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## Massacring Egypt's judiciary, a repeat of history?



He who fails at protecting the institutions which still provide hope is committing a mistake. I am, in particular, referring to the army, judiciary and al-Azhar in no specific order. I think we can clearly note the continuous attempts of the Brotherhood to control these institutions, or at least neutralize them or dwarf them in order to remove any obstacles that may hinder their inordinate ambitions. The cases of political "molestation" that Cairo and other Egyptian cities witnessed, and which were represented by the phenomena of "cleansing the judiciary," are nothing more than an act of throwing dust in the eye to implement the scheme of controlling the judiciary. This is being done by taking measures through their council, in which the legitimacy of the said institutions are questioned, it is a council which handles legislation on behalf of representative in the presidency and upon the orders of the Olympus God. Excuse me, I meant the Muslim Brotherhood's Moqattam. The Brotherhood does not fool us with its game of distributing roles among its members and among other parasitic individuals that claim they are independent from the Brotherhood. The latter know well that this is a huge lie and they are aware that they are merely chess pieces.

### **A suffering judiciary**

What is certain is that the Egyptian judiciary is suffering from persecution and from attempts to forcefully control it by political factions that either belong to, or support the ruling regime. These factions are carrying out such attempts bluntly but the judiciary is not intervening to force these factions to respect the sovereignty of the constitution and the law, as well as the independence of the judiciary and its men.

This truth was voiced in a statement issued by the Youth Committee of Judges and the general prosecution. Its importance lies in the fact that it frankly and sharply analyzes what is happening in Egypt. They describe an operation of intimidation against the judiciary's "clerics" and youths, this is in fact true. They are aware of the Brotherhood and its followers' destructive schemes which aim to prevent them from protecting their institutions. The Brotherhood wants to achieve this by passing its draft on judicial authority, by having one of its followers adopt it and present it to the Shura for quick approval and by making use of the tear gas they are firing at protests. What is happening now is nothing more than an introduction to a massacre against the judiciary. The Brotherhood's former guide presaged this massacre when he challengingly announced that 3,000 judges will be dismissed. This massacre will be an introduction towards resuming a massacre against the entirety of Egypt.

### **A repeat of history?**

I think that what is happening now is similar to what happened in the 60's. Back then an incident dubbed "the judges massacre" took place, and it left behind a dark mark on the memory of that phase despite all justifications and explanations made. It occurred on August 31, 1969, following the Naksa of 1967 ( Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War). "The judges massacre" had a grave psychological impact on all people, including men of the judiciary. So the Judges Club issued a statement calling for the rebuilding and reform of what was corrupted, the club also voiced the importance of not committing previous mistakes which led to the Naksa. This included respecting the sovereignty of law, providing independence for the judiciary, cancelling double standards in it, providing the citizens with the right to stand before a judge and cancelling all exceptional courts and laws. Back then, weak men in the judiciary conveyed the issue to former president Abdel Nasser in a distorted manner. It is unbelievable how current events are similar to what occurred in the 60's! At the time, a commission was formed to recommend dismissing around 200 professional judiciary officials, including the entire board of directors of the Judges Club. The decision, issued by Abdel Nasser, stipulated dismissing all judicial officials and then reassigning them. It stipulated sacking 200 judges by either having them retire or transferring them to civil positions. There is a huge resemblance between what happened back then and what recently happened in Egypt. The 60's period, with all its achievements and mistakes, remains one of the most important chapters of our history. But the style adopted by the Brotherhood trespasses all that was adopted before. The regime in the 60's did not dare defy people's, and judges', feelings to the extent which the current regime is doing.

### **Exploitation of the judiciary**

The current regime has, since day one, underestimated the judiciary, its rulings and its value in an unprecedented manner. No country has witnessed terrorism and intimidation operations against the judicial institution in a manner similar to what is happening today in Egypt because of the Brotherhood. Back to the warnings of the Youth Committee of Judges. They expect that judges will be pressured in all legitimate and illegitimate ways to accept that the Shura Council, members of which were assigned by the ruling party without holding elections, will discuss the amendment of the rules regarding the judicial authority. The pressure will be made under the excuse of achieving the judiciary's independence. However, what is being planned is the mere exploitation of the judiciary. When discussing the law and the suggested amendments, some parties that support the ruling party volunteer to submit drafts on the amendments made. These drafts will of course represent the epitome of extremism. This is where the ruling party intervenes by presenting a draft law and attempting to make it look like the latter achieves the judiciary's independence. Such a move will of course be supported by parties that support the Brotherhood. The amendments

Some of the amendments are lowering the retirement age to 65, increasing the number of those assigned to the judiciary who are not members of the general prosecution, imposing restraints on the jurisdictions of courts' general assemblies and limiting the jurisdictions and specialties of the Higher Judicial Council in addition to increasing the number of its members through holding elections. These amendments may seem merciful, however torture lurks behind them. When judges oppose this draft, they will be accused of corruption and of inciting to commit corruption. And then the judges affiliated with the regime will come into the picture and rush to announce that they fully support the draft law and they will appear on all media outlets to try and convince the public that the judges who oppose the draft law are corrupt people whom the judiciary must be cleansed of. After the judicial authority law goes into effect, thousands of judges who are over 65 will be dismissed and as the judicial year begins in October 2013, it will be revealed that chairing criminal courts will be of two degrees as per the constitution. Therefore, these courts which judges of appeal work at, will need more judges since thousands have been dismissed due to the "cleansing operation." Even the current judges, who are below the age of retirement, will not be able to fill the numbers needed. And then there is the final chapter to achieve the aspired end. According to the draft which the Brotherhood came up with, it is allowed to assign judges in appeal and cassation courts, the top courts of the country where the judiciary's "clerics" work. And later, huge numbers of lawyers will be assigned to these courts and one of the basic requirements for the assignment is that they are affiliated with the Brotherhood.

It is a conspiracy from A to Z. So are we, that is the individuals and institutions that care about Egypt, going to just observe and complain of the phase we are going through? Or are we going to take action?

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