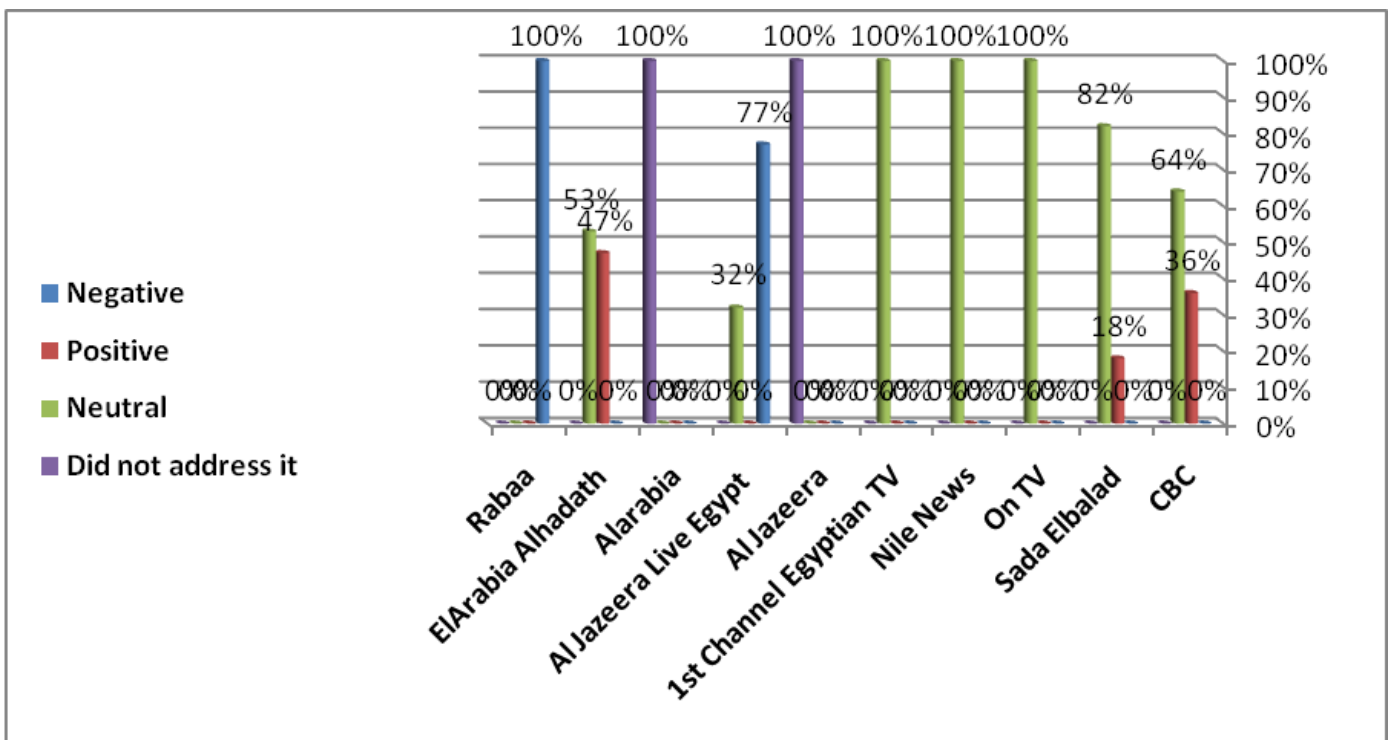


Table No. 3: The relative distribution for published TV material throughout the period covered by the report towards Presidential candidate Abdel Fattah ElSissi:

TV Channel	The trend of the published material (percentage of time specified by to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
CBC	0%	70%	30%	0%
Sada Elbalad	0%	63%	37%	0%
On Tv	10%	60%	30%	0%
Nile News	0%	13%	87%	0%
Channel 1	0%	0%	100%	0%
Al-Jazeera	84%	0%	16%	0%
Al-Jazeera Mobasher Masr	98%	0%	2%	0%
Alarabia	0%	7%	93%	0%
Elarabia Elhadas	7%	35%	58%	0%
Rabaa	89%	0%	11%	0%

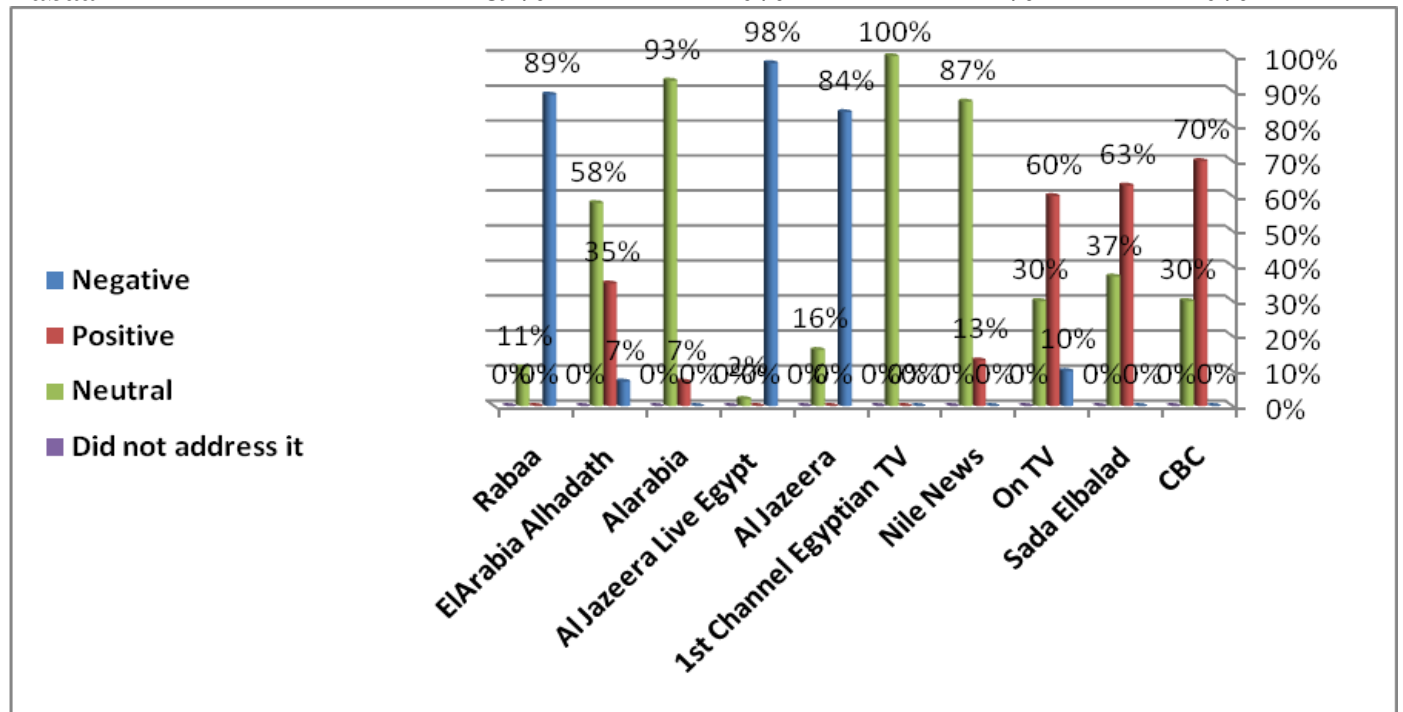
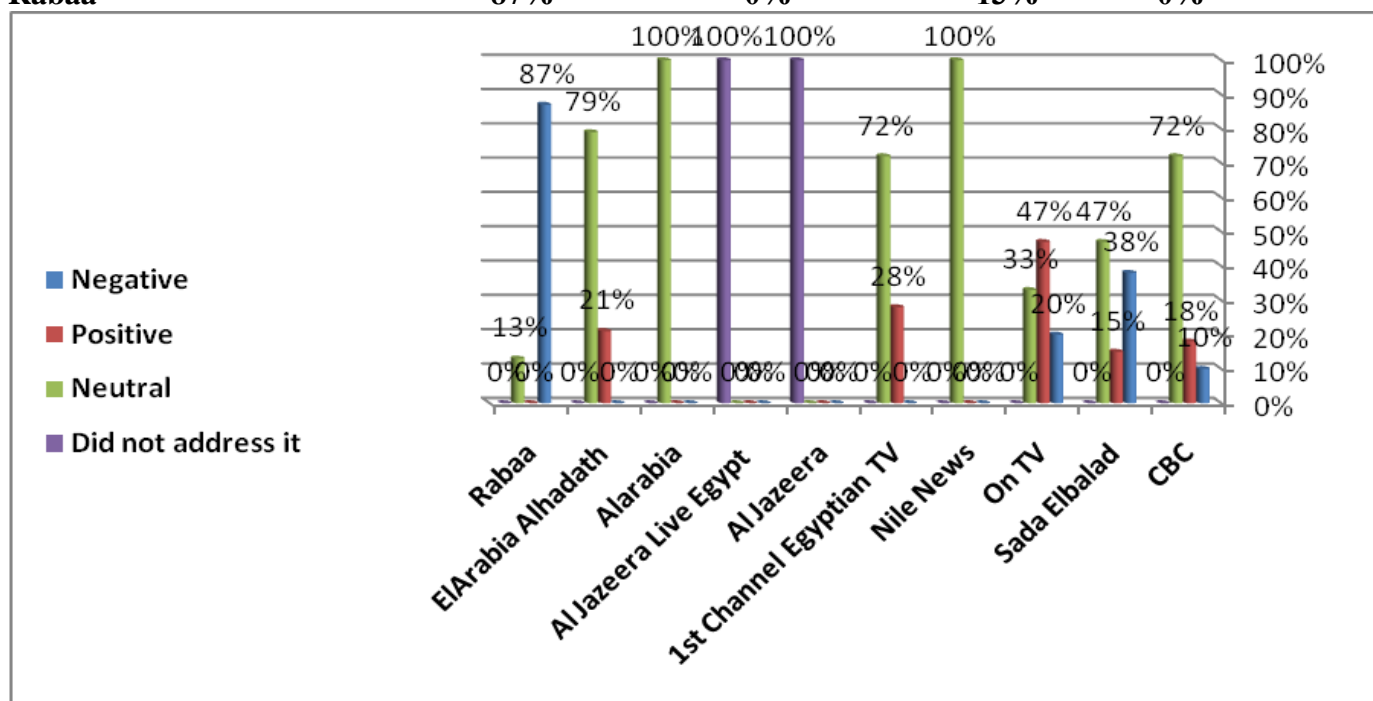


Table No. 4. The relative distribution for published TV material throughout the period covered by the report towards Presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi:

Channel	The trend of the published material (percentage of time specified by to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
CBC	10%	18%	72%	0%
Sada Elbalad	38%	15%	47%	0%
On Tv	20%	47%	33%	0%
Nile News	0%	0%	100%	0%
Channel 1	0%	28%	72%	0%
Al-Jazeera	0%	0%	0%	100%
Al-Jazeera Mobasher Masr	0%	0%	0%	100%
Alarabia	0%	0%	100%	0%
Elarabia Elhadas	0%	21%	79%	0%
Rabaa	87%	0%	13%	0%



News sites coverage:

Tables No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 that monitor the following news sites (Al-Ahram, Elshrouq, Al Jazeera news, Youm7, Elshaab, Ikhwan Online, Elwafd, and Rasd), with regard to how they tackled the electoral process with its various stakeholders (the electoral process in general, the Presidential Election Commission, the presidential candidates, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Hamdeen Sabahi, illustrate the following results:

1. The position of Al-Jazeera news, Ikhwan Online, Elshaab and Rasd, focused on negative coverage of the electoral process, particularly with respect to presidential candidate, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, with almost complete absence of news coverage regarding the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi. The negative percentage of coverage from these sites towards candidate ElSissi was 14%, 82% and 57% respectively, consistent with their view of refusing the presidential elections.
2. There was a complete lack of coverage with respect to information related to the Higher Commission of the presidential elections on the following sites: AlJazeera, Ikhwan Online, Elshaab and Rasd, which confirms their refusal of the electoral process.

3. The percentage of news coverage for the presidential candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, in various news sites exceeds that of his counterpart, presidential candidate, Hamdeen Sabahi. News sites mainly focused on events related to the candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, and focused on some events related to the candidate, Hamadeen Sabahi. This confirms the belief that these sites have, which is that the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, is the most likely candidate to win the upcoming presidential election.
4. In general, Elahram website was characterised by its neutrality, with respect to its coverage of various aspects of the election process, with a focus on highlighting some of the materials related to the electoral process, especially with regard to presidential candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The neutral percentage regarding the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah ElSissi reached 71%, while for his rival presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, it reached 76%, which confirms the official neutral position towards both presidential candidates.
5. The position of El-Wafd Party was characterized by focusing largely on the news about the presidential candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The percentage of material related to candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, reached 64% of the total materials related to the electoral process in general, which is consistent with the position of the party in supporting "Sisi" in the presidential elections.
6. The positions of private websites such as Youm7 and Elshrouk were neutral with respect to how they tackled the electoral process, but had a large focus on information materials related to the presidential candidate, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.
7. Various sites have addressed the voting process of the presidential elections for Egyptians abroad, both in terms of voting and the results of the election with regard to both presidential candidates. However, there was almost a complete absence of coverage regarding the voting process of Egyptians abroad within websites allegedly affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood. These sites also dealt with some negative news related to the election, such as the low turnout in elections abroad.

Table No. 5: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the electoral process:

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Did not address it
ElAhram	16%	5%	79%	0%
AlJazera	0%	23%	77%	0%
Elshaab	0%	54%	46%	0%
Ikhwan online	0%	93%	7%	0%
Elwafd	6%	7%	87%	0%
Youm7	4%	1%	95%	0%
Rasd	0%	69%	31%	0%
Elshrouq	6%	4%	90%	0%

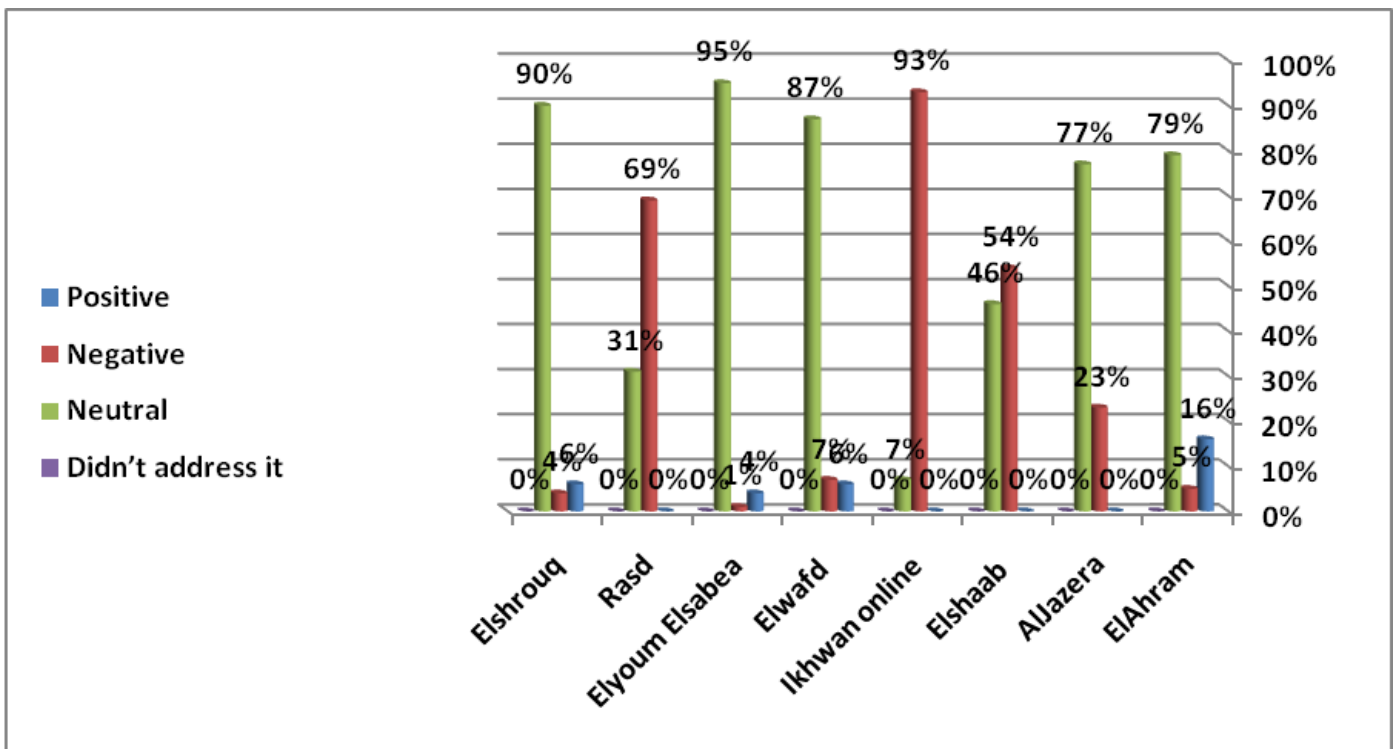


Table No. 6: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards presidential candidate Abdel Elfattah ElSissi

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Did not address it
ElAhram	21%	3%	76%	0%
AlJazera	0%	14%	86%	0%
Elshaab	0%	57%	43%	0%
Ikhwan online	0%	82%	18%	0%
Elwafd	8%	4%	88%	0%
Youm7	3%	0%	97%	0%
Rasd	0%	68%	32%	0%
Elshrouq	5%	6%	89%	0%

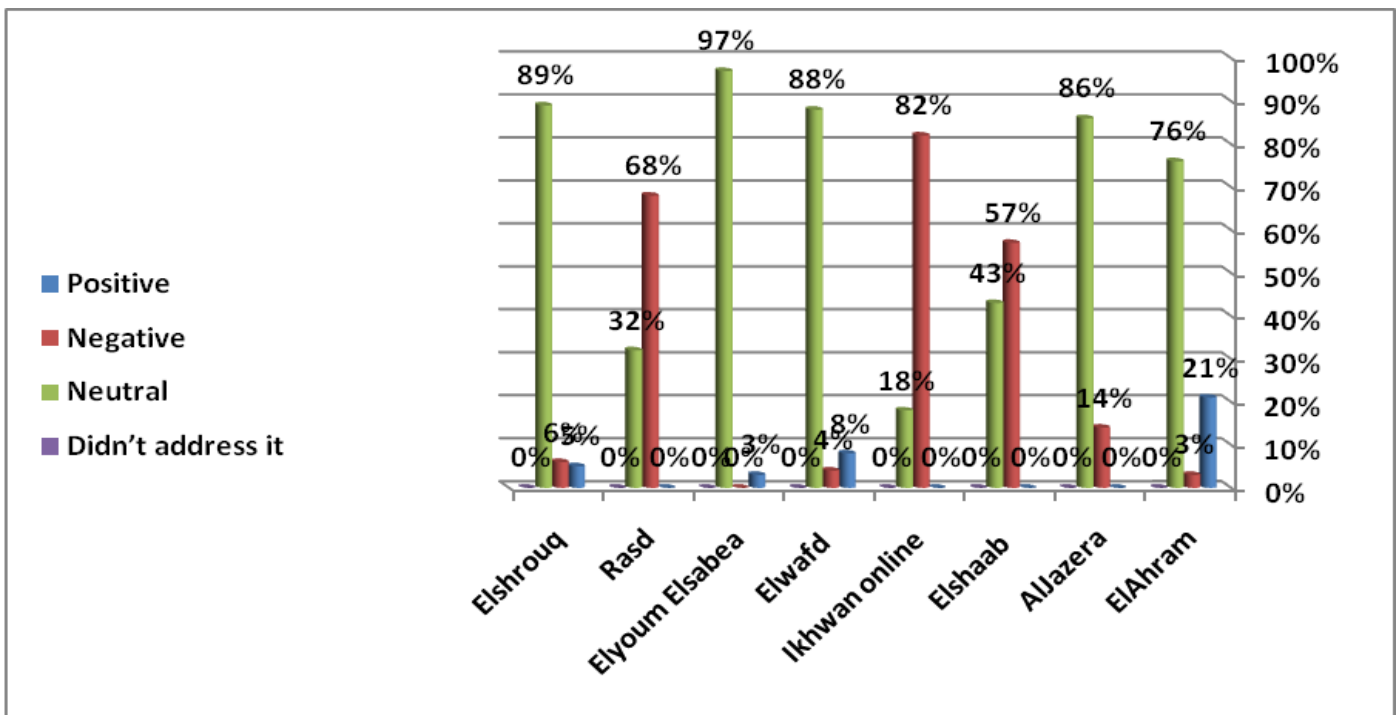


Table No. 7: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the Presidential Election Commission

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Did not address it
ElAhram	0%	0%	100%	0%
AlJazera	0%	0%	100%	0%
Elshaab	0%	0%	100%	0%
Ikhwan online	0%	0%	0%	0%
Elwafd	0%	0%	100%	0%
Youm7	1%	1%	98%	0%
Rasd	0%	83%	17%	0%
Elshrouq	4%	0%	96%	0%

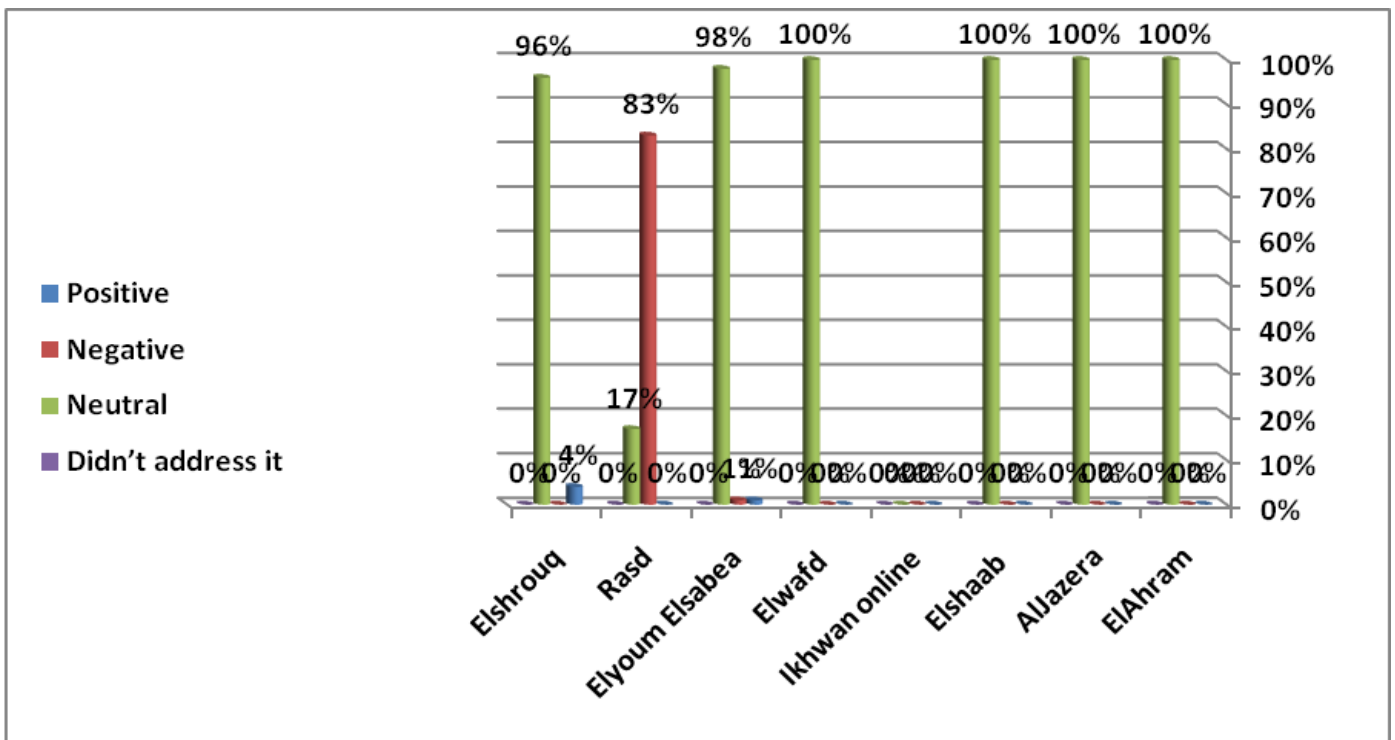
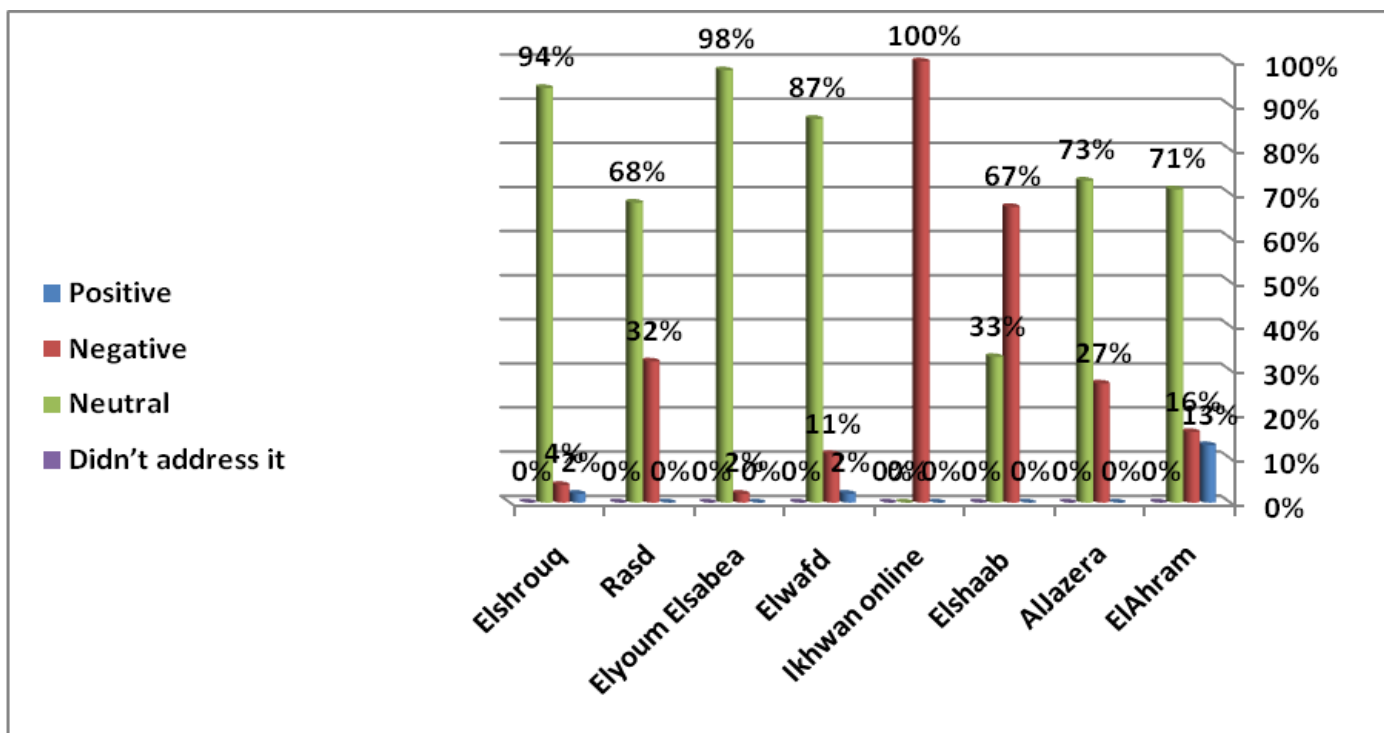


Table No. 8: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards Presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi

Website	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Did not address it
ElAhram	13%	16%	71%	0%
AlJazera	0%	27%	73%	0%
Elshaab	0%	67%	33%	0%
Ikhwan online	0%	100%	0%	0%
Elwafd	2%	11%	87%	0%
Youm7	0%	2%	98%	0%
Rasd	0%	32%	68%	0%
Elshrouq	2%	4%	94%	0%



Third: social media pages coverage

After analysing the data in tables 9, 10, 11 and 12, related to the trends in the social media pages’ coverage of the electoral process and it stakeholders, we can conclude these findings:

1. The official page of both candidates, Hamdeen Sabahi and Abdel Fattah al-Sisi addressed only their news, events and campaigns, in addition to the television interviews for each candidate, without mentioning the other candidate.
2. Pages affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and those opposing the revolutionary wave of 30 June didn’t deal with the electoral process. Instead, they insulted and cursed the presidential candidate Abdel ElFattah ElSissi and addressed candidate Hamdeen Sabahi in a minimal manner, calling him an extra. Moreover, they completely rejected the electoral process and at the time of voting for Egyptians abroad, there were some calls made for demonstrations in front of Egyptian embassies and consulates abroad on the "Legitimacy and Shariaa" page. There were also some calls to boycott the elections as written in the statement published on the page of the National Alliance for supporting legitimacy.

3. The 6 April page coverage of the electoral process aimed to be neutral and objective, however, it published some photos and videos that were sarcastic about candidate Abdel ElFattah ElSissi, and it published some insulting hash-tags regarding the same candidate with some published news.

Table No. 9: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the electoral process:

Page	The trend of the published material (percentage of time dedicated to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
Official page for candidate ElSissi	0%	0%	100%	0%
Official page for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi	0%	0%	100%	0%
Official page for the National Alliance for supporting legitimacy	100%	0%	0%	0%
Page "Enta Ail Ikhwangy"	100%	0%	0%	0%
6 th April mobasher	33%	1%	65%	0%
Emsk Flol	99%	0%	1%	0%
Nabd Elikhwan	100%	0%	0%	0%
Legitimacy and Shariaa	100%	0%	0%	0%

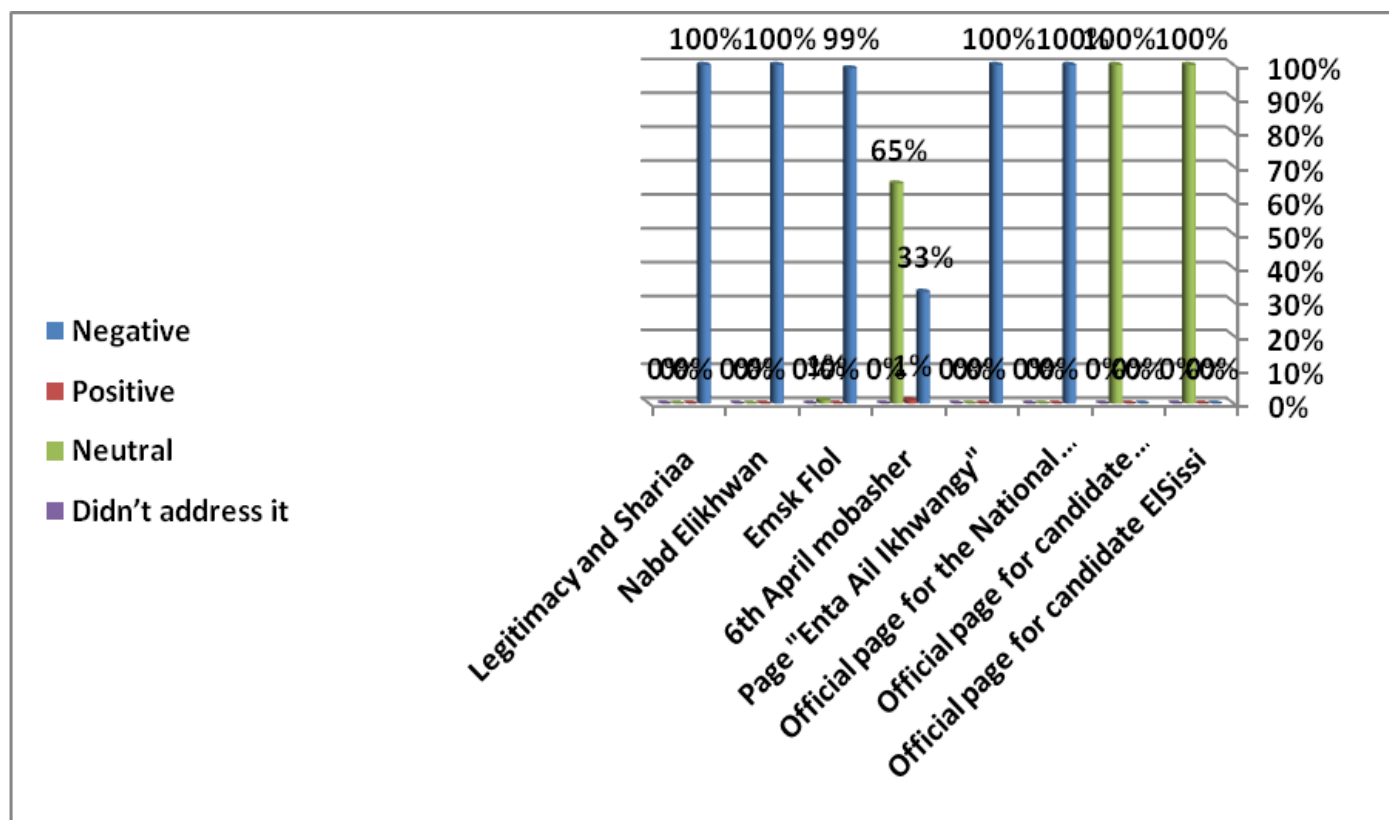


Table No. 10: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the Presidential Election Commission:

Page	The trend of the published material (percentage of time specified by to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
Official page for candidate ElSissi	0%	0%	0%	100%
Official page for candidate Sabahi	0%	0%	100%	0%
Official page for the National Alliance for supporting legitimacy	0%	0%	0%	100%
Page "Enta Ail Ikhwangy"	0%	0%	0%	100%
6 th April mobasher	100%	0%	0%	0%
Emsk Flol	100%	0%	0%	0%
Nabd Elikhwan	0%	0%	0%	100%
Legitimacy and Shariaa	95%	0%	5%	0%

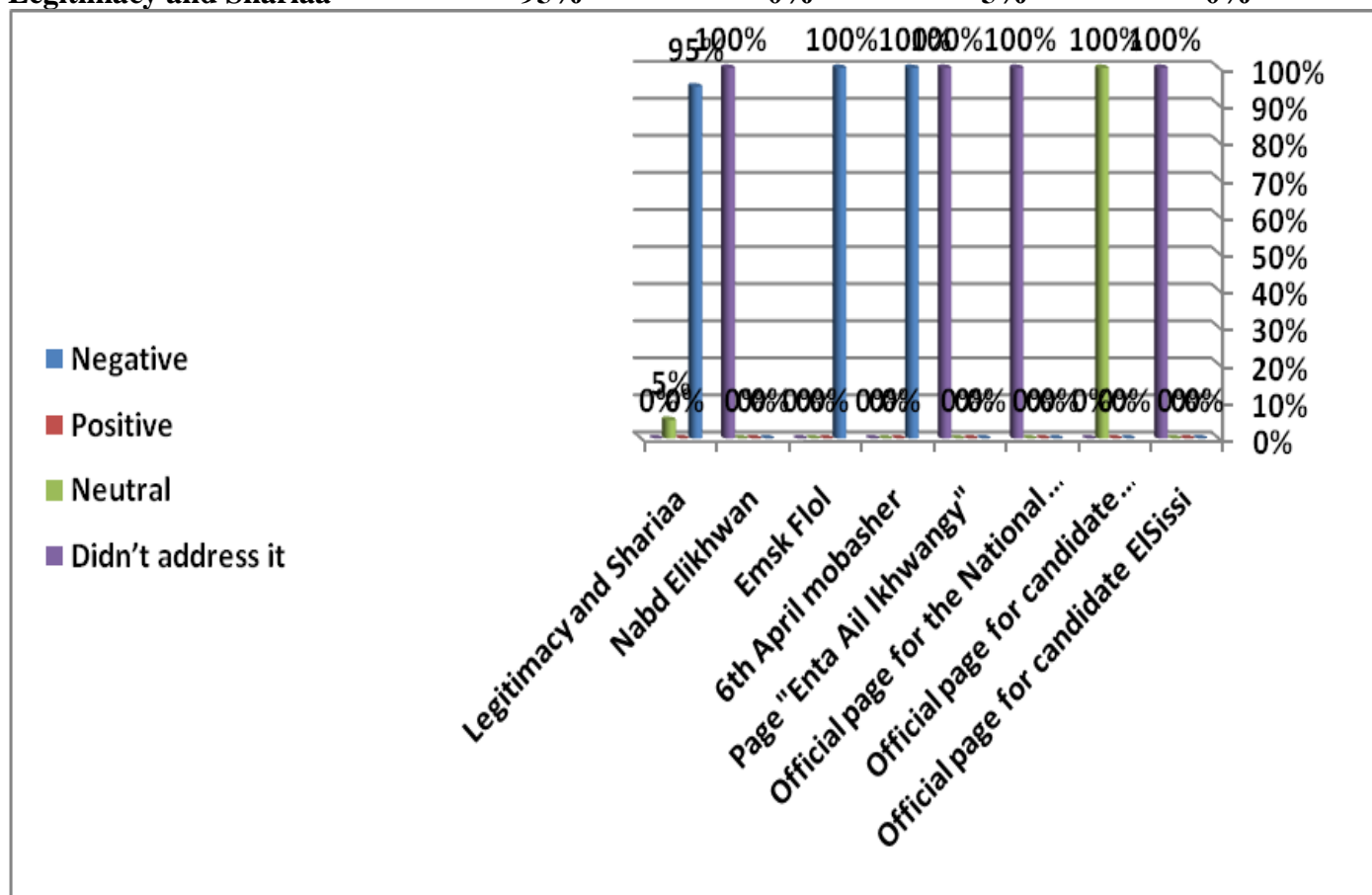


Table No. 11: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the presidential candidate Abdel ElFattah ElSissi:

**The trend of the published material
(percentage of time specified by to each actor)**

Page	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
Official page for candidate ElSissi	0%	0%	0%	100%
Official page for candidate Sabahi	0%	0%	0%	0%
Official page for the National Alliance for supporting legitimacy	100%	0%	0%	0%
Page "Enta Ail Ikhwangy"	80%	0%	20%	0%
6 th April mobasher	100%	0%	0%	0%
Emsk Flol	60%	5%	35%	0%
Nabd Elikhwan	100%	0%	0%	0%
Legitimacy and Shariaa	100%	0%	0%	0%

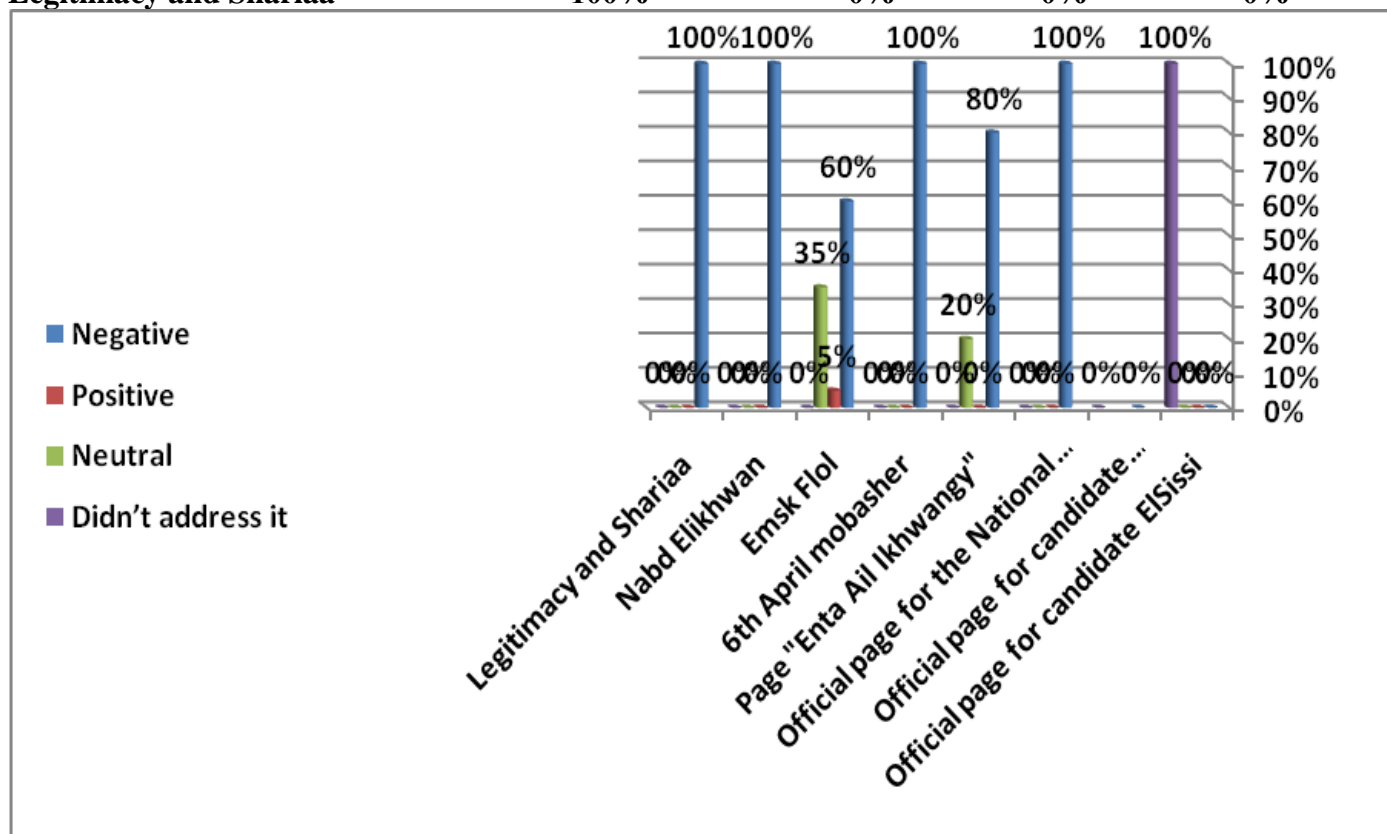
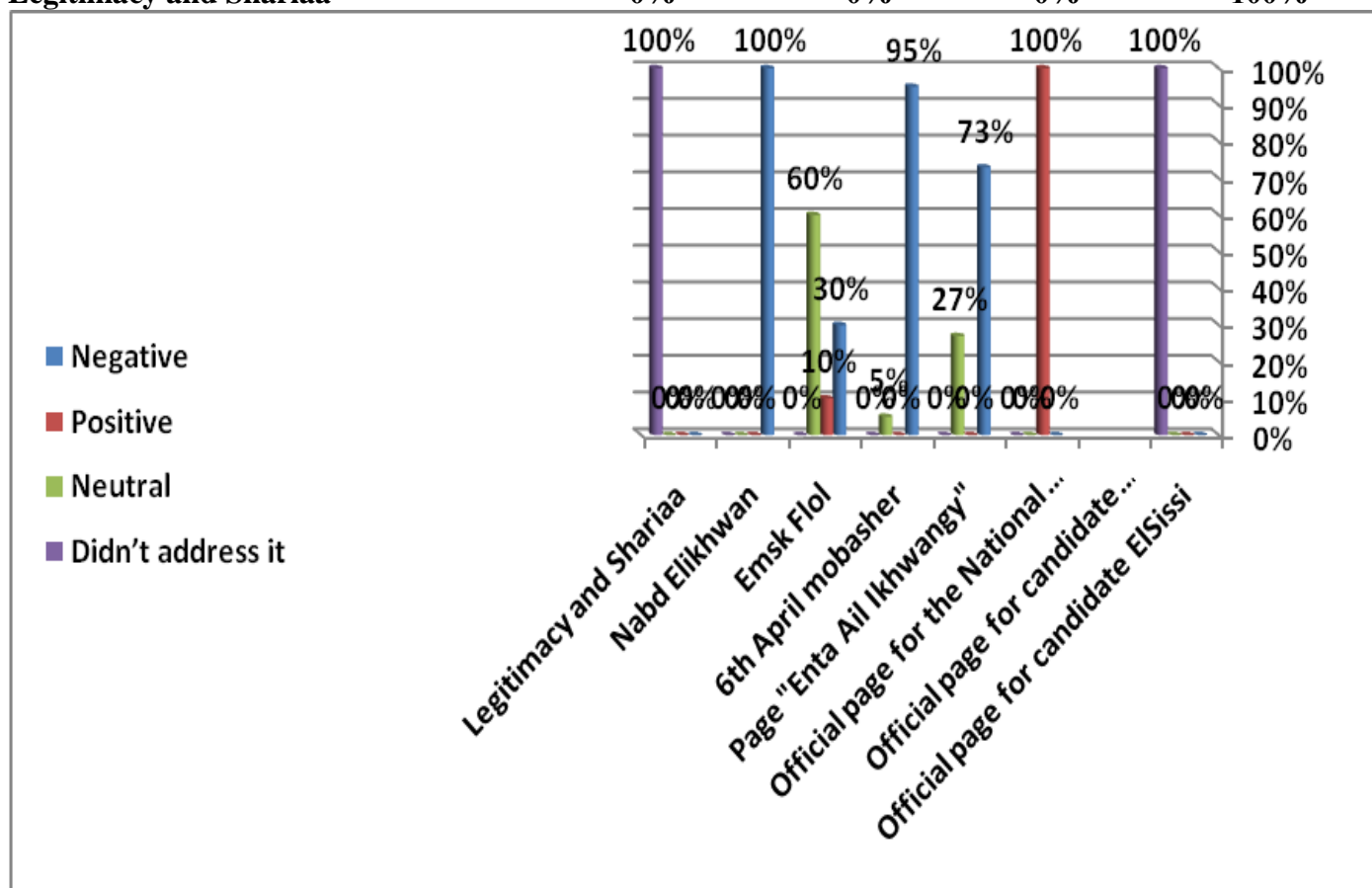


Table No. 12: Relative distribution for published material throughout the period covered by the report towards the presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi

Page	The trend of the published material (percentage of time specified by to each actor)			
	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Did not address it
Official page for candidate ElSissi	0%	0%	0%	100%
Official page for candidate Sabahi	0%	100%	0%	0%
Official page for the National Alliance for supporting legitimacy	0%	100%	0%	0%
Page "Enta Ail Ikhwangy"	73%	0%	27%	0%
6 th April mobasher	95%	0%	5%	0%
Emsk Flol	30%	10%	60%	0%
Nabd Elikhwan	100%	0%	0%	0%
Legitimacy and Shariaa	0%	0%	0%	100%



The final summary

This is the third in a series of reports evaluating the media performance during the electoral process, which covered the second half of the electoral campaign phase. The report revealed an increase in the positive coverage by Egyptian private and state media when reporting on the electoral process and its stakeholders. It also revealed the continuing increase of the scale of coverage granted to the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, compared to candidate Hamdeen Sabahi in private channels and on news websites.

The report also pointed out the significant commitment of state-owned media to neutrality and its desire to give balanced coverage to the two contending parties in the electoral process, with a tendency to generally cover the news. The report also revealed the continuous negative treatment of the electoral process by the

media affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood, with an excessive use of swear words, insults and exposure to private lives, especially on social media pages.

Preface:

The report is prepared by the Presidential Election Observatory at Maat Foundation, within the context of its services provided to the joint observation mission to the Egyptian Presidential Elections. The polling and counting phase was held on 26, 27, 28 and 29 May 2014.

The report presents both a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the performance of some media channels in its coverage of the presidential elections from 24 May to 29 May 2014. These dates include the phase of electoral silence (24-25 May), followed by the polling and counting phase (26-29 May).

Channels that have been monitored

A set of media channels have been identified, in order to monitor their coverage of the presidential election in general, throughout the period covered by the report. The channels are as follows:

1. Nile news
2. CBC
3. ElNahar
4. Elkahera W Elnas
5. Mehwer
6. On TV
7. Sada Elbald
8. Tahrir
9. Dream 2
10. 1st Channel Egyptian TV
11. AlJazeera Mobasher Masr
12. AlArabia Elhadas

Methodology of assessment

The assessment was built on 8 main aspects strongly connected to the media's treatment of the elections during the monitoring period mentioned above. These aspects are:

1. The extent of the channel's coverage regarding election awareness.
2. The extent of the channel's coverage about encouraging people to vote .
3. The extent of the channel's commitment to adhere to regulations regarding the electoral silence period.
4. The extent of channel's impartiality in covering both candidates' activities and their campaigns throughout the polling and counting days.
5. The extent of the channel's concern about covering election observation.
6. The extent of the channel's commitment not to expose the private lives, nor commit ethical accusations legally forbidden of any of the stakeholders of the election process.
7. The extent of the channel's commitment to the professional standards in transmitting the counting results.
8. The channel's commitment to publish honest news regarding the election process.

Assessment steps:

1. Watching the media coverage of the channel regarding the election throughout the day.

2. Giving a grade to the channel that illustrates the presence of each aspect of assessment as follows:
 - Regarding electoral awareness: number of hours dedicated to this issue during the monitored period.
 - Regarding encouraging people to vote: number of hours dedicated to this issue during the monitored period.
 - The channel's commitment to the organising regulations for the period of electoral silence: number of hours that included a violation of the regulation of electoral silence.
 - The extent of the channel's impartiality in covering the candidates' activities and their campaigns during the polling and counting days: the number of hours allocated to each candidate and the extent of its equality.
 - The extent of the channel's coverage of observation activities of the elections: the number of hours dedicated to this topic.
 - The extent of the channel's commitment not to expose private lives, nor make ethical charges legally forbidden against any of the stakeholders of the election process: the number of hours of coverage to such acts.
 - The extent of the channel's commitment to professionalism in transmitting the counting results: the number of times at which the channel deviated from the legal regulations regarding this.
 - The commitment of the channel to publish true news regarding the election process: the number of times the channel addressed false news about the election process.
3. Each channel has been graded between 1-10 according to what has been monitored on each aspect (taking in consideration the positive and negative aspects).
4. The grades have been calculated, so the theoretical term is between 0-80 for each channel.
5. The channels have been ordered in descending manner according to the assessment grade.

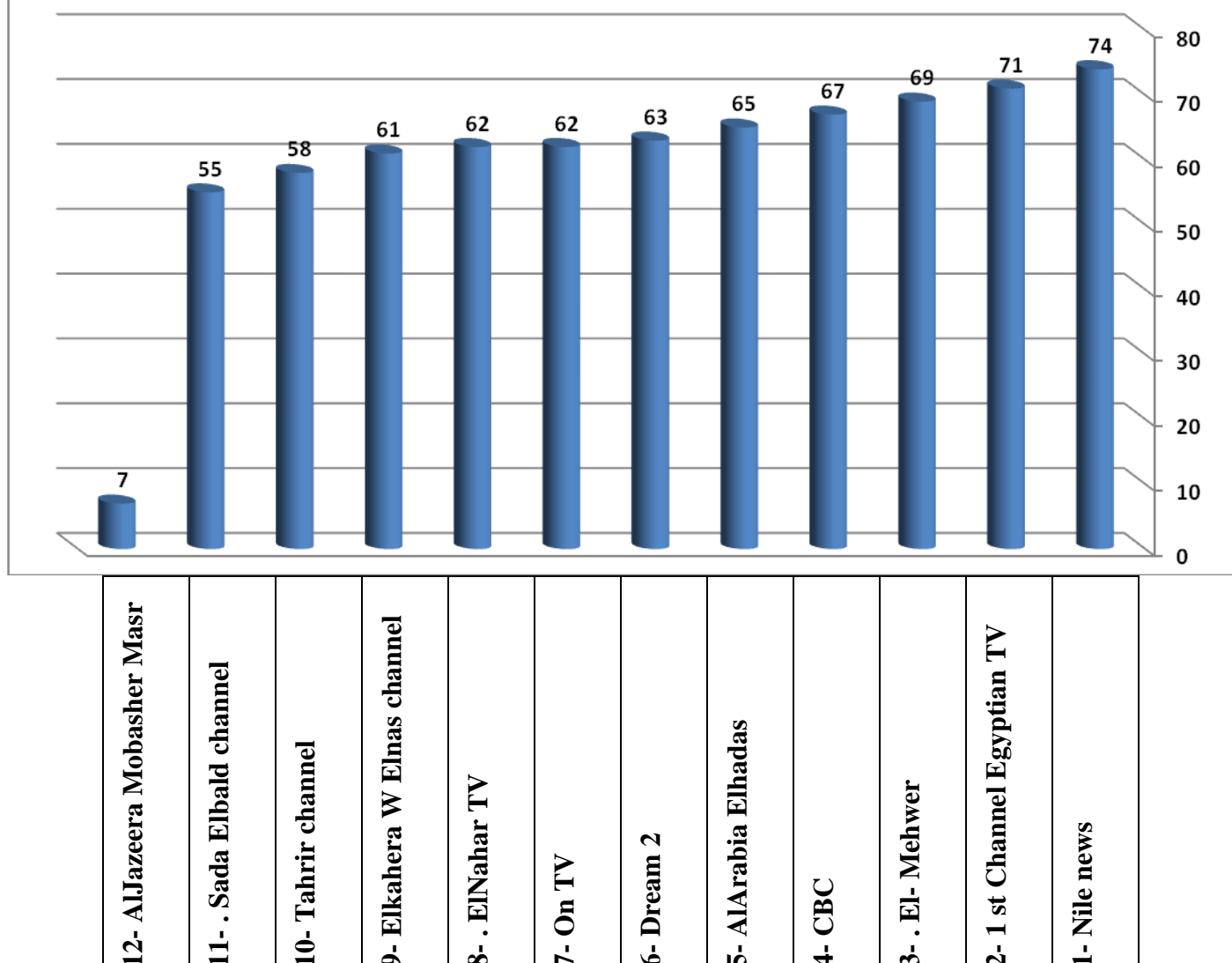
Assessment results:

First: The assessment of channels according to the total assessment grade:

The table below shows the channels' distribution according to the total assessment grades

The order	Channel	Grade	Percentage out of the total grade
1	Nile News	74	93%
2	1 st Channel 1 Egyptian TV	71	89%
3	Mehwer	69	86%
4	CBC	67	84%
5	ElArabia Elhadas	65	81%
6	Dream 2	63	79%
7	On TV	62	78%
8	Elnahar	62	78%
9	Elqahera w Elnas	61	76%
10	Tahrir	58	73%
11	SadaElbalad	55	69%
12	ElJazeera Mobasher Masr	7	9%

the assessment of channels according to the total assessment grade



The previous table shows that state TV channels (Nile News and 1st channel) have achieved obvious success in committing to professional and legal standards organising the media coverage during the period covered by the report. Mehwer was on the top of the list for private channels, followed by CBC, with only a slight difference between the two.

Overall, there is a slight and varied increase between the Egyptian private channels (between 86% for Mehwer channel and 69% for Sada Elbala).

On the level of Arab channels, AlArabia Elhadas obtained 81% which is considered a high percentage.

AlJazeera is ranked at the bottom of the list with an assessment percentage of 9%, which represents a very low ranked grade and reveals the negative media coverage of the channel on all sub assessment aspects.

Second: The distribution of channels according to the assessment grade of the sub assessment aspects:

This table illustrates the distribution of channels, showing the two highest and the two lowest ranked channels for each sub assessment aspect:

Sub assessment aspects	Highest 2 ranks				Lowest 2 ranks			
	Channel	%	Channel	%	Channel	%	Channel	%
The extent of concern about electoral awareness	1 st Channel	97%	Elmehwer	94%	ElArabia Elhadas	40%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	2%
The extent of concern about encouraging people to vote	Elmehwer	96%	CBC	93%	ElArabia Elhadas	40%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	4%
The commitment to the organising regulations for the period of electoral silence	Nile news	98%	Elmehwer	92%	Sada elbalad	55%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	15%
The extent of impartiality in covering the candidates' activities and their campaigns over the polling and counting days	Nile news	95%	1 st Channel	93%	Sada elbalad	45%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	20%
The extent of coverage of activities regarding elections observation	CBC	94%	Elmehwer	89%	ElArabia Elhadas	25%	Nile News	20%
The extent of commitment not to expose private lives, nor make ethical charges legally forbidden against any of the stakeholders of the election process	Nile News	100%	Channel 1	98%	Sada Elbalad	55%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	5%
The extent of commitment to professionalism in transmitting the counting results	Nile News	94%	Elmehwer	88%	Sada Elbalad	65%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	15%
The commitment to publish true news regarding the election process	Nile News	96%	Elmehwer	92%	Sada Elbalad	60%	AlJazeera Mobasher Masr	3%

The results contained in the above table indicate that Nile News Channel has the highest rank for the following assessment aspects, including: keeping electoral silence, neutral coverage of candidates' activities, avoiding exposure of the private lives of candidates, a commitment to professional standards in transmitting the results of counting, publishing true news about the electoral process. However, it has the lowest rank when it comes to coverage of the activities of election observation.

Elmehwer channel has the highest rank for encouraging people to vote and came in second place regarding the following elements: concern about electoral awareness, coverage of observation activities, adherence to professional standards in transmitting the results of the counting and the obligation to publish true news about the election process.

CBC was ranked first for its coverage of activities regarding election observation and the 1st channel Egyptian TV came in first place regarding the aspect of election awareness.

Al-Jazeera Mobasher Masrhas occupied the lowest rank with extremely low grades on all aspects, except for the aspect related to coverage of the activities of election observation.

Al-Arabiya Elhadas took the penultimate rank on aspects with average grades related to concern about election awareness, urging participation and coverage of activities of elections observation.

Sada Elbalad also occupied the penultimate position for several aspects, with average rates relating to commitment towards the period of electoral silence, neutrality in covering the activities of the candidates, avoiding exposure of the private lives of the candidates, adherence to professional standards in transmitting the results of the counting, and the transfer of false news about the election process.

Conclusion and recommendations:

The media plays a pivotal role during the election process, as it represents the main source of information for voters and plays a role in forming the voters' convictions and their orientations towards the process in general and towards the candidates specifically.

The importance of media increases as we get closer to the polling stage, as this is the point where the voters' orientations are transformed into tangible attitudes that favour one of the candidates over the other.

Accordingly, the media's commitment to professionalism and objectivity, as well as moral and legal standards gain increasing importance during the period covered by the report.

Report results have shown that the media performance of channels owned by the government were better and closer to professional and legal standards during the monitoring period. The private channels also had a strong tendency to be committed to those standards and differences between them were not large. Alarabia Elhadas is an example of one acting in a proper manner within the nature of the channel, regarding the scope of coverage, its priorities and concerns.

AlJazeera Mobasher Masr's coverage was contrary to all professional, political and moral regulations during the period covered by the report. It had the lowest rank on the channels list, whether on a general assessment level or according to most of the sub assessment levels.

The report highlights the importance of a compulsory media code of ethics for all TV channels, especially during the period of electoral silence and during the polling and counting processes. Legal punishments against any violations of the organising legal regulations should also be reinforced.

How did the Western Media address the candidacy stage of the Presidential Elections?

Preface:

Western press is one of the important windows through which citizens in foreign countries acquaint themselves with the situation in Egypt. The foreign press' treatment of events are a major source of information which inform people's views regarding what is happening in Egypt.

Accordingly, the "Egyptian Presidential Election Observatory 2014" at Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, is concerned with preparing and publishing periodic analytical reports on how the Western press addresses the electoral process in Egypt. This first report is about how the western press dealt with the first stage of candidacy of the presidential elections in Egypt.

Newspapers that have been monitored:

Five newspapers were chosen, as they are the most widespread within several different countries of influence. The period for analysing the newspapers' coverage of the presidential election was from 30 March 2014 to 20 April 2014. The newspapers analysed are:

1. Washington Post (published in USA)
2. TIME (published in USA)
3. Wall Street Journal (published in USA)
4. Daily Telegraph (published in UK)
5. Le Monde (published in France)

Press releases published during the period covered

First: The Washington Post

The Washington Post published four issues related to the first stage of the presidential elections in Egypt. The first article was published on 30 March 2014, after the period of opening the door to candidacy and was entitled "[Egypt sets presidential vote for May 26-27, with former army chief expected to win](#)". The article identified the names of the presidential candidates, Abdel Fattah al-Sissi and Hamdeen Sabahi, and stated that this election is the second presidential election that the Egyptians will experience in less than two years. It described the candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sissi as a former commander of the army, who disposed the elected Islamic president, and is expected to win.

The second article entitled "El-Sissi in final step to run for president" was published on 14 April 2014. It contained announcements from El-Sissi's campaign, and quoted Mohamed Bahaa Abu Shaqa, legal advisor who said they have received eight times the required signatures of support set by the Election Commission, with an estimated 200,000 signatures. It pointed out that the images deployed on local TV and social media show security guards carrying boxes, a poster with a picture of Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi and the name of the province from which the signatures were collected. The article described the other candidate Hamdeen Sabahi as a leftist, who lost the elections against Morsi.

The article then analysed the current context mentioning the popular support for Abdel Fattah El-Sissi and stated that he is obliged to declare an electoral program to explain what he intends to do to revive the economy, restore security and rescue the vital tourism sector that has experienced harsh conditions of late.

The third article coincided with Coptic celebrations, as the Washington Post published an article on 19 April 2014, entitled "[El-Sissi visits Coptic pope before Easter](#)". The article showed an image of the visit of Abdel Fattah El-Sissi to Pope Tawadros II, who supports presidential candidate. The article continued by tackling the progress of the first stage of candidacy of the presidential elections, and mentioned that El-Sissi had submitted the required authorisation required by the Election Commission. It described El-Sissi as the one who removed the first democratically elected president of Egypt.

The article also talked about the other presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, saying that his campaign submitted 30,000 signatures to the commission, which is 5,000 more than what is required, but six times less than the number of signatures El-Sissi presented to the commission.

The article introduced Hamdeen Sabahi as the one who gained 5 million votes in the 2012 presidential elections, when the national mood was different. The article reiterated Sabahi's view-point made after he submitted the authorised signatures, saying that he hoped for fair elections and described his campaign as one to realise the demands of a youth-led revolution. The article also published further announcements on behalf of Sabahi.

The article finally mentioned one of Bassem Youssef's episode of the popular TV show "Elbernameg", where he presented some television interviews of public figures and citizens who claimed that Egypt will collapse without El-Sissi. The use of the word "The End" fell in a way that suggested that what is happening in Egypt is just a play.

The Washington Post also published an article on 20 April 2014, entitled "Egypt: Ex-army chief, leftist to run for president". The article compared the presidential elections held in 2012, where there was fierce competition between 13 candidates, with the current elections that only have two candidates. The article addressed the popular standing of Abdel Fattah El-Sissi with citizens since he ousted the former president Mohamed Morsi. There was also mention of the statement by the Election Commission spokesman Abdel-Aziz Salman, who said that Abdel Fattah El-Sissi submitted 188,930 valid authorisations, while Hamdeen Sabahi submitted 31,555 valid authorisations. Moreover, it highlighted what Sabahi's campaign had mentioned, in regards to accusing certain officials who intimidated campaign members during the submission of authorisations.

The article also mentioned that Ayman Nour and others advised Sabahi to withdraw from the election race to avoid providing what they called a democratic façade. Ayman Nour told Eljazeera Mubasher "I hope that my friend Sabahi doesn't become an extra". He then affirmed that the only indicator of Sissi's popularity will be the turnout in the presidential elections.

Second: American TIME:

TIME has dealt with the first stage of the presidential election in three articles. The first article was published on 30 March and entitled "Egypt Sets Presidential Vote for May 26 and 27". The article published the announcements made by the Election Commission in the press conference, which declared that the elections for a new president would be held on 26 and 27 May 2014, with results expected in early June. The article declared that the closing date for the first stage would be 20 April and that the three-week campaign period is slated to start in early May.

On 3 April, an article was published by Thanassis Cambanis, entitled "Wrong man, Wrong battle". The article claimed that Abdel El-fattah El-Sissi will win the upcoming elections, but will likely fail, just as the president he ousted. The article mentioned that although Abdel El-fattah El-Sissi has made attacks on political freedom, he has popularity among the people. Furthermore, the government institutions have rallied around him and put hope on El-Sissi's shoulders, however, this will lead to the deterioration of the economy.

According to a TIME readers' poll, El-Sissi came first on the list of the top 100 most influential people of the year worldwide. The topic described El-Sissi as the leader of the coup d'état against the former president of Egypt.

Finally on 20 April, TIME published a report by Sarah ElDeeb, entitled "Egypt: Ex-Army Chief, Leftist to Run for President". The report presented a neutral view of the progress in the first stage of the presidential

elections, which included a description of El-Sissi's stand and his submission of authorisations, as well as Hamden Sabahi's stand and his submission of authorisations, according to the media spokesperson for the Election Commission. The report did not portray El-Sissi as the coup d'état leader, but rather as the one who led the popular movement on 30 June 2013.

Third: Wall Street Journal:

Wall street Journal published two articles related to the presidential elections in Egypt during the period 30 March to 20 April 2014.

The first article was published on 30 March under the title "Egypt's Presidential Election to Be Held in May: Commission". The article presented the Commission's announcements made at the press conference that was held on Sunday, 30 March 2014.

The second article was entitled "Egypt Ex-General Sisi Meets with Coptic Christians" and published on 19 April. The article showed that this visit was the first public formal appearance for Abdel Elfattah El-Sissi after his bid to run for elections.

Fourth: Daily Telegraph:

Throughout the first stage of the presidential election, the Daily telegraph published one article. It was published after the closing date for candidacy applications on 20 April, and was entitled "Egypt: leftist Hamdeen Sabahi to stand alone against Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in presidential election". The article compared the current presidential elections, where there are no Islamist candidates to the previous election, where there were various candidates who different affiliations on the political spectrum.

The article described Abdel Elfattah El-Sissi as the one who toppled the first, freely elected president. It affirmed the absence of any Islamist candidates, contrary to the previous presidential elections in 2012. The article also transmitted Sabahi's announcement to Reuters Egypt, that he doubts Abdel Elfattah El-Sissi will support democracy in Egypt, and that the former military intelligence leader "Mubarak" was the one responsible for human rights violations in Egypt. Sabahi added that Egypt now has the task of cleaning the "facade" and building up a new generation of politicians. He argued that the figures in Mubarak's regime will harm the new roadmap of Egypt. The article ended by saying that neither El-Sissi nor Sabahi have declared any electoral program to cure poverty, unemployment, the shortage of energy, or other problems that Egyptians face.

Fifth: Le Monde

Le Monde dealt with the first stage of the presidential elections in one article, published after the closing the door for candidacy period on 20 April 2014 and entitled "In Egypt, Marshal Sissi almost the sole candidate for the presidency". The article included the commission's announcement regarding the set dates for the presidential election, 26-27 May 2014, and the names of presidential candidates, Abdel Elfattah El-Sissi and Hamden Sabahi.

Notes on the Western press' treatment of the candidacy stage of the presidential election:

1. American newspapers, especially the Washington Post, were the most concerned with the Egyptian Presidential Elections, which is demonstrated by the number of articles published on the topic (4 articles).
2. Most of the coverage has portrayed El-Sissi as the one who lead the coup d'état against the legitimately elected former president, with obvious disregard of the mass popular revolution, which was held on 30 June 2013.
3. There is a focus in the American and British newspapers on Abdel Elfattah El-Sissi's candidacy for the presidential elections. There is also continuous linking between his current candidacy and his former position as the chief of the military forces.

4. The newspapers focused on the presence of 2 candidates running in the elections and compared the current situation with the previous presidential elections where 13 candidates were competing. However, in the West, it is a very common phenomenon for 2 candidates to run for presidential elections, which indicates a double standard in dealing with the situation. The Western newspapers also pointed out the absence of Islamist candidates in the run for elections.
5. El-Sissi's visit to the Coptic Pope has achieved a fair coverage within the articles published relating to the presidential elections.

Preamble

The phenomena of violence and terrorism were widely known in Egypt during the 1980's and 1990's, when the Takfiri declared war on what they considered to be the "infidel community". They sought what is called "the establishment of an Islamic state", which included killing, destruction and burning and the Egyptian society had to pay dearly to overcome the Takfiri.

During the eighties and nineties, the Egyptians lost hundreds of their children's and soldiers' lives. A number of intellectuals and opinion leaders were under threat, there were assassination attempts, people were killed and politicians were murdered by the hand of black terrorism during this era of Egypt's modern history. In addition, Egypt's economy suffered painful blows as a result of these groups targeting the tourism sector.

Apart from the loss of lives and minds, there was also a notable loss represented by the "deliberate absence" of a democratic climate and the spread of exceptional and repressive practices by the ruling power at the time, under the framework of the fight against terrorism. Consequently, Egyptians were made to live in continuous state of emergency over the course of nearly 30 years.

The pace of violence and terrorism returned and was strongly felt throughout Egyptian society after the success of the popular revolution on 30 June 2013, which isolated former president Mohamed Morsi and led to the announcement of a future road map, including three constitutional and electoral entitlements on 3 July 2013, after a consensus was reached between national forces, institutions and active youth movements.

The violence escalated after the break-up of sit-ins in Rabiaa Adawiya and Renaissance squares in August 2013. The second escalating wave of violence coincided with the first electoral entitlement of the road map related to the presidential election process launched on 31 March 2014, due to be followed by polling days expected to take place on 26 and 27 May.

Thus, violence, terrorism and their impact on the context of the electoral process should be a key focus of the monitoring and evaluation of the electoral process in Egypt. Growing violence and terrorism may be a factor that can lead to severe negative impacts on the rates of free elections, the rates of participation, voters' choice and their preferences amongst the candidates.

In this context, the "Presidential Elections Observatory - Egypt 2014" affiliated with Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, highlights violence and terrorism in this qualitative report, and underlines what has been observed in terms of terror and violent events in conjunction with the Egyptian presidential elections.

This report covers what has been observed since the beginning of the candidacy period for the presidential elections (31 March 2014), until the early stage of the electoral campaign (5 May 2014).

Violence and terrorism after 30 June : Who holds responsibility for it?

The historical evidence confirms that the "current allies of the Muslim Brotherhood" committed most of the bloody incidents witnessed by Egypt in the eighties and nineties last century. Both the Jihad organisation and the Islamic group spearhead the corruption, violence and murders. At the end of the nineties there were initiatives to cease the violence which resulted in painful security blows towards the violent Takfiri.

When we say that those who have committed violence and terrorism are current "allies" of the Brotherhood, we clearly refer to evidence and indicators that are difficult to be disproved or circumvented.

The Brotherhood has previously allied with Jihadi organisations including: the Islamic Group and Jihad organisation, during the isolated president Mohamed Morsi's rule. As a way of settling the bill for this alliance, the former president issued a decision to pardon the prisoners belonging to these groups. These prisoners were accused in cases of violence, murder and terrorism and were still serving their sentences, as well as continuing relations with their affiliations outside the prison.

The former president issued a consequent number of amnesties. In July and August 2012, he successfully issued the most notable of these decisions, No. 57 of 2012 which pardoned more than 500 terrorists in order to satisfy the Islamic Group, which entered into an alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Subsequent events confirmed that most of prisoners pardoned by Morsi settled in Sinai and returned to the practice of terrorist operations against the Egyptian army, police forces and unarmed civilians.

The Egyptian memory clearly recalls the "indicated orientations and behaviours" of the former president and his group in order to consolidate their relationship with representatives of former violent groups and the Takfiri who were integrated into political life. The "Supporting Syria Conference", which was attended by the isolated president was turned into a platform for the Takfiri, who vowed that an attack against civilians is not far away.

Moreover, the political discourse and field activities of the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies post 3 July, verbal violence and incitement practiced on the platforms they control, have power over or finance, offers them a political cover for the violence and terrorism which has escalated in conjunction with the elections.

Observation of violence and terrorist incidents that coincided with the presidential election

31 March 2014

- A foiled attempt to blow up an explosive device at Sheikh Zuwaid - did not cause any injuries;
- Foiled terrorist attempt to blow up an explosive device in downtown El Arish, where explosive detectors revealed the presence of an explosive device near the health insurance building in El-Arish. The explosive device weighed 20 kilograms and was connected to a circuit and mobile phone devices;
- The technical teams of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission company succeeded in foiling an attempt to target the electricity towers on the "Samalout - Cairo" line, 500 kV, when workers headed to the work area to carry out regular maintenance of the line 441, and they found some prepared materials intended to blow up the tower.

2 April 2014

- Three bombs exploded on University Street, facing the main door to Cairo University, near Renaissance Square. Upon the arrival of the deployed security forces in the vicinity of the university, the first two explosions resulted in the murder of Brigadier Tariq Almarjawi, Chief of Detectives at West Giza Sector, and wounded five officers of the Giza Security Directorate police force;
- In North Sinai, a terrorist activity intended to blow up security vehicles near Rafah city. Instead, a person was seized while he was planting an explosive device on the Rafah - Sheikh Zuwaid Road, in front of the passing security vehicles. The explosive device was defused and the person was arrested;
- An explosive device weighing about 30 kilograms was defused in Al-Arish. It had an electronic circuit installed from the outside and was electrically powered.

4 April 2014

- Security forces foiled an attempt by gunmen to blow up security vehicles in Rafah via an explosive device. An explosive device was found in Almasoura area, Rafah, during the movement of security vehicles on a main road in the region, it was then dismantled by the competent security forces.

10 April 2014

- ElQalioubya security forces were able to foil an attempted bombing of the Educational Administration building at Kanater Elkhairia, where workers found a homemade bomb inside the building and reported it to the police.

12 April 2014

- Bombing of a police officer's car at Hasri Square - 6th October. The car was parked next to Elhasri mosque, where an anonymous person planted a bomb in the car tire, and when the officer tried to start the car, they detonated it.

15 April 2014

- Explosive devices beside Dokki police station exploded, injuring an officer, a soldier and another civilian with shrapnel, after the device was thrown in front of a traffic booth at Galaa Square;
- 3 people were injured in an explosion at Faisal Street, following an anonymous planting of an explosive device under a private car.

18 April 2014

- Bomb blast in a traffic booth at Lebanon Square, Mohandseen, Giza, resulted in the death of officer Mohammad Jamal Eldeen Ma'moun, from the General Directorate of Traffic, and the injury of a policeman;
- Explosion of a homemade bomb in front of Fayoum stadium, where the armed forces securing the area are located – did not cause any injuries or casualties;
- The security forces in northern Sinai foiled an attempt to bomb security vehicles on ElGoura Road, south of Sheikh Zuwaid in North Sinai, where they found an improvised explosive device;

20 April 2014

- An Egyptian officer and a conscript were killed in a new attack on the police, when gunmen opened fire on a car in which they were travelling during a patrol on the road between Cairo and Suez;

22 April 2014

- Explosive experts managed to detonate a crude bomb found behind Santa Court, which turned out to be a box with a portable device, gunpowder and explosive devices;

23 April 2014

- Explosive device detonated which caused the death of a police officer after targeting his car in a 6 October, west of Cairo;
- A terrorist cell belonging to Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis in Alexandria was seized - they were preparing to detonate a bomb via a mobile phone;

24 April 2014

- Security forces in Ismailia found 5 electrical circuits ready to explode during a raid of a cell belonging to Ansar Bayt Al-Maqdis;

29 April 2014

- An anonymous attempt to detonate a car belonging to an armed forces officer in Dokki, by planting an explosive device in his car, which was deactivated as soon as detected;
- Customs at Cairo International Airport seized a group of electrical circuits held in the possession of a Kuwaiti passenger coming from Beirut. It was suspected they could be used for remote detonation.

2 May 2014

- One person was killed and two wounded when a car without plates exploded at Ramses Street, near the headquarters of the Engineers' Syndicate in Cairo;
- An Egyptian conscript was killed in an explosion in El-Tor, South Sinai, while eight were wounded in two separate bombings. The first occurred when an individual blew himself up, targeting a barrier at El-Tor Valley, South Sinai, which resulted in the death of one soldier and injury to five policemen. The second bombing, which was caused by an improvised explosive device exploded near a tourist bus at Ras Gara, 30 kilometres from Mount Sinai. 3 passengers were injured and the bomber was fatally wounded.

3 May 2014

- A number of supporters of former president Mohamed Morsi, set fire to a car, owned by a popular tourist restaurant at Haram Street, during one of their marches in the area. The car exploded and was heard throughout the area.

5 May 2014

- The explosives department and a number of security forces detonated a car loaded with weapons on a remote mountain in El-Tor city. The car that was seized near the site of the second bombing was located in Ras Gara, located on El-Tor – Sharm ElSheikh International Road. The car contained 2 artillery ammunitions - one of them was almost 2 meters and was the length of the entire vehicle, whilst the other was 150cm in length. Rocket Propelled Grenades and homemade bombs were ready to go off in the first security stop, which was Sharm ElSheikh's new security stop, according to Criminal Investigation.

- **A table showing the bombings and the number of victims during the report period**

Bombing Place	Death Numbers	Injuries Number	Total Victims
Haram		2	2
Ramsis	1	2	3
South Sinai	1	8	9
October 6	1	2	3
Cairo – Suez Road	2		
Lebanon Square	1	1	2
Fayoum			
Dokki		3	3
Faisal Street		3	3
Elhasri Square		1	1
Cairo University Vicinity	1	5	6
Total	7	27	34

A table showing the explosive attempts foiled by security forces and their locations during the report period

Bombing Device	Attempted Bombing Location
6 improvised explosive devices	North Sinai
Prepared materials for the bombing	Samalout - Cairo electricity line
1992 explosive devices + 115 detonators + 11 starters	Matrouh Governorate
T.N.T explosive	Elmazraa, El-Arish
3 homemade bombs	Qaliubiya, Santa Court, Alexandria
5 circuits	Ismailia
IED	Giza
Circuits	Cairo airport
Firearms	Giza
prepared car for explosion	El-Tor city
A car bomb	North Sinai

Conclusions

The frequency of the previously listed facts indicate that there is a political will that runs counter to that of the Egyptians, who want to transition to a stable stage and hold elections. On the other hand, this counter will uses violence, terror and murder either to hinder or influence the elections.

The events also reveal that terrorism and violence seem to occur randomly, for example a bombing in a crowded square in a major city such as Ramses. However the majority of terrorist acts targeted Egyptian police and military, with a focus on Cairo, its different districts, and the Sinai area.

Based on this narrative, we can suggest that violence and terrorism may increase in the coming period, closer to the date of the elections. As a result, this requires the competent authorities to be alert and to develop their security plans to address these conditions in compliance with the established legal rules.

Furthermore, the MAAT foundation stresses that the national and international organisations who are following-up the electoral process, should consider violence and terrorism as a key component in their analysis and evaluation of the electoral process. In addition, there is also a need to study the impact of this climate of violence and terrorism on citizens' electoral participation rates.

The Issued Reports during the polling and counting stages

First report : polling day 1 (26 May 2014)

- **Heavy security presence and average turnout in most of the regions**
- **The emergence of women's participation and violent attempts in some governorates**

In the context of its observation of the voting phase in the Egyptian presidential elections, the local and international teams affiliated with the joint mission of the presidential election started their deployment in 25 different governorates in the early hours of the morning of Monday, 26 May 2014 to monitor the facts and proceedings of the voting process.

The polling stations officially opened at 9:00am on Monday, 26 May 2014. The following observations were made in the early morning and in the short period that followed:

1. Intense security presence in most of the polling stations nationwide and additional tightened security in a number of areas of Cairo and Giza. There were also warplanes flying over some areas. However, the tightened security did not affect the voters' access to polling stations, nor their turn-out rates;
2. Average turnout in general in the early hours of the morning, with a high turnout noted in some areas including: Haram, Ayat and Hawamdeya centers in Giza; Alarbaeen district in Suez; Shubra, Alsahel, Alzawya Alhamra, and Waili in Cairo; some areas in Alexandria; Tanta and Mahalla centers at AlGharbia; Quesna in ElMenoufia; ElHamoul in Kafr El Sheikh; Ismailia city in Ismailia; Meet Ghamr center in Dakahlia; Fayoum city; and Beni Suef city. The turnout was relatively poor in Upper Egypt, except for Nagae Hammadi center in Qena, which witnessed a high turnout;
3. Prominent and obvious female presence in most of the polling stations. An average to high turnout of female voters was observed, especially in Cairo and Giza governorates;
4. Most of the polling stations opened on time, while some were delayed due to the late arrival of the supervising judge or staff. Those polling stations included: Meet Ghamr Secondary girls School in Dakahlia; Iman Faris School at Fayoum; AlHajir Alsharqi School at Armant center of Luxor; Nagae Hamadi Preparatory School for Girls, committee No. 6 in Aswan; Alnahaseen School at Faqous center of Alsharqia. When some polling stations opened earlier by 15-20 minutes as in the case of January 25 experimental School at Kafr Shokr in Qalubia, and Khadija Yusuf school at Assiut city;
5. We observed the theft of ballot papers from committee No. 49 at Mesrea elementary mixed school - new ballot papers with new serial numbers were printed;
6. We observed a medium size demonstration at Mokbel area, Beni Suef Center, where slogans insulting the army were chanted and demonstrators tried to prevent voters from casting their votes. Two morning marches were also observed at Raml Station, Alexandria;
7. The security forces at Minya Elkamh police station in the Alsharqia governorate, in cooperation with Salah Salem School security forces, managed to arrest someone in possession of three Molotov cocktails, following clashes in front of the polling station;
8. Kafr El Sheikh center, Desouk center, polling station No. 16 at the Commercial School - suspicion of a bomb and the polling stations did not open until 9:30;

9. We observed Molotov cocktails being thrown at a car belonging to the north upper Egypt TV channel, at Msteer village, Minia Governorate;
10. ElMonofeya: Quisna Center - Fatima Zahra School – the polling station numbers registered on the ballot boxes are incorrect and have been amended, high turnout since the first minutes in polling stations No. 1 and 2.

Second Report : polling day 1

- **Increased turn-out in cities, but a decrease in villages due to hot weather**
- **Limited and sporadic violence occurs in Beni Suef, Cairo and Giza**

In the context of its observation to the voting process, the joint mission continued observing the progress of the process, this is the second report issued by the mission to cover the period between 11:00 am and 2:00pm.

This period witnessed a relative increase in voter turnout in most of the main cities and governorate capitals, however the poor turnout continued in the villages, which can be largely attributed to the high temperatures. In general, Suez and ElMonofeya governorates witnessed a big leap in voting rates during these few hours, and the emergence of women's participation, particularly outside the capital, was noticeable.

During this report period, some sporadic violent events were witnessed and carried out by opposing organisations to the electoral process. However, there were no violations of the intensive security operations implemented by the Egyptian security apparatuses. The following points are the most significant factors observed during the hours covered by the report:

1. Ismailia - third district - Mostafa Kamel School, the committee was suspended for 10 minutes, due to voters entering and raising images of AlSisi, with a warning not to enter inside the committee;
2. ElMonofeya: Bagour Center - Talpnt Obashich Primary School - Judge at committee No. 57 complained about the lack of fans, the lack of voting booths, the absence of a fire extinguisher, and the fact that the bathrooms are not suitable for human use, while citizens complained about the distance of the polling stations from their residences;
3. Abeen District, Cairo, the Arab Unity School, polling station No. 9 - the existence of a child not exceeding 10 years of age was observed to be directing voters to vote for a particular candidate and was expelled after the entry of the observer within less than a minute;
4. Kafr AlShaikh, Motobas Center, Motobas Secondary Boys School polling station No. 3, fourth floor - there are no facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly;
5. Beni Suef, Beni Suef Centre, Mokbel – there was a demonstration with fireworks, insults and abuse directed towards the army and police by young people for the fifth time. 7 rioters were arrested by security forces led by the security deputy director;
6. Elsharkia, Zagazig Centre, Agricultural School committee No. 14, collective voting was observed as well as directing voters outside the committees;
7. Elgharbia, Kafr ElZayat, City Council, polling stations No. 3 and 4 - increasing number of voters and high turnout of men. The head of the committee prevented a woman from casting her vote because she carried an Al-Sissi picture and after she removed it, she was allowed her to cast her vote;

8. Cairo, Albasateen, Freedom School polling stations No. 42 and 43 do not have any candidate delegates because the judge refused their entry including those who carried a national ID card issued by Albasateen as a punishment for their absence during the committee opening;
9. Alexandria, Ameria, sub-committee No. 46, Ahmad Badawi Preparatory School - the head of committee left the committee and went out for a break;
10. ElMonofeya, Berket Elsabaa Center – the Institution School - the judge complained about committee No. 4 for the lack of preparations in terms of seats and voting booths;
11. The Muslim Brotherhood supporters at Mataria, Cairo tried to prevent voters from casting ballots by torching car tires in front of the committees;
12. Unidentified men on a motorcycle threw a Molotov on Alazhar Institute in Kafr Sharaf village, at Meet Ghamr center, Dakahlia Governorate;
13. Fireworks were thrown at the Bishop Paula Monastery in Beni Suef;
14. Tires were torched on the Ring Road near Kerdasa city to obstruct traffic.

Third report : polling day 1

- **50% of voters are in the age range 18 – 40 years old**
- **The most obvious violation is candidate supporters' campaigns in front of polling stations**
- **Gradual increase in the number of voters number after working hours**

Cairo, 26 May 2014 - 6:30 pm

The joint mission to the Egyptian presidential election continued to observe the voting phase. This report covers the period between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

During this time, we observed a continuous flow of voters to the polling stations with a marked increase in these numbers after the employees returned home from work from 2.00 pm onwards. We observed the stability of the security situation against the backdrop of some of the violent incidents that took place in some areas in Kerdasa, Fayoum, Beni Suef and Sharqia.

During the first day of polling, the joint mission also observed the age and sex structure of random groups of voters in different areas in the 25 governorates included in the mission. The most important results were as follows:

1. There are a group of sub-committees using an e-reader in places where the number of voters exceeds 6.8 million;
2. The estimated percentage of voters in the age group 18-40 years is about 50% of the total voters;
3. The percentage of women voters is more than 50% of the total voters.

With regard to the most important observations regarding the conduct inside and outside the polling stations over the past few hours, the following are the most significant:

1. Port Said, Arab district, Kasem Ameen School, committee No. 12 - distributing publications for Hamdeen Sabahi inside the committee – this was dealt with by the police;
2. Alexandria, the second division, Mahatet Alraml, Intellectual Rehabilitation School - the judge refused entry to the observer, due to the large numbers of observers already inside the polling station;

3. ElMonofeya, Bagour Center, Obashich School, polling station No. 55 - the officials did not provide guidance to voters on how to use the phosphoric ink after casting their ballots;
4. Kafr AlShaikh, Sidi Salem Center, Mousky School, polling station No. 53 - a lack of assistance to the illiterate and disabled which caused people resentment;
5. Sohag, Sohag First Division, Aldmrani School - security forces found boxes containing Molotov cocktails left by unidentified persons inside the school, however, these did not result in any injuries;
6. A number of Brotherhood members in Zagazig city, Alsharqia, set off a number of fireworks, directed at the convoy of Major General Sameh Kelani, Alsharqia Security Director while inspecting the security situation in Zagazig during the electoral process;
7. ElMonofeya, Ashmun Center, Ameen Elkhoully School, polling station No. 4 - the number of voters who have cast their vote so far is about 1500 out of 5428 voters;
8. Beni Suef, Beni Suef center, Taha Hussein Gamal Abdel Nasser Schools, Beni Suef governor, security director, and commander of the Air Defence inspect the committees and remove the electoral campaigns surroundings the electoral committees;
9. AlFayoum, AlFayoum city, secondary girls school - overcrowding and congestion in front of the committees, voters lists do not exist;
10. AlFayoum, AlFayoum city, Tahrir School – polling stations have been closed since 4:40pm in order to have a break;
11. Albehira, Damanhur, typical religious institute, polling stations No. 15 and women's committee No. 16 - a total number of 4743 and 4744 voters respectively, poor turnout and no voting booths;
12. Algharbia, Zifta Center, Shershaba village, martyr Ibrahim Jamal AlDin School, committee No. 25 - 800 voters had cast their vote out of 4,000 voters;
13. Kafr AlShaikh, Riyadh Center, Triangle Village, Triangle School, committee No. 15 - the presence of electoral campaigns supporting candidate Abdel Fattah AlSisi, observed in front of the committees;
14. ElQaliubiya, Shubra AlKhaimah, Bahteem secondary boys School, committee No. 36, a female citizen entered the polling station in the morning, carrying the picture of candidate No. 1 and calling citizens to vote for him. When the judge expelled her, she tried to re-enter in the afternoon and the security personnel prevented her from entering because it was not her polling station. Up until this point, she has caused several problems and insulted the security forces and the judge;
15. Minya, Dermwas, Delga village - 30 individuals carrying white weapons prevented voters from reaching the polls and security forces threw tear gas and arrested some of them;
16. Minya, Maghagha - a Brotherhood march against the election and candidates, dealt with by the security forces who broke it down;
17. AlFayoum, Atsa center, Abu Bakr Elsediek school at Albasel village – shots were fired at security troops and the necessary security measures were adopted;
18. Luxor, Jerna Center, Dabayaa Boys School, committee No. 17 - Judge Mohamed Abdel-Latif registered the non-existence of voters' lists inside the committees;
19. Algharbia, Almahla, popular secondary girls school - 513 marijuana trees found inside the school.

Fourth report : polling day 2 (27 May 2014)

- **The start of voting in the majority of committees and limited cases of delayed opening**
- **Limited attacks on the security forces the night before**

The joint mission to the Egyptian presidential election, through its teams deployed in 25 governorates, continues to observe the voting procedures during the morning of the second day of conduct on Tuesday, 27 May 2014.

The mission commends the adequate security atmosphere in which the voting process took place yesterday and wishes for its continuation today. The mission also commends the Egyptian government's decision made yesterday, declaring a public holiday and the decision of the PEC to extend the voting period until 10:00pm, in order to enable the voters to cast their ballots without fear of congestion or having to stand in queues under the high temperatures throughout the daylight hours.

In the late hours of the night of Monday, 26 May 2014, Aladwa village at Hehia center, Sharkia governorate, witnessed attempts to exercise violence by some people after the closure of the ballot boxes during a march around the nearby polling stations. Cartridges were shot at the security forces who were guarding the ballot stations in the village. The attackers were chased by the security forces and then everything returned to normal in the early hours of the morning.

The field observation results during the first hours of the polling process on the second day indicate the regularity of the process in the majority of the committees, with a more than average turnout in most of the polling stations visited. The most significant delayed openings are as follows:

1. ElMonofeya, Menouf center, Dmlij School, polling station No. 39 opened at 9:30am due to the judge's late arrival;
2. ElMonofeya, Sadat Center, Tranih School, polling station No. 15 opened at 9:20am due to the judge's late arrival;
3. ElMonofeya, Quisna Center, Aghour Alraml School, polling station No. 46 opened at 9:30 am due to the judge's absence;
4. Giza, Atfeeh, Kafr Kandil School, polling station No. 19, the polling station opened at 9:30 am due to the judge's absence;
5. Beni Suef, Beni Suef center, Alsalam Sports Preparatory School for Girls, polling station No. 26, delayed opening due to the fact that the responsible police officer for securing the committee building, forgot the committee's keys in his home. He was rebuked by the unit officer and referred to investigation.

In a limited number of cases, there was the absence of some voters' names from the voters' list, despite the presence of their names in the lists of certain committees during the referendum last year. The most prominent examples of this occurred in the Menoufia Governorate, Bagour center, Kamal El-Shazly prep School, polling stations No. 5 & 6, where some people did not find their names in the voters' lists, despite their presence previously during the referendum.

At Kafr AlShaikh, Kafr AlShaikh center, Khadimiyah Primary School, polling station No. 66, the presence of one of the armed forces recruits was observed in the voters' lists. However, he is currently in service and is not allowed to vote in accordance with the law.

Other observations that were monitored during the early hours of the morning are listed below:

1. Cairo, Helwan, Tebeen, Amr Ibn ELAas school, polling station No. 11 - the judge expelled the observer for observing the judge's existence outside the polling station, while people continued to vote during his long absence;
2. Beni Suef, Nasser Center, the car belonging ALSisi's campaign representative was anonymously burnt.

Overall, the electoral process is proceeding quietly to date, and the security procedures are smooth despite the tightened security, especially on the main roads and at entrances to the polling stations.

Fifth Report : polling day 2

- **The issue of expatriate voting was the most obvious problem during the day and threatens 7.5 million voters**
- **A relative increase in the number of voters despite the hot weather**
- **The Mission submitted reports and suggestions to the Presidential Election Committee**

The joint mission to the presidential election was deployed in different regions of the republic to observe the progress during the presidential elections, for the second day in a row.

The observer teams monitored the issue of expatriate voting in most polling stations, especially in Cairo, Giza, South Sinai, Alexandria and Assiut, where there were complaints about the inability of expatriates to vote. According to the PEC, this was particularly due to the inability of millions of expatriates to meet the requirements of pre-registration at the Real Estate Offices.

The observer teams communicated with a number of judges, local observation teams, and candidates' election campaign representatives in order to verify the extent of the problem. The mission affirmed its significance in affecting the voting rates in the electoral process. The estimated number of expatriates who failed to claim their electoral right are estimated at 7.5 million.

Thus, the joint mission appeals to the PEC and the Egyptian government authorities to find a fast and practical solution to enable them to vote in the presidential elections during the coming hours.

In a related development, the mission teams observed during the past few hours between 11:00am and 2:30pm, a significant increase in the numbers of voters in front of the committees in the majority of regions in spite of the very high temperature. There was however, a relative decline in the rural areas and a disparity ratio between the Delta and Upper Egypt governorates.

During the last few hours, an explosion near one of the churches at Roxy Square and the burning of several cars was observed, which resulted in the injury of one person. The security authorities are investigating the issue to find out the dimensions of the incident.

The joint mission also observed a group of Copts who received phone threats, preventing them from going to vote in Deir Maymon village, Atfeeh center, Giza. In addition, the security forces in Bani Suef arrested two individuals in front of one of the polling stations because they were directing the citizens not to vote.

Regarding the conditions inside the polling stations, our observers documented many facts, the following are the most important:

1. ElMenoufia, Bagour center, Meet Alwasta Primary School, polling station No. 52 - a lack of cooperation from the judge for people with special needs, and the lack of election ink inside the station;

2. Cairo, Maadi, Maadi Experimental School, polling station No. 13 – there was a visit by the Governor of Cairo to the polling station in Maadi;
3. Kafr Al-Shaikh, Hamoul center, ElThamanen Primary School, polling station No. 33 - minibuses supporting Abdel ElFatah ElSisi's campaign was hired by citizens. A Muslim Brotherhood group got out and had an argument with ElSisi delegates. Two citizens were injured and taken to hospital, and the incidence was reported to security;
4. Kafr AlShaikh, ElRiyad center - there were 10 people firing gunshots near the Real Estate office, apparently they were Muslim Brotherhood and ran away;
5. Alexandria, Almontazh first division, Ali Gad experimental mixed school, polling station No. 62 - the judge left the committee at 2:00 pm and did not return until 2:40 pm;
6. Qena, Quos Center, Bekhatia school, polling station No. 3 - the turnout is greatly increasing;
7. Kafr AlShaikh, Messier village, Basic Education Unit Complex School, polling station No. 47 - the judge closes the polling station for 15 minutes every 2 hours in order to smoke and take a break. He prevented the observer who is affiliated with the Vanguard Association for Development and Legal Studies, despite the existence of authorised permission, as he argued that the observer is affiliated with the AlNour Party;
8. Dakahlia, Mansoura city, prevented the journalist Noman Samir from Elshourk newspaper and a reporter at Online TV from entering Fakhr Eldeen School, despite the existence of authorised permission;
9. Dakahlia, Sinbillawain - Mr. Helmy Maher's car, an official of the AlNour Party had his car broken into and his laptop was stolen;
10. Qena, Nag Hammadi, the Local Unit, expatriates polling station - there were complaints from expatriates for not knowing about the pre-registration in the expatriate committees, which subsequently led to their inability to vote;
11. Qena, Nag Hammadi, Girls Secondary Schools, polling station No. 10 – the Judge was substituted due to complaints from citizens;
12. Fayoum, Fayoum city, ElMuhammadiyah Girls School - there were complaints from expatriates because of the absence of their names due to lack of registration at the Real Estates Offices. Due to this, they went to the General Committee in Fayoum Court to file complaints;
13. Fayoum, Atsa, Abo Gendeer Post Office Director, collected 370 ID cards from citizens and travelled to Cairo amid complaints from citizens;
14. ElMonofeya, Shebin El Koum center, Shebin El Koum city - mutual aggression from candidates' representatives. The representative for candidate 2 reported the incident;

Based on some of these factual observations, the main operations room for the joint mission submitted reports to the Presidential Election Committee.

Sixth report : polling day 3 (28 May 2014)

- **Average turnout, remarkable calmness, and the absence of candidate Hamdeen Sabahi's representatives**

Against the backdrop of the PEC decision to extend the vote in the Egyptian presidential election for a third day, the joint mission continues its observation of electoral conduct in 25 different governorates.

The mission indicated in a statement issued yesterday afternoon, the expatriate issue, and their inability to vote. The statement called on the PEC and government authorities to take steps that will ensure the expatriates' right to exercise their electoral right.

The turnout at polling stations was average during the early morning hours of the day, as a result of voters returning to work and the end of the holiday given by the Egyptian government to the public sector and government employers. The security situation for the electoral process is calm, except in minor cases where attempts at violence were observed.

One of the salient features in the first four hours of the voting process today was the absence of agents for the presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi from the polling stations, after campaign officials yesterday declared their opposition to the extension of the vote. On the other hand, the presence of delegates for presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was observed in nearly half of the committees that were visited, despite the campaign's official objection to the extension of the voting period.

The most important facts that were observed during this period are as follows:

1. The investigation authorities at Faqous Center, Sharqia governorate arrested an individual who held a criminal record and was a fugitive from a life sentence, while he stood in front of polling stations in possession of a highly explosive grenade and a quantity of cannabis. The defendant was kept in custody while the necessary report was filed. The arrested was called Ali Elsayed Abdel-Salam, an unemployed, 22 year old resident of the centre, who is a fugitive from life imprisonment;
2. Cairo, Nasr City, advanced technical school, committee No. 25 – there was no voters' lists, and there is no secret ballot;
3. Sohag, Dar ElSalaam center, Awlad Yehia Kebli School, polling station No. 30 - low turnout, early start for the vote at 8:00 am, the security is good, the voters are happy with the vote extension because many of them were unable to vote during the previous two days, while the judges and staff were complaining about the issue. There was also a car in front of the committee belonging to the AlNour Party, mobilising people to vote. The streets are almost empty because of the heat;
4. Cairo, Helwan, Wahet Fouad Aziz Ghaly School - positive reaction from the people as a response to the decision to extend the days of voting;
5. Elmonofeya, Ashmoun Center, Mixed Commercial School - one of the officers of the armed forces responsible for the committees' security prevented the observer from entering the polling station, and the mission reported him to the PEC;
6. Elmonofeya, Alshohada Center, Eliraqia Preparatory School - a voter reported one of the Muslim Brotherhood members, attacked him and tried to prevent him from voting;
7. Elmonofeya, Monouf Center, Monouf Commercial School, polling station No. 3 - the judge filed report No. 17 against a voter who hid his ballot and asked for another one;
8. Elmonofeya, Berket Elsab' Center, Mixed Preparatory School - filed report No. 11894 against three Muslim Brotherhood members who were arrested with metal sticks and chains;
9. Kafr Elsheikh, Sidi Salem Center, Shawqy Hashem Primary School, polling station No. 11 - the polling station opened at 10:00 am because the judge was late;
10. Minya, Matay Center, Alshahid Mohamed Khairat Primary School – opened the polling station 30 minutes late;
11. Elmonofeya, Shebin Elkom Center, polling station No. 11 - the polling station opened at 10:00 am due to the judge being late;
12. Port Said, Port Fouad district, Om Elmo'mneen School and Alsayeda Khadiga School - Hamdeen Sabahi's delegates are inside the polling station which contradicts the campaign's declaration yesterday;
13. Kafr Elsheikh, Kafr Elsheikh Center, Alsadat Preparatory School, polling station No. 8 - a woman called Laila Ali Hassan was prevented from voting due to an altercation between herself and an official, despite the fact that she signed her name in the register. The judge interfered to invalid her vote;
14. Beni Suef, Beni Suef Center, Sporting School, polling station No. 22 - very low turnout, patriotic songs were playing in front of the school to urge people to vote;

15. Alexandria, Muharam Bek, Muharam Bek Primary School, polling station No. 4, the polling station opened at 11:00 am because of the judge's delay;
16. Qena, Farshout Center, polling station No.8 - the polling station opened at 9:45am due to the judge's late arrival;
17. Rabiya Kafr Elzayat, Kafr Elzayat Preparatory School for girls - polling station No. 6 and 7 opened at 9:45 am;
18. Port Said, Zohour District, Hamed Elalfy School, polling station No. 1, the judge arrived at the polling station at 9:15am.

Seventh report: polling day 3

- **A marked increase in voter participation rates after 6:00pm in 14 governorates and stable rates in the rest of the governorates**

The joint mission to the Egyptian presidential election continued its observation of polling when the voting entered the last hours of the third day, and the turnout increased significantly during the final two hours in most governorates.

At 6:30pm in the evening, the mission held a situation assessment of a pre-determined sample of polling stations in the governorates covered by the mission. The results revealed the following:

1. There have been higher turnouts for the last three hours in the following governorates; Minya, Fayoum, Sohag, Qena, Dakahleya, Gharbeya, Luxor, Menofeya, Alexandria, Suez, South Sinai, Cairo, Ismailia, Giza, and Beni Suez;
2. There has been a stable turnout, similar to what was observed during the entire electoral day in the following governorates; AlWadi AlGadeed; Aswan, Beheira, Kafr Sheikh, Port Said, and Assuit;
3. A noticeable decline in the turnout rates in North Sinai and Sharkeya.

It was observed that the turnout increased in general in the cities rather than the countryside, particularly in the last three hours of voting. During the final hours, it was clearly observed that there had been some minor violations in some of the districts and centres. Moreover, there have also been some incidents which have hindered the electoral process, which were carried out by some of the opposing organisations. For example, in Faqos center, Sharkeya, some of the members of the Muslim Brotherhood were marching in order to create an obstacle to the electoral process. This also occurred at Haram Street in the Giza governorate where the Muslim Brotherhood organised a march to oppose the electoral process in some of the polling stations.

During these later hours, the African mission was prevented from entering polling station No. 2 at Minyat Sandob, Mansora center, Dakahleya, despite the authorised permission of the mission. They were denied access due to an absence of their own personal identity cards.

Despite the continuous absence of the representatives for candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, in Alexandria, ElMontazah first district, Sheikh Mahmoud Abualaaon Azhari Institute, polling station no. 105, a representative of the candidate Hamdeen Sabahi arrived on personal basis and not as a representative of the campaign. However, this resulted in an altercation between herself, the staff and the judge of the polling station. She accused candidate AlSisi of being an affiliate of the Mubarak regime and said that all who elected him are supporters of the Mubarak regime. When the judge advised her to leave in order not to have any clashes with citizens, following some altercations with voters, she withdrew from the polling station.

A clash was also observed between some citizens and a group of members belonging to the AlNour Party in Benha, as they had organised a demonstration to support the presidential candidate Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, which affected the traffic and angered some of the people and shopkeepers. This incident called for the intervention of the security forces and army to end the clashes and return the traffic to normal.

There were some complaints from judges in several of the polling stations and limited accusations of some of the judges mistreating certain voters. In general, there is a clear case of tiredness amongst the staff and judges during the second half of the third day of the voting process. Overall, the atmosphere of the electoral process remains quiet, and these observed factors will not affect the results in a negative way.

The mission will continue to observe the sorting stage, which will be conducted within the sub-committees, as well as the counting stage, which will take place in the general committee. Following the close of the electoral process, the mission will produce its first report, which will be announced at a press conference at 5:30 pm, Thursday, 29 May 2014.