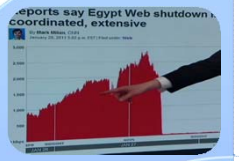
How Technology and the Internet Fueled the Protests In Egypt



Internet in Egypt

- Introduced to Egypt in 1993
- Became available to citizens in the early 2000s
- Access made free in 2002
- Led to the eventual regulation of the Internet (ex. Telecommunications Regulation Act of 2003)

Approaching the Protests

- After the Tunisian president stepped down on January 25th, words of protest flooded the Internet in Egypt
- Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, felt threatened
- As a result, Internet and SMS services were blocked

During the Protests

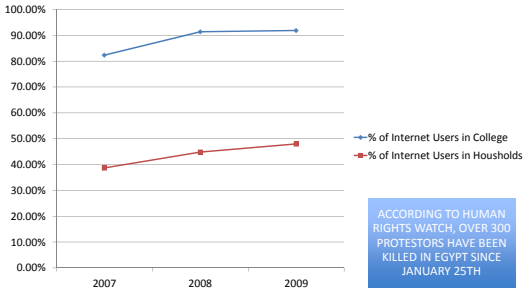
- Facebook and Twitter were used in planning the protests
- Police used social media services to track down protesters
- Unfiltered information spread through blogs and YouTube
- International support

FACEBOOK GAINED MORE THAN 50% ITS USERS IN AFRICA DURING THE LAST 6 MONTHS, MAKING IT THE MOST FACEBOOK DYNAMIC CONTINENT CURRENTLY. ASIA IS CURRENTLY THE SECOND MOST DYNAMIC

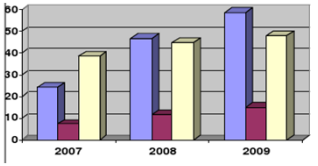
IN EGYPT: THERE ARE +1.6 million new users = +43 % change

11% OF EGYPT'S ECONOMY COMES FROM TOURISM

Egypt's Technology Usage



ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, OVER 300 PROTESTORS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN EGYPT SINCE JANUARY 25TH



Blue - % of households with mobile phone
Maroon - % of households with computer
Yellow - % of households using Internet

Important Events from the Protest

facebook twitter YouTube reddit

January 25th, 2011
- Protesters use Facebook and Twitter to organize, calling for an end to Mubarak's reign

January 27th, 2011
- The Egyptian government ordered communications to be interrupted
- Google creates alternative Twitter service

February 1st, 2011
- In a live television address, Mubarak announces he will not run for re-election in September

February 2nd, 2011
- Google updates its "speak2tweet"
- Internet access is restored

February 7th, 2011
- Protesters continue to use social networking sites to organize better marches and gain more support

February 9th, 2011
- Labor unions join the protest, urging that Mubarak step down

February 10th, 2011
- President Mubarak states again that he will not be running for re-election and promises a peaceful transition of power in September

February 11th, 2011
- President Hosni Mubarak steps down
- Power is handed over to the Egyptian military

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