

Muslim Brotherhood Announce Their Participation in Local Elections and Abandon the Slogan of 'Islam is the Solution'

Al Masri al Youm

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By Ahmed el- Khatib and Hisham Omar

The Muslim Brotherhood (MB) yesterday officially announced their participation in the local elections of April 8 and that their officials in the provinces will determine the number of candidates.

MB General Guide Mohamed Mahdi Akif in a press conference held at his office said: "We decided to participate in the elections to carry out God's will and to save the nation, despite the arrest campaigns that MB is subjected to."

He added: "There are 400 MB detainees because of the upcoming elections, but this will not prevent us from participating strongly and effectively," explaining that the Guidance Office would not disclose the names of candidates and would not raise the slogan of 'Islam is the Solution', but would rather raise slogans against corruption and price rises.

For his part, First Deputy General Guide Dr. Mohamed Habib said: "The objective of our participation in the local elections is to generate a state of mobility in the political life, because without the participation of the Muslim Brotherhood, the elections would be dead and boring."

He added: "We leave the assessment of our success or failure to the media, to experts and to the people," pointing out that if the regime wanted the elections to be clean, it would have given the opportunity for the Muslim Brotherhood to participate more considerably.

In a related development, security forces yesterday arrested five MBs, namely: Mohamed Yehia, Karim Said and Abdallah Masoud from the Faculty of Pharmacy in Alexandria, and Mohamed el-Kholi (teacher) and Abdel Qawi el-Sisi (businessman) from Gharbia.

On political parties' participation, Al-Tagamu party yesterday decided to take part in the local elections in all provinces, stressing the need for coordination with other opposition parties. Also, the supreme body of the Wafd party decided to coordinate with Al-Tagamu, the Nasserite and the Front parties for the elections.