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Parliamentary Elections: Egyptians Islamic Gain Political Ground

Among others things, the support obtained by the Muslim Brotherhood represents a vote of protest against the government of Mubarak.

Muslim Brotherhood becomes the primary force opposing the government.

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Under the motto of "the Islam is the solution" and with the objective of establishing an Islamic state in Egypt, the party of the Muslim Brotherhood is remaking the political environment of the largest and influential Arabian country.

The unexpected advance of this group in the recent days of the legislative assemblies has sparked an intense campaign against her on behalf of fearful liberal and secular sectors regarding the possibility of the arrival of an Islamic state.

The violence has also manifested itself. Incidents between the Islamic candidates and those of the governmental Democratic National Party (PND) ended with a dead person, a candidate stabbed, and scores of injured and detained.

Besides, the opponents and independent observers have accused the PND of sending hundreds of people to the electoral colleges to attack and to threaten so that the people vote not for the Muslim candidates.

The revival of this Islamic group worries the PND of the President Hosni Mubarak, for decades usually dominating the Parliament and the political life of the country. Now, the Muslim Brotherhood has become, according to the experts, in a direct competitor of the PND and expands its option to present a candidate to the presidential assemblies of 2010.

Does this signify the progress of the Muslim Brotherhood towards the possibility of turning secular Egypt to the Islamic traditions?

For experts consulted by "El Mercurio" the answer is "no". Nevertheless, they emphasize that the parliamentary presence of this referring one modifies the Egyptian political panorama therefore is constituted in the clear only option of opposition al PND.

The Egyptian professor Mahmoud El Sayed Aly declares that the disenchantment of a part of the population after so many years of referendum and political manipulations on the part of the government generated an important vote of protest that was capitalized on by the Muslim Brotherhood. "This group has greater presence in the streets than the remainder of the parties of opposition and, therefore, it was foreseeable that it would gain

various seats in the Parliament", says Adrián Mac Liman, professor of the University of the Sorbonne.

He adds that the Muslim Brotherhood is, above all, the most efficient organized social and political movement of Egypt, so there is no wonder of its growth in the assemblies. "Everything that it is not obtained for the administration, that is completely ineffective and corrupt, is achieved through the parallel structures that has mounted the Muslim Brotherhood", says Mac Liman.

The apprehensions of the secular sectors, according to the experts, they are explained because the Muslim Brotherhood rejects the presence of foreigners in Arabian territories, is opposed to every intent of "to Westernize" society and reinterpret and adapt the economic and social aspects of the Qur'an to modern needs.

"Is not a fundamentalist religious organization that is clandestine or secret. More accurately it is a group tolerated by the authorities, since does not accept armed struggle and moves away completely from the line of the followers of Osama Bin Laden", explains Mac Liman.

Therefore, indicate the commentators, the parliamentary advance of the Muslim Brotherhood would best be seen by some western countries, especially by United States, close ally of Egypt, that desires to see Muslim moderates integrated into the Egyptian political system in order to isolate the most radical Islamic sectors prone to violence. "A valve of escape in the Egyptian political system has been opened, that is the parliamentary representation of the Muslims", indicates Mac Liman.

El Sayed adds that the citizens are now to the expectation respect al new setting. "The Muslim Brotherhood, surely will form a solid opposition in the Parliament, although all will depend on its possible coalition with other opposing parliamentary forces".

For Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, expert of Minaret of Freedom Institute, the increase of the presence of the Muslim moderates in the Parliament can be symbolically significant, but it is improbable that they have sufficient weight to confront the powerful PND. "Nevertheless, this presence can be the catalyst that prepares the road to more significant changes for Egypt in the future".

The Muslim Brotherhood was created in 1928, with the ideal of the return to the purity of the Islam of the first Muslim generations. Save exceptional moments, its followers have always preached nonviolence. The Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser declared them illegal in 1954 due to a presumed plot against the government. Nevertheless, the regimes of Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak have maintained certain tolerance toward its political and social activities.

To the legislative assemblies are presented like "independent" and already they have obtained 47 seats, more than the double one of what had, when still lacks the third round of December 1.

ARRESTS

YESTERDAY, a day before finish the second phase of elections, 14 leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood were placed under arrest in Alexandria.