



Egypt - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 16 June 2011

Treatment of National Democratic Party supporters

In June 2011 *Ahram Online* states:

“After four meetings of intensive debates and deliberations, the government-adopted National Consensus Conference, held at Parliament, recommended that leading members of ousted president Hosni Mubarak’s ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) be banned from carrying out any political activities for at least five years” (*Ahram Online* (14 June 2011) *Controversy over ban on former NDP leaders exercising political rights*).

In May 2011 a report issued by the *International Federation for Human Rights* states:

“The former ruling party NDP, another major institution, has been dismantled, in application of a Court’s decision. All its liquidated assets and properties will be handed over to the Government. The NDP announced that it accepted the decision and would not appeal it” (*International Federation for Human Rights* (17 May 2011) *The Price of Hope: Human Rights Abuses During the Egyptian Revolution*, p.25).

This report also notes:

“Several NDP leaders are currently under investigation for financing attacks on protesters by hiring a group of camel and horse riders from Cairo stables and using snipers to shoot at the demonstrators. The following people are currently detained for interrogation in Torah prison for those charges: Abdel Nasser El Gabry and Ibrahim El Khatib, former NDP members; Ibrahim Kamel, a senior NDP member. The latter has also been accused of instigating violent clashes between demonstrators and army forces on April 8th resulting in one dead and 71 injured. Other NDP members are being detained for interrogation in the same prison, for the time being they have only been charged with illegally amassing a fortune, despite being accused by activists of leading counterrevolution acts in organising bands of thugs” (*ibid*, p.23).

The *New York Times* in an article published in April 2011 points out:

“An Egyptian court on Saturday continued the process of dismantling Hosni Mubarak’s institutions of power when it formally dissolved the political organization that ruled the nation for decades, the National Democratic Party. In practical terms, the decision appears to simply formalize what had already occurred. Most of the party’s top leaders, including Mr. Mubarak and his son Gamal, are under arrest; its offices around the country were burned during the days of the popular uprising; and it had already been renamed the New National Democratic Party by those who had taken it over. But the move, by the Supreme Administrative Court, was seen as another effort by Egypt’s military leaders to appease public opinion, which grew angry and frustrated

with the slow pace of change and the initial delay in holding former officials accountable" (New York Times (16 April 2011) *Egyptian Court Formally Breaks Up Mubarak's Party*).

The *New York Times* in April 2011 states:

"With its leaders jailed, the once-supreme National Democratic Party has already been relegated to history, but Egypt's Supreme Administrative Court made it official on Saturday, ruling that the party would be dissolved and its assets seized by the government" (New York Times (16 April 2011) *As Inmates 23 and 24, Stunned Mubaraks Adjust*).

A report from *Nile News* in May 2011 points out:

"Participants in Egypt's National Dialogue protested against the participation of some former ruling party members in the dialogue's session held on 22 May. Addressing the conference's second session, Dr Safwat Hijazi, member of the National Dialogue's consultative committee, said "the revolution youths" participating in the conference were considering a decision to withdraw from the conference, adding that they would maintain their participation. He then urged the National Democratic Party (NDP) members at the session to leave the conference room" (Nile News (22 May 2011) *Participants in Egypt's national dialogue protest NDP members' participation*).

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* published in April 2011 states:

"...the list of party members who have been arrested or are under investigation has grown substantially in the past week" (Wall Street Journal (18 April 2011) *World News: Egypt's Former Ruling Party Dissolved -- but Not Defunct*).

A report in *BBC News* from April 2011 states:

"An Egyptian court has ordered that the former ruling party of ousted President Hosni Mubarak should be dissolved. All assets of the National Democratic Party will be seized and handed to the government, the supreme administrative court ruled" (BBC News (16 April 2011) *Egypt: Mubarak's former ruling party dissolved by court*).

This report also states:

"The dissolution of his party has been a key demand of the protesters who drove him from power. Its offices were among the buildings targeted during the uprising" (ibid).

An article in *The Guardian* from April 2011 states:

"On Monday, the ex-general secretary of Mubarak's NDP party, Safwat el-Sherif, was arrested. Sherif, a one-time giant of Egyptian politics, is being held for 15 days on charges of misusing public funds" (The Guardian (13 April 2011) *Mubarak suffers reported heart attack while facing Egypt's corruption claims*).

In March 2011 *The Guardian* notes:

“The NDP is blamed for corruption and fraud that marred every election during Mubarak's 29-year rule, and its members have been accused of attempting to disrupt Egypt's transition to democracy for fear of losing further power” (The Guardian (20 March 2011) *Egypt voters choose constitutional change as early results are released*).

The *Associated Press* in March 2011 states:

“In the NDP, Gamal Mubarak surrounded himself with mega-rich businessmen who sought political careers to promote their business interests. Between them, they introduced far-reaching economic reforms that benefited the businessmen. But any prosperity Egypt ever enjoyed never trickled to the impoverished majority. Several of those businessmen are now in prison and subject to criminal investigations as the ruling military pushes ahead with a campaign to cleanse the country from the corruption of the ousted regime” (Associated Press (8 March 2011) *Egypt court rejects Mubarak appeal of fund seizure*).

A report issued in February 2011 by the *International Crisis Group* comments on a night in January 2011 stating:

“By night's end, the capital was littered with burnt-out police vehicles, and the offices of the NDP and police stations across the country were smouldering” (International Crisis Group (24 February 2011) *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?*, p.5).

An *Amnesty International* report issued in May 2011 notes on 28 January 2011 that:

“In Cairo, the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) headquarters is set on fire by protesters” (Amnesty International (19 May 2011) *Egypt rises, Killings, detentions and torture in the '25 January Revolution'*, p.18).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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