



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Egypt

Egypt – EGY38177 – April 6 Youth
Movement
1 March 2011

1. What is the history and current status of 6 April Youth Movement? What are its aims? Is there any information about arrests, detention or other harm done to members of the 6 April Youth Movement?

The 6 April Youth Movement is an informal, secular, pro-democracy, pro-labour movement which uses online social media to organise demonstrations in Egypt.¹ The organisers and supporters of the 6 April Youth Movement (referred to hereafter as the '6 April Movement') are primarily young, urban, politically unaffiliated and well educated Egyptians.² The 6 April Movement has played a central role in recent mass demonstrations in Egypt which led to the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak on 11 February 2011.³ The group has also continued to lobby and demonstrate against the military, who are currently governing Egypt, for the fast implementation of democratic reforms.⁴

Since its creation on 6 April 2008, the April 6 Movement founding members and demonstrators have been attacked and detained by security forces.⁵ Many demonstrators are reported to have been injured or killed in clashes with security forces during the recent

¹ Dreyfuss, R. 2011, 'Who is behind the Egyptian protests?', *The Guardian*, 2 February <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/02/who-is-behind-egyptian-protests/print> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 1; 'The April 6 Youth Movement' (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2; Dreyfuss, R. 2011, 'Whose behind Egypt's Revolt, Middle East Online, 1 February <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=44015> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 3.

² 'The April 6 Youth Movement' (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2; 'Egypt's opposition pushes demands as protests continue' 2011, *BBC News*, 1 February <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12290167> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 4; Smith, B. 2011, *Uprising in Egypt*, House of Commons Library, 14 February <http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/briefings/snia-05865.pdf> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 5.

³ 'Egypt protests: Key moments in unrest' 2011, *BBC News*, 14 January <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12425375> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 6; Dorell, O. 2011, 'Egyptian group lists its demands; Military pressured on Israel, *USA Today*, 16 February - Attachment 7

⁴ Dorell, O. 2011, 'Egyptian group lists its demands; Military pressured on Israel, *USA Today*, 16 February; 'Over 1,000 protest in Tahrir to reiterate reform demands' 2011, *Daily News Egypt*, 23 February <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/over-1000-protest-in-tahrir-to-reiterate-reform-demands.html> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 8.

⁵ 'The April 6 Youth Movement' (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2; Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Egypt*; CQ Press, Washington - Attachment 9.

mass protests in Egypt.⁶ According to the ICG the military has promised not to pursue those who participated in the protests.⁷ On 22 February 2011, however, an April 6 Movement supporter was reportedly briefly detained with four others while participating in a protest in Cairo. According to an April 6 spokesperson the demonstrators were detained for distributing flyers and advocating reform.⁸

History, Current Status and Goals of the 6 April Youth Movement

In 2008 a group was formed through Facebook, an online social networking site, in support of industrial workers in the city of al-Mahalla al-Kubra who were planning to strike on April 6.⁹ This group, referred to as the April 6 Youth Movement, successfully utilised online networking to mobilise large numbers of people for the 2008 protests which escalated into a nationwide strike.¹⁰ According to a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace over 100,000 people joined the April 6 Movement online in 2008 “to express solidarity with workers protesting”.¹¹

Egyptian security forces responded aggressively to the 6 April 2008 protests.¹² The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace reported that during the strike security forces “abused and harassed” many of the 6 April Movement’s leaders and members.¹³ The *Political Handbook of the World* states that during May 2008, “in an apparent attempt to shut down the movement” Egyptian authorities arrested the founders, Israa Rashid and

⁶ ‘Egypt protests: Key moments in unrest’ 2011, *BBC News*, 14 January <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12425375> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 6; International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.7

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

⁷ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

⁸ ‘Over 1,000 protest in Tahrir to reiterate reform demands’ 2011, *Daily News Egypt*, 23 February <http://www.thedailynewsegypt.com/egypt/over-1000-protest-in-tahrir-to-reiterate-reform-demands.html> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 8.

⁹ Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Egypt*; CQ Press, Washington - Attachment 9

¹⁰ Ottaway. M & Hamzawy, A. 2011, *Protest Movements and Political Change in the Arab World*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 28 January http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/OttawayHamzawy_Outlook_Jan11_ProtestMovements.pdf - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 11; The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹¹ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹² Dreyfuss, R. 2011, ‘Whose behind Egypt’s Revolt, Middle East Online, 1 February <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=44015> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 3; Dreyfuss, R. 2011, ‘Who is behind the Egyptian protests?’, *The Guardian*, 2 February <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/02/who-is-behind-egyptian-protests/print> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 1.

¹³ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

Ahmad Maher. Maher is reported to have been arrested again in July 2008 for alleged “incitement against the regime.”¹⁴

According to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace the severity of the crackdown by Egyptian authorities dampened enthusiasm for the 6 April Movement and contributed to the decline of the movement’s organisational capacity over the next few years.¹⁵ In 2009, however, the group still claimed an online membership of approximately 70,000 individuals.¹⁶ During the 2009 and 2010 period the 6 April Movement was also involved in political activism and a number of protests. In 2008 and 2009 the group participated in pro-Gaza demonstrations.¹⁷ The 6 April Movement also organised demonstrations in support of jailed journalists and bloggers.¹⁸ In December 2009, an April 6 activist visiting Washington, reportedly told US representatives that “the Mubarak regime would never reform and that it should be replaced with a parliamentary democracy.”¹⁹

In 2009 and 2010 the group was involved in 6 April anniversary strikes which are reported to have “ended in deadly violence when police acted to disperse the protesters.”²⁰ The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace have also reported that “in April 2009, the April 6 Movement played an instrumental role in the formation of the Egyptian Coalition for Change²¹, which called for the abrogation of all emergency laws, the drafting of a new constitution, and the annulment of the Camp David Accords.”²² In 2010 the April 6 Movement reportedly filed a lawsuit demanding that Egyptians have the right to protest without police interference.²³ According to the Carnegie Endowment for International

¹⁴ Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Egypt*; CQ Press, Washington - Attachment 9.

¹⁵ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹⁶ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹⁷ Banks, A.S., Muller, T.C., Overstreet, W.R & Isacoff, J.F. (eds) 2010, *Political Handbook of the World Online Edition: Egypt*; CQ Press, Washington - Attachment 9; Dreyfuss, R. 2011, ‘Whose behind Egypt’s Revolt’, Middle East Online, 1 February <http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=44015> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 3; ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹⁸ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

¹⁹ Smith, B. 2011, *Uprising in Egypt*, House of Commons Library, 14 February <http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/briefings/snias-05865.pdf> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 5.

²⁰ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

²¹ Other members of the coalition included the Kifaya movement, al-Karama, al-Wasat, and individual members of the Muslim Brotherhood. ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

²² ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

²³ ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

Peace “the movement sought to regroup before the 2010 elections but it had no obvious impact on the other protests or on the election.”²⁴

The April 6 Movement have recently played a central role in bringing tens of thousands of protestors, in Cairo and other cities across Egypt²⁵, to the streets to protest against the Mubarak regime.²⁶ The April 6 Movement, along with the other pro-democracy groups, called for a mass protest on 25 January 2011 to symbolically mark the national Police Day holiday. The April 6 Movement cited a list of demands on its website including the resignation of the interior minister, an end to the Emergency Law, a rise in the minimum wage and a two term limit on the Presidency.²⁷ According to a report by the International Crisis Group “within days, more than 80, 000 Facebook users said they would participate across the country”.²⁸ The ICG have also stated that the mass protests were not inspired by a specific political agenda but rather than it was “fuelled by a more abstract feeling of fatigue and weariness vis-a vis the state’s predatory practises, corruption and arbitrariness and the absence of any sense of collective purpose”.²⁹

The mass demonstrations ran from 25 January 2011, until President Mubarak’s resignation on 11 February 2011.³⁰ On 1 February hundreds of thousands of demonstrators participated in a protest in Cairo and called on Mubarak to step down. The April 6

²⁴ Ottaway. M & Hamzawy, A. 2011, *Protest Movements and Political Change in the Arab World*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 28 January http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/OttawayHamzawy_Outlook_Jan11_ProtestMovements.pdf - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 11.

²⁵ The ICG have reported that the “largest demonstrations were in Cairo and Alexandria, but large crowds turned up across the Nile Delta, in Assiut and Minya, in Ismailiya and Suez and in north Sinai. (International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, pp.20-21 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 -Attachment 10

²⁶ The April 6 Movement called for a mass protest on 25 January 2011, the national Police Day holiday. The cited a list of demands on its website including the resignation of the interior minister, an end to the Emergency Law, a rise in the minimum wage and a two term limit on the Presidency.

²⁷ ‘Egypt’s opposition pushes demands as protests continue’ 2011, *BBC News*, 1 February <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12290167> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 4; International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, pp. 2-3 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

²⁸ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.3 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10

²⁹ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.19 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 -Attachment 10.

³⁰ ‘Egypt protests: Key moments in unrest’ 2011, *BBC News*, 14 January <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12425375> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 6; International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.2 - 3 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

Movement used social networking websites to mobilise and inform protesters.³¹ Many demonstrators were injured or killed during the protests. According to *BBC News* approximately 100 people died during clashes across the country between demonstrators and security forces which occurred during the period of 25 to 29 January 2011. On 31 January the army stated they would not use force against the protestors. The ICG have reported, however, that during the protests, the Army detained and abused human rights activists and journalists. The ICG have stated that according to human rights organisations many of the detained protestors and activists were suspected of looting or participating in street violence. Many of these detainees reportedly claim to have been “beaten, whipped and subjected to electrical shocks”.³² Violent clashes also occurred between anti and pro-Mubarak demonstrators.³³

On 24 February 2011 the ICG commented that the period since Mubarak’s resignation has been marked by uncertainty and optimism. Parliament has been dissolved, the constitution has been suspended and Egypt is currently ruled by Armed Forces Supreme Council. According to the ICG the military has made promises to eventually lift the state of emergency, not to pursue those who participated in protests and to transfer power to a democratically elected government in six months or after elections are held.³⁴ The ICG has stated that “contrary to what some have feared, the military so far has evidenced little appetite for direct rule... If anything, it appears to be in a rush to return to the background where it has long been, fearful of becoming the target of inevitable discontent”.³⁵ The ICG have, however, speculated on possible future friction between the army and the protest movement due to their highly different political cultures.³⁶

³¹ ‘Egyptian Authorities Shut Down Internet Access’ 2011, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 28 January <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/arb/?fa=show&article=42407> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 12; Smith, B. 2011, *Uprising in Egypt*, House of Commons Library, 14 February <http://www.parliament.uk/briefingpapers/commons/lib/research/briefings/snua-05865.pdf> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 5; ‘Egypt’s opposition pushes demands as protests continue’ 2011, *BBC News*, 1 February <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12290167> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 4.

³² International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.17 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

³³ ‘Egypt protests: Key moments in unrest’ 2011, *BBC News*, 14 January <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12425375> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 6; International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.7 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10.

³⁴ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, pp.14 -15 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10

³⁵ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.18 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10

³⁶ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.16 <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx>

The ICG have also speculated on the potential for disagreement and rivalries within the anti-Mubarak opposition movement during the transition period. According to the ICG the primary negative focus on Mubarak, lack of leadership and the absence of a clear strategic democratic agenda could affect the success and stability of the democracy movement in Egypt. Furthermore, the ICG have reported that as normalcy returns in Egypt returns it will become harder for pro-democracy movements to mobilise their constituencies in the event of a backtrack by the military.³⁷

Reports indicate that the 6 April Movement have continued to lobby and organise protests in Egypt. A report dated 16 February 2011, published by *USA Today*, states that leaders of the April 6 Movement commented in an interview that “they will demand the military move more quickly on creating an interim civilian government, cut off natural gas shipments to Israel and not allow Mubarak to leave.” The group will also reportedly demand “an immediate lifting of barriers on forming political parties, freedom of association and freedom of speech.” According to the report Tarek El Khoully, coordinator of the April 6 Movement, stated that “the group will resume massive demonstrations if its requests are denied.” Tarek El Khoully is also cited as stating that the 6 April Movement “has become disillusioned with the pace of change” and “no longer trusts the military’s intentions.” El Khoully stated that the “At the end of the day, they’re Mubarak’s appointees and loyal to him. The proof is he’s still in Sharm el-Sheik under their protection. We want him held accountable”.³⁸

On 22 February, the April 6 Movement organised a protest in Tahrir Square in Cairo to advocate political change.³⁹ These demands reportedly include:

...the resignation of the current government, an end to emergency law, the release of all detainees arrested during the revolution, the formation of a presidential council that includes civilians and judges, dissolving the state security investigations apparatus, and completely restructuring the interior ministry.

A 6 April Movement member was briefly detained with four other protestors while demonstrating. The general coordinator of 6 April Movement, Ahmed Maher, is cited as stating that the demonstrators were detained for “distributing flyers demanding change and reform.” Maher is also reported to have stated that ““We just want to remind people through these protests that there is no dialogue between opposition powers and the army anymore and we aren’t included in anything””.⁴⁰

[Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx](#) - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10

³⁷ International Crisis Group 2011, *Popular Protest in North Africa and the Middle East (I): Egypt Victorious?: Middle East/North Africa Report N°101*, 24 February, p.21

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/North%20Africa/Egypt/101%20Popular%20Protest%20in%20North%20Africa%20and%20the%20Middle%20East%20I%20--%20Egypt%20Victorious.ashx> - Accessed 28 February 2011 - Attachment 10

³⁸ Dorell, O. 2011, ‘Egyptian group lists its demands; Military pressured on Israel, *USA Today*, 16 February - Attachment 7

³⁹ The protest was originally planned to be a “million man march” but was reportedly downgraded to 1000 people following a “positive” TV interview with members of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces on 21 February. (‘Over 1,000 protest in Tahrir to reiterate reform demands’ 2011, *Daily News Egypt*, 23 February <http://www.thedailynewsegyp.com/egypt/over-1000-protest-in-tahrir-to-reiterate-reform-demands.html> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 8).

⁴⁰ ‘Over 1,000 protest in Tahrir to reiterate reform demands’ 2011, *Daily News Egypt*, 23 February <http://www.thedailynewsegyp.com/egypt/over-1000-protest-in-tahrir-to-reiterate-reform-demands.html> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 8

A recent report published by *Daily News Egypt* states that “a million man march” was scheduled to take place in Tahrir Square, Cairo on 25 February 2011 to mark the one month anniversary of the 25 January demonstrations. According to the report the April 6 Movement are calling the march a “the Friday of Cleansing and Protecting the Revolution, an event that will include a memorial for the martyrs who lost their lives to overthrow the regime.” The report provides the following further information on the demands of the April 6 Movement:

The April 6 Movement said that only the regime’s symbol has fallen, which is why they are calling for the dismissal of Ahmed Shafiq’s government, the dissolution of state security apparatus, and the inclusion of Shoura Council Speaker Safwat El-Sherif, Chief of the Presidential Staff Zakaria Azmy and former Intelligence Chief and brief Vice President Omar Suleiman with Habib Al-Adly in the investigations into the use of violence against demonstrators.⁴¹

2. Who started the 6 April Youth Movement?

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace lists the following founding members for the 6 April Youth Movement:

- Asmaa Mahfouz: Founding member
- Ahmed Maher: Founding member
- Israa Abdel Fattah: Founding member
- Mohammed Adel Amr Ali: Leading member and blogger⁴²

3. Does it have a Facebook page? Is it possible to verify whether a person has posted comments on the Movement Facebook page?

The April 6 Youth Movement has a Facebook page.⁴³ The Facebook page states that it has 99,023 members. Posted comments can be viewed on the ‘wall’ section of the Facebook page. Posts include details of the Facebook name of the writer. A survey of recent comments on the ‘wall’ of the Facebook page indicates it is extremely popular with over 120 postings and numerous other posted comments over a period of approximately one hour. Due to the high number of postings on the ‘wall’ of the Facebook page only one hour of comments can be viewed before the page expires.⁴⁴ It is therefore impossible to verify whether a person has posted comments on the groups Facebook page. Information on the groups Facebook page is also written in Arabic.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace provides the following summary of the 6 April Youth Movement’s effective use of Facebook:

⁴¹ ‘Million man march planned for Friday’ 2011, *Daily News Egypt*, 23 February - Attachment 13.

⁴² ‘The April 6 Youth Movement’ (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011 - Attachment 2.

⁴³ ‘April 6 Youth Movement’ 2011, Facebook website, 24 February <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=9973986703> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 14c.

⁴⁴ ‘April 6 Youth Movement -Wall’ 2011, Facebook website, 24 February <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=9973986703> - Accessed 24 February 2011 - Attachment 15

The April 6 Youth Movement has made extensive use of social media and cell phone technology to mobilize its supporters, and over 70,000 Facebook users belong to the movement's online group. The Facebook group functions as both a forum and powerful organizing tool for the movement's members, who frequently post comments, photos and news reports to the page. Leaders meet online to debate issues, plan events, and mobilize the group's members to participate in specific demonstrations. Members of the movement have used various Facebook features—including profile pictures and status update boxes—to protest repressive police measures and express solidarity with fellow activists who have been arrested or harassed.⁴⁵

The April 6 Youth Movement also has the following websites:

- The April 6 Youth Movement official website (Arabic) – <http://www.6april.org/>. This website has been intermittently down over the past month.
- The April 6 Youth Movement blog website (English) – <http://www.6aprilmove.blogspot.com/>. This website has not been updated since May 2009.
- The April 6 Youth Movement twitter webpage (Arabic) – <http://twitter.com/shabab6april>
- The Code of April 6 Youth Movement website (Arabic and English) – <http://shabab6april.wordpress.com>

4. Is there any information about the Movement in Sydney?

No information was found in the source consulted regarding the 6 April Youth Movement in Sydney or Australia more generally.

Attachments

1. Dreyfuss, R. 2011, 'Who is behind the Egyptian protests?', *The Guardian*, 2 February <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/02/who-is-behind-egyptian-protests/print> - Accessed 23 February 2011.
2. 'The April 6 Youth Movement' (undated), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2010/09/22/the-april-6-youth-movement> - Accessed 23 February 2011.
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