

# DROPPING LIKE FLIES: SISI'S PURGE OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES IN EGYPT'S 2018 PRESIDENTIAL "ELECTION"



January 2018

The March 26-28, 2018 presidential election will take place in what is arguably the most repressive political environment in Egypt's modern history. The emergency law is in effect, the al-Sisi regime directly or indirectly controls almost all media, freedom of association and speech are absent, and jails are overflowing with tens of thousands of political prisoners.

## The Incumbent



**Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**

Running for his second four-year term

Al-Sisi pays lip service to the democratic process...

“The people have the right to decide whether I stay in power.”

“Choose whoever you want, but vote.”

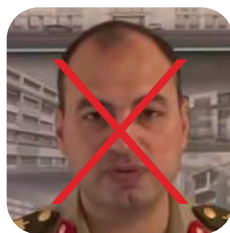
...but the fate of his challengers tells a different story.

## The Challengers



**Ahmed Shafik** • PRIME MINISTER 2011

After announcing his bid on **November 29, 2017**, Shafik was deported by the UAE to Egypt and, upon arrival, was detained for several weeks by the Egyptian authorities. He withdrew his candidacy **January 7, 2018**, after receiving threats from the government.



**Ahmed Konsowa** • ARMY COLONEL

Konsowa declared his intention to run **November 30, 2017**. Subsequently, he was detained for 15 days and sentenced to six years in prison by a military court for announcing his candidacy in uniform—though Sisi did the same in 2014.



**Mohamed Anwar Sadat** • NEPHEW OF ANWAR SADAT

During a **January 15, 2018** press conference where Sadat was expected to declare his candidacy, he instead announced his decision not to run, citing fears about the safety of his campaign workers and doubts about the fairness of the process.



**Sami Anan** • ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF 2005-2012

Anan announced his bid **January 19, 2018**. He was then arrested on **January 22, 2018**, for “inciting against the armed forces” and disqualified by the state, which claims he never resigned from the army. At least 30 members of his campaign were arrested, and one of his surrogates, Hashem Geneina, was badly beaten by unidentified thugs.



**Khaled Ali** • HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, ACTIVIST

Ali announced his intention to run on **December 26, 2017**, but a pending court verdict on politicized charges threatened to disqualify him. Ali withdrew from the campaign **January 24, 2018**, citing “violations” by the election committee and the arrests of campaign members.



**Moussa Mustafa Moussa** • HEAD OF AL-GHAD PARTY

Moussa, who as recently as last week led a campaign to collect endorsements for al-Sisi's nomination, entered the race **January 28, 2018**, and suspiciously was able to get the thousands of signatures required in a matter of hours. Long-suspected to be close to the Egyptian Intelligence Services, he has no national political profile and poses no threat to al-Sisi.