



# International Peace Institute Poll Conducted by Charney Research

March 30, 2011

## EGYPT NATIONAL SURVEY - RESULTS

The International Peace Institute poll conducted by Charney Research shows the emergence of a new mood in Egypt after the uprising:

- Amr Moussa appears as the front runner for the presidential election. But competition will increase once the presidential campaign commences.
- Much will depend on which candidates will receive the backing of the Muslim Brotherhood and of the Tahrir Square groups. The outcome of the parliamentary elections in September will also have a decisive impact on the presidential race.
- The Egyptian Army remains very popular but slightly less than in previous polls, which might be the sign of emerging frustration over the performance of the Military Council.
- Egyptians are hopeful. They believe the country is going in the right direction and are firmly decided to vote in the upcoming national elections.
- They support moderate economic and foreign policies as well as moderate parties and candidates.

This poll is based on 615 telephone interviews among a random sample of adult citizens throughout Egypt between March 9 and 20, 2011. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4%.

Key findings include:

### **Public mood**

- Dramatic mood swing since the uprising, from gloomy before to massively (82%) positive.
- Public overwhelmingly (79%) satisfied with interim government job performance.
- Public's biggest concern still the economy, but next come disorder and security – chaos during uprising and transition worries many. Corruption and women's rights follow, way behind.
- Egyptian Army remains very popular, with 77% favorable, but slightly less than in previous polls (90% in a poll conducted in 2008 by Charney Research).
- Judges trusted by two-thirds; if they monitor elections it will lend credibility.

### **Political figures**

- Amr Moussa is most popular public figure (80% favorable), followed by Marshal Tantawi and Nobel-winning chemist Ahmed Zewail in the 70s and interim PM Essam Sharaf (62%).
- El Baradei is still behind – one-fourth favorable, over half not.

- Wael Ghoneim, Omar Suleiman, and Samy Anan have favorabilities in the 40s; Ayman Nour in the 30s.
- Bringing up the rear: Hosni Mubarak himself (17% favorable, 71% not) and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB)'s low-profile leader Mohammed Badie (10% favorable, but unknown to 74%).

### **Presidential election**

- High turnout likely: 78% say they'll definitely vote, nearly four times the 2005 turnout and almost twice that of the March 19 referendum.
- Moussa clear front runner for President, with 37% of first choice votes – more than twice any other figure – and 22% of second choice votes.
- In match-up with other leading figures, Tantawi comes second at 16%, Zewail third at 12%, Sharaf fourth at 7%, Suleiman fifth at 5%. El Baradei and Wael Ghoneim get 2% each, Ayman Nour 1%.
- Only 14% of voters are undecided – these leaders are well known.

### **Voting influences**

- Voters say the most decisive issues in their choice will be democracy, Islam, and corruption, with the economy in fourth place.
- Moussa's profile (ex-Foreign Minister and Arab League chief, Israel/US critic but pro-peace) very attractive – three-fourths find it appealing, over half intensely.
- El Baradei profile (opposed US/Iran, Nobel, opposed Mubarak) could be more attractive than his current vote share. About half find him appealing though only one in four strongly so.
- The Tahrir Square groups matter if they back a candidate: their support would make the candidate more attractive to three in five voters, and intensely so to one in three.
- Sheikh Qaradawi's support a mixed blessing: one third would be likelier to support a candidate he endorsed but almost as many would be less likely.
- A candidate calling for stability and preserving the good from the past would appeal to almost half, though three in ten would be less likely to support them.

### **Political parties**

- Biggest poll surprise: Wafd party had highest favorability of any party (46%).
- Muslim Brotherhood scores next highest at 38% favorable, but almost as many unfavorable. (The small Umma party also has 38% favorable, but this may reflect its name, not support.)
- The leftist Tagammu, liberal Al Ghad, and nationalist Nasserist parties are all in the 30s.
- Mubarak's old NDP keeps bedrock support at 26% favorable (12% very), though it's the only party where unfavorables (48%) are much higher.
- MB and NDP are the best known parties: only one in four say they don't know them, while don't knows are in the 40s for the rest.

### **People's Assembly election**

- The Wafd may return to its pre-1952 glory: it leads in voting intentions at 23%, almost twice any other party's.
- MB came next, at 12%, then the NDP at 10%. So despite their lead in name recognition neither seems set to dominate the election.
- Umma Party (Islamic left) came fourth at 8% (with caveat above), then the Nasserists at 5%, and Tagammu and Al Ghad at 2% each.
- Don't knows for parliament were much higher (27%) than for president – voters will need more time to get to know parties and candidates for People's Assembly than for president.

### **Party policies**

- Liberal economic policies were much more attractive than state control.
  - A party favoring job creation through economic reform, international trade and investment, and wiping out corruption appealed strongly to three-fifths.
  - One calling for protecting jobs through state control, subsidies, and reversing privatizations appealed strongly to just one in three.
- Maintaining and advancing peace with Israel has far wider appeal than a rupture in relations.
  - A party that favored keeping the peace treaty, a two-state solution, and the Arab Peace initiative appeals to two-thirds, and strongly to almost half.
  - One that prefers breaking the peace treaty and ending diplomatic relations appeals to just over one-third, but it would make almost as many less likely to support it.
- Opposition to Iran is moderately popular: a party that opposes Iran and its nuclear arms program would appeal to 36%, though 22% would be less likely to vote for it.
- In general: there's a fit between broad support for moderate economic and foreign policies and moderate candidates (Moussa, Zewail, Sharaf) and parties (Wafd).