



# Egypt Democracy Compass

Coverage Period: July 3 to July 31, 2013

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.*



BACKSLIDING



STALLED



PROGRESS



ACHIEVED

## 1. CONSTITUTION

The constitution—adopted by referendum in December 2012 after a controversial drafting process that was dominated by Islamist factions—was suspended with President Mohamed Morsi's July 3 overthrow. On July 8, interim president Adli Mansour issued a declaration that outlined the process by which the 2012 charter would be amended and submitted to voters for approval. The first of two committees that will work on the amendments has begun meeting, and its draft is scheduled to be passed to the second, larger committee for review by August 21. There is as yet no clear evidence that the process will be politically inclusive or that the new document will protect civil liberties.

## 2. ELECTIONS

There is currently no legislative body in place, and executive powers are shared between Mansour and Prime Minister Hazem al-Beblawi. According to Mansour's July 8 declaration, legislative elections will be scheduled within 15 days after the amended constitution is approved in a popular referendum, and executive elections must be scheduled within one week of the lower house's first meeting.

## 3. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The political environment is highly polarized, and characterized by ongoing and sometimes violent clashes between supporters of the new government and those loyal to former president Morsi. There are no Islamists in the interim cabinet, and the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, the Freedom and Justice Party, has refused to participate in the transition process. Morsi was held incommunicado and without charge for most of July, and many other Islamist leaders have also been detained.

## 4. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Sectarian attacks have increased amid the current environment of intense political polarization, as different religious groups are commonly associated with different sides of the political divide. The problem is exacerbated by the general deterioration in law and order.



## 5. MEDIA FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

While the media were already highly polarized before the July 3 coup, the authorities shut down three major Islamist television channels following Morsi's ouster and raided the Egyptian offices of Al-Jazeera, which was widely criticized for displaying a pro-Morsi bias. Meanwhile, state media and most remaining private television stations have reflected largely pro-military views, particularly in their coverage of protests and related violence.



## 6. CIVILIAN CONTROL AND SECURITY-SECTOR REFORM

Though the interim government claims to be civilian in nature, Mansour's July 8 declaration cited the July 3 declaration of the head of the armed forces, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, as the source of his authority. The military has played a more assertive role in the political process since the coup. This was most recently evident when al-Sisi summoned the Egyptian people to a July 26 demonstration of support for the army's efforts to "confront violence and terrorism," which was widely interpreted as a veiled reference to the Islamist supporters of former president Morsi. The police and military remain unreformed, and impunity for abuses is the norm.



## 7. PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND CIVIC ACTIVISM

The past month has featured near-constant protests and sit-ins, many of which have triggered some degree of violence. Human rights groups have documented authorities' use of live ammunition to disperse Islamist protests, including in an attack on Morsi supporters on July 27, during which at least 80 people were killed. Supporters of the interim government have accused Islamists of carrying weapons to ostensibly peaceful rallies, and of instigating violence and attacks against their opponents.



## 8. JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND RULE OF LAW

The new role of Supreme Constitutional Court chairman Adli Mansour as interim president has inserted the judiciary directly into politics and executive functions. Moreover, rather than upholding the existing constitution, judges are playing a leading role in the drafting of constitutional amendments, in keeping with an ad hoc plan backed by the military. Existing problems with due process and defendants' rights have continued since the coup, and at least some of those detained in the political unrest have been held without charges.



# Egypt Democracy Compass – Goals



## 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 and 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.