

Post Arab Revolutions: What Social Media is Telling Us

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Berkman Center for Internet and Society

May 27th, 2014









Facebook

#Jan25



THE EGYPTIAN
SOCIAL NETWORK

ناس
بوك

تورس
مقتاره الله واه الشعب
هوياسه
أحد الحماة - د. البرومي
الزياب مع سنوات فقط
عبد البرمادي





@mohamed

Mohamed Nanabhay

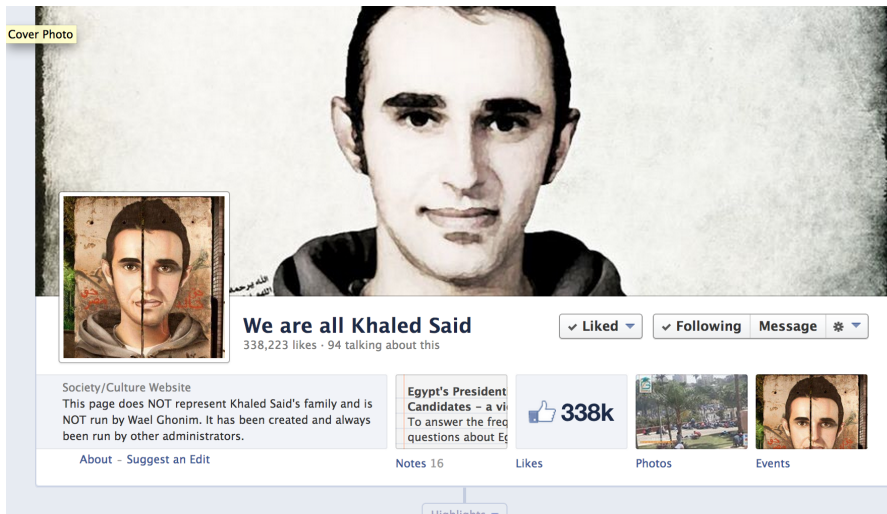
Nearly 45% of our current web traffic to our @AJEnglish Egypt coverage is coming from America <http://english.aljazeera.net>

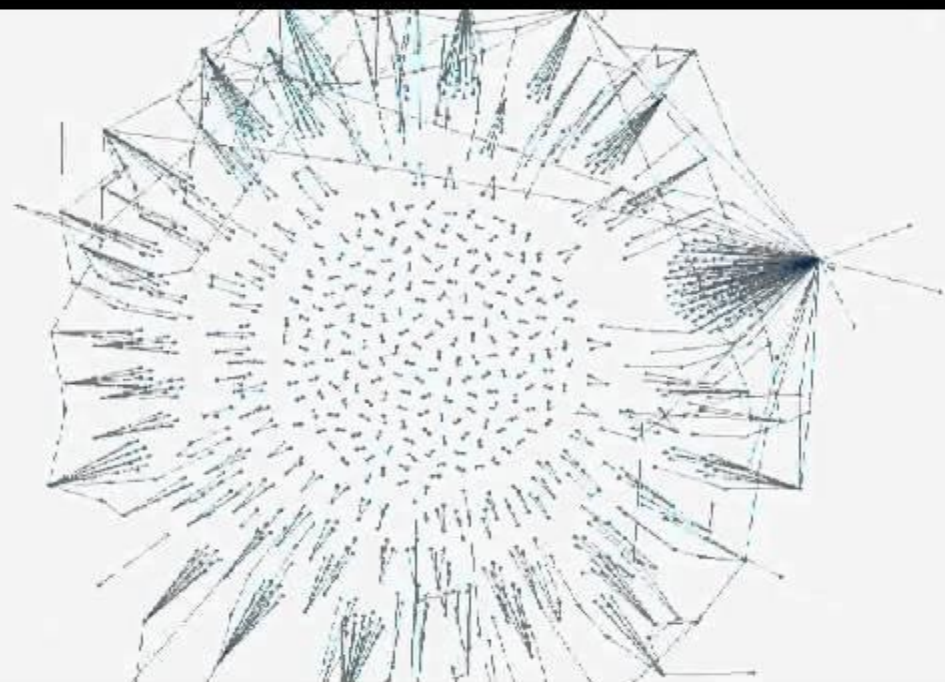
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MUBARAK: I HAVE ORDERED THE GOVT TO STEP DOWN AND I WILL NAME NEW GOVT TOMORROW

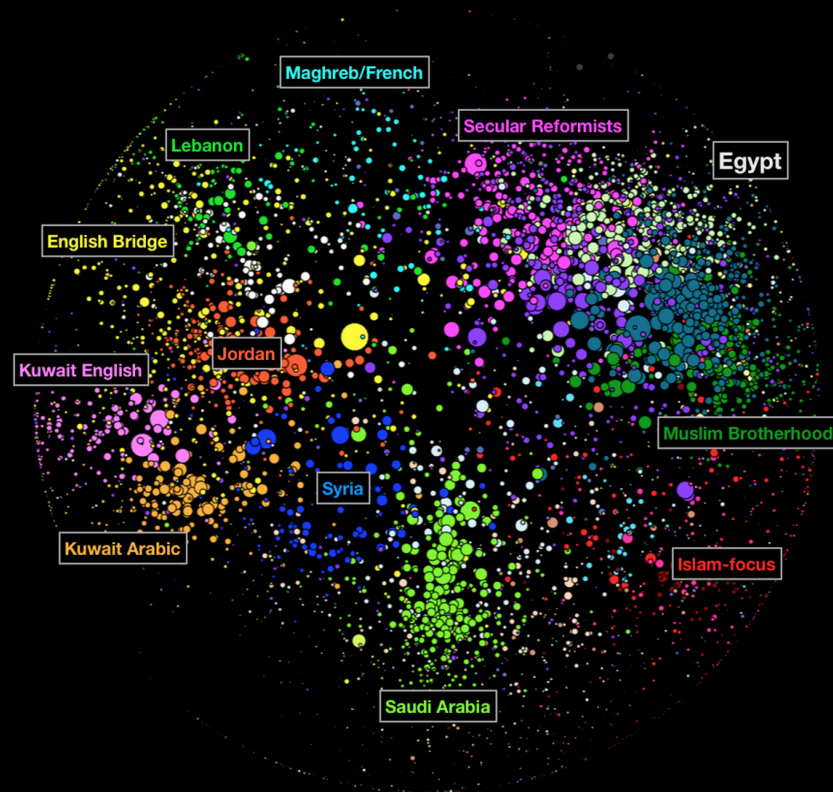
ALJAZEERA STATE TV STATION IN EGYPTIAN CAPITAL U.S. ADVISES ITS CI





- Marc Lynch, “Blogging the New Arab Public,” *Arab Media & Society*, Issue 1, Spring 2007,
- Gilad Lotan, Erhardt Graeff, Mike Ananny, Devin Gaffney, Ian Pearce, danah boyd, “The Revolutions Were Tweeted: Information Flows During the 2011 Tunisian and Egyptian Revolutions,” *International Journal of Communication*, Vol. 5, 2011
- Christopher Wilson, Alexandra Dunn, “Digital Media in the Egyptian Revolution: Descriptive Analysis from the Tahrir Data Set,” *International Journal of Communication*, Vol. 5, 2011,
- Zeynep Tufekci and Christopher Wilson, “Social Media and the Decision to Participate in Political Protest: Observations from Tahrir Square,” *Journal of Communication* 62(2), 6 March 2012,

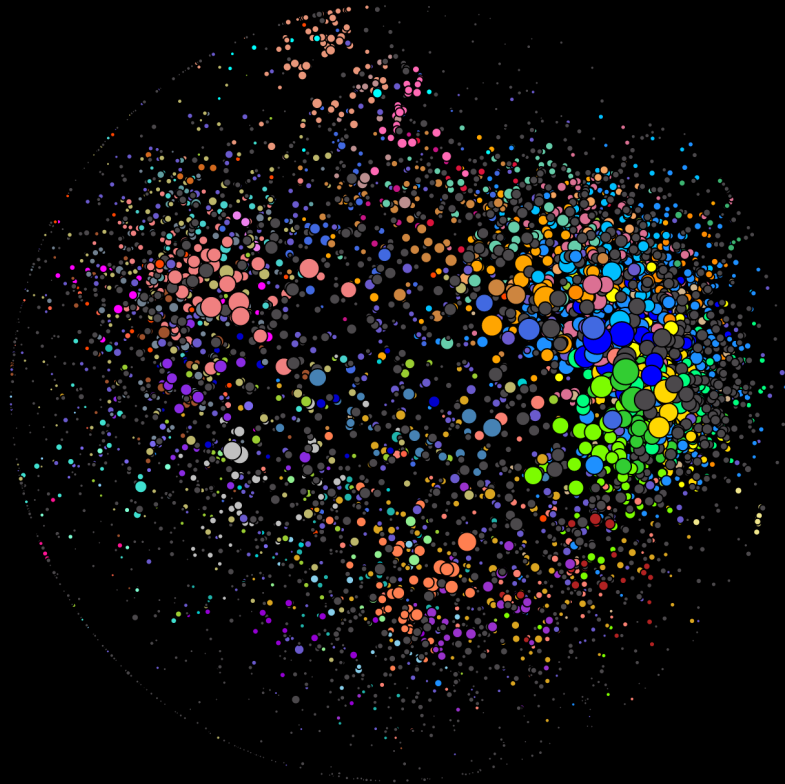
Mapping the Arab Blogosphere (2009)

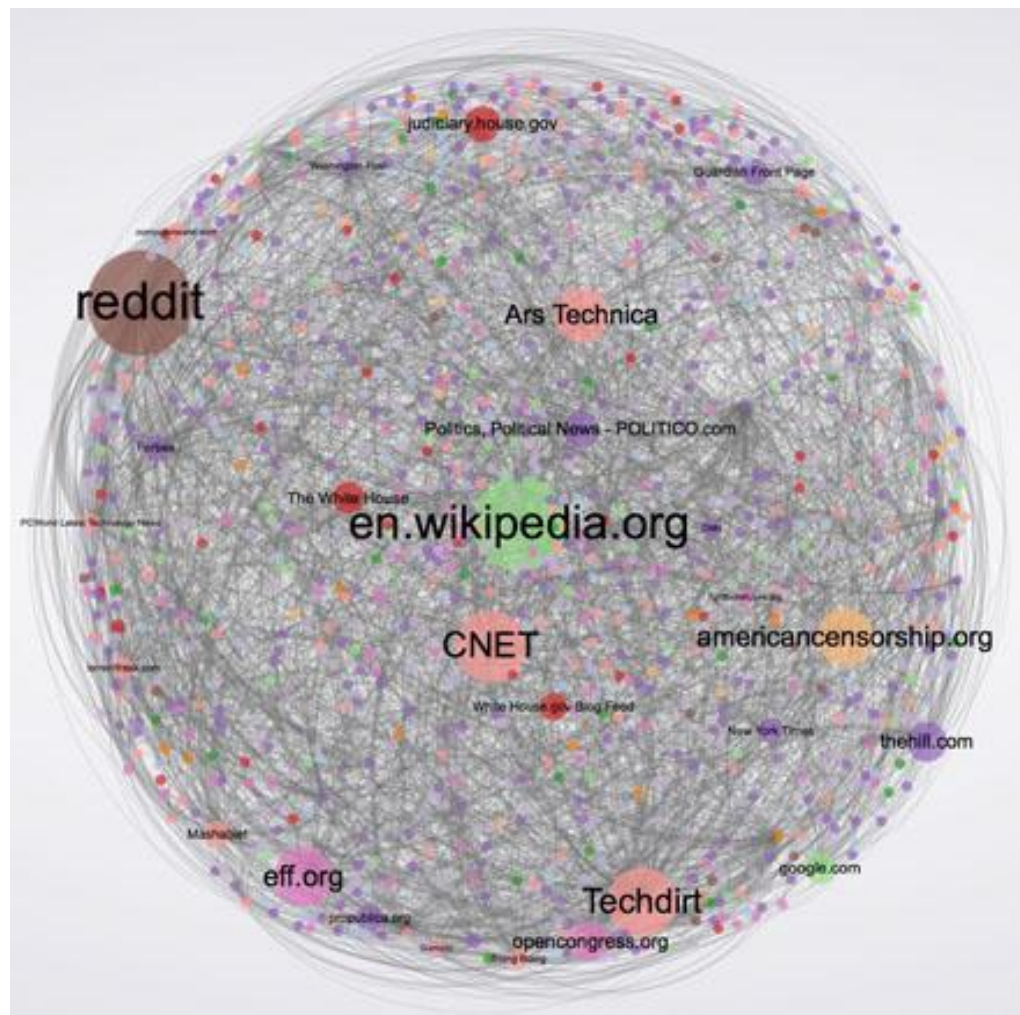


Key Observations

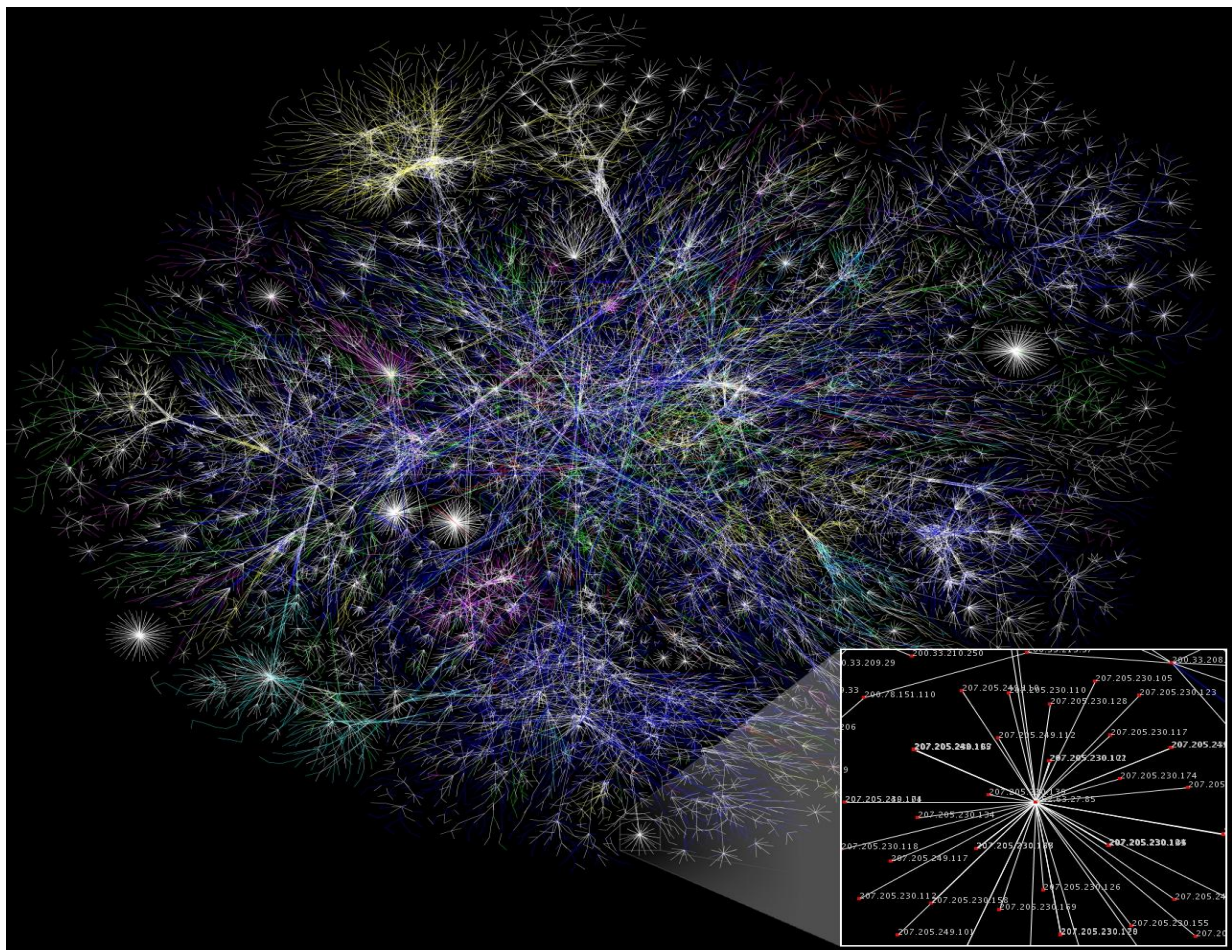
- Country based networks
 - Egypt
 - Saudi Arabia
- Major Topics
 - Personal diaries
 - Palestine
 - A focus on Islam, with some attention on minorities

Arab Blogosphere 2014

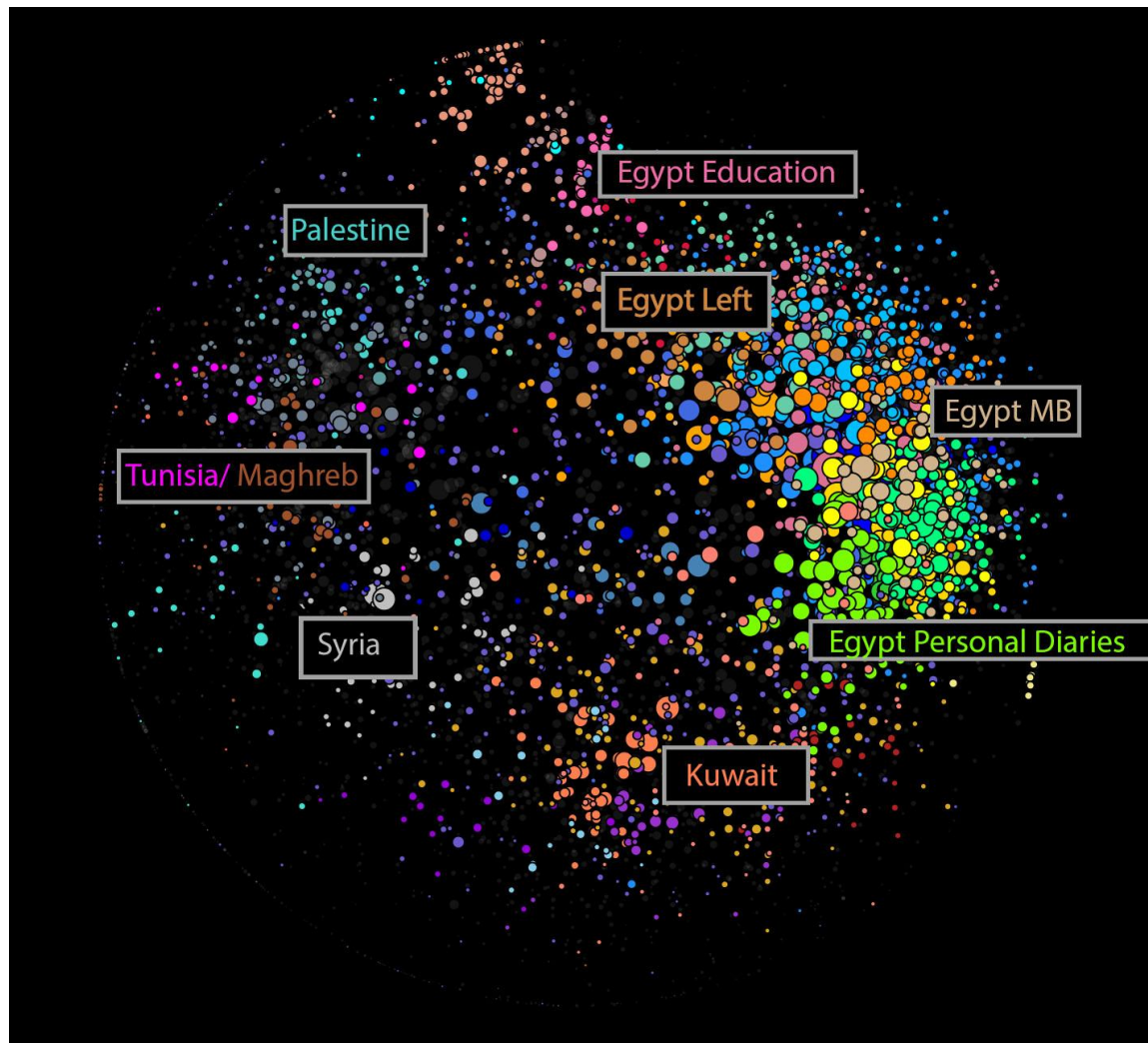


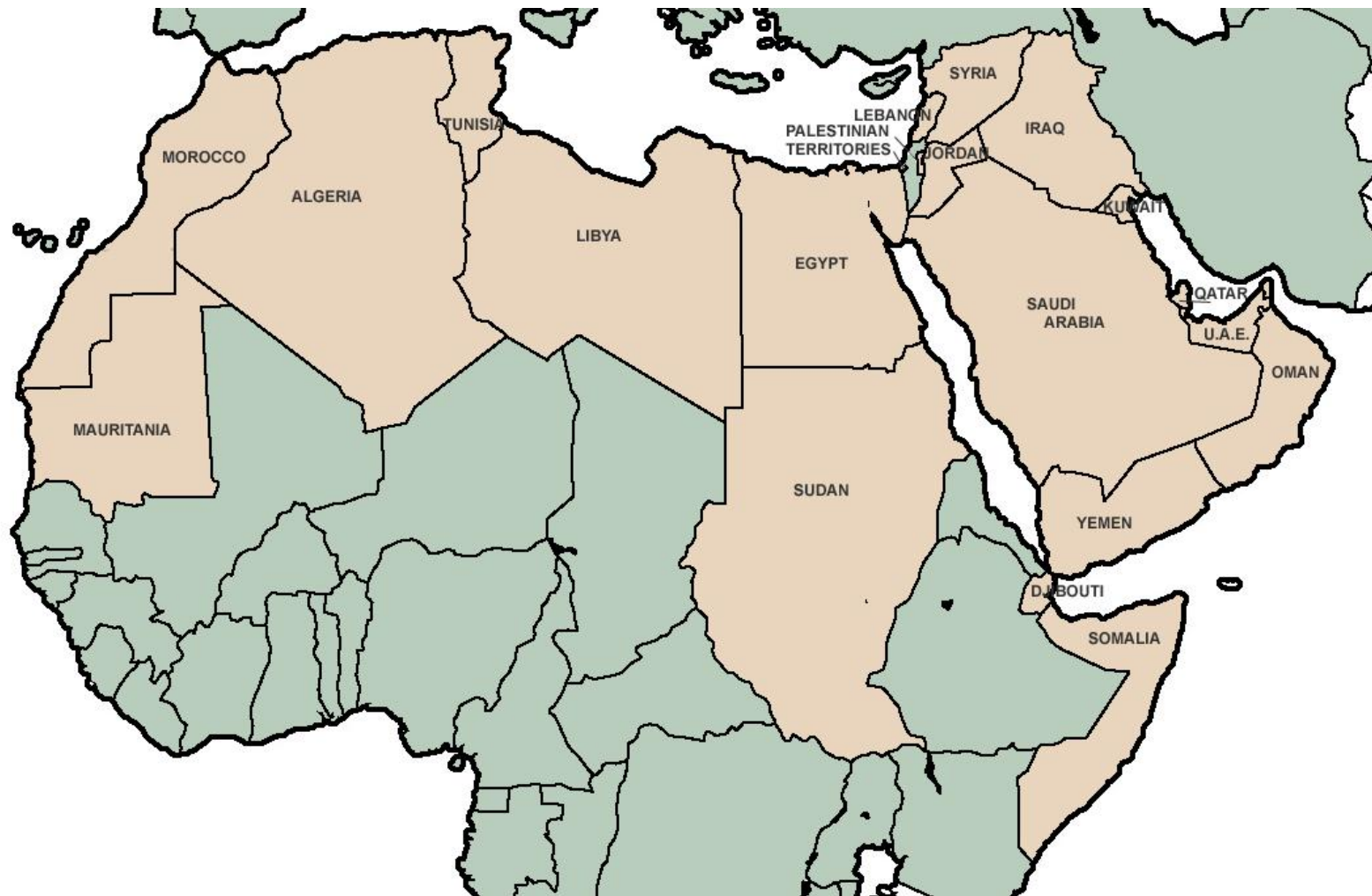


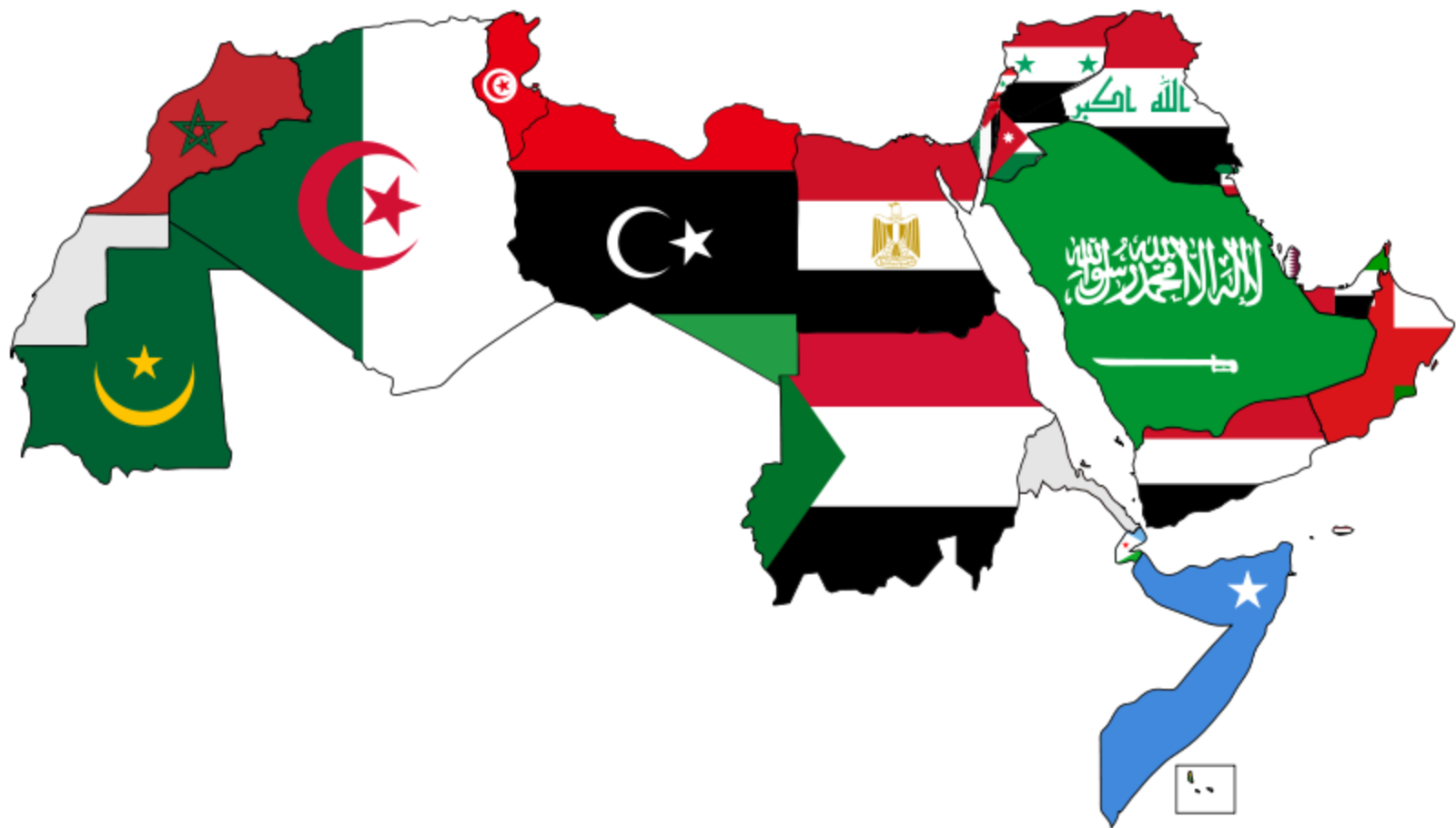
Source: Berkman Center



Network Map of the Internet





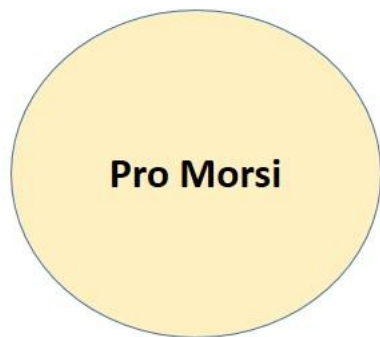


Key Findings

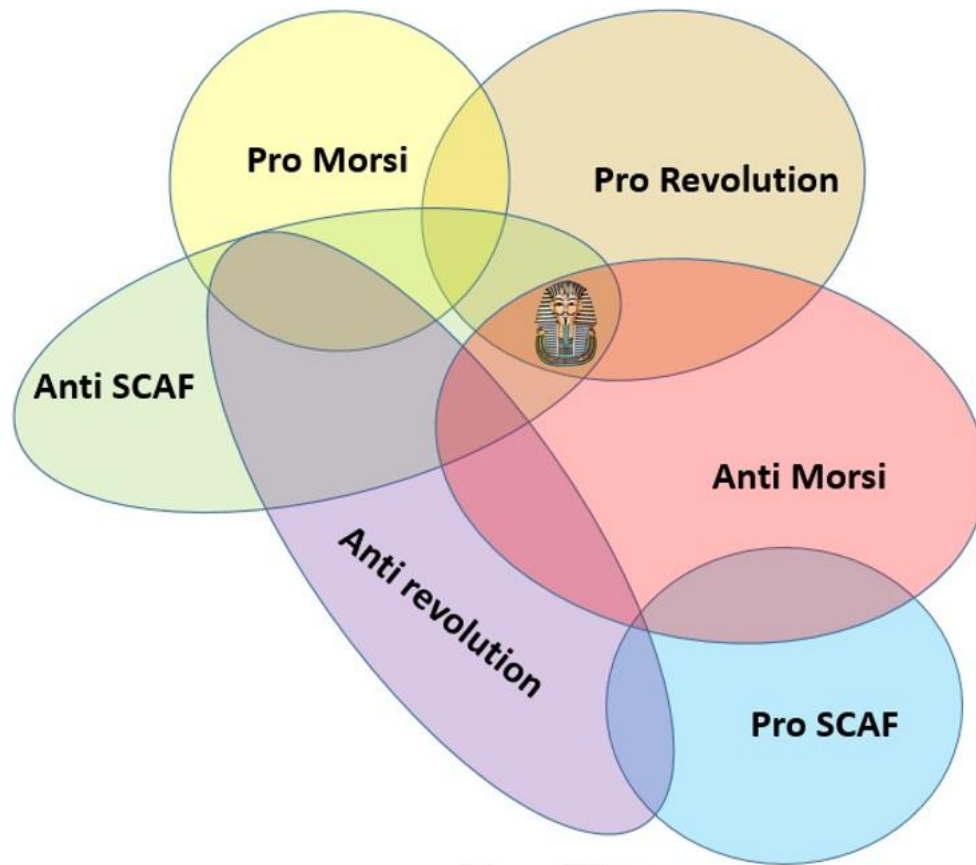
- Country based network (again)
 - Egypt is still the largest node
- Attention: Palestine vs Arab revolutions
- Noticeable Blogging Fatigue
- Where did Saudi Arabia go?

Countries

- Egypt
 - Covers various topics and clusters
- Kuwait
 - Division between languages and topics
- Palestine
 - Bridge Figures vs personal stories



Media reportage



Reality



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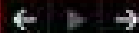
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Topics

- Personal Diaries and Romance
- Politics
- Education
- Religion and minorities
- Literature

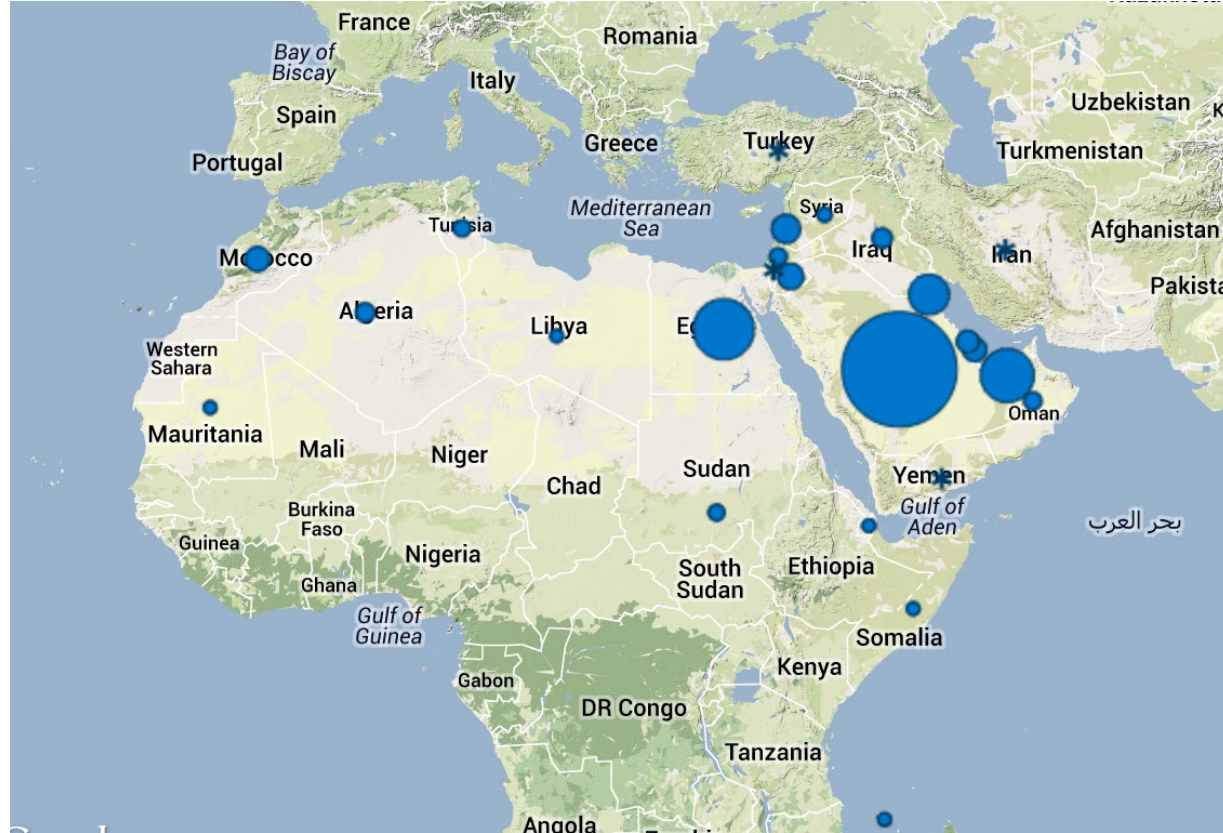
Language divide

- Many of the blogs are in Arabic.
- English is focused on
 - Western facing bridge figures, political.
 - Tech blogs
 - Expat community
- Maghreb uses both French and Arabic

Platform divide

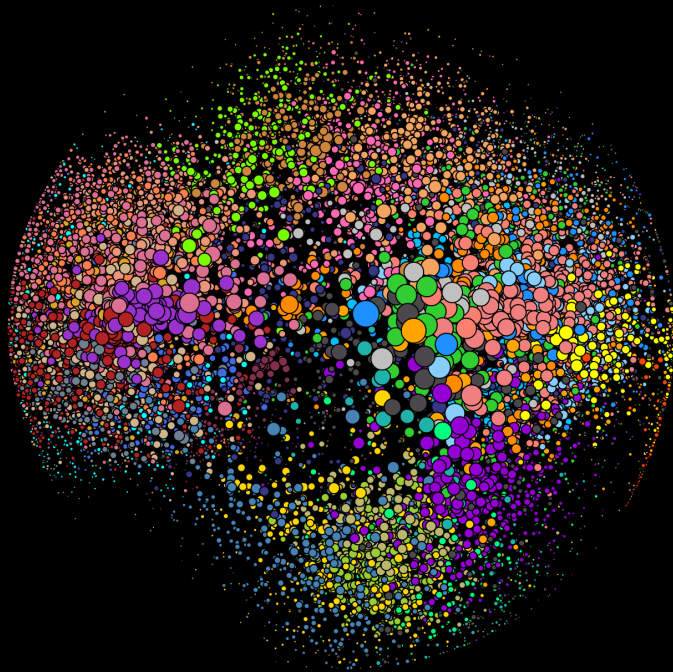
- The majority of the blogs use blogger
- Wordpress users are a minority
- Gulf bloggers host their sites
- Cluster of Tumblr sites

Twitter in the Arab World

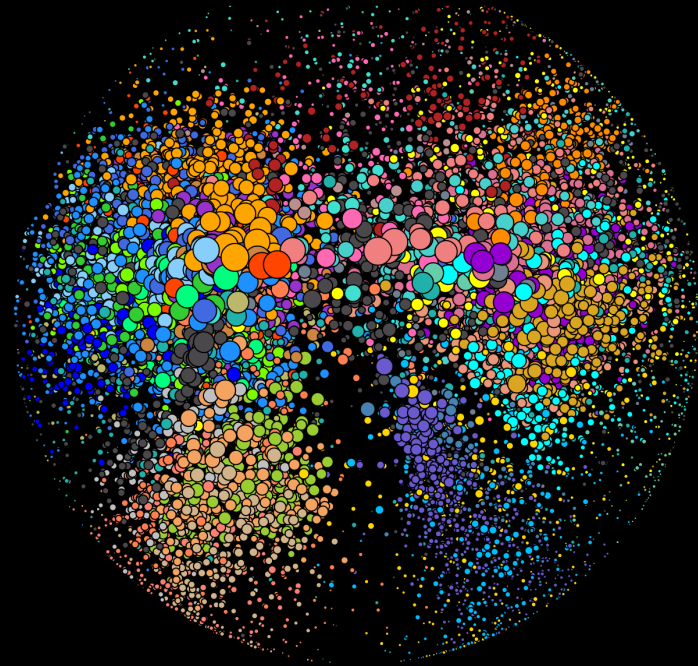


Source: Arab Social Media Report

Egypt



Bahrain



Other observations

- Who is really using Social Media?
- Communication channels amongst activists
- Burnout amongst political bloggers

Burn out



Are Governments catching up?



The Future?

- A shift to new platforms
- Cycles of burnout
- Continue to look out for new tactics and forms of communication

On May 22, Say Happy Birthday To Bassel

Posted **21 May 2014** 10:51 GMT

Next Thursday, **Bassel Khartabil, a.k.a. Safadi** will celebrate his 33rd birthday — his third in a prison cell in Damascus.

Bassel was **arrested** in Damascus on March 15, 2012, on the first anniversary of the Syrian uprising.

Bassel was about to get married to Noura, his lawyer and future wife, whom he later **wedded** while in prison.

Bassel is a Syrian-Palestinian computer engineer who believes strongly in the power of open network and collaboration. Before his arrest, he was a leading **member** of Syria's open Internet community, promoting open source software development, **open culture** and supporting the **creation** of collaborative workspaces in Damascus.

Moroccan Blogger and Rapper El-Haqed Arrested Again

Posted **21 May 2014** 19:07 GMT

Hisham Almiraat and Zineb Belmkaddem contributed reporting to this article.

Moroccan blogger and rapper Mouad Belrhout, also known as El-Haqed ("the enraged") was arrested on May 18 in Casablanca. Mouad was stopped and searched by police at the stadium entrance of a football match that he had planned to attend. According to friends who witnessed the incident, the police recognized Mouad and explicitly targeted him. One officer said "I have scores to settle with you." An argument ensued and he was arrested soon after.

Activist and friend of the group Zineb



Mouad speaks at the 2014 Arab Bloggers Meeting in Amman, Jordan. Photo by Hisham Almiraat.



A project of **Global Voices Online**, we seek to build online activists dedicated to protecting freedom c

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Tunisian Activist Azyz Amami Arrested on Drug Charges

Posted **13 May 2014** 22:49 GMT

Tunisian blogger and human rights activist Azyz Amami was arrested last night at approximately 11pm in La Goulette for the alleged possession of 700 grams of cannabis on his person. Amami was beaten by police officers who arrested him, as **confirmed** by his father. His friend, Sabri Ben Mlouka, was also arrested. Both young men may face one to five years in prison, under Tunisia's **notoriously harsh penalties** for drug use.

Amami is currently being held in the Carthage police station. His first trial hearing is scheduled to take place at 9am on Thursday, May 15. He has denied all charges, and has refused to sign any documents.



Amami's supporters at a sit-in. Photo shared on Twitter by

Thank you

@daliaothman