

Hazim Metwally
JRMC 202
Instructor: Kim Fox
Transcription

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Hazim Metwally

Narrator: Kareem Mokhtar

Dates: 7/3/2022

Place: Narrator's home

2450 Milltower Court

Prof.: Kim Fox

Date completed: 7 march 2011

Hazim: hi, do you mind if I interview you?

Kareem: no, I don't mind

Hazim: well, this is a recorded interview

kareem: ok sure

Hazim: what's your name?

Kareem: Kareem Mokhtar

Hazim: How old are you?

Kareem: 20 years old

Hazim: What's the relationship between us?

Kareem: we're friends

Hazim: ok..Kareem I just wana ask you a few questions about the revolution that occurred in Egypt

Kareem: sure..go ahead

Hazim: ok.."ahh"..how do you think the military is relating to youth through social media?

Kareem: "ahhh"...ok during the the January 25 revolution after the the the after the police went away and after the ministry of interior broke down and there was a lack of security in the street that's no effect that the military stepped in to play its role within the revolution to protect the people "smile"..so by doing so they attempted to keep control over the country and they in order to do so they had to find the support of the primary "aaa" factors of the revolution which were the "Shabab" or the youth if about using the social media I'm not really sure because the only things that that have to do with the military on social media like websites like Facebook or Twitter that I've seen "aaaam" I've only seen a few pages but they weren't started by the military, they were started by youth or members of the youth from the January 25 revolution and how should we support the army because what they are trying to do really is to protect us. But other than that the most significant tool that they've been using is "aaa" the text messages through our cell phones. Every other day I, I would receive and I'm guessing you also would receive messages from the military in in the forms of communiqués or "Bayan" "aaa" dictating the people to stand by the military to to take responsibility for their homes and for their actions and "hmmm" and also to for example during the days when the thugs were unleashed and the prisoners escaped from from the different prisons "aaaa" "hmm" the we were sent "very" various messages to go down to the streets to protect our houses, to protect our families and to stand by the army. So I'm guessing the primary too they used where text messaging. But other than that "hmm" I've not seen a significant Facebook or Twitter campaign for the military

Hazim: ok..how involved is the army in the political aspect for the country ?

Kareem: right now their role is the is the ruling party of, I wouldn't say the ruling party I'd say they are the ruling elite of the country, they've taken control of the government institutions they've taken responsibilities of creating a new civilian government "aaaa" they are taking control over the borders over inland security over interior security and what they are promising to do and what their communiqués have been saying is the army right now is a transitional government, they've taken control over transitional government to ensure the smooth transition into another civilian government.

Hazim: "aaaaa" is this really just a "tradesina" a transitional period or are they really aaa they are really trying to gain power ?

Kareem: I don't think the army is trying to gain power, because from day one, "aaa" even yes we were promised that they wont try to gain power and this was soly for the purpose of the transitional government but even though we have seen the efforts of the government to create a new government a new civilian government that would take over from the past regime "aaaa"

the the several attempts they've taken was to was the appointment of Essam Sharaf as a new prime minister the appointment of different government ministers and so far they aren't really meddling within internal other than the affairs that affect the people directly such as safety such as welfare such as health care.

Hazim: what about the army's public agenda "aaa" do you think it it can be trusted?

Kareem: so far from from the end of the revolution until now so far we haven't seen anything bad from the army. Yes there was there was a tiny episode during the the attacks on on on during the attacks on "ummm" state security or "Amn Dawla" offices that the army stood against the protestors and didn't allow them in, but this justified by the army because their role in the country what most people don't understand is to is to maintain peace and security and the army unlike the ministry of interior or unlike the regular police force they've been trained for "hmmm" they've been trained as a military as in they haven't really, they don't really know how to really deal with civilians and their doing the best they can to maintain order within the country. So them not allowing protestors in in state security or "Amn Dawla" offices isn't really part of their restrictions so their trying to do whatever they can to maintain order within the country. But other than that I don't think the army has any hidden agendas or their trying to sneak the way into power because from day 1 all the army has been trying to do is to protect the citizens they allow the protestors to continue protesting in "medan Tahrir" in "Ramsees" in all over cairo and all over Egypt and since the days were the prisons were opened and the thugs were set loose on the civilians they've been doing everything in their power to protect civilians "aaa" personally I've I have three army trucks beneath my house and I've talked to them tons of times and we stood together during their days were the prisoners were out on the streets and we captured prisoners with them and they were there for our safety and they told us that all they have to all they want to do is to make sure that we are fine and we are safe and nothing will destroy the country or lead the country into chaos.

Hazim: ok what lead the army to focus on communicating through phones and social networks ?

Kareem: I think the army even though it could be considered as a separate institution as a separate body of law or body of the government it is it is smart enough to realize the power of social networking and the power of modern day communication unlike the past regime. The past regime the past regime they could not "aaa" like estimate the the force or the escape of the role of social networking and cell phones even when it came to the days of protest like they have no idea that such a protest would have such an amazing effect on Egyptian society and in Egyptian politics but the army on the other hand where smart enough to to appreciate that sort of power and that sort of "aaaa" effect on the people and the way they have reached thousands if not millions of people that push of a button or that click of a mouse so I think that the way they're using the social social media social networking and phones is the most effective tool they have to maintain intouch with the people to make them know that the army is still there and they are not leaving any time soon until they are 100 percent sure that "aaaaa" that the new government that we are going to elect is in place that we are effectively moving to a phase

of democracy, that we are effectively living up to the standers and the ideals brought up by the January 25 movement. And other than that I just think that it is the easiest way out they have seen the power of social networking during the January 25 revolution and they are taking advantages of it because it is the easiest and fastest way to get to a lot of people in a very short amount of time.

Hazim: Ok Kareem do you think this method is effective?

Kareem: yes, I really do think it is effective well to relate it back to the January 25 revolution again I was a part of the Twitter campaign and the Facebook campaign and if it wasn't, if social networking wasn't that effective then the government or the X-government would have been forced to switch to switching off the internet for days at the time out of fear of the effect and the scope of "soch" social networking so that being said I believe that the army using this as a modes of communication is very very effective "aaa" it plays to the hearts and minds of the youth who are the central force of this revolution.

Hazim: well, Finally do you think it is reaching the youth in an in an in an interactive manner?

Kareem: "hmmm" yeee I would argue that yes it is reaching the youth in an interactive manner because like I said before it's the faster and most effective way and also it like I said before it plays to the heart to the youth's hearts and minds, what I mean by that if the army is trying to use the same methods of communication that the youth are using they are not trying to they are not targeting newspapers they are not targeting "aaaa" regular television, they are targeting the modes of communications that is popular with the youth which is a very smart tactic on their behalf which is very very effective and promoting their ideals and promoting their image within the youth because that shows that the army genuinely respects the youth and doesn't want to put them down it genuinely appreciates the the major force which is the youth. In Egypt today you can argue that the youth makes up a majority of the population and the army wants to use that or to to ask for their help in this transitional phase and in this unique phase that Egypt is going through, but other than that, I believe it's just it's also still the easiest method for the army and the army itself is giving out phone numbers and and hotlines for the youth to be able to interact with the army for any reason what so ever if its if they found any any examples of corruptions if they want to charge "ex" policemen by of corruption as well or by obituary detentions or whatever like they they're given the youth "something not clear" to effectively take part in this transitional phase and not leaving it entirely up to the army and I believe this creates a new era of trust between the army and the youth.

Hazim: well thank you very much Kareem thank you for your time. Do you have any something else to say?

Kareem: no I think I'm done here thank you

Hazim: thank you

Kareem: bye

Hazim: bye