

“The visual framing of Egyptian women in 25th January revolution”

A comparative study between the coverage of “AlShorouk” & “ElMasry elyoum” newspapers

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Introduction:

Recent years have witnessed a surge of interests in patterns of political representations. On the one hand, political transformations around the world have stimulated reflection on questions of institutional and constitutional design. In Latin America, Eastern Europe and Africa, reformers have sought to devise new political arrangements in light of democratic transition, economic crisis and post conflict re-construction.⁽¹⁾

Women have seen an increase in their rights over the past one hundred years. They have been able to go from being forbidden to participate in many of the functions of normal economic and political life to becoming active participants in the business and political communities of most countries. Yet even with this advancement and with many men and women seeing prejudice against women as quite minimal, national legislatures do not exhibit a pronounced increase in female elected officials. Policies such as quotas that will increase female representation are utilized in countries such as Costa Rica, Argentina, and Egypt recently have shown an increase in the percentage of women in legislatures.⁽²⁾

The importance of women in the political sphere has been dealt with in two distinct and yet connected ways. Women in political office can have two distinct influences on policy. The first is through the actual policy that women in high positions of political office make. Women have been found to act differently in political situations than men; they serve on different committees and also prioritize women’s issues more than men. This difference in the political decisions that women make is likely connected to the very different lives on average that lead compared to men, and the different risks that women face over the course of their lives than men. Women are more likely to see the importance on sexual harassment legislation where men who may have never experienced any such harassment likely might not value it as much.⁽³⁾

Importance of research:

Muslim women have attracted considerable attention of Western media since the 1960s, and much of this attention has drawn criticism from media and communication scholars. Following the 11 September 2001 attacks and wars on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, waves of Muslim women's images were brought into Western media, in particular, the US media. Throughout, Western media framed Muslim women in stereotypical, often extreme and inconsistent ways: as passive, uneducated victims covered by Hijabs, as beautiful and seductive terrorists, as suicide bombers. More recently, since the 2011 beginning of Arab Spring, waves of democratizing movements in the Arab World have brought Muslim women to the focus of Western news media again.⁽⁴⁾

In January 2011, activists called for the people of Egypt to protest against poverty, unemployment, and government corruption occurring under President Hosni Mubarak on January 25, National Police Day. The protests were building on the success of the Tunisian uprising that led to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali being ousted from office. The protests occurring across North Africa and the Middle East were called the "Arab Spring."⁽⁵⁾

That's why this drew the attention of the researcher to explore how the Egyptian media dealt with the Egyptian women's image especially after the massive political changes in Egypt after the revolution. Especially that a lot of western studies already analyzed the

image of the Muslim women in different political situation. So, this is made it even more important to know how the private Egyptian media portray the Egyptian women in such a critical situation.

Literature review:

Previous study will be divided into 2 dimensions as follows:

A. Studies concerned with women's role in political life.

B. Studies concerned with visual framing.

A. **Studies concerned with "women's role in political life":**

1. **Rasha Aly, 2013:** This article took a look at three countries where recent revolutions changed the political landscape. In which it traced how laws protecting women from domestic violence have changed. And results indicated that the women of Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya were standing at the forefront of the revolutions just like the men. They were asking for their rights as citizens too. They wanted an end to unemployment. They were tired of their living situations. Now, as the governments progress and grow, these women are left on the wayside. Their priorities are being shoved aside. For this reason, government groups, non-profits, women groups, activists, lawmakers, need to work harder to bring women's issues to the forefront, especially those concerning domestic violence. Women should not have to be victims in their own homes.⁽⁶⁾

2. **Sarah Wanenchak , 2011:** In the

twentieth century, Iran has been subject to significant changes in the ordering of the state. Two of those political changes were part of a pattern of change in the rights and social status of women: the Constitutional Revolution and the rise of Reza Shah, and the Islamic Revolution and the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini. In both of the cases examined here, Results assured that the advancement of women's rights presented certain usefulness to the overall revolutionary force, and women took part in revolutionary mobilization accordingly.

They were mobilized not only by their own interests but by how those interests fit into the existing culture and discourse. In both the Constitutional Revolution and the Islamic Revolution, that language spoke to women directly, and women spoke back.⁽⁷⁾

3. **Hebatullah selim, 2015:**__The 2011 Revolution in Egypt offered wide opportunities to various social groups to enter the arena of politics in an official way for the first time in Egypt's modern history. Among such groups are the Salafis and NGOs that managed to assume a role in the post revolution period. In order to have an in-depth understanding of their reality, and to explore the narratives of such women, the researcher has conducted an ethnographic research, which covered three governorates in Egypt, namely Alexandria, Al Buhayra, and Al Fayyom), during the period from July 2013 to January 2014. The research dealt with members of Al Da'awa Al Salafyya (DS) and its political wing, Al Nor Party (NP). Results concluded that Salafi women provide a new model of women

politicians and activists who might be more powerful than many unveiled and westernized women, yet they do not match the feminist and liberal discourses of women's liberation and of how a successful woman should look like.⁽⁸⁾

4. **Newsom & Lengel, 2012:** This essay analyzes the engagement of online feminist activism in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), most notably during the citizen revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, and, specifically, women's use of online social networking to aid social change. Results indicated that information and the value of information on the web are defined by offline realities. While historically women have not been active as in the construction of the web as men, they have also not been viewed as the producers of meaning in web-spaces. The internet, initially viewed as belonging to the public sphere, serves as a tool of patriarchy.

However, from feminist standpoint theories viewing gender as performative, feminists have determined it is possible to build identities online, masked in patriarchal characteristics so as to access power, that generate feminist ideals.⁽⁹⁾

B. Studies concerned with visual framing:

1. **Hofer & Wessler, 2016:** Prior research has shown that the type of framing highlighted in news coverage on climate change has the potential to impact on recipients' attitudes and behavioral intentions. Results confirmed that for the most of the twelve preselected climate visuals, that recipient actually does perceive gain and loss frames in climate change

visuals. On the other hand, in the main study researchers couldn't find direct effects of the hypothesized multimodal frame arrangements on climate attitudes. The hypotheses were thus not confirmed. The experimentally secured key finding of the study thus scrutinizes the presumption that the reception of particular climate visuals would automatically go in hand with positive or negative attitudes and behavioral intentions.⁽¹⁰⁾

2. **Rodriguez & Dimitrova, 2008:** This study surveys the visual framing techniques and methods that have been employed in previous studies and proposes a four-tiered system of identifying and analyzing visual frames in the news: (1) visuals as denotative-syntactic systems, (2) visuals as stylistic semiotic systems, (3) visuals as symbolic systems and (4) visuals as ideological representations. These four tiers are defined and the process of identifying frames at each level is explicated. The proposed system can be applied whether the unit of analysis is any media material (media frames) or audiences' individual perception of the overarching message of a visual (audience frames).

Results shown that these framing levels bear upon matters such as the tasks and commissions' photojournalists are given, the purpose of the agencies they work for, their "news values," and the selection and editing of photographs in the hands of gatekeepers. They also reflect, of course, the photographer's own biases and preferences.⁽¹¹⁾

3. **Luhtakallio & Lyttikäinen, 2011:** This paper introduces one possible step ahead

by proposing a methodological application of Erving Goffman's (1974) frame analysis to the study of visual representations, and by illustrating it through an empirical analysis of visual representations, and in particular the framings of gender, of local social movements in France and in Finland. Results shown that Visual frame analysis enables both working with large sets of images and succeeding in sensitive and detailed interpretations of visual representations by means of introducing the idea of dominant and secondary frames. Emphasizing the dynamics – the process of keying – and the continuous re-interpretation characteristic to the meaning production of visual representations, the frame analytical tools allow – and push – the interpreter to narrow the gap between the fluctuating, slippery meanings in images, and the production of interpretations of them within the conceptual and theoretical environment of sociological analysis.⁽¹²⁾

4. **Greenwood & Jenkins 2013:** This study examined framing of the Syrian uprising in photographs published in news and public affairs magazines. The study seeks to identify how the conflict has been framed for American audiences and whether the type of magazine influenced the visual messages presented. The results of the analysis did indicate that viewers are being presented with images of the civilian victims of the fighting in nearly equal proportion to those actively engaged in it.

Rather than potentially portraying combatants as heroically fighting for freedom or protecting the government, the photographs make it clear that non-combatants pay a price. However, the

conflict was also portrayed primarily through the role played by men. Women and children are less often to be seen, and when they are it is with a sense of hopelessness.⁽¹³⁾

5. **Von Sikorski& Ludwig 2014:** An experiment with four groups (G1-G4) was conducted to analyze potential effects of frequently used visual frames in mediated scandals. All participants read an identical news article (financial scandal). Visual frames were systematically altered. G1 received a frame of the scandalized manager with negative visual cues (police/handcuffs), G2 received the same picture without negative cues and G3 a picture of a financial firm (employer of manager). G4/control group received no visual. Participants showed more negative attitudes toward the manager with both, negative cues and the institutional picture. Effects were not moderated by participants' prior attitudes/involvement.⁽¹⁴⁾

Theoretical framework:

Visual framing theory.

The vivid debate around framing as an important "new paradigm" (Entman 1993), as "bridging model" of communication science has led to an elaborate corpus of empirical and theoretical research in the last twenty years. In this, framing has been defined as process by which some aspects of perceived reality are selectively emphasized to render them more salient in a communicative context. As a consequence, people's attempts to attribute meaning to perceived reality are guided to construct specific interpretations that conform to one "central organizing idea" rather than

other, equally viable interpretations. Framing thus describes, in principle, a rather general process of meaning construction through the guided reduction of complexity.⁽¹⁵⁾

Only during the last years, the focus of scholars has shifted towards the analysis of visual media frames and framing effects induced by images. Especially in the field of visual communication research, a remarkable number of studies on visual framing was published recently, which is one reason why Coleman (2010, p.233) interpreted the approach as „one of the lifelines for visual research“. In this development, the framing concept evolves to become a fundamental basis in visual theory building and shapes research activities so that visual communication studies concentrating on visual framing become progressively popular.⁽¹⁶⁾

The present study will depend on a great extent on this theory in order to be able to identify the frames that appeared in the visual coverage of the Egyptian newspapers to the 25th January revolution.

Research problem:

Digital technologies also present new opportunities and challenges for researchers, with images easily copied, re-cropped and republished in many forms across media platforms (Keith et al., 2010). While the internet has changed how people access news images from around the world in recent years, it is worth pointing out that figures show that only 2 percent of respondents (aged 16+) named the internet as their main source of news in 2002, rising to 6 percent in 2006: for newspapers

the share was 15 percent and 14 percent respectively. This is a lower proportion than for television, but as Susan Sontag claims, the still photographic image arguably has the 'deeper bite', that is, it is more memorable and affecting than the fleeting images of the televisual flow (Sontag, 2003: 19). Sontag's polemical position is partially supported by media effects research that credits photography with high memorability and influence on reader assessment of issues.⁽¹⁷⁾

That's why studying images have become of great importance especially with the massive political changes that is happening in Egypt. After witnessing two revolutions in a period of just 3 years, this made the material to be studied in the Egyptian media and -newspapers especially -rich with a lot of events and incidents to be analyzed. **And in our study we will focus on analyzing how the Egyptian private newspapers did visually framed and presented the role of the Egyptian women who appeared in the 25th January revolution 2011 and whether they were presented in the media coverage as an active or passive members.**

The Objectives:

1. To specify the news stories used by newspapers that had photos with women appearing in it during the period of study.
2. To identify the different sources of photos that the newspapers used in its coverage for the 25th January revolution.
3. To locate the position of women in the photos appeared during coverage of both newspapers.

4. To specify whether women appeared in photos were actively engaged in the protests or not.

5. To identify the nature of women's engagement in the revolution.

6. To examine the difference in coverage between the two private newspapers.

Research questions:

1. What are the kinds of news stories used by newspapers that had photos with women appearing in it during the period of study?

2. Which photo sources that the newspapers depended on in its coverage for the 25th January revolution?

3. What are the location of women appeared in the photos during the period of study?

4. Were women portrayed as active or passive members in the 25th January revolution?

5. What was the nature of the women engagement in the revolution?

6. Is there any difference in coverage of women between the two private newspapers?

Methodology:

Method. This study depends on:

Survey:

- Sample surveys are one of the most important basic research methods in social sciences and an important tool in applied work. Like the social sciences themselves, sample surveys are relatively news devices for learning about society, becoming prominent only in the past seventy five years.⁽¹⁸⁾

- **Data Collection tools.** The researcher

will use:

Content analysis:

The past two decades have seen an increasing scholarly interest in qualitative methodologies to study complex business phenomena, borrowing and adapting from more established disciplines. Content analysis, a class of methods at the intersection of the qualitative and quantitative traditions, is promising for rigorous exploration of many important but difficult-to-study issues of interest to management researchers. The computer revolution also has contributed to the proliferation of qualitative methodologies. ⁽¹⁹⁾

The data set will be categorized into 3 sections: photographs that feature women, photographs that do not feature women and an “undefined” category for any photographs where the gender of the persons in the image is not discernible (a zoomed-out photograph of a very large crowd, for example). The photographs that then feature women only will be analyzed and coded according to the framing theory and its visual application as follows.

In their 2011 study, Rodriguez and Dimitrova suggested that there are four levels of framing. Which are: as follows: (1) visuals as denotative systems, (2) visuals as stylistic –semiotic systems, (3) visuals as connotative systems, and (4) visuals as ideological representations. Engaging this (second level) stylistic-semiotic system of framing interpretation, Shahira Fahmy’s 2004 study applied five categorical frames to Associated Press (AP) photography of Afghan women before and after the fall of the Taliban. But in our study we will depend on only three of them which are: (1) *Imaginary Contact*,

which refers to the behaviors and portrayals of Afghan women when they are or are not making eye contact with the viewer, which can signify passivity and powerlessness. And this will be used to code photographs that frame women as either active or inactive members of protests. For this I will first ask if women are or are not present in the protest photography, and from there look at whether the women are exhibiting “protest” behavior (i.e. yelling, fists or signs in the air, etc). (2) *Point of View* refers to the camera angle being used as a subordinating device in the imagery and (3) *Social Distance* involves analyzing the distance and focus in these photographs between the camera and the female subject, which indicates either social relationship between viewer and subject or a lack of a social relationship that in this case indicates powerlessness. And both will be used to determine the actual photographic framing of women’s involvement in the Arab Spring protests. Here I will look at whether women are featured in the foreground or background (or unfocused) in the photograph, as well as whether or not individual women are facing the camera. ⁽²⁰⁾

• **Population and sample:**

A. **The sample:**

The researcher will conduct content analysis on a sample of Egyptian newspapers with focus only on those of private ownership type. And the sample will be: “AlShorouk” and “ElMasry ElYoum” newspapers, because they are the main private newspapers that had a lot of coverage for the 2011 revolution. So, it will be rich with

photos related to the event to be analyzed. The analysis will focus on only photos in which women appear in and any other photos will be excluded.

B-The time frame:

This study will analyze the 18 days of the 25th January revolution 2011.

Results

Analysis focused only on photos in which women appeared in through the period of study. Total photos analyzed in “Alshorouk” newspaper were 118 photos while in “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper were 72 photos. And this proves that “Alshorouk” newspaper devoted much more attention for women in its coverage than “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper. And the following tables will show in details the categories of analysis and their justification.

Table (1)

Newspaper		AlShorouk Newspaper	ElMasry elYoum
Kind of News Story	Short news	Frequency	22
		Percentage	18.7%
	Report	Frequency	35
		Percentage	29.7%
	Investigation	Frequency	36
		Percentage	30.5%
	Feature	Frequency	21
		Percentage	17.8%
	Others	Frequency	4
		Percentage	3.4%

Researcher found that “Investigation” was the most kind of news stories that had photos with

women appearing in it in both newspapers. And that’s because the nature of events covered was revolutionary which included a lot of details that needed to be tackled by “Investigations” to cover every detail of the event. 30.5% of “AlShorouk” newspaper’s coverage was devoted to “Investigation” while in “ElMasry elyoum” it devoted 41.7%.

Table (1) shows that in the second place “Reports” appeared in both newspapers’ coverage and this can be justified by the function that this kind of news story make which is to cover daily events. And covering the 25th January revolution needed a lot of reports to cover the daily protests done in different places and governorates in Egypt. That’s why its percentage of appearance in “Elmasry elyoum” reached 36% while in “Alshorouk” reached 29.7%.

Concerning the third place of appearance between the different kinds of news stories there was a difference between the two newspapers. As for “Alshorouk” newspaper “Short news” appeared with 18.7% from its total coverage in the third place, while it appeared in “Elmasry elyoum” in the fourth place with only 2.8% of its coverage. And it did not substitute a major part of the coverage because the nature of “Short news” donot allow the reporter to put a lot of details in the news story as it depend on giving short notes on the event covered. And when it comes to covering a revolution it surely will need to cover a lot of details more than the ones covered by “Short news”.

“Feature” appeared in the third place with 18.1% of “Elmasry elyoum” coverage, while in

“Alshorouk” it substituted 17.8% of the whole coverage. And this is because “Features” are the type of news stories which focus too much on covering topics with human aspect, So, here it was too much used in profiling some of the protestors who joined the 25th January revolution and focus on their personal lives.

The least category of appearance was “Others” in both newspapers as it only appeared in 3.4% of the total coverage of “Alshorouk” while 1.4% of the total coverage of “Elmasry elyoum”. And this category mainly included Photo essays, interviews and file.

Table (2)

Newspaper		AlShorouk Newspaper	ElMasry elYoum
Sources of photos	Newspaper's photojournalist	Frequency	97
		Percentage	82.2%
	News agencies	Frequency	18
		Percentage	15.3%
	Internet	Frequency	3
		Percentage	2.5%

Results indicated that both newspapers depended on “Newspaper’s photojournalist” the most as their main source of photos published in it. In which “AlShorouk” newspaper depended on it in 82.2% of its coverage, while “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper depended on it in 90.3% of its coverage. And this means that both newspapers chose to depend on their own team of photographers to cover the different incidents that happened during the 18 days of the revolution.

“News agencies” was the second source to be used by both newspapers in their coverage for

the revolution’s photos. “Alshorouk” newspaper depended on it in publishing photos of protests done by Egyptians around the world supporting the Egyptian revolution in Egypt and calling for Mubarak’s stepdown and its percentage reached 15.3%. In “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper, the usage of “news agencies” as source of photos reached 9.7% of its coverage but it depended on it in covering local protests done in el Tahir square or in other parts of Egypt and rarely depended on it in covering the international Egyptian protests.

The third source which is “Internet” wasn’t used once by “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper while it was used by “Alshorouk” newspaper in 2.5% of its coverage. And it was the least to appear between the sources of photos because its main usage was in publishing screenshots for international newspapers publishing about the Egyptian revolution around the world.

Table (3)

Newspaper		AlShorouk Newspaper	ElMasry elYoum
Position of women in the photo	Foreground	Frequency	60
		Percentage	51%
	Background	Frequency	23
		Percentage	19.4%
	Unfocused	Frequency	35
		Percentage	29.6%

Here, there was a difference between both newspapers in their way of locating women in the photos they published through the period of study. As, Results have proven that “Foreground” recorded the highest frequency in positions of women in photos to appear in “Alshorouk” newspaper, which means that the

most coverage of it was focused on locating women clearly in the photos and to show them in the preface of the photo.

This position appeared in 51% of “Alshorouk” newspaper’s coverage while it was 36.1% of “Elmasry elyoum’s”, which shows that it was in the second place.

“Unfocused” was the most used position “Elmasry elyoum” located women in in their photos of 25th January revolution’s coverage. As it reached 48.6% of its whole coverage and this mean that the newspapers did not show women clearly in their photos and most of them without facial details of the different characters of women who participated in the protests. And for “Alshorouk” newspaper, it used it in 29.6% of its whole coverage. This is due to the angel of taking photos for a lot of incidents in the revolution were extra-long shot which don’t allow showing detailed parts of the photo as most of them was photos for crowded people in Tahir square.

Table (4)

Newspaper		AlShorouk Newspaper		ElMasry elYoum	
Does women actively engaged in the protest?	Yes	Frequency	109	69	
		Percentage	92.4%	95.8%	
	No	Frequency	9	3	
		Percentage	7.6%	4.2%	

This category of analysis is related to the way showed women in their coverage of the revolution and whether they engaged in the protests of 25th January revolution in an active way or not. Results indicated that both newspapers showed women as an active

member in the majority of their coverage in which it was 95.8% of “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper’s coverage while it was 92.4% out of “Alshorouk” newspaper’s coverage.

This was shown through photographing women yelling, holding signs, or their fists and hands in the air. And in the following section “Discussion” much more details about women’s engagement in the revolution will be clearer.

The least to appear in both newspapers was “Background” as it substituted 19.4% out of “Alshorouk” newspaper’s coverage, while it was 15.3% out of “Elmasry elyoum” newspaper’s coverage. And this location means that the facial details of women in the photo were clear but they weren’t located in the front of photo.

Discussion

This paper aimed at examining how the Egyptian private newspapers portrayed and did visually framed Egyptian women in the Egyptian revolutions. And this was done through focusing on how they did visually present the role of those women who appeared in the 25th January revolution’s coverage.

And our main goal was to determine whether the private Egyptian newspapers visually presented Egyptian women as active or passive members of the revolution. And to specify in details the nature of their engagement in the incidents of the different protests of the revolution.

Concerning the sample, “Alshorouk” and “Elmasry elyoum” newspapers were chosen to represent the Egyptian private newspapers. As

for the time frame of the study it focused on analyzing the photos that was published in the newspapers during the period of 18 days of the 25th January revolution.

Different kinds of news stories were used by the newspaper in their coverage during the period of study. And results have found that "Investigation" was the most kind of news stories that had photos with women appearing in it in both newspapers. And this is because the main incident analyzed is the 25th revolution which included lots of details to be covered and this could have only been done by investigations. These investigations were mainly about introducing details about the protests done in different parts of Egypt and mainly Tahir square and to analyze the protestor's requests and the government reaction towards it. And that's why most of the photos with women appearing in it were accompanied with this kind of news story because it included a lot of incidents that showed the women's participation through it.

While "Reports" came in the second ranking in both newspapers, and this indicated that the nature of events required covering daily new incidents about the revolution as every day through the 18 days of the 25th January revolution was full of new reactions from both protestors and government. These reactions ranged from publishing about official speeches from ministers or government to calm down protestors, to publishing about news announcements from protestors including their new requests. And each of these reports showed how much women were present in it through different protest throughout Egypt.

Concerning "Short news" and "Features" were the least to appear in the coverage of both newspapers and that was due to the nature of these two kinds of news stories that did not fit the successive events that happened during the 25th January revolution that needed to be tackled in much more detailed way than the way these news stories would have done. As for "short news" it depends on covering events in briefly way, while "feature" focuses mainly on showing the human interest side of the story.

The paper also analyzed the sources of photos that each of the newspapers depended on during the coverage of the revolution. Results proven that "Newspaper's photojournalist" was the most used source in both newspapers which indicates that they had their professional teams of photojournalists who were capable of covering protests in Tahrir square and different governorates despite any danger they would have been through, as lots of these protests included clashes between protestors and police forces or between pro-Mubarak and anti-Mubarak's regime.

Moreover, "News agencies" was the second source of photos that both newspapers used in their coverage. And this was justified because in "Alshorouk" newspapers depended on it mainly in covering protests done by Egyptians who are living abroad in different parts of the world where they are not having international reporters to cover these events for the newspapers. While in "Elmasry elyoum" newspaper it was different because their reliance on "News agencies" were in covering national protests which were taking place inside Cairo or in other governorates

inside Egypt. The last source to be used was “Internet” and it did not totally appear in “Elmasry elyoun” newspaper, but it did appear slightly in “Alshorouk” newspaper because it depended on it in taking some screenshots for pages from international newspapers talking about the Egyptian revolution and use it as a photo to be posted it in the international news section to elaborate how the international world reacts towards the revolution.

Among the main goals of this study was identifying the location of women’s appearance in the newspaper’s photo coverage. Percentage of appearance of each of the different locations varied between the two newspapers.

“Foreground” meant that the newspaper photographed women in the center of the photo giving her all the attention and focusing on her as a leading character in the event photographed. In 25th January revolution portraying women in the “Foreground” of the photo was through shooting them in focus and in the front lines of those participating in protests not just between crowds. As sometimes, photos showed them leading a whole protest alone with their kids holding signs that asking Mubarak to step down. “Alshorouk” newspaper was found to highly locate women in this position in different photos published through the period of coverage, while “Elmasry elyoun” found to photograph them in this location lesser.

“Unfocused” is the second item to be analyzed in this category and it was found to be excessively used by “Elmasry elyoun” newspaper which gives indication that they meant –in most of their coverage- not to show

women in details by not focusing on her facial expressions or her kind of participation in the protests. Because, despite their written news stories that mentioned clearly Egyptian women’s participation through the 18 days of the revolution, the photos they chose to publish did not show that in an obvious way. As most of the photos were extra-long shots for a lot of crowds in different squares or streets protesting against regime. So, the detailed characters of women who participated in it concerning their age or what they are wearing weren’t clearly portrayed in the coverage.

The last item that was analyzed in this category was “Background”. Its frequency of appearance differed slightly between the two newspapers.

In which it was found to appear more in “Alshorouk” newspaper, and this category represented women in the backlines of protests without focusing too much on them, or showed some women happen to pass by a protest and did not participate in it and just was observing what is happening in panic or indifference.

The most important part of the research paper was to examine whether the sample of private Egyptian newspapers (Alshorouk & Elmasry elyoun) portrayed the Egyptian women as active or passive members of the revolution. And this was done through analyzing the photos published in those two newspapers during the 18 days of the 25th January revolution and examines how it showed their presence and engagement in the protests or any related incident to the revolution.

Results indicated that both newspapers visually framed Egyptian women as actively

engaging in the revolution in the majority of its photo coverage. And this was done by shooting their different actions of engagement through protest that included the following ones:

- Marching, yelling or holding signs that clarifies protestor's requests from the government or other that calls for Mubarak's step out.
- Different ages of women were present in the protests, as some photos showed women who participated in the protest holding their kids with them.
- Female doctors and nurses were there in Tahrir square and other mosques creating small clinics for helping injured protestors.
- A lot of women participated in other protests in the same period of time which called for raising employee's wages in different governmental companies.
- After the disappearance of police forces in the first days of the revolution, a lot of women participated in organizing traffic flow in the streets.
- They had a great role in securing Tahrir square, as photos showed women responsible for inspecting other women before entering the square to make sure that no one hold weapons and that all protests are peaceful.
- Some women from protestors shared their personal and social life in Tahrir square to show how much they are attached to it and not fearing anything, as some of them made their wedding there and other female teenagers made their birthdays.
- As for the small percent of the newspaper's coverage that did not show

women actively engaged in the protest, this was mainly photos that included clashes between police forces and protestors or between pro and anti-Mubarak protestors. In which women appeared in the background of the photo with fear or just watching what is happening without participating.

- Finally, the most important conclusion from this paper's analysis is that private Egyptian newspapers did not vary a lot in their visual coverage for the 25th January revolution. And that they visually framed women in an equal role as men in an important incident like the revolution, as it portrayed them participating in its different incident without showing any weakness. Coverage even assured that women's participation wasn't confined by a specific age or social status, as photos showed old and young women present in the revolution from different socioeconomic status.

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