The Arab Spring and the Digital Public Sphere

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5.4.2011

EDSA 2 - January 2001

How to Protest Intelligently

Important information and tactics

Please distribute through email printing, and photocopies ONLY!

Twitter and facebook are being monitored. Be careful not to let this fall into the hands of the police or state security.

كيف تثور بحدائة

معلومات وتكتيكات هامة

نرجو نشرها عن طريق البريد الإلكتروني والطباعة (والتصوير) فقط.

(Facebook و Twitter) مراقبان. حذاري وقوع هذه المعلومات في أيدي الشرطة أو أمن الدولة.

The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution

by Mona El-Ghobashy
published in MER258

If there was ever to be a popular uprising against autocratic rule, it should not have come in Egypt. The regime of President Husni Mubarak was the quintessential case of durable authoritarianism. "Our assessment is that the Egyptian government is stable and is looking for ways to respond to the legitimate needs and interests of the Egyptian people," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on January 25, 2011. [1] With these words, Clinton gave voice to a common understanding of Egypt under Mubarak. Government officials, pundits and academics, foreign and domestic, thought the regime was resilient -- not because it used brute force or Orwellian propaganda, but because it had shrewdly constructed a simulacrum of politics. Parties, elections and civic associations were allowed but carefully controlled, providing space for just enough participatory politics to keep people busy without threatening regime dominance.

Mubarak's own party was a cohesive machine, organizing intramural competition among elites. The media was relatively free, giving vent to popular frustrations. And even the wave of protest that began to swell in 2000 w interpreted as another index of the regime's skill in managing, rather than suppressing, dissent. Fundamentall Egypt's rulers were smart authoritarians who had their house in order. Yet they were toppled by an 18-day popular revolt.

Three main explanations have emerged to make sense of this conundrum: technology, Tunisia and tribulation Technological analyses celebrate young people who employed new media to defeat a stolid autocrat. By the second day of the Egyptian uprising, CNN correspondent Ben Wedeman was calling it a "very techie revolution In the following days, every major news outlet framed the uprising as the work of wired, savvy twenty-somethings awakening the liberating potential of Facebook, Twitter and the writings of American intellectual

Tunisian protesters with a Mohamed Bouazizi banner (AFP)

Tunisian president Ben Ali visits Mohammed Bouazizi (official photo)

Features

How Tunisia's revolution began

From day one, the people of Sidi Bouzid broke through the media blackout to spread word of their uprising.

Yasmine Ryan Last Modified: 26 Jan 2011 14:39 GMT

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Regions like Sidi Bouzid - where the uprisings began - were neglected by former Tunisian president Ben Ali, who tended to focus on developing the northern, tourist-rich regions of the country [Getty]

Sidi Bouazid, Tunisia - The people of Sidi Bouzid overcame heavy censorship and police repression to ensure that their uprising did not go unnoticed in silence.

Protesters took to the streets with "a rock in one hand, a cell phone in the other," according to Rochdi Horchani - a

Top News

- Gaddafi loses more Libyan cities
- Live Blog - Libya Feb 24
- US mulls all options against Libya
- 'Gaddafi ordered Lockerbie bombing'
- Mass evacuations under way in Libya

Features

- In search of an African revolution
- Breaking the sound barrier on Libya
- People's justice Mexican-style
- Climate: Putting people over money
- Northern Iraq's budding Chinatown

What's Hot

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- Gaddafi loses more Libyan cities
- Gaddafi daughter denies fleeing
- US economics: One big Ponzi scheme
- Gaddafi has lost it ...
- US mulls all options against Libya
- Al Jazeera English: Live Stream
- Is the West Bank next?
- Global community isolates Gaddafi
- Libya's lucrative ties
- Region in turmoil

Opinion

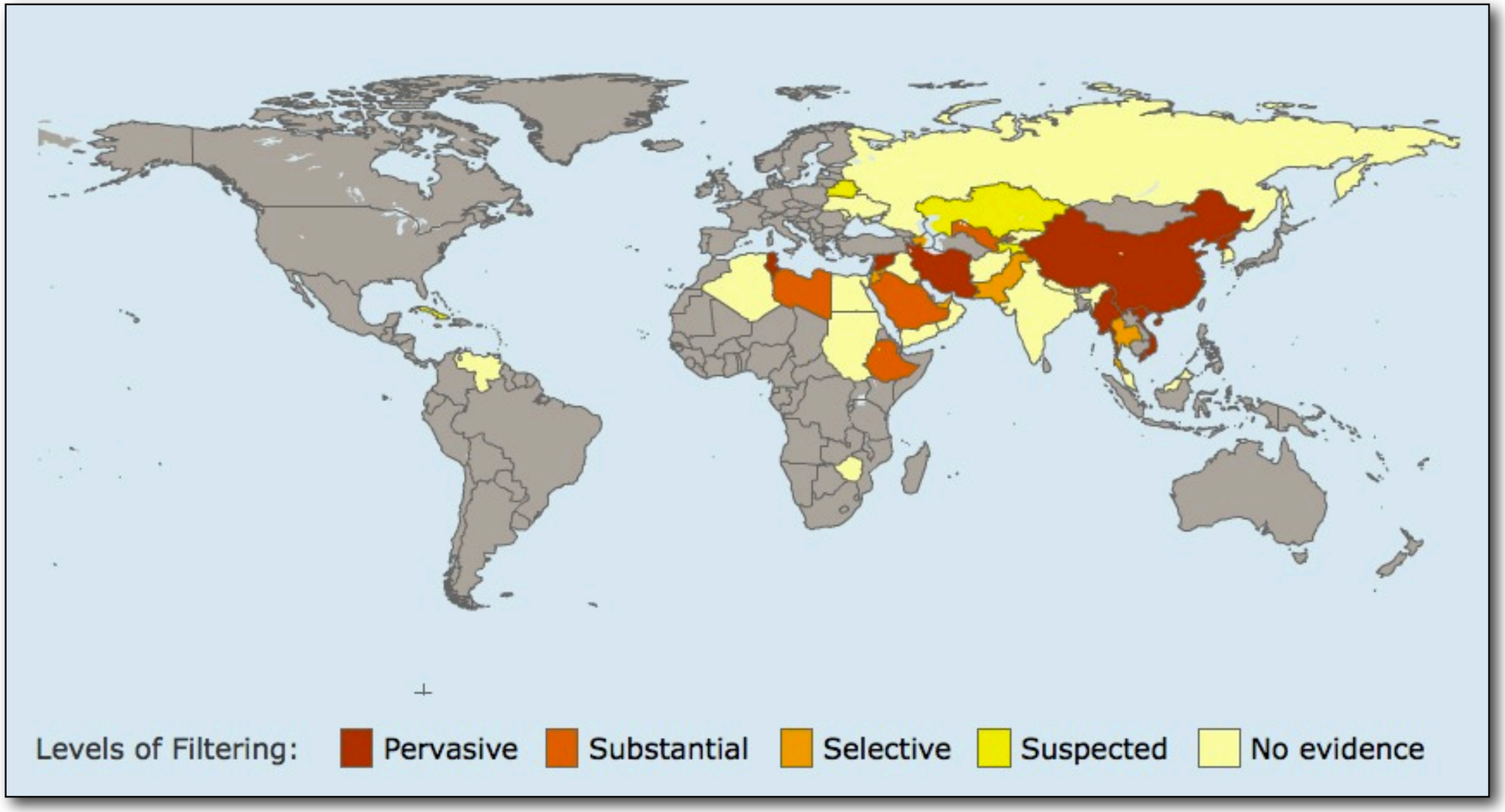
Yasmine Ryan
1/26/2011

cc photo by ya/sin

cc photo by Panoramas

“Thank you, Facebook, Al Jazeera” - Tahrir Square, (Mona Sosh)

John Gilmore
“The net interprets censorship as damage and routes around it.”
December 1993



Open Net Initiative, 2010
Political filtering

Danny O’Brien of CPJ on state internet control:

broad-based filtering (Iran)
precision censorship (Belarus)
denial of access to computing resources (Cuba)
infrastructure control (Ethiopia)
attacking dissident-run sites (Burma, Vietnam)
targeted malware (China)
state cybercrime (Tunisia under Ben Ali)
killswitch (Egypt under Mubarak)
detention of bloggers (Syria)
violence against bloggers, journalists (Russia)

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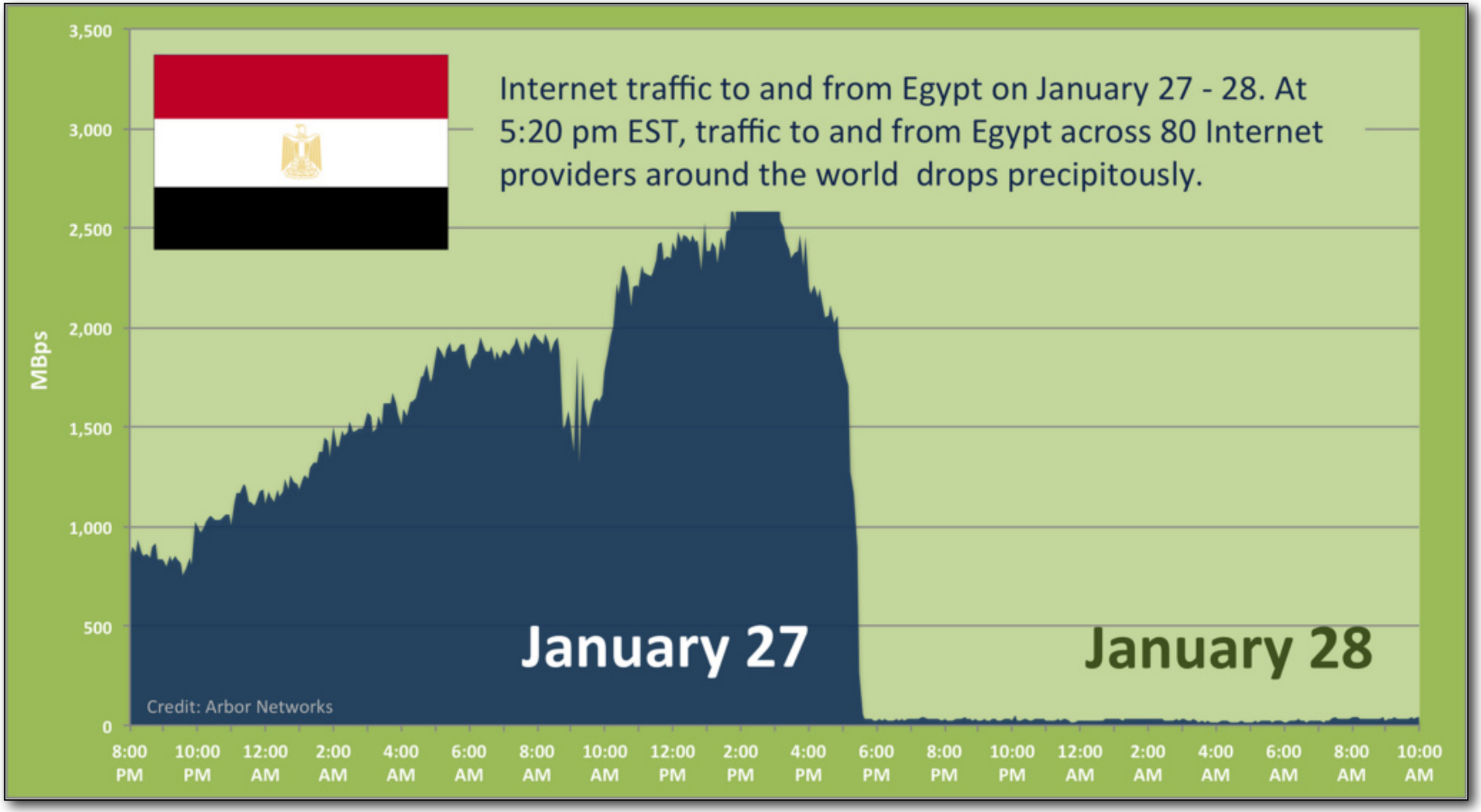
* methods have broad economic consequences


Internet traffic to and from Egypt on January 27 - 28. At 5:20 pm EST, traffic to and from Egypt across 80 Internet providers around the world drops precipitously.
MBps
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
January 27
January 28
Credit: Arbor Networks
8:00 PM
10:00 PM
12:00 AM
2:00 AM
4:00 AM
6:00 AM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 PM
2:00 PM
4:00 PM
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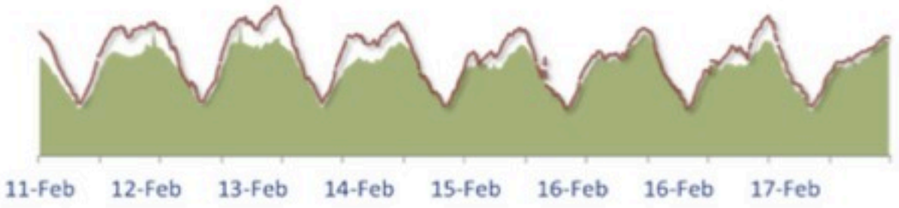
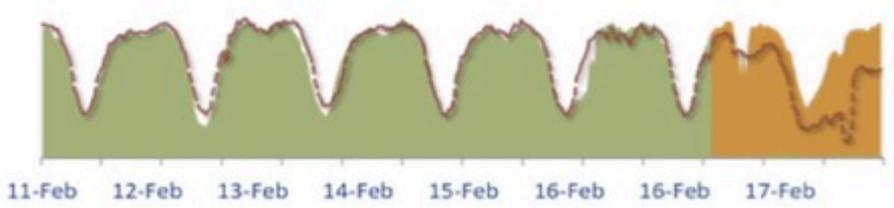
Iran

While Iran aggressively filtered Internet access during past unrest, Iranian traffic showed little significant change over the last two weeks.



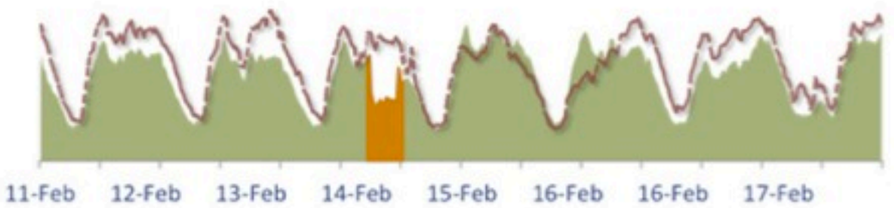
Libya

A traffic slow down beginning late last week culminated in the abrupt loss of all Internet traffic on February 18th.



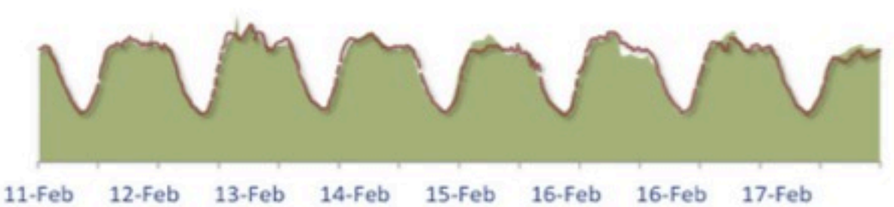
Yemen

After traffic drops earlier in the month possibly related to added filtering, Internet traffic was higher than average last week.



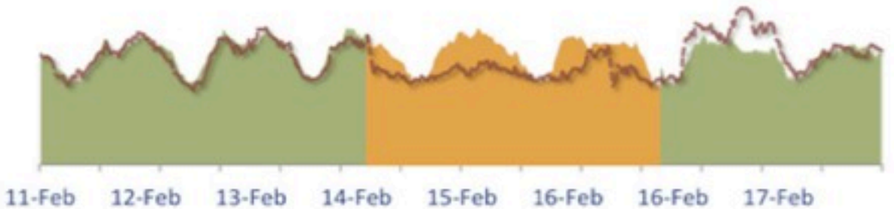
Algeria

Traffic remained remarkably constant over last several weeks. No sign of added filtering.



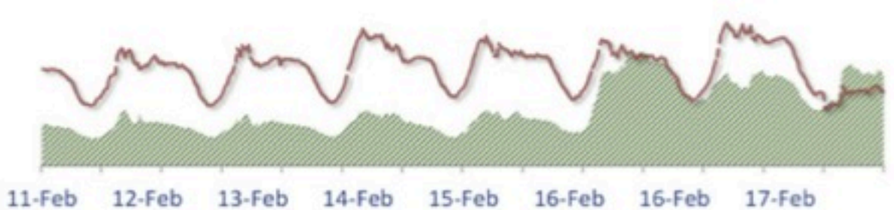
Bahrain

Pronounced drop in traffic during the mid-part of last week. Government blamed the slow-down on "overwhelmed Internet circuits".



Egypt

After a week of near complete loss of Internet, Egypt returned to the net last week with normal traffic volumes.



Middle East Internet Scorecard
Arbor Networks

Is the Tunisian internet censorship regime shutting down?

Posted 13 January 2011 20:41 GMT
Categories: Advocacy, Feature, Tunisia, regulation

Written by
Ben Wagner

This post also available in:
Malagasy · Naato ve ny sivam-panjakana amin'ny aterineto Toniziana?

Following persistent widespread protests in Tunisia in recent days and the impending general strike tomorrow, Tunisian President Ben Ali held a speech on the state television chanel Tunisie7 this evening with a long list of highly unusual concessions. Among other points he announced that he will not seek presidency for life, a lowering of the prices of basic foodstuffs, that police and soldiers will stop using live ammunition, and that media and internet censorship will be halted.

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Print version

Since this speech there have been multiple independent reports that previously blocked internet sites such as YouTube or the OpenNet Initiative are now accessible without receiving the typical '404 messages. Nevertheless further tests are required to ascertain whether the Tunisian regime follows through on Ben Ali's statements.

Search

»

More stories about Tunisia

MENA Journalists & Cyber Activists: In the Line of Fire

How Much Does Internet Access Matter?

Is the Tunisian internet censorship regime shutting down?

Tunisia : Blogger, Global Voices contributor, Slim Amamou arrested today

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Major Funders

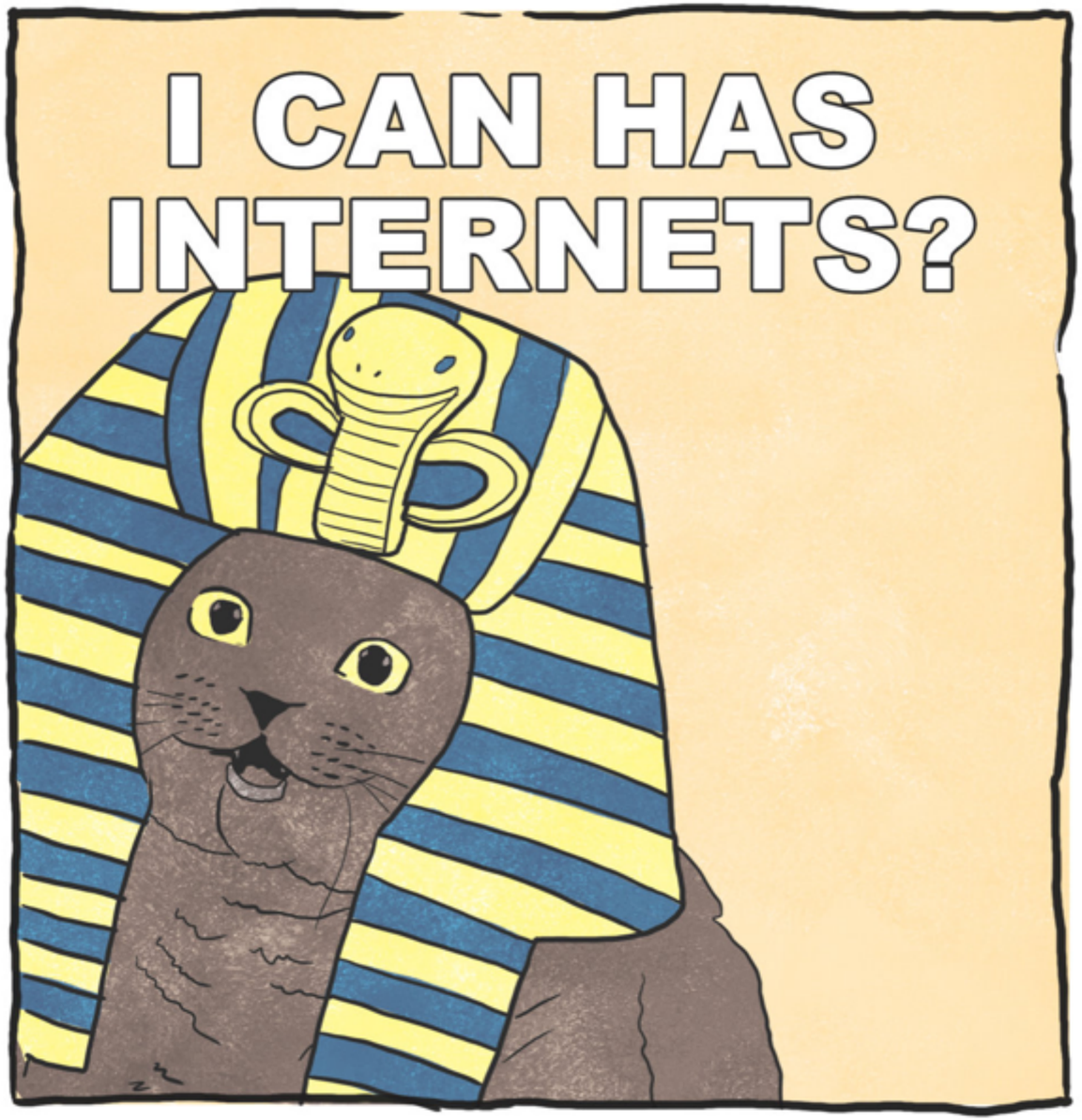

image by Glenn O’Neill

Google

bahrain video protesters

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Past month
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Past year
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BAHRAIN: Protesters shot as government seeks to smother protests ...
Feb 19, 2011 ... Internet videos show peaceful **protesters** in **Bahrain** coming under fire as reports surface that the government used live ammunition Friday to ...
latimesblogs.latimes.com/.../**bahrain-video-protest**-khalifa-violence-shoot.html - Cached

Bahrain Protest Graphic Video - Bahrain | Mediaite
Feb 19, 2011 ... The **protests** in **Bahrain**, just one in a series of nations that have been inspired by the revolt in Egypt to host their own anti-government ...
www.mediaite.com/.../graphic-**video**-shows-**bahraini-protesters**-being-shot-as-they-march-through-street/ - Cached

New shocking video of Bahrain Army shooting protesters with ...

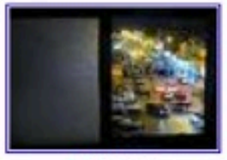
4 min - Feb 21, 2011 - Uploaded by RussiaToday
(Warning: RT's exclusive **video** contains graphic scenes of violence) Last Friday, at least 50 people have been injured as security forces in ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEw3E3POc7Y

Violent response to Bahrain protest

3 min - Feb 17, 2011 - Uploaded by AlJazeeraEnglish
[WARNING: This **video** contains images that some viewers may find disturbing] Troops and tanks have locked down the **Bahraini** capital of ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6RCBOC-MAM

More videos for **bahrain video protesters** »

News for bahrain video protesters



Bahrain worshippers protest death sentences
3 days ago
Thousands denounce death sentences for anti-government **protesters**, and solidarity ... He was referring to **video** footage that **Bahraini** authorities have ...

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设置密码:

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性别: ○男 ○女

生日: 请选择 年 -- 月 -- 日

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