

Security Situation in Egypt

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Security Overview

After June 30th and the events that followed, mainly the dispersion of the Nahda and Raba'a sit-ins, the security situation in Egypt went steeply downhill. Numerous terrorist attacks occurred across the country but were concentrated in Sinai. Nevertheless, as the police and army partnered to quell terrorist activities, with the full support of the public, the security situation stabilized considerably. The number of terrorist attacks has decreased significantly after the conclusion of the presidential elections. Moreover, protests in the streets of Egypt have decreased significantly. Egyptian economic indicators are the best reflection for the government's success in reinstating stability. To elaborate, the Egyptian economy registered a GDP growth rate of 2.5% in the third quarter of FY2014, as compared to 1% and 1.4% in the first and second quarters respectively. Egyptian stock exchange indicator EGX30 almost reached its level before the 25th of January 2011 revolution and its gains since the 30th of June 2013 until date is 104%. Several foreign countries have acknowledged the significant improvement in the security situation in Egypt by lifting their previously instated travel warnings, namely, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

In the short term, we don't believe there will be growing or underlying anxiety with the new leadership. The Egyptians have shown their support to the current leadership through buying Suez Canal Certificates by EGP 60 billion (\$8.4 billion) 100% of the targeted amount in 7 days which is considered as re-voting for the current leadership.

Ain Sokhna: Cairo - Sokhna Road

The road, which was constructed by the Egyptian military in the late 2000s, is considered to be one of the best roads in Egypt. The military owns and operates the road and also secures it, with the cooperation of the police. The road is just 120 km long, making Ain Sokhna the most popular beach destination among Cairo locals. It is also the first link between Cairo and other Southern touristic destination, namely, Hurghada, Gouna and Marsa Alam. It is noteworthy to mention that the army and police maintain a heavy presence, guarding the entrances and exits in order to secure this road. It is also worthy too stress that the attacks and turbulences have been taking place in Sinai which as shown in map # 2 is separated from the Ain Sokhna by the Gulf of Suez.

Transportation

There is no public transportation from Cairo to Ain Sokhna. There is, however, public transportation from Cairo to Suez, the nearest city to Sokhna which lies 55 km from Sokha. A private bus-service company, “Go Bus”, is the best provider of transportation from Cairo to Sokhna. Tourism agencies and hotels organize transportation from Cairo to Sokhna as per requests. They have to report to the “Tourism Police” the route and the number of foreign passengers they have. In addition, private security companies organize transportation to Sokhna, yet, we do not recommend this since it grasps too much attention. Using tourism agencies for transportation is the recommended option.

Accommodations

For accommodation, there are two very viable options. First, Fairmont Heliopolis which is a five-star hotel, located in the proximity to the Cairo International Airport and close to the Cairo-Sokhna road as well. Second, JW Marriot which lies inside a gated compound in New Cairo named “Mirage”. The latter is also close to the airport, yet not as close as Fairmont, and closer to the Cairo-Sokhna road.

Incidents

- Only one incident has been reported on the Cairo-Ain Sokhna, which entailed the military attacking and killing three terrorists who were hiding in the desert adjacent to the road on the 11th of September 2014.
- Recurrent strikes by the workers of the Ain Sokhna port took place in 2013 and 2014 which caused the closure of the port.
- The current incidents against the army and police forces are taking place in North Sinai governorate specifically in RAFA, SHEIKH ZUEWID and Arish Cities.
 1. Distance between Sokhna and North Sina is 258 km.
 2. Distance between Sokhna and Rafah city is 357 km.
 3. Distance between Sokhna and Arish city is 309km.
 4. Distance between Sokhna and Sheikh Zuewid is 300km.



Map 1: Accommodations



Map 2: Suez City, Ain Sokhna City, and Gulf of Suez