The Egypt Democracy Compass is designed to provide a snapshot of the country's trajectory, either toward or further away from a truly democratic system, over the preceding calendar month. Each of the eight topical categories receives a status designation—Backsliding, Stalled, Progress, or Achieved—based on recent developments regarding the listed goals for that category. The reasons for each designation are explained in a brief summary of major events or trends. It should be acknowledged that while some of the specified goals could be achieved almost overnight, others may take years to accomplish. The purpose of this tool is simply to determine whether Egypt is headed in the right direction. See next page for a full listing of the goals for each category.

1. CONSTITUTION
A new constitution, which was drafted by an unrepresentative committee chosen by the military-backed government, was adopted in a tightly controlled referendum in January. The document suffered from significant flaws, including provisions that granted expanded power and autonomy to the military and allowed for military trials of civilians. It contained nominal improvements in the protection of women's rights, freedom of expression, and other civil liberties, but enforcement remained weak to nonexistent in June, as authorities continued a crackdown on such rights in practice.

2. ELECTIONS
De facto military leader Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was sworn in as president on June 8, following a tightly controlled election that fell far short of international standards. Initial voter turnout was very low, prompting the authorities to declare a public holiday and extend voting to a third day. Reports of electoral violations included the use of state resources to support Sisi's candidacy, voter intimidation by government workers and Sisi supporters, and arrests or assaults of poll monitors. As president, Sisi will be in a position to further shape conditions for forthcoming parliamentary elections. There is currently no legislative body in place, and a parliamentary elections law decreed in early June favors wealthy independents and local power brokers—rather than cohesive political parties—by establishing a majoritarian system dominated by single-mandate constituencies.

3. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
The state maintained a climate of extreme political repression in June. A court upheld the death penalty for 183 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, including the group's leader, Mohamed Badie. The sentences were originally handed down in April for the defendants' supposed involvement in violent protests in which one police officer was killed. This group is a small portion of the more than 16,000 political prisoners currently in custody, many of them for suspected connections to the Muslim Brotherhood.

4. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
The new constitution made the right to freedom of religion "absolute" and was well received by religious minorities. However, an atmosphere of insecurity and repression persisted in June, with the government dictating weekly sermon themes at mosques, Islamist militants continuing to target Christian places of worship, and ongoing impunity for the perpetrators of such attacks.

5. MEDIA FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
Media freedom conditions seemed to improve slightly early in the month, when the government released Abdullah Elshamy, a journalist arrested and held without charges since last August after filming the government's violent crackdown on members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Elshamy had been on hunger strike for more than four months prior to his release. However, later in June, a court sentenced three Al-Jazeera journalists to at least seven years in prison each on trumped-up charges of conspiring with the Muslim Brotherhood to publish false news. The convictions followed a farce of a trial in which virtually no evidence was presented.

6. CIVILIAN CONTROL AND SECURITY-SECTOR REFORM
Sisi reportedly used military resources in his campaign for the presidency, and his election and inauguration have left the military in long-term de facto control of the country's highest office. Reform of the security sector and checks on military influence in politics and the economy appear virtually impossible for the foreseeable future.

7. PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND CIVIC ACTIVISM
Prominent blogger and activist Alaa Abdel Fattah was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison for participating in a November 2013 demonstration against a repressive new protest law. Two dozen other activists were also sentenced to prison and fined for their participation in the same gathering. Dozens of people protesting against restrictions on freedom of assembly were arrested on June 21 after police officers broke up a peaceful march using tear gas and reportedly hired thugs to act as provocateurs.

8. JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND RULE OF LAW
There has been a blatant disregard for due process and human rights standards in the treatment of the more than 16,000 political prisoners currently in Egyptian custody. In addition to the widespread use of mass trials and military courts to try civilians, defendants are routinely prevented from meeting with their legal counsel and presenting evidence in their own defense. There have been numerous reports of sexual assaults against political prisoners. Alaa Abdel Fattah and a number of his codefendants were denied entry to their own trials, tried in absentia, and then arrested outside the courthouse following their convictions.
1. CONSTITUTION
   a. The constitution and constitutional amendments are the products of a fair process that reflects consensus among all major political factions.
   b. The constitution protects civil liberties, including the rights of women minorities, in keeping with international standards and Egypt’s existing treaty commitments.
   c. The constitution is in effect.

2. ELECTIONS
   a. National elections are conducted under electoral laws and procedures that meet international standards.
   b. National elections are monitored and deemed credible by qualified international observers.
   c. A directly elected legislature has been seated, and a directly elected executive authority has taken office.

3. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
   a. All major political factions participated in national elections.
   b. All political factions that won legislative seats participate in legislative activity.
   c. No public figures or activists are being detained for political reasons.

4. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
   a. All religious groups are able to preach and practice their faith without state interference.
   b. Specific religious beliefs and practices are not imposed, enforced, or favored by the state, including with respect to the construction of houses of worship.
   c. Individuals and groups are free to peacefully exercise their beliefs without interference or coercion from nonstate actors, and any communal or religious violence is vigorously and fairly prosecuted by the state.

5. MEDIA FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
   a. The media collectively convey the views of all major political factions, and state media are editorially independent and free of obvious political bias.
   b. Journalists are able to work without facing violence, arbitrary detention, or unjustified interference with news dissemination.
   c. Journalists and other Egyptians are not subject to criminal prosecution for blasphemy, defamation, or insulting state officials and entities.

6. CIVILIAN CONTROL AND SECURITY-SECTOR REFORM
   a. The military is subordinate to the constitution and elected civilian authorities, playing no role in politics or trials of civilians.
   b. The military budget is subject to review and approval by an elected legislature.
   c. The police and military have been reformed and retrained to meet international standards on crowd control, criminal investigation, treatment of suspects in custody, and accountability for abuses.

7. PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND CIVIC ACTIVISM
   a. All political parties and segments of civil society are free to assemble peacefully without encountering violence or arbitrary arrest by state actors.
   b. All political parties and segments of civil society are free to assemble peacefully without encountering violence from nonstate actors.
   c. Nongovernmental organizations promoting democratic reform and human rights are able to operate without interference from state or nonstate actors.

8. JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND RULE OF LAW
   a. The judiciary is free of political influence or bias, and judges are appointed, promoted, and removed using apolitical procedures and criteria.
   b. The judiciary upholds and defends the constitution and the rights it guarantees.
   c. Criminal suspects and defendants are afforded full legal rights and due process, including access to counsel and transparent court proceedings.