

Egypt Muslim Brotherhood elects new leader



Egypt's main opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood, has settled an internal dispute over its leadership, the group's leader announced Monday. Egypt's main opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood, has settled an internal dispute over its leadership, the group's leader announced Monday.

Members of the Islamist movement voted for a new Supreme Guide to replace Mohammed Mahdi Akef who will step down when his term ends in January and also for a new 16-member Guidance Bureau.

In a statement sent to reporters, the Brotherhood's supreme guide, Mohammed Mahdi Akef, said that Essam al Arian had been elected to the group's executive council, ending what had reportedly been a dispute within the group.

The names of those who won seats on the 16-member guidance bureau were listed on the Brotherhood's official website.

Elections were also held late last week for the Brotherhood's new leader, but results have not yet been announced.

In 2005, the Muslim Brotherhood gained a surprising 20 percent of the seats in parliament by fielding candidates as "independents."

Since then, a fierce government crackdown has left many prominent members behind bars. The group says the crackdown is aimed at distancing them from political life.