

# EGYPT - MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

## Party Portrait

The Muslim Brotherhood is the most important Islamist organization in Egypt, and arguably across the Middle East. Since its founding in 1928, the group has sought to promote Islamist ideology in Egyptian society. It is an important social and political actor, particularly given its history of providing public services to disadvantaged communities. Its influence peaked with the election of Mohammed Morsi as President in 2012 before being deposed by a military coup in 2013. The group is now considered a terrorist organization, with thousands of members imprisoned.

### Key Interests

- Regain status as a legitimate political actor;
- Gain international support against the Egyptian Government's crackdown of opposition groups;
- Achieve the release of its political and ideological leaders;
- Continue to yield influence in society; and
- Inspire demonstrations against the Egyptian Government

### Sources of Leverage

**Grass-roots Support** – Given its history of providing low-income communities with public services, the Brotherhood continues to yield considerable, albeit subdued, political support

**Regional Support** – As one of the most important Islamist organizations in the region, it continues to have support from political groups in Tunisia, Palestine, Turkey or Qatar, for example.

**International Support** –The Brotherhood has sought to seek support from Western countries that have voiced reservations about the Egyptian Government's repressive tactics

## Regional Strategy

Though there are important ideological factions within the Brotherhood, many leaders wish to maintain its relevance as a social and political group in communities across Egypt, despite many of its leaders and members currently being imprisoned.

### Powerful Individuals

Mohammed Morsi (former President and leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party), Mohammed Badie (Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood)

### Potential Negotiation Moves

**Incite Protests** – Though it has been pushed underground, the Brotherhood may seek to actively resist by inciting protests against the Egyptian Government

**Elicit International Support** – In order to pressure the Egyptian Government, the Muslim Brotherhood may seek to conduct public diplomatic efforts in order to gain support from Western and Arab countries for the release of its leaders

**Block Egyptian Government's Agenda** – Given that it continues to have partners in Qatar, Tunisia (Ennahda), Palestine (Hamas) or Turkey, the Muslim Brotherhood may be able to block the Egyptian Government's efforts to assert its influence abroad

## Internal Conflicts

There are currently two main factions within the Muslim Brotherhood: (i) those that seek to continue to peacefully advance the organization's social or political goals; and (ii) those that believe that armed struggle against the Egyptian Government is justified and the only way of advancing its mission.

### Memberships

N/A

### Allies

N/A

### Partners

QATAR, TURKEY, PALESTINE Hamas

### Rivals

UNITED STATES, SAUDI ARABIA, UAE, ISRAEL

### Adversaries

EGYPT Government

### Active Armed Opponents

N/A

### Proxy

N/A

### External Sponsor

N/A

### Aid Recipient

N/A

### Aid Donor

N/A