Interviewer: Khrystyna

Participant country: Egypt

1. First Impressions: What struck you as most interesting and insightful about this interview?
   1. The participant prepared for the interview and had a WhatsApp message outlining the steps the government has taken to counter information threats (legislation)
   2. The government has a framework and strategy to protect the population and counter the information threats.
   3. The participant tried hard to convince me that Egypt is, if not great, then a regional power that successfully uses its soft power to bring democracy and prosperity to neighboring countries.
2. What existing information threats did the participant identify? (list)
   1. Muslim Brotherhood – to distort public opinion and regain political power.
   2. From surrounding countries that are unstable – there is an “agenda” to make Egypt similar to them.
3. What was the most insightful in participant’s description of threats from China?
   1. No Chinese influence in the country – or any foreign influence.
4. What needs did the participant identify?
   1. Build democracy and stability in the region.
5. What support did they identify that they would like to see from the US?
   1. NA.

### Interview with EGYPT (at ALFS)

**What are your information threats?**

* Egypt faces a lot of disinformation, especially recently. Media from the Muslim Brotherhood still uses misinformation. They work on social media. A lot of TV channels broadcast from outside, spreading misinformation and disinformation from countries that are not friendly with Egypt.
* It is coming from the Muslim Brotherhood. Their purpose is distortion and deceive the public opinion in Egypt. These channels and social media are active. They discredit what the government achieves. They deceive the public. There is misinformation throughout not just Egypt but the entire Middle East. For example, we receive misinformation and disinformation regarding the war in Ukraine. It is coming from both sides, for example, on casualties.

**What is their ultimate aim?**

* Muslim Brotherhood is terrorists. They managed to use disinformation to gain seats in parliament. They had a presidency for a short time, but then we had a revolution and pushed them out. Ever since, they have been upset about it and are trying to regain power.
* It’s not only the Muslim Brotherhood – other regional powers in the Middle East try to destabilize the government, weaken the position. They put out false information.
* To be clear, it's all on the map of Egypt. There is no stability around. Libya is to the West. To the South, we have a huge civil war between the Sudanese army and the rebels. The same is true for Libya. Further South – Somali. Broader issues with neighboring countries – conflicts like with Houthis in Yemen. In the North, there is an ongoing attack of Israel on Gaza. There are issues in Syria and Lebanon.
* All these countries surround Egypt. There is an external agenda to make Egypt have the same [instability]. A threat from the Muslim Brotherhood. So it’s external and internal.

**What steps is the government taking to counter it?**

* Egypt has taken positive steps in several directions. I just sent you a WhatsApp with our steps

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**WhatsApp message:**

The Egyptian state is making multiple efforts to combat media misinformation at various levels, whether through legislation, institutions, or awareness-raising initiatives. Here are the most prominent of these efforts:  
  
1. Legislative and Regulatory Framework  
• Anti-Cybercrime Law (2018): aims to combat crimes committed online, including the dissemination of false and misleading news.  
• Press and Media Regulation Law (2018): stipulates that media outlets that broadcast false information that harms national security or public order shall be held accountable.  
• The National Media Authority and the National Press Authority: monitor media content and establish controls to ensure professionalism and impartiality.  
  
2. Censorship and Monitoring  
• The Supreme Council for Media Regulation: monitors media performance and issues periodic reports on violations. It has the authority to suspend or fine violating media outlets.  
• The State Information Service: responds to rumors and misleading information, particularly that published by foreign media outlets about Egypt.  
  
3. Countering Rumors Through Official Platforms  
• The Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center: Issues weekly reports to monitor and refute rumors and clarify the facts to citizens.  
• The official social media pages of ministries and government institutions: Used to respond immediately to false news.  
  
4. Collaboration with the Media  
• Urging official and private media outlets to verify sources before publishing.  
• Training media professionals to counter fake news and handle information from reliable sources.  
  
5. Community Awareness  
• Organizing awareness campaigns for citizens about the dangers of media misinformation and the importance of verifying information.  
• Encouraging citizens not to repost unreliable content.

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* We have very good relationships with neighboring countries. We try to balance it. we mediate to solve the problems with neighboring countries. We help establish democracy and prosperity in the region.
* The government has taken many steps – it is strengthening its military to take any action in case the government is threatened. At the same time, we are rebuilding the economy, we have projects. Some are for the long-term, like the 2030 vision. We want to lift the economy.
* We are not enemies to everyone. We are not doing any aggression.
* We are looking for peace and prosperity in the region. We are the only Middle Eastern country that still has the time and honor to do this. Others have already lost. [Comment from the interpreter – the word “honor” is very important in this context].

**How about threats from China?**

*[The interpreter: Egyptian media are very strong. That’s why the Egyptian accent is understood everywhere across the entire Middle East. We are the oldest and biggest media. We influence the Middle East. Egypt is using its soft power.]*

* There is no influence from China or foreign influence at all. We are independent, with an independent government and military.
* There is no influence – no American influence, no Russian influence. We have Egyptian influence externally.
* We are different from other countries. We have thousands of years of history and civilization. We are not influenced, as Egyptians are very attached to their own heritage, religion, and history. We are a secular country. We have religious freedom. In Egypt, we have Muslims and Christians. A Christian can date a Muslim. They are all Egyptians. There is no discrimination.