The Instigators: A Visual History

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

PHYSICAL VIRTUAL

2004-2005
Ahmed Maher develops online presence under alias 'Ghosty', and begins attending demonstrations with Kefaya

February 2004
Facebook created by Mark Zuckerberg

February 2005
Opposition party candidate Ayman Nour arrested and jailed on trumped up charges

Fall 2000
Serbian non-violent youth movement Otpor plays major role in overthrowing the Milošević regime

12 December 2004
The anti-Mubarak group Kefaya ("enough") holds its first rally on the steps of the high court in Cairo.

June 2005
Hundreds gather in Cairo at a protest organized by blogger Alaa Abd El-Fatah

Fall 2005
Diplomat Mohamed ElBaradei wins Nobel Peace Prize

May 2006
Blogger Alaa El-Fatah held for 45 days

Spring 2006
Maher arrested and detained for two months

April 2006
Activists gather to support judges speaking out against election fraud; 50 arrested, including Ahmed Maher

February 2007
Blogger Abdel Kareem Nabil Suleiman Amer sentenced to four years in prison

facebook.com in Egypt

January 2008
Egypt's soccer team wins Africa Cup of Nations; Facebook fan page reaches 40,000 followers

6 April 2008
Thousands gather for a workers strike in the city of El-Mahalla El-Kubra to protest wages and working conditions; 50 arrested, 100 people injured; state media fails to control news of the event

April 2008
A6Y Facebook page reaches 70,000 followers

March 2008
April 6 Youth Movement Facebook page created by Maher and others to build support for April 6th workers strike

April 2008
A6Y co-founder Israa Abdel-Fattah publicly renounces activism after two weeks in prison

May 2008
Maher arrested and tortured for two days

4 May 2008
Mubarak's 80th birthday. Security forces swiftly end small demonstration organized by A6Y

23 July 2008
A6Y organizes another gathering on a beach in Alexandria; 15 are arrested, including Maher

Mubarak threatens to block access to Facebook

Security police begin infiltrating A6Y Facebook group with fabricated online identities

December 2008
A6Y member attends State Department-organized Youth Movement Summit in DC

25 January 2009
A6Y organizes a small protest on "Police Day," a national holiday honoring Egypt's police

11 March 2009
Arabic version of Facebook released, immediately becomes the most visited website in Egypt

March 2009
A6Y Movement calls for an anniversary protest of the 2008 strike

June 2009
Maher sends first tweet from @shabab6april expressing solidarity with Iranian protesters

30 June 2009
Blogger Wael Abbas detained

Summer 2009
A6Y's Mohamed Adel attends 'Revolution U' session in Belgrade to study non-violent activism

Summer 2009
Security police hack into A6Y's email accounts; activists respond with counter-hack

June 2009
Tens of thousands gather in Tehran, Iran to protest the election results

6 April 2009
A6Y holds small pro-democracy rally in Cairo deemed "The Day of Rage"

25 January 2010
A6Y organizes a second "Police Day" protest in Cairo

15 January 2010
Security forces arrest activists en route to a memorial in Nag Hammadi for victims of clashes between Christians and Muslims

February 2010
ElBaradei returns to Egypt announcing plans to run for president

6 April 2010
A6Y organizes another pro-democracy rally

6 June 2010
Khalid Said beaten to death by Egyptian police

25 June 2010
4,000 gather in Alexandria to protest police brutality; ElBaradei participates

June-August 2010
"We Are All Khalid Said" orchestrates a series of "Silent Stand" protests that gain international attention

13 December 2010
Dozens gather in Cairo to protest election results

1 January 2011
At least 21 die in a church bombing; many blame the Mubarak regime for the attack

14 January 2011
Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali ousted

25 January 2011
Revolution
*not to scale

11 February 2011
Mubarak ousted

28 January 2011
Egyptian government blocks Internet access

1 May 2011
Total number of Egyptian Facebook users reaches 7 million

April 2011
"We Are All Khalid Said" reaches 1.2 million followers

June 2010
"We Are All Khalid Said" Facebook page started by Wael Ghonim

July 2010
English-language release of "We Are All Khalid Said"

November 2010
Facebook shuts down "We Are All Khalid Said"

Ghonim and Maher exchange email and agree to collaborate

Ghonim approaches Maher about organizing another "Police Day" protest on #Jan25

reach of "we are all khalid said"

10 20 30 40 50 60
age distribution of followers

web traffic at 6april.org

tweets from @shabab6april

graphic by **erik steiner, spatial history project**
data sources: twitter, alexa, google trends, google insights, sysomos