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Egypt's Salafist party rejects choices for premier, vice-president



Egypt's Salafist Al-Nour party has rejected on Sunday the nomination of Ziad Bahaa Eddin and Mohamed ElBaradei as the country's next interim prime minister, and vice-president respectively.

"We have not agreed with the presidency on Ziad Baha Edden or ElBaradei," Al-Nour party said in a statement.

Their statement came after Egypt's state television reported on Sunday at the lawyer Eddin, vice president of the liberal Social Democratic party, is likely to be appointed as Egypt's interim prime minister.

The 48-year-old Eddin, an Oxford-educated commercial lawyer, was chairman of the Egyptian Investment Authority from 2004-2007, and later headed the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority in 2008.

Eddin, however, began his political career when he joined the Social Democratic party after the January 25 revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Al Arabiya correspondent, meanwhile, reported that Eddin was mulling on whether he will accept to be Egypt's interim prime minister. He said he will finalize his decision after he arrives to Egypt on Monday from Romania.

Choosing Eddin as the country's new premier came after Egypt's two major Islamist groups, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafist al-Noor Party rejected the nomination of opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei.

However, Egypt TV said on Sunday that ElBaradei, a Nobel Prize winner, could be appointed as deputy interim president.

Meanwhile, the Nour Party said it fears ElBaradei's premiership would increase polarization between supporters of ousted President Mohammed Mursi and his opponents.

The party's secretary general, Shabaan Abdel Alim, told Al Arabiya that they do not reject ElBaradei's personally, but believe that the upcoming government should be a "technocrat."

The ultra-conservative party supported the army-led "roadmap" following Mursi's ouster on Wednesday but threatened to step back if ElBaradei was appointed.

ElBaradei's appointment was supported by members of the rebellion campaign 'Tamarod,' who engineered the anti-Mursi protests on June 30.

Meanwhile, the Muslim Brotherhood also said that it rejected both Eddin and Elbaradei. The Islamist group said it will not "compromise the legitimacy" of the 2012 presidential elections that resulted in Mursi being the country's leader.