Egypt Public Opinion Survey Report
Draft

The findings reported below are a brief summary of the main findings extracted from the opinion poll carried out by Information International for the benefit of ACRLI during the period between 3/06/06 and 11/06/06. The report contains the following: methodology of the survey, demographics, as well as reports on the judiciary, media, and parliament pillars.

I- Methodology:

Eight hundred participants from Cairo and Alexandria were selected using the stratified sampling procedure. Out of these participants, 536 were from Cairo (67%) and 264 from Alexandria (33%). Gender distribution in the sample was titled in favor of male participants due to the difficulty some female participants had in answering the questionnaire (58% male, 42% female).

II- Missing Data Analysis:

The overall refusal rates reached 11.2% of the participants approached for this survey. The overall pattern of missing responses did not exceed 5%, except for questions 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68 where it reached 11%. These questions pertain to the means used to obtain information needed. The high percentage of missing data on this section is therefore due to the high percentage of illiterate and poor people who participated in the survey.

Close attention to the pattern of missing data points to

1- **Item 67** "To what extent do you use the Internet to obtain the information you need" had the highest rate of missing data with 23.3% of participants reporting their inability to assess this item. Either participants felt the item to be too sensitive or they did not feel confident enough to provide an assessment on that question.
2- **Item 24** "Sanctions against journalists and media organizations are arbitrarily imposed (e.g. denial or suspension of credentials, closure, seizure)" had the second highest rate of missing data, with 10.6% of participants reporting their inability to assess the item.

These two items seemed to be the most problematic for our samples. Other items with lower values of missing data may be of interest to authors, and are provided in appendix C, p. 4.

III- Demographics

The following information is presented in percentages.

Gender	Male	58
	Female	42
Marital status	Married	54.1
	Single	35.6
	Other (divorced/widowed)	8.5
education	Illiterate	16.5%
	Elementary school	35%
	Schooled	36%
	University degree	13%

IV- Reports per pillar: Judiciary

a- General findings:

An important finding is that the state of the judiciary in Egypt tends to be negatively evaluated by members of the general public. Out of the 18 specific questions asked, 9 were negatively evaluated (see section c below).

Furthermore, the two tables below indicate that only 21.9% of participants have dealt with the courts in Egypt, while the overwhelming majority (78.1%) have never been to court. Interestingly, of the 21.9% who have had an experience with the court system in Egypt, 59.5% of participants reported having paid or having been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to court staff, while 11.3 % of participants have reported being asked to bribe the judge presiding the case. Participants seem to be relatively satisfied with their lawyers' performance, but seem to be less so with the judges' performance.

Have you ever dealt with the courts in your country?	Yes	21.9
	No	78.1
If yes, in which context?	As a plaintiff	٣١,٢
	As a defendant	١٨,٥
	As an accused	١٧,٩
	As an victim	١٣,٩
	As an witness	١٨,٥
Have you paid or been asked to pay bribes or honoraries to the court staff?	Yes	59.5
	No	40.5
Has anyone asked you to give gifts or pay money to the judge who is presiding your case?	Yes	11.3
	No	88.7

	large extent	**N.**	**small extent**
60. To what extent was your lawyer discreet and honest?	64.5	20.3	15.1
61. To what extent was your lawyer competent in dealing with your case	59.5	27.7	12.7
62. To what extent are you satisfied with the way that the Judge handled	45.1	23.8	31.1

your case?			
63. To what extent was the judge who was handling your case competent	48.8	29.2	22

b- Positive Evaluation: Item analysis

Five items received a favourable evaluation. Judges are perceived to have an acceptable level of personal integrity, have relevant professional skills and their decisions are not influenced by interference and pressures. Moreover, court decisions are viewed as being relatively impartial and court proceedings are managed in a transparent way (marginal result).

		Dim	X
Main dimensions	9. Judges have the relevant professional skills	Eff	2.22
	7. Judges are generally perceived as having a high degree of personal integrity	Int	2.54
	1. Interference and pressure are exerted on Judges to influence their decision making (R)	Ind	2.79
	5. Court decisions are made in total impartiality (equal treatment and no discrimination)	Int	2.94
	11. The court proceedings are managed in a transparent manner	Com	2.97

Note: Scores represent the average (mean) for each item on a scale from 1 to 5. Scores below 3 reflect a positive evaluation of the item, while scores above 3 reflect a negative evaluation".

Nonetheless, participants reported an overall positive evaluation of the state of the judiciary as presented in the table below.

		X
General evaluation	16. The judges in your country are competent	2.56
	15. The judges in your country are honest and are not corrupt	2.67
	17. The judges in your country are impartial when reviewing cases	2.68
	14. The judges in your country are independent and no one influences them	2.85

c- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

The table below presents the negatively rated items in rank order of importance. The mean numbers (X) refer to the mean of discontent associated with each item (means higher than 3 indicate a negative evaluation. Scale range: 1 to 5).

		Dim	X
Main	12. Litigations are conducted in a professional and timely manner (without any delays)	Int	3.83
	13. Judgments are enforced in a consistent and effective manner and without external interference	Int	3.73

	8. Citizens have easy access to Judicial Rulings	Int	3.72
	2. Judges who give wrongful rulings are penalized	Ind	3.64
	3. The laws that enhance the integrity of society are implemented accurately and effectively	Int	3.54
	10. The cost of litigation in your country is affordable for everybody	Int	3.51
	6. The principle of equality before the law is strictly enforced	Int	3.47
	4. The judiciary fights corruption wherever it exists	Int	3.29

Only one overall dimension was rated negatively. It deals with the enforcement of justice and is as follows; "Generally, the judiciary in your country enforces justice" (x = 3.13).

d- Reform Questions:

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions to which participants were asked to rate the importance of the need to reform specific dimensions within the judiciary. Participants ranked the reform in the following order:

	X
19. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the judiciary	1.53
21. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary	1.61
22. Reforms are needed to enhance the competence of the judges	1.69
20. Reforms are needed to enhance the judiciary integrity	1.81

V- Reports per pillar: Media

a- General findings:

The table below shows that participants have an extensive use of the general media outlets available (e.g. newspapers, TV, Radio and Internet), with newspapers and magazines being the most relied upon for information.

	large extent	N.	small extent
64. To what extent do you use the Newspapers and Magazines to obtain the information you need	73	11.8	15.2
65. To what extent do you use the TV to obtain the information you need	64.6	18.6	16.8
66. To what extent do you use the Radio to obtain the information you need	45.5	20.1	34.4
67. To what extent do you use the Internet to obtain the information you need	51.8	19.3	28.9
68. To what extent do you use the Social and Religious groups to obtain the information you need	40.9	23.5	35.5
69. To what extent do you use other means to obtain the information you need	No other means were mentioned		

b- Frequencies of specific items

Assessment of individual item responses indicated a negative evaluation of the state of the media in Egypt. Participants rated seven of the nine items negatively. One of the items that were positively evaluated reflected the independence of the media from the influence/pressure of non-governmental parties (exp: private corporations, political groups, other social groups). The other shows that participants receive the various types of media that interest them (TV, Radio, printed press, internet).

	large extent	N.	small extent
23. To what extent do journalists enjoy freedom of expression without fear of reprisal	31.6	19.6	48.8
26. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by government	60.6	17.7	21.7
27. To which degree is the media influenced/ pressured by non-governmental parties (exp: private corporations, political groups, other social groups)	28.8	30.2	40.9
28. To what extent do journalists accept favors/bribes	47.9	24.1	28
29. To what extent does the content of the media reflect the diversity in society	26.2	29.8	44
31. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with impartial and balanced views	23.8	28.2	48
32. In your opinion, to what extent does the media provide you with the diverse political, economic and social views that you need.	30.1	23.5	46.4
33. To what extent does the media hire its employees without discrimination (racial, gender, political)	18	23.5	58.5

34. To what extent can you receive the various types of media that interest you (TV, Radio, printed press, internet)	57.1	24.3	18.6

However, when asked about the general evaluation of the three main dimensions assessing the state of the media in Egypt, participants negatively evaluated two of these items, and marginally rated the third positively.

	X
25. The media is able to report openly on all types of issues (political, religious, social)	3.45
30. Generally, journalists have sufficient qualifications to perform their duties competently	3.14
24. Sanctions against journalists and media organizations are arbitrarily imposed (e.g. denial or suspension of credentials, closure., seizure) (R)	2.97

b- Reform Questions:

The questionnaire included a series of "reform" questions in which participants were asked to rate the importance of reform. Reforms were ranked as follow:

	X
35. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the media	1.47
37. Reforms are needed to enhance the efficiency of the media	1.55
36. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the media	1.62

VI- Reports per pillar: Participation

a- Negative Evaluation: Item analysis

The overall evaluation of the parliament and participation pillar was negative. Participants rated 13 of the 14 items assessing the state of parliament in a negative fashion. Interestingly though, 46.4% of surveyed participants indicated that they did participate in the last general parliamentary elections, 45.6% of participants stated they did not participate in the last elections, while 8% refrained from answering the question.

b- Item analysis:

The state of the parliament in Egypt tends to be negatively evaluated by the participants regardless of whether questions related to corruption, abuse of position and power, competence, function, and free elections. Out of the 14 specific items, 13 were negatively evaluated and are presented in rank order in the table below:

	X
48. Parliamentarians do not misuse their posts for illegal benefits	4.11
39. A limit for campaign spending is set	4.01
38. Candidates for Parliamentary seats enjoy equal competition chances	3.98
49. The elections in my country are conducted in a free and honest way	3.91
44. Parliamentarians monitor all the actions of the ministers	3.83
40. The authority that oversees elections is trusted and impartial	3.74
41. The parliament truly represents the social and political forces in the society	3.74
45. Parliamentarians fight corruption	3.70
46. Parliament legislates effectively	3.64
47. Parliamentarians care about issues pertaining to the public	3.63
50. Parliamentarians are competent	3.62
42. The parliamentarians in my district interact with their constituents	3.43
43. The parliamentarians endure illegal pressures	3.19

c- Positive Evaluation

Only one item was positively evaluated: “All citizens who meet the legal requirements are able to run for parliament” (x = 2.59).

d- **Reform Questions**:

Participants highlighted the need for reforms in all dimensions of parliament participation and are ranked order in the table below.

	X
52. Reforms are needed to enhance representation and participation in parliamentary elections	1.48
55. Reforms are needed to enhance the performance of the parliament	1.55
53. Reforms are needed to enhance the independence of the parliament	1.62
54. Reforms are needed to enhance the integrity of the parliament	1.62