

Arab Revolt 2.0 – The Counsel of 7 Kings and Clergy

The following are statements made or authorized about the Arab Revolt 2.0 by the seven Sunni Muslims who were identified as being the most influential Muslims in the world by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre, Jordan in 2010. All of these statements were made prior to the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on 8 Rabi al-Awwal 1432 / 11 February 2011.

Summary of Perspectives

Six out of seven of the most influential Sunni Muslims in the world do not fully support or endorse the Arab Revolt 2.0 which commenced at the start of 1432 / 2011.

- * 2 are firmly against the revolt – King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and Mufti Ali Gomaa of Egypt
- * 2 urged reconciliation, dialogue and a return to normalcy – Sheikh Ahmed Tayeb of Al-Azhar, Egypt and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia
- * 1 whose own country had been affected made changes – King Abdullah II of Jordan
- * 1 remained silent which implies lack of support - King Mohammed VI of Morocco
- * 1 out of 7 expressed justification for the revolt – Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

Summary of Origin, Profession and Lineage

- * 6 out of 7 are located in the Middle East and North Africa
- * 5 out of 7 are Arabs (2 are Egyptians), 1 is Turkish and 1 is Indonesian
- * 3 out of 7 are monarchs
- * 2 out of 7 claim descent from Prophet Muhammad, peace & blessings of Allah on him
- * 2 are Islamic scholars (both Egyptians)

1. KING ABDULLAH OF SAUDI ARABIA

'Egypt is a country of Arabism and Islam. No Arab and Muslim can bear that some infiltrators into the brotherly Egyptian people are attempting to destabilize that country's security and stability in the name of freedom of expression, and they have been exploiting the public and spawning hatred and driving them to engage in destruction, arson, looting — terrorizing them and inciting sedition.'

His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of Two Holy Mosques, 24 Safar 1432 / 28 January 2011

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article245718.ece>

2. PRIME MINISTER RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN OF TURKEY

“The [Egyptian] people expect a very different decision from Mubarak. The current administration does not inspire trust so far as the democratic change wanted by the population is concerned.”

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, 29 Safar 1432 / 2 February 2011

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=mubarak-should-go-now-says-turkeys-erdogan-2011-02-02>

3. KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN

"We call on you to form a new government whose main task is to take practical, speedy and tangible steps to launch a path of real political reforms...on the road to consolidating democracy,"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/01/uk-jordan-idUKTRE7103HK20110201>

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 28 Safar 1432 / 1 February 2011

4. KING MOHAMMED VI OF MOROCCO

No Comment

His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

5. SHEIKH AHMED AL-TAYEB OF AL-AZHAR, EGYPT

'Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb urged everyone in Egypt to be rational and calm and to avoid any clash. He urged the political parties to hold immediate dialogue aimed at containing the crisis, heal the rift, maintain security and cut the way for any attempts for foreign interference.'

His Eminence Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad al Tayeb, Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Mosque, Egypt, 29 Safar 1432/ 2 February 2011

<http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Story.aspx?sid=53544>

6. PRESIDENT SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO OF INDONESIA

'We hope that the situation could be back to normal. Hopefully, there is no more violence so that our citizens who work and study in Egypt could return there.'

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90851/7279577.html>

His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia, 30 Safar 1432 / 3 February 2011

7. MUFTI ALI GOMAA OF EGYPT

'I greet President Mubarak who offered dialogue and responded to the demands of the people. Going against legitimacy is forbidding (Haram). This is an invitation for chaos. We support stability. What we have now is a blind chaos leading to a civil war. I call on all parents to ask their children to stay home.'

Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt, Egypt, 29 Safar 1432/ 2 February 2010

<http://blogs.aljazeera.net/middle-east/2011/02/01/live-blog-feb-2-egypt-protests>