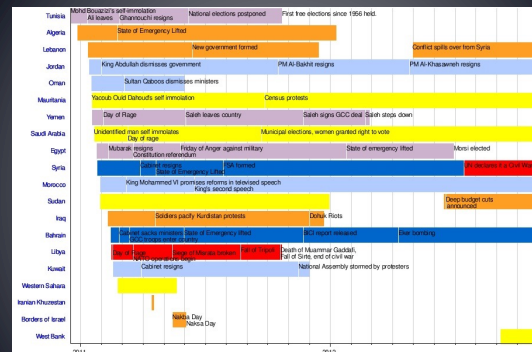


'The Arab Spring'

Muslim Politics Module
Gary R. Bunt

Slide notes for module use only

1



2

Factors behind 'Arab Spring'

Corruption

Authoritarian regimes

Economic problems

3

Authoritarian regimes since the 1950s

Egypt

Tunisia

Syria

Libya

4

Police and military states

Brutal crackdowns on protests and political expression
[including political Islamic groups i.e. Muslim
Brotherhood]

Coercion

Repression

Bribery

5

Economic & Social issues

State subsidies for food, jobs and fuel offer a measure of control in locations with oil [Libya, Iraq, Gulf]

Patronage of other oil rich states significant

Growing populations

6

'Arab Spring' not a 'religiously motivated' revolution, but ...

Muslim parties subsequently benefitted (al-Nadha in Tunisia, Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Islamist parties in Libya)

Had offered education and healthcare

Religious ethos

Corruption not such an issue

7

Regional significance

Oil/gas/petroleum in region

Competition for influence: weapons, cash, political support

Stability importance: western influence/allies (toleration of human rights abuses, political repression)

Post 9-11 context [i.e. rendition in Middle East countries]

8

2011

December 17, 2010
Protests Begin in Tunisia
vegetable seller, sets himself on fire after police confiscate his cart because he doesn't have a permit; he dies later from his injuries. Protests quickly spread nationwide.



[Enlarge](#)

During a demonstration in Tunis on Dec. 27, people shout slogans to show solidarity with the residents of Sidi Bouzid, where Mohamed Bouazizi's self-immolation took place. (Fethi Belaid/AFP/Getty Images)

January 14, 2011
Tunisian President Toppled
After weeks of violent protest, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia, ending more than two decades of authoritarian rule.



[Enlarge](#)

In a screen grab from Tunisian TV, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is seen making a speech in Tunis on Jan. 13. (Channel 7 Tunisia/AP)

9

January 25, 2011
Dissent Spreads To Egypt
Egyptians begin mass demonstrations, similar to the ones in Tunisia. Protests center on Cairo's Tahrir Square.



[Enlarge](#)

Pro-government demonstrators (below) and anti-government demonstrators (above) clash in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Feb. 2. (Ben Curtis/AP)

February 3, 2011
Discontent in Yemen
Mass protests begin in Yemen, where President Ali Abdullah Saleh has ruled for more than three decades.



[Enlarge](#)

Anti-government protesters in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, chant slogans and wave banners Feb. 3, after President Ali Abdullah Saleh pledged not to seek another term in office. (Hani Mohammed/AP)

10

February 11, 2011
Mubarak Steps Down
Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns after 18 days of protests against his rule and heads to the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.



[Enlarge](#)

President Hosni Mubarak (shown at a meeting in Cairo on Feb. 8) steps down after nearly 30 years in power. (Khaled Desouki/AFP/Getty Images)

February 14, 2011
Violence in Bahrain
Large-scale protests begin in Bahrain. They last for weeks, but a government crackdown and the intervention of troops from nearby Saudi Arabia eventually suppress the demonstrations.



[Enlarge](#)

Bahrainis run for cover from tear gas fired by police to disperse them in the village of Sanabis, on Feb. 14. The protest, called for on Facebook, was inspired by similar initiatives that led to the ouster of the regimes in Tunisia and Egypt. (AFP/Getty Images)

11

February 15, 2011
Unrest in Libya
In Libya, protests begin in the eastern city of Benghazi after the arrest of a human-rights activist.



[Enlarge](#)

Libyan protesters hold up a pre-Gadhafi-era national flag during a demonstration in the eastern, Gadhafi-held Libyan city of Tobruk on Feb. 24, amid political turmoil and an insurrection against the regime of leader Moammar Gadhafi. (Trevor Snapp/AFP/Getty Images)

March 5, 2011
Libyan Rebels Assert Control
After taking control of Benghazi, Libyan rebel leaders declare themselves the country's official representative.



[Enlarge](#)

Former Justice Minister Mustafa Abdel Jalil, one of the first high-profile Libyans to defect from Gadhafi's four-decade regime when the uprising began, gives a news conference March 5 in Benghazi. (Gianluigi Guercia/AFP/Getty Images)

12

March 16, 2011
Syrians Rise Up
 Protests begin in Syria, where President Bashar Assad, and his father before him, have ruled for four decades. Protests quickly escalate, and the government responds with a harsh crackdown.



March 17, 2011
No-Fly Zone For Libya
 The U.N. Security Council authorizes a no-fly zone over Libya. NATO airstrikes begin two days later.



Explosions rock the Libyan capital, Tripoli, some in the vicinity of the tightly guarded residence of leader Moammar Gadhafi and military targets, on March 29. NATO-led coalition aircraft had been seen in the skies over the capital earlier in the afternoon. (Mahmud Turkia/AFP/Getty Images)

Anti-government protesters shout slogans after Friday prayers at Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria, March 25. (Muzaffar Salman/AP)

13

June 3, 2011
Yemeni President Leaves Country
 After months of protests in Yemen, President Saleh is badly injured in an explosion at the presidential compound in the capital, Sanaa. Saleh goes to Saudi Arabia for extended medical treatment, but refuses to relinquish power.



Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh waves to his supporters in this photo taken on April 15 during a rally in Sanaa. (Muhammed Muheisen/AP)

August 3, 2011
Mubarak Goes On Trial
 Former Egyptian President Mubarak goes on trial, appearing in a Cairo courtroom in a cage for the defendants.



Egyptians watch the trial of the country's 83-year-old former president, Hosni Mubarak (seen on a hospital bed inside a cage of mesh and iron bars), on a big-screen TV outside the Police Military Academy complex in Cairo on Aug. 3. He is on trial for charges of corruption and ordering the killing of protesters during the uprising that ousted him. (Nasser Nasser/AP)

14

August 21, 2011
Libyan Rebels Enter Tripoli
 Libyan rebels enter the capital, Tripoli; longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi goes into hiding. Sporadic fighting continues for the next two months as the rebels pursue Gadhafi's dwindling band of loyalists.



Tens of thousands of Libyans celebrate at Freedom Square in Benghazi as they receive the news that rebels have entered the capital, Tripoli, and Moammar Gadhafi's regime is collapsing. (Gianluigi Guercia/AFP/Getty Images)

October 20, 2011
Gadhafi Killed
 Moammar Gadhafi is killed after being seized by a mob near his home town of Sirte.



The corpses of Libya's ex-strongman Moammar Gadhafi (left) and his son Mutassim are shown inside the cold storage room of a market on the outskirts of Misrata on Oct. 22. (Philippe Desmazes/AFP/Getty Images)

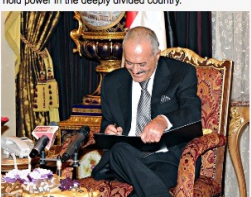
15

October 23, 2011
Tunisians Vote
 Tunisia holds the first elections in an Arab Spring country where an authoritarian ruler was toppled in 2011. The Islamic party Ennahda wins.



Tunisia was the first Arab country to hold elections after a successful revolution. Here, men and women wait to vote in separate lines on Oct. 23, in a working-class part of Tunis. (Lionel Bonaventure/AFP/Getty Images)

November 23, 2011
Yemen's President Resigns
 Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh signs an agreement in Saudi Arabia to step down from power after 33 years of rule. However, he returns to Yemen, where his relatives and longtime associates continue to hold power in the deeply divided country.



Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh signs an agreement to step down, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Nov. 23. (Saudi Press Agency/AP)

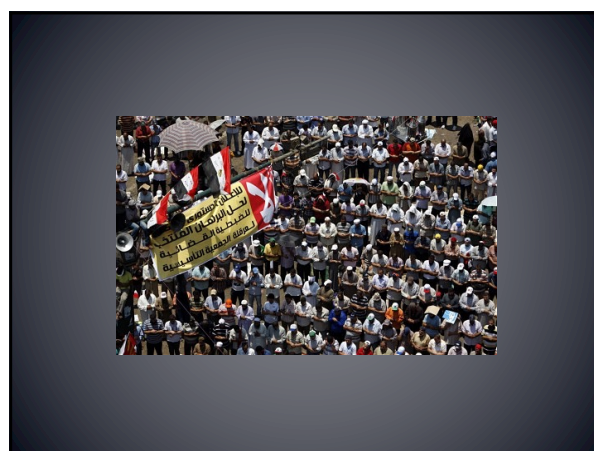
16

November 23, 2011
Report Finds Abuses In Bahrain
 In Bahrain, a special commission that examined the government's response to an uprising says the security forces used excessive force against protesters and tortured detainees. King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa promises reforms. But critics say the report and the proposed changes do not go far enough.



Anti-government protesters in Bahrain run for cover from tear gas fired by riot police in the Shiite village of Abu Saiba, west of the capital, Manama, on Dec. 16. (Siti/AFP/Getty Images)

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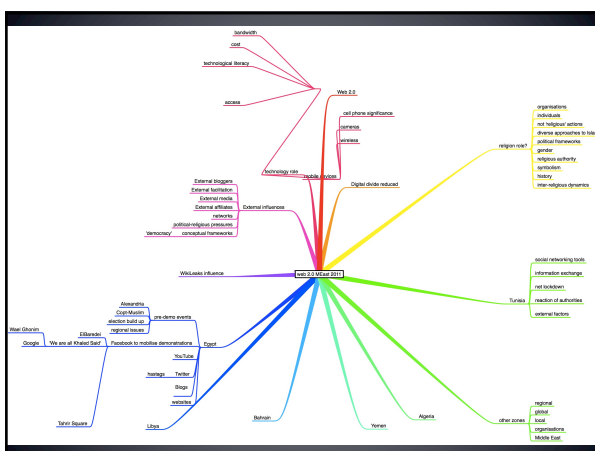
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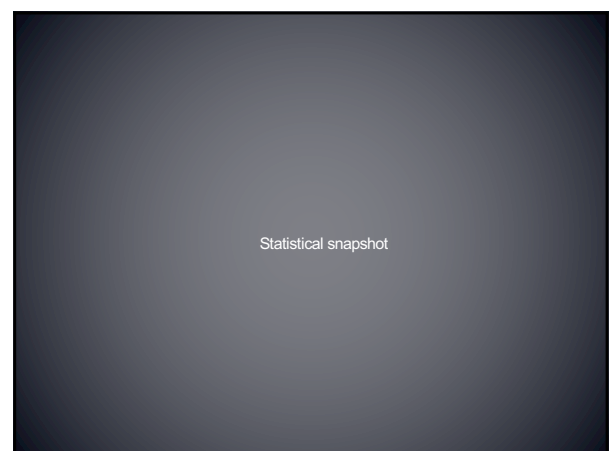
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Statistical snapshot

2010: Internet: 2 billion users worldwide

2009: 40-45 million Internet users in 16 Arab countries surveyed (**source:** Arab Advisors Group)

2009: 60 million Arabic-speaking Internet users (**source:** *The Arab Knowledge Report 2009*)

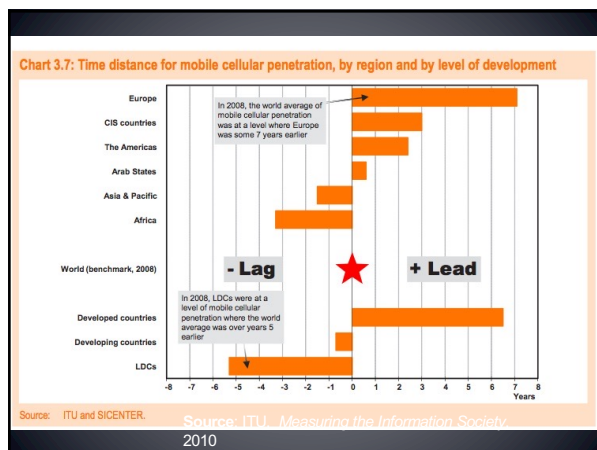
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2009: 35,000 active blogs in Arab region

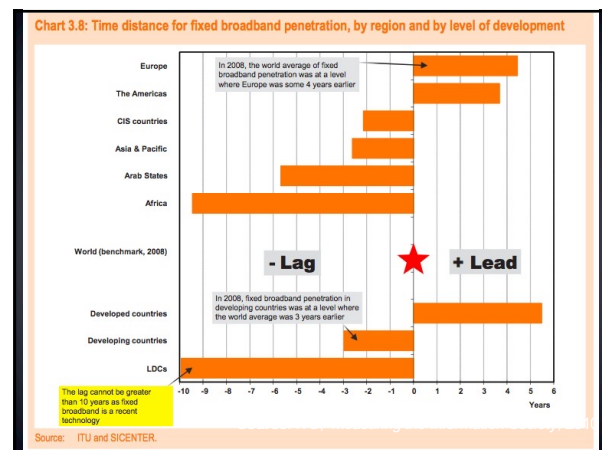
End-2010: 40,000 active blogs in Arab region.

Source: The Initiative for an Open Arab Internet, "Arabic Blogs: An Embodiment of Freedom of Expression," <http://www.openarab.net/en/node/306>

26



27



28

Other sources :

Ongoing research on tweets

r.shief project <http://r.shief.org>

Media-Making Madness: #Arab Revolutions from the Perspective of Egyptian-American VJ Um Amel (Part One)

Linked on <http://virtualislamic.blogspot.com>

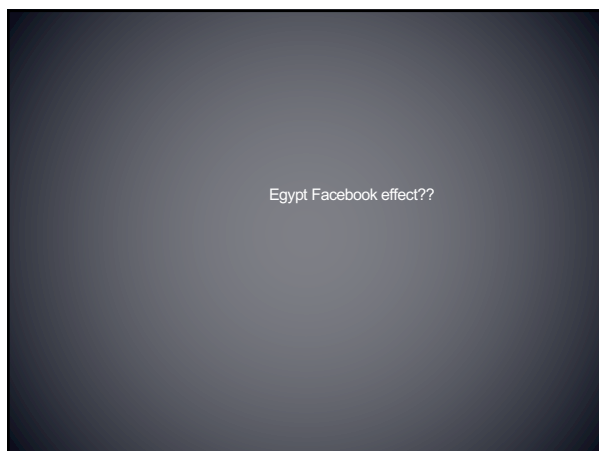
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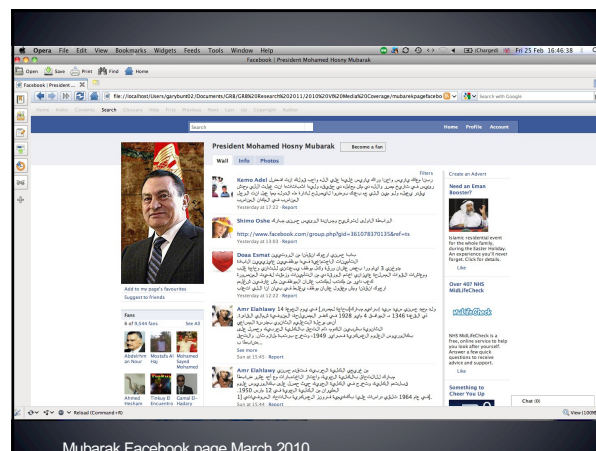
Egypt case study

Source: <http://egyprotest-defense.blogspot.com/>

30



31



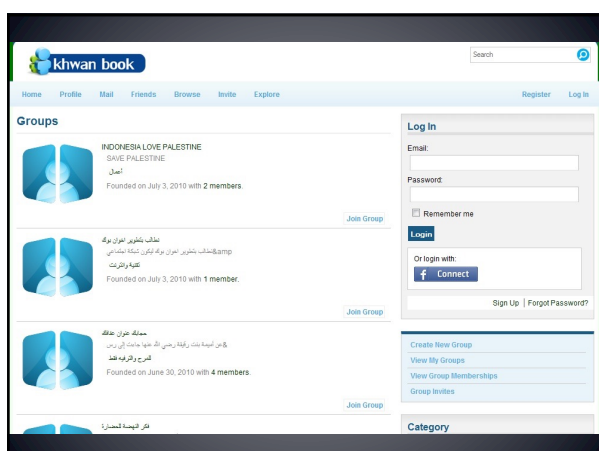
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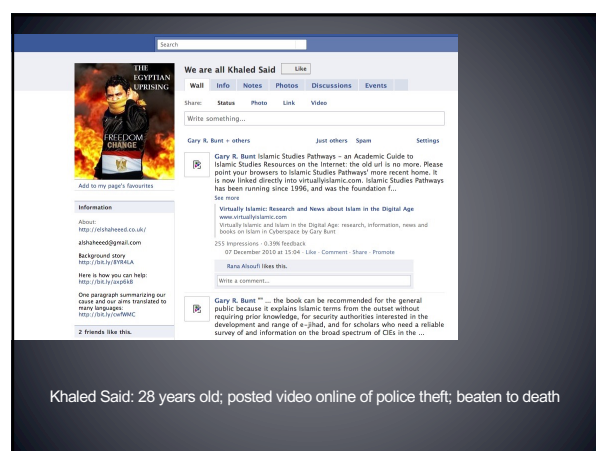
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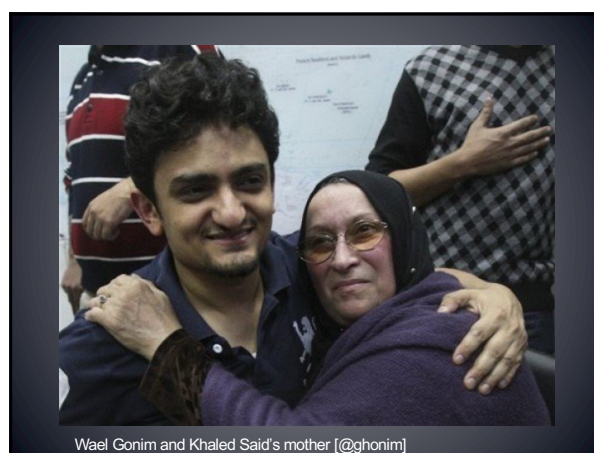
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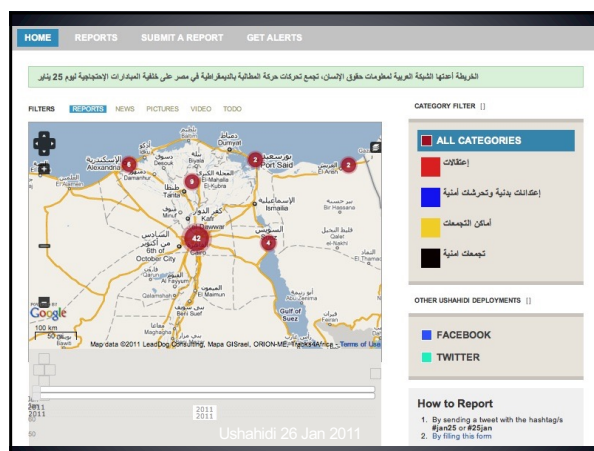
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Incidents (from the map, listed in chronological order)		
TITLE	LOCATION	DATE
الشيخ زينة	الشيوخ	Jan 26 2011
أفكار الشيوع	الموسى، الأبرجن	Jan 26 2011
التمثل القوي ضد حركة الأبرجن الشيوع	شيوع	Jan 26 2011
تفجيرات اليوم على الآن 18.50	القاهرة، شارع 25 نوف	Jan 26 2011
استمرار إطلاق الرصاص المطاطي على المتظاهرين	شيوع	Jan 26 2011
إطلاق عدة رصاص قذرية	القاهرة، شارع أفندي	Jan 26 2011
المتظاهرون تاجية 100% والقبول	القاهرة، شارع الفرات	Jan 26 2011
تفجيرات على المتظاهرين	القاهرة، شارع معروف	Jan 26 2011
...إستمرار إطلاق الرصاص المطاطي على عدة أشخاص من	بورسعيد	Jan 26 2011
...إستمرار إطلاق الرصاص المطاطي على عدة أشخاص من	المنصورة	Jan 26 2011

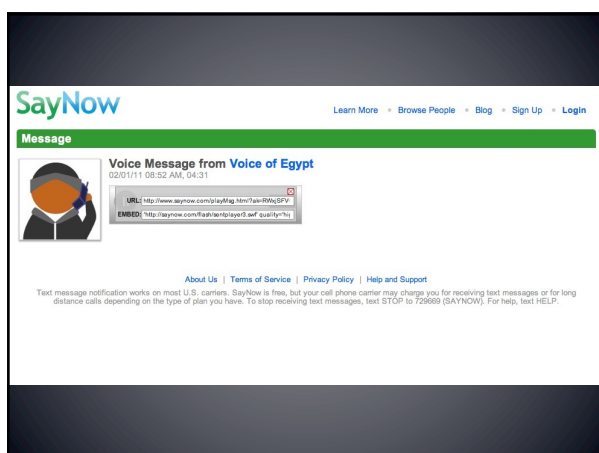
[View More](#)

Ushahidi 26 Jan 2011

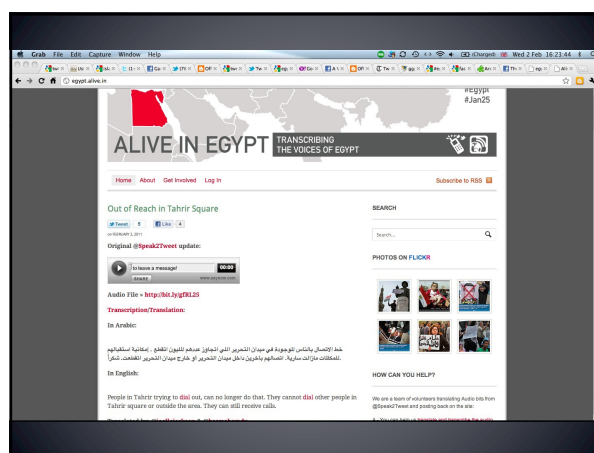
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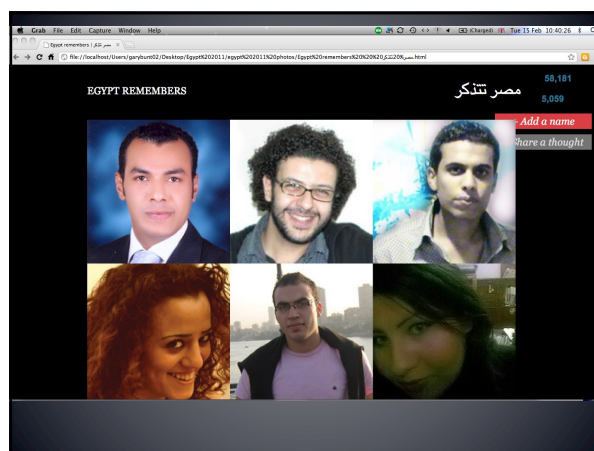
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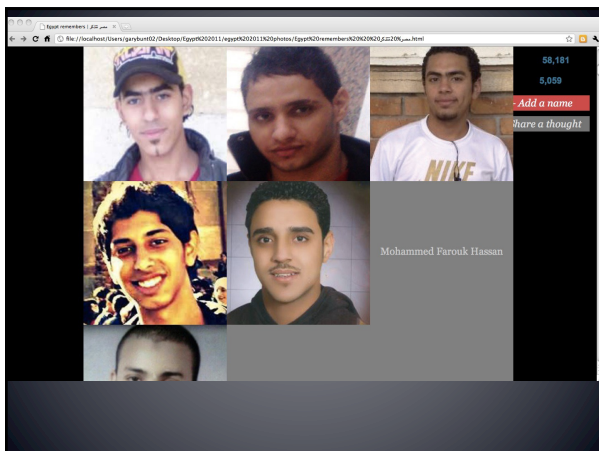
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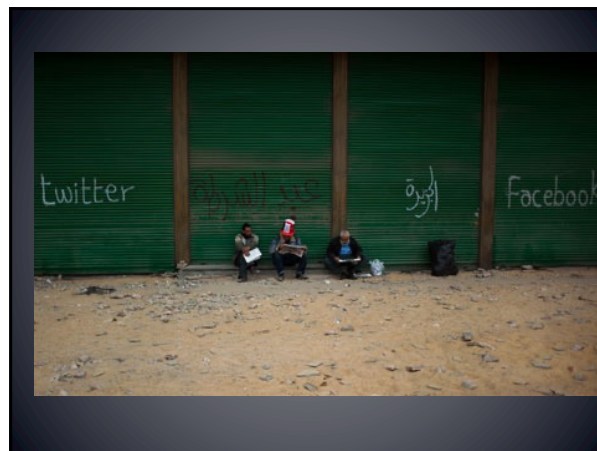
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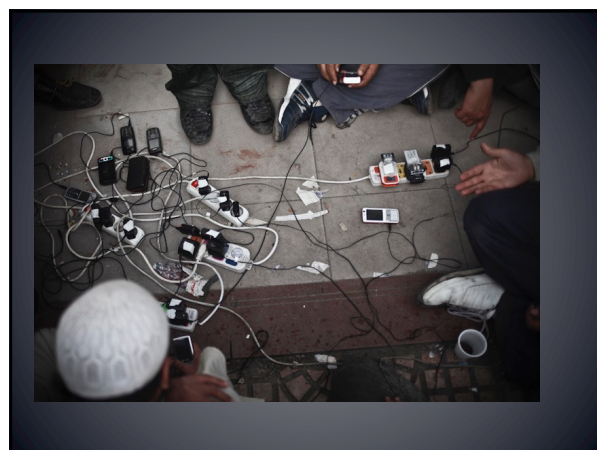
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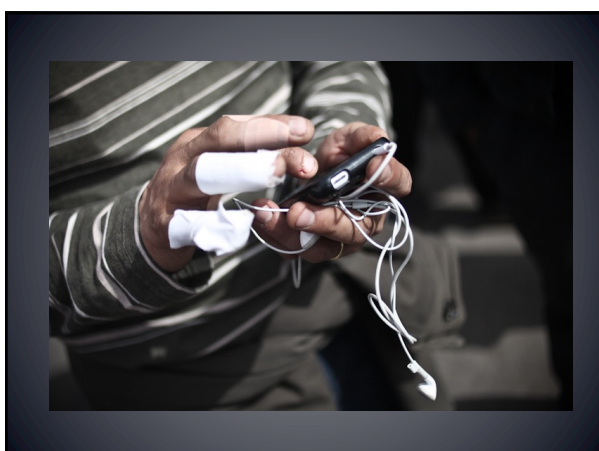
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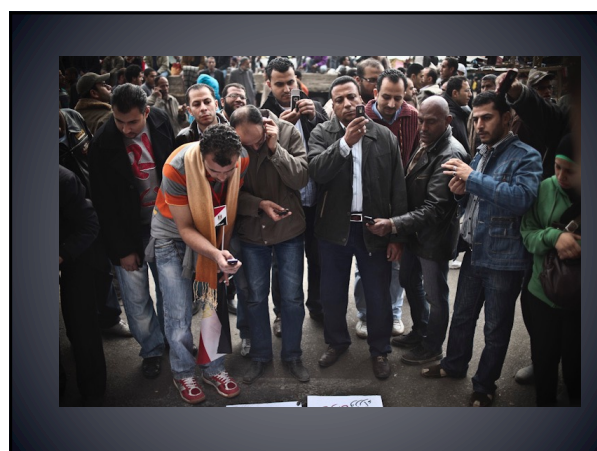
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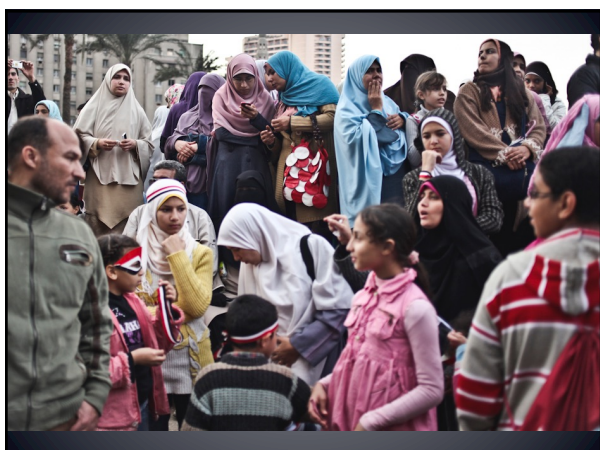
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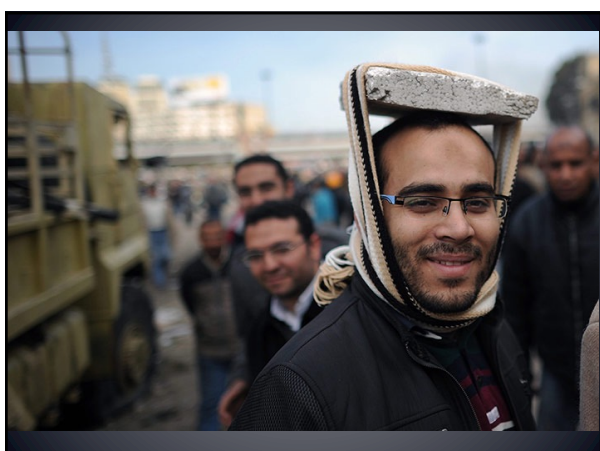
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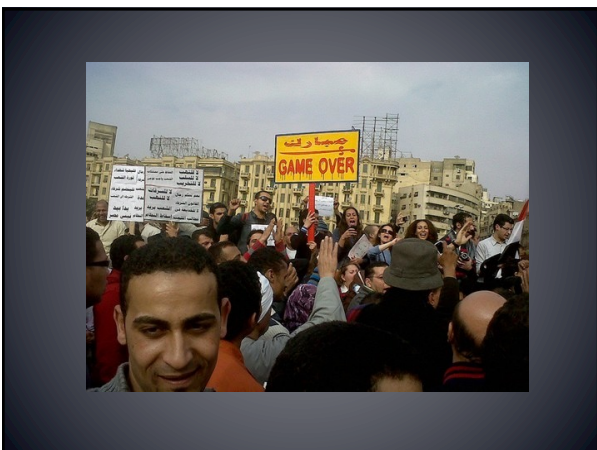
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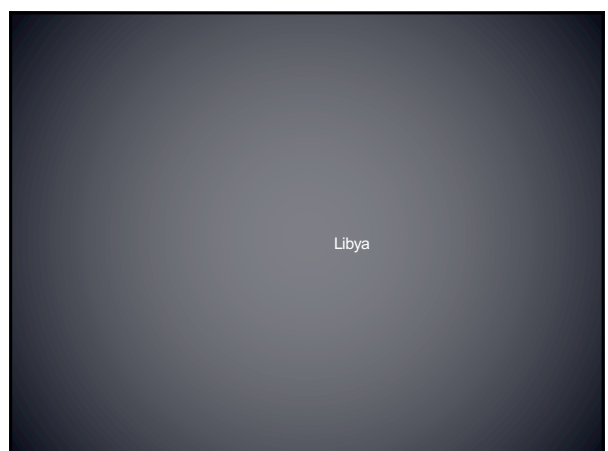
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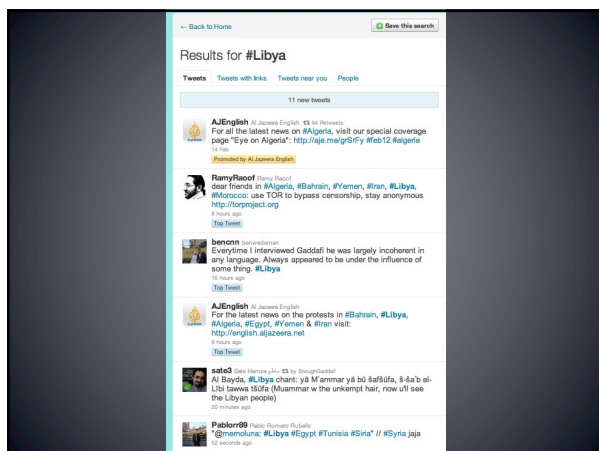
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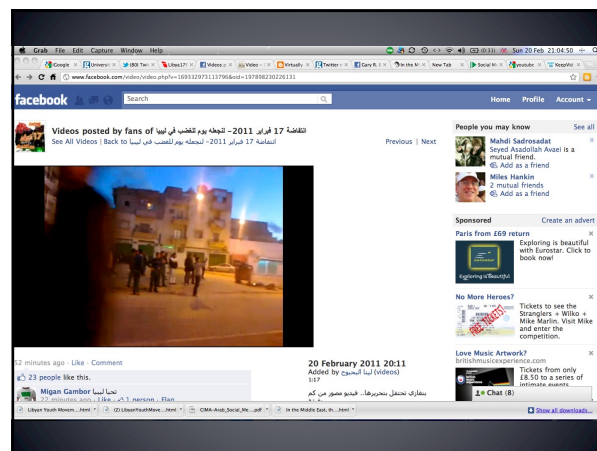
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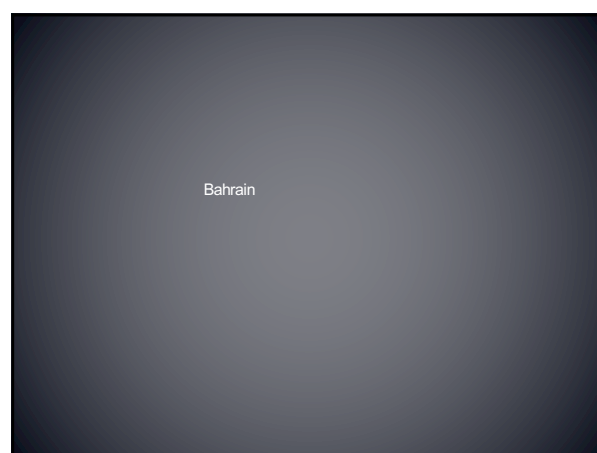
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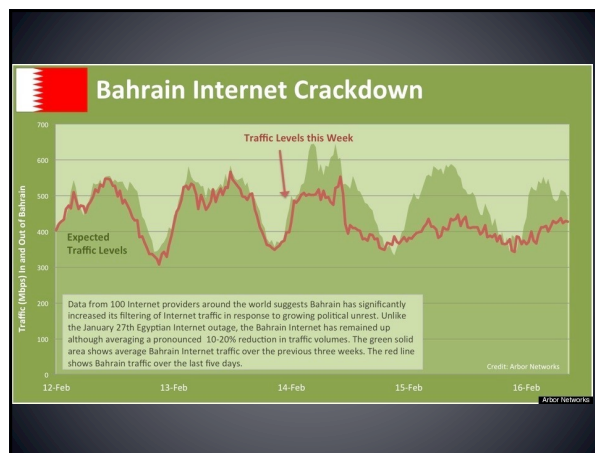
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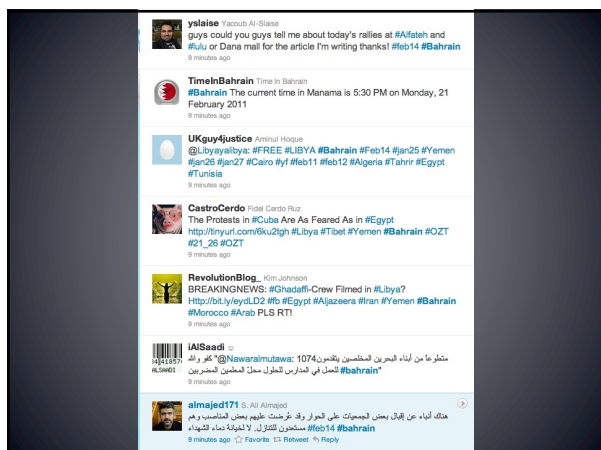
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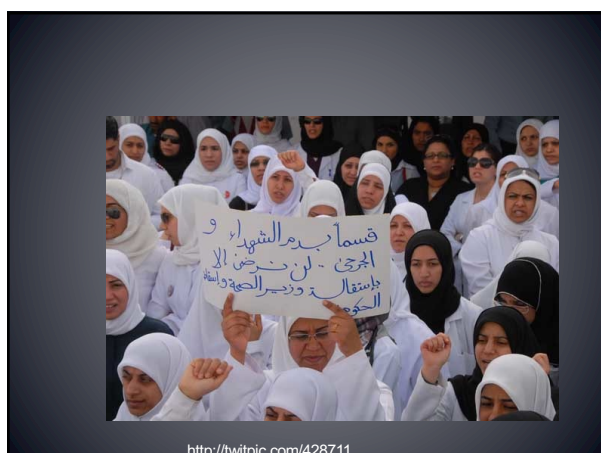
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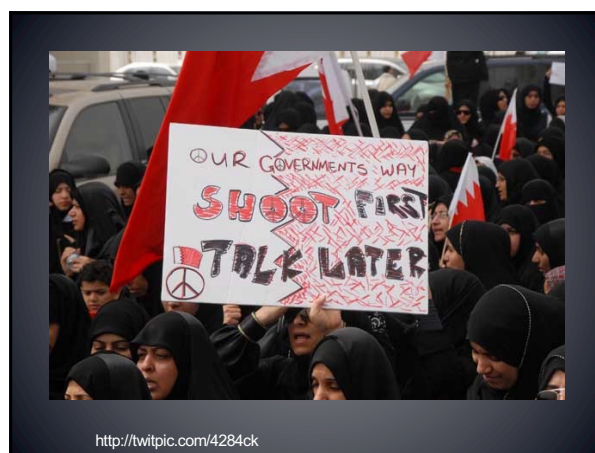
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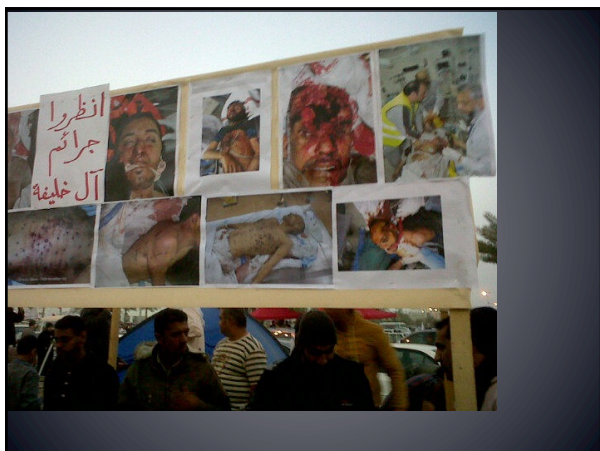
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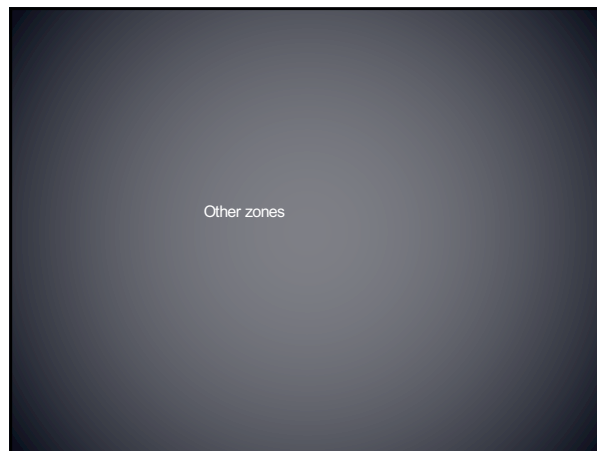
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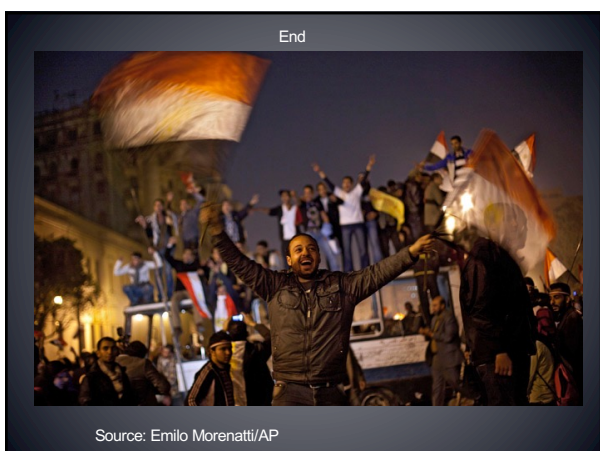
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Source: Emilio Morenatti/AP

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