Concerns Grow Over Bloggers Quitting Due To Govt Intimidation

Muslim Brotherhood activist and blogger Ibrahim El Houdaiby expressed support and solidarity with blogger Sandmonkey, who decided to stop blogging after being intimidated by Egyptian authorities.

decision to stop Sandmonkey″sEl Houdaiby blamed the Egyptian authorities for undermining civil liberties in Egypt. ″ blogging sends very serious signals about the political climate in Egypt, and the effect of the notorious constitutional amendments on the margins of freedom in the country,″ he told Ikhwanweb.

He added that ″the already‾restricted margins of freedom are significantly eroding, and the blogosphere, the activists″ last resort, is now under attack. The past few months witnessed the imprisonment of Kareem Amer, the and others, and finally threats that forced investigations with Alaa Seifarrest of Abdel Moneim Mahmoud, Sandmonkey to quit blogging.″

He called upon freedom and democracy advocates to act, and support the reformists in Egypt, who ″are losing ground on daily basis,″ stressing that ″the regime″s capitalization on Western silence is turning Egypt into one large prison cell.″

″As an Islamist activist, I condemn this crackdown on Sandmonkey, Amer, Moneim, and all other bloggers and civil opposition activists,″ he said, adding that the unity and diversity of opposition groups and reformists in Egypt, and

solidarity amongst them، is the only way to renaissance.

، expressed his outrage with the regime″s intimidation of a colleague. ″I feel [blogger](#) El Houdaiby، who is also a insecure، and am particularly worried about the regime″s crackdown on tolerant members of all groups، who are coming closer together، defending each others″ right، and building a strong، broad، democratic alliance capable of facing the regime″s tyranny، corruption and authoritarianism.″

He added that intimidating blogger is only one of several measures adopted by the regime that violate the basic human rights of Egyptian citizens. ″I do not know what″s next. Phones are monitored، freedom of speech in newspapers is restricted، and blogger are intimidated،″ he said.

″You are asking what leads to radicalism and terrorism. This is what leads to terrorism،″ he said، clarifying that he never finds violence justifiable، ″but in a context where people are not allowed to think out loud، I could see why some people resort to violence.″

Ibrahim El‑Houdaiby، an advisor to the Muslim Brotherhood and Ikhwanweb″s board member