# 7 Activist Uses of Digital Tech: Popular Resistance in Egypt

Mary Joyce for the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict | April 12th, 2011



# Digital Activism Overwhelmed by Variety







Images (clockwise from top-left): Guardian, Ushahidi, Anonymous, Free Kareem Campaign, DigiActive, It Gets Better Project, DailyKos, Guardian



















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# Digital Activism Moving From Information to Strategy









### What Can Digital Tech do for Activists? Too Many Lessons

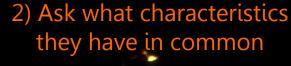






1) Start with lots of cases

create hack direct website anonymity information public interest crowdsourced campaigns free global donations decentralized supporter content mobilize world









1) Start with lots of cases

create hack direct website anonymity information public interest crowdsourced campaigns free global donations decentralized supporter content mobilize world

2) Ask what characteristics they have in common

create anonymity information donations content mobilize

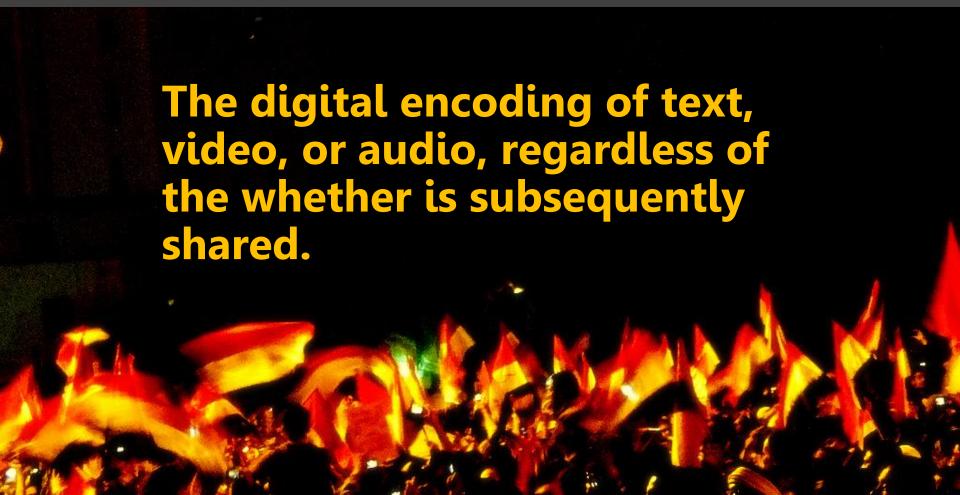
3) Keep narrowing to get to exhaustive + exclusive

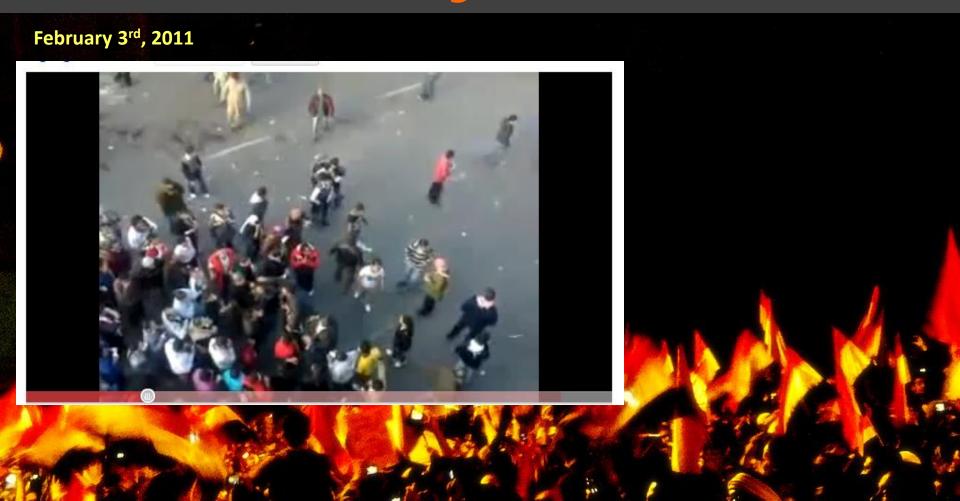


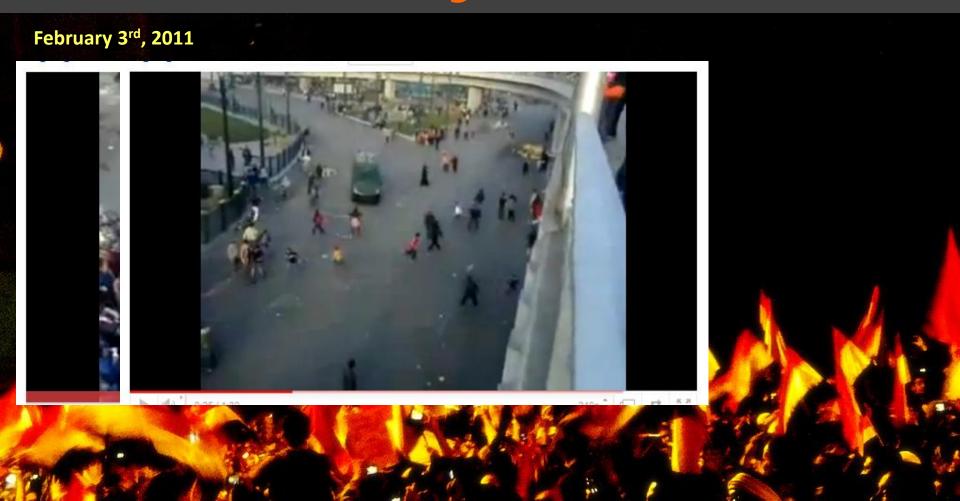


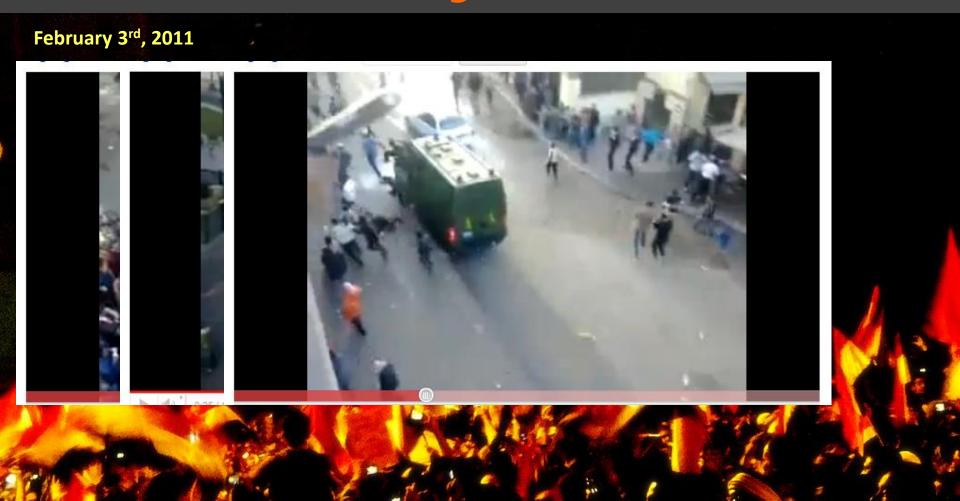
- 1. Document
- 2. Broadcast
- 3. Mobilize
  - 4. Co-Create
  - 5. Protect
  - 6. Synthesize
  - 7. Transfer Resources

- 1. Document: digital content creation
- 2. Broadcast: information-sharing, no call to action
- 3. Mobilize: information-sharing, w/ call to action
- 4. Co-Create: design and planning
- 5. Protect: evading censorship & surveillance
- 6. Synthesize: aggregation & mash-up
- 7. Transfer Resources: \$\$\$









#### 1. Document: digital content creation

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011



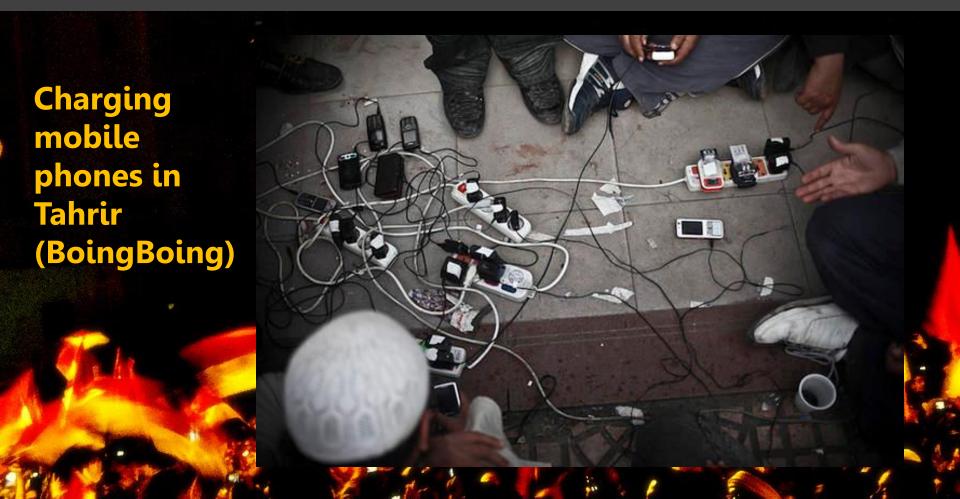
2. Broadcast: information-sharing, no call to action

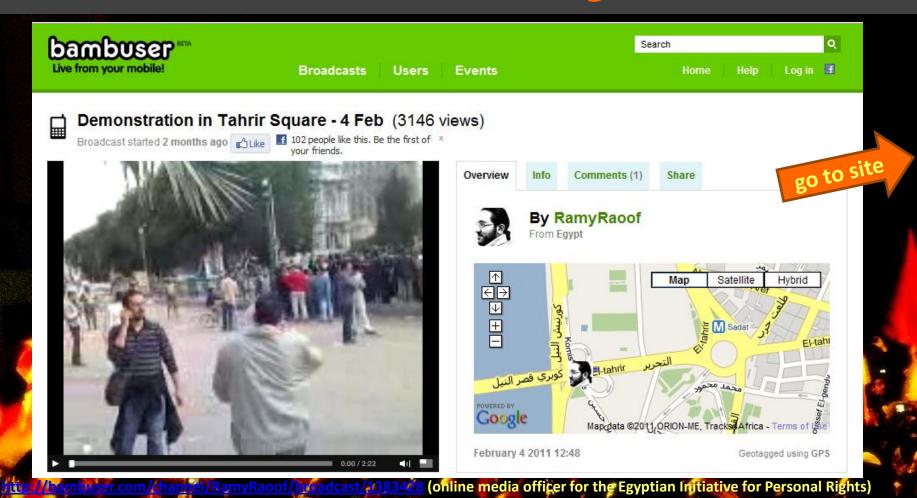
The most basic form of content-sharing, aim is to create shared understanding of public issue.

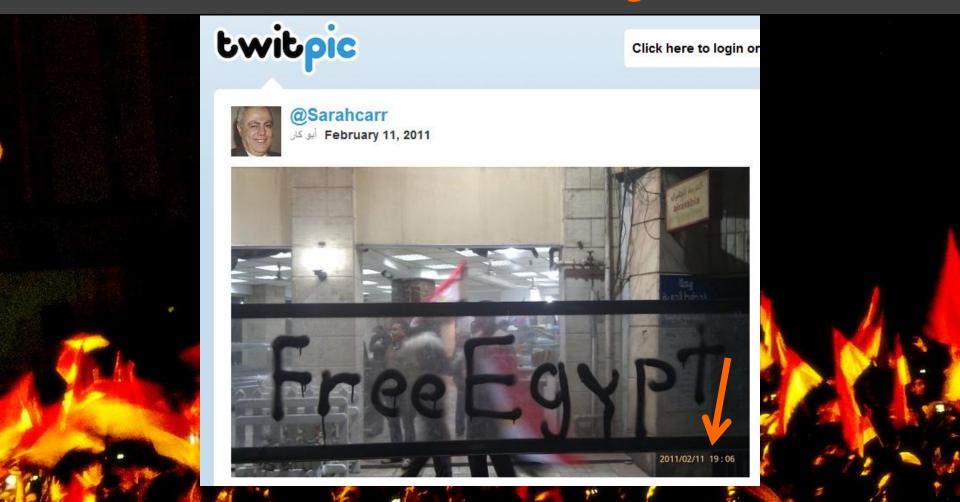


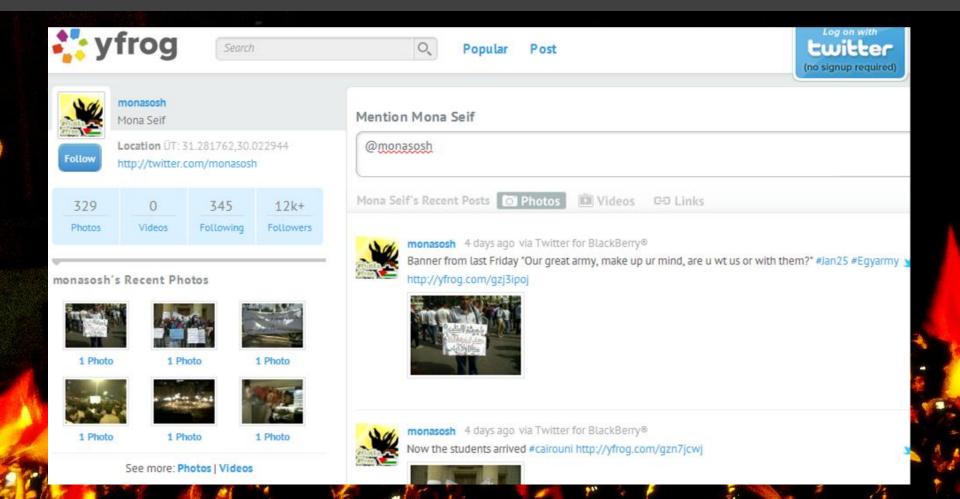








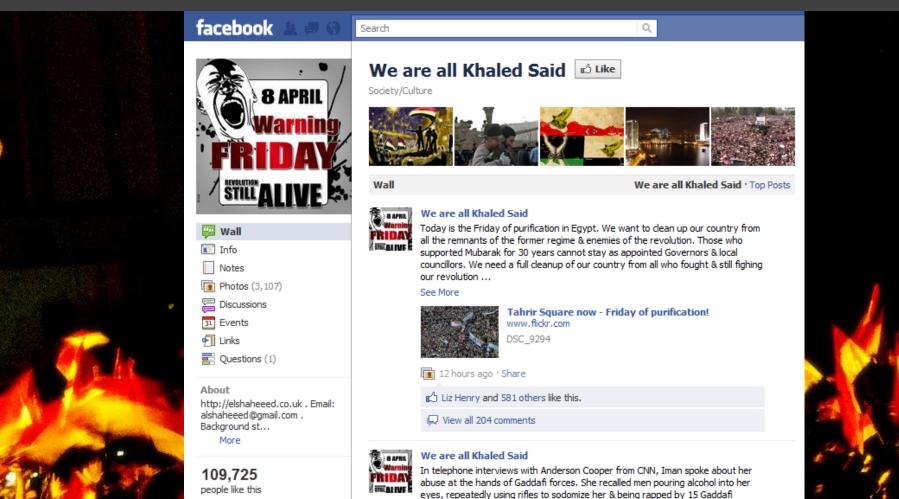




3. Mobilize: information-sharing, w/ call to action



#### 3. Mobilize: information-sharing, w/ call to action



3. Mobilize: information-sharing, w/ call to action



4. Co-Create: design and planning

The iterative decision-making process by which actions and campaigns are designed and planned.

4. Co-Create: design and planning

"By the way...the secret behind the success of the [Facebook] page is that before any decision was taken, we'd take a survey and everyone would give their opinions, and the opinion of the majority would prevail."

- Wael Ghonim, February 7th, 2011

#### 4. Co-Create: design and planning

Most planning occurred offline for security reasons, but when technology was used, it was private and one-to-one (SMS, phone calls, GChat), unlike social media, which is public and many-to-many.



4. Co-Create: design and planning



5. Protect: evading censorship & surveillance

Applications that help activists evade censorship blocks and government surveillance of their digital communication.



#### 5. Protect: evading censorship & surveillance

Opera Mini is a web browser for smart phones that includes an app called Turbo which, when enabled, loads content through an Opera-run server. This speeds up retrieval of content if connectivity is slow, but has the side-effect of basically being a proxy server to circumvent restrictions on content which limit your access.

Menu 18:18

Opera Mini 4 beta 2

Vahool Search

**O** My Opera

Yahoo!
The Guardian

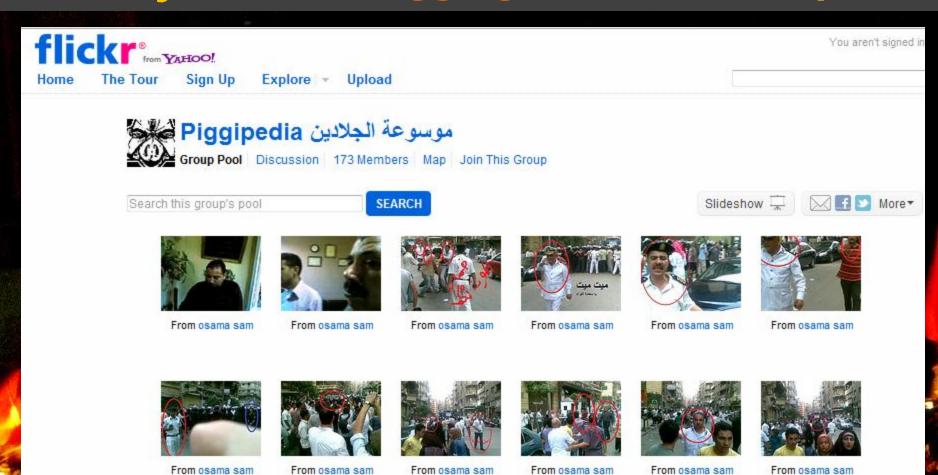
- Sesawe.net

6. Synthesize: aggregation & mash-up

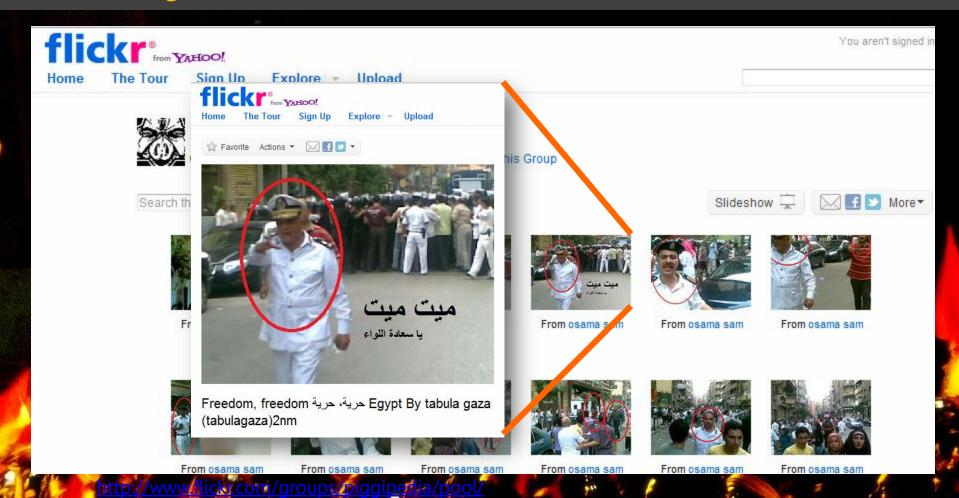
Aggregation: bringing together content of the same type (photos, news articles)

Mash-up: bringing together content of different types (GPS data, video, music, text)

#### 6. Synthesize: aggregation & mash-up



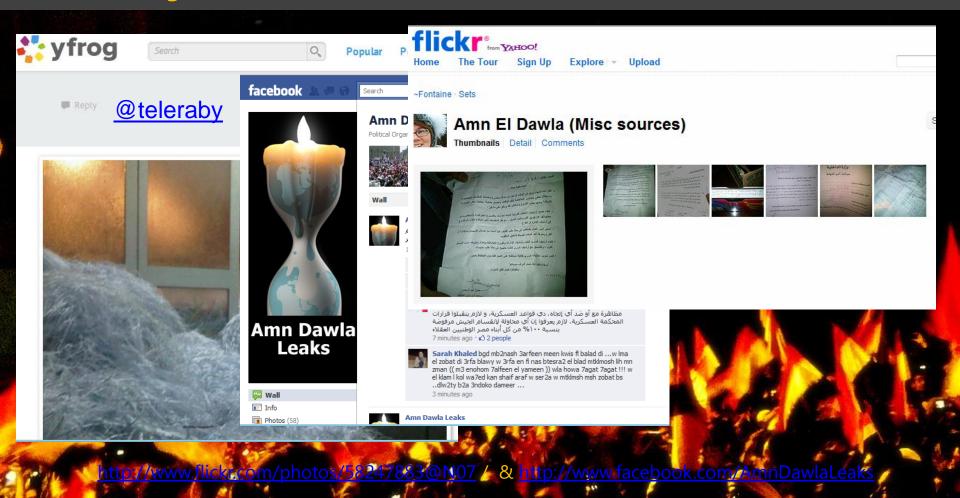
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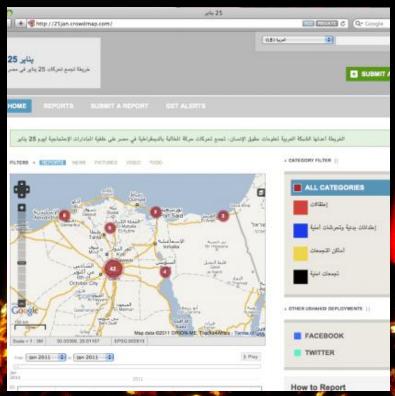


#### 6. Synthesize: aggregation & mash-up

U-Shahid Map (Development and Institutionalization Support Center, Cairo)



Jan 25<sup>th</sup> CrowdMap (Arabic Network for Human Rights Information, Cairo)



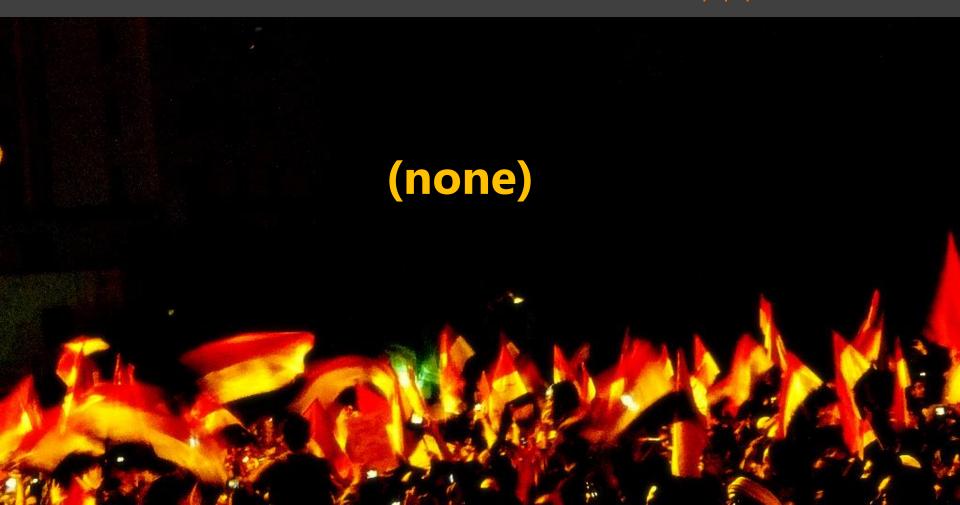
http://irevolution.net/2011/02/03/egypt-jan25-ushahidi/



7. Transfer Resources: \$\$\$



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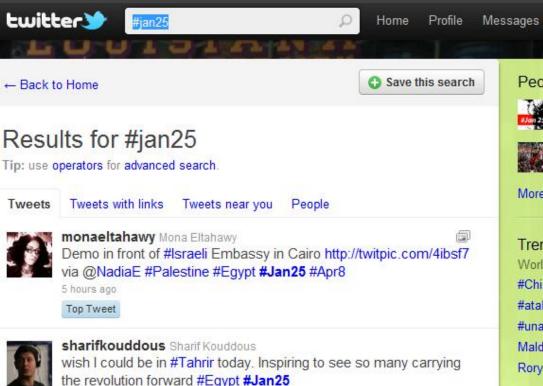


#### 7. Transfer Resources: \$\$\$

"I was kidnapped ... inside State Security prison.... They were all 100% certain that we were traitors, working for others, either brainwashed, or funded by some entity directing us. Telling us where to go, what to do, what to post online."

- Wael Ghonim, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

#### Mobilize+ Broadcast + Document + Bypass + Aggregate



Trial of 14 accused of killing protesters in Suez opens Saturday

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http://ow.ly/4w6x5 #Egypt #Jan25

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#iwasthinkin

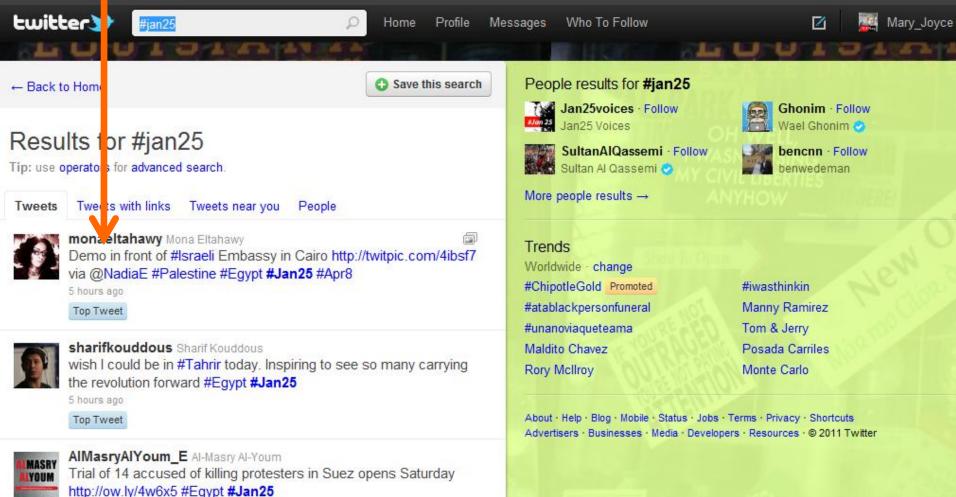
Tom & Jerry

Monte Carlo

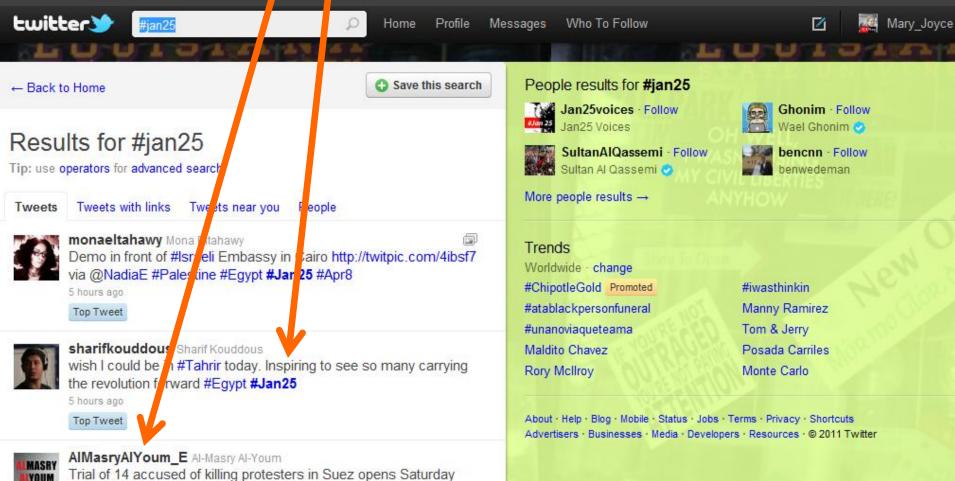
Manny Ramirez

Posada Carriles

#### Mobilize + Broadcast + Document + Bypass + Aggregate

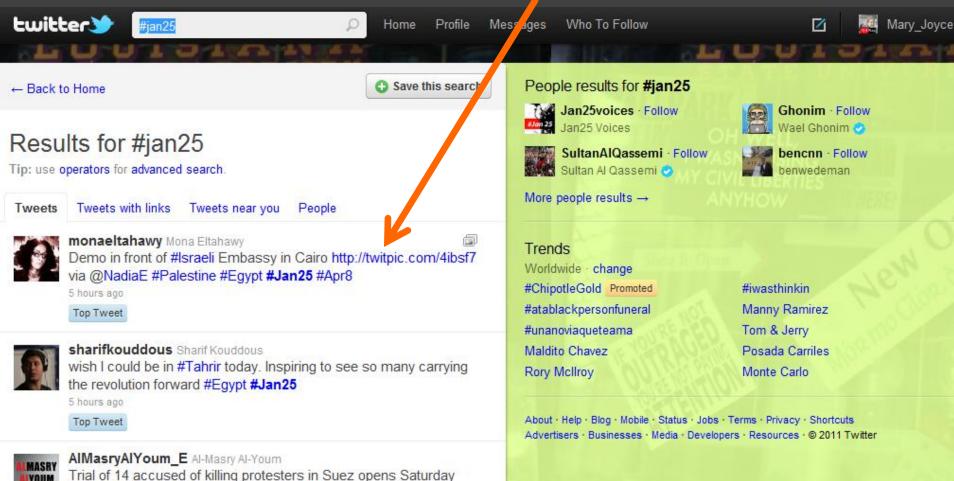


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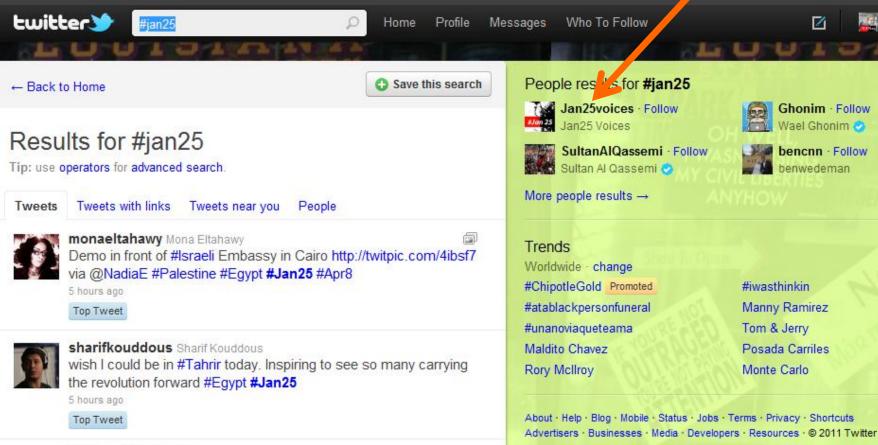
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#### Trends

Who To Follow

Worldwide - change #ChipotleGold Promoted #iwasthinkin #atablackpersonfuneral Manny Ramirez #unanoviaqueteama Tom & Jerry Maldito Chavez Posada Carriles Rory McIlroy Monte Carlo

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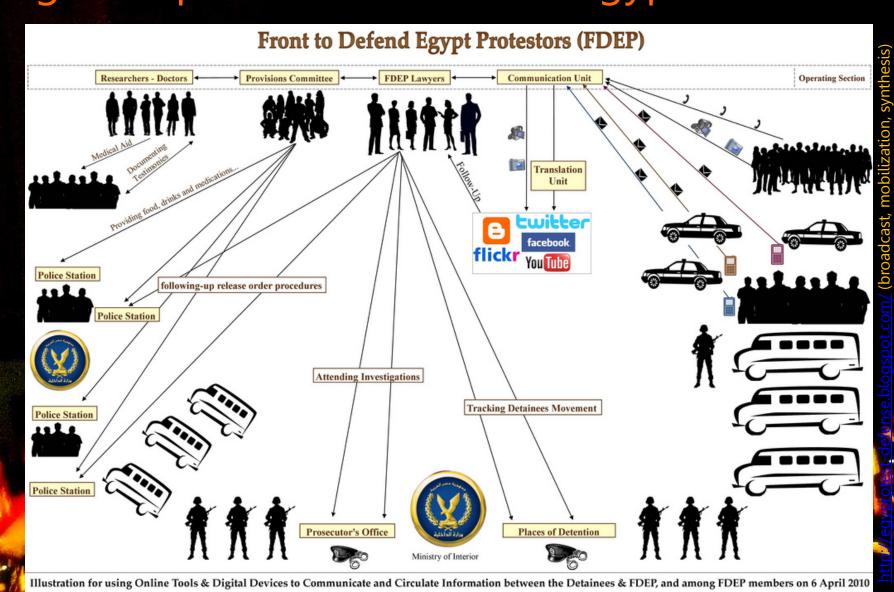
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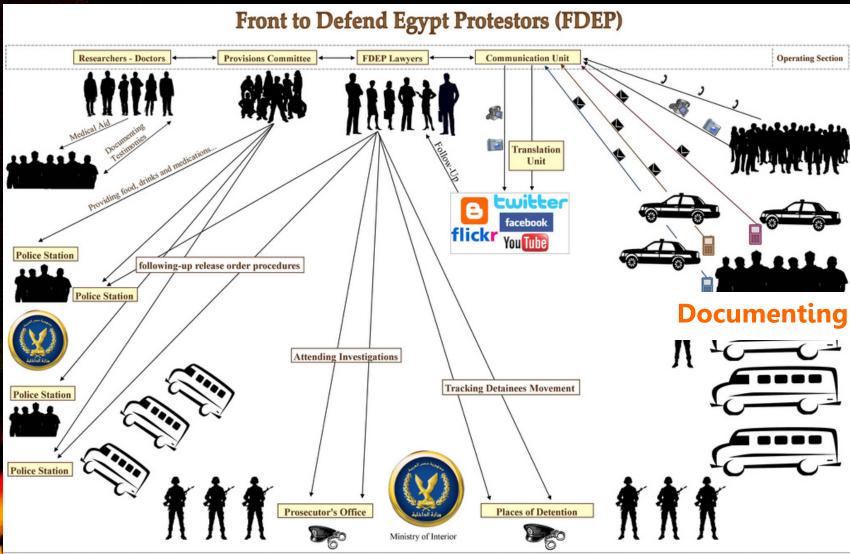


Illustration for using Online Tools & Digital Devices to Communicate and Circulate Information between the Detainees & FDEP, and among FDEP members on 6 April 2010

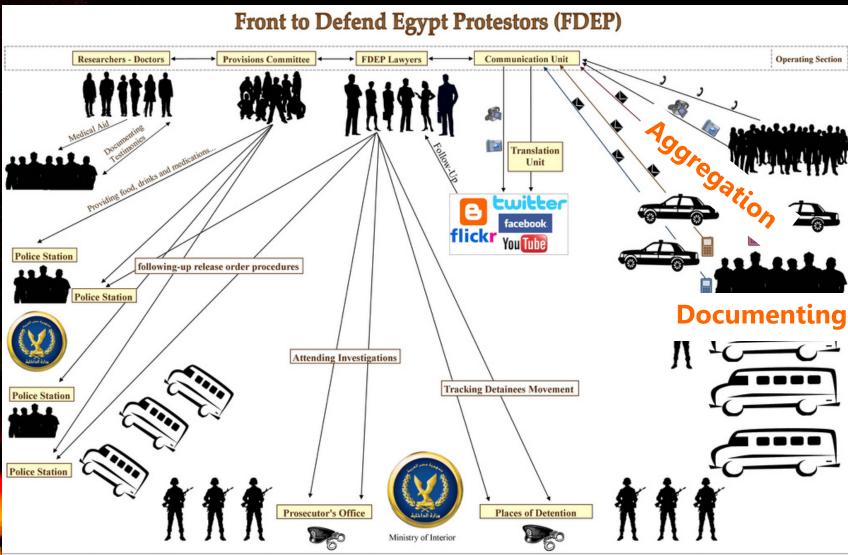
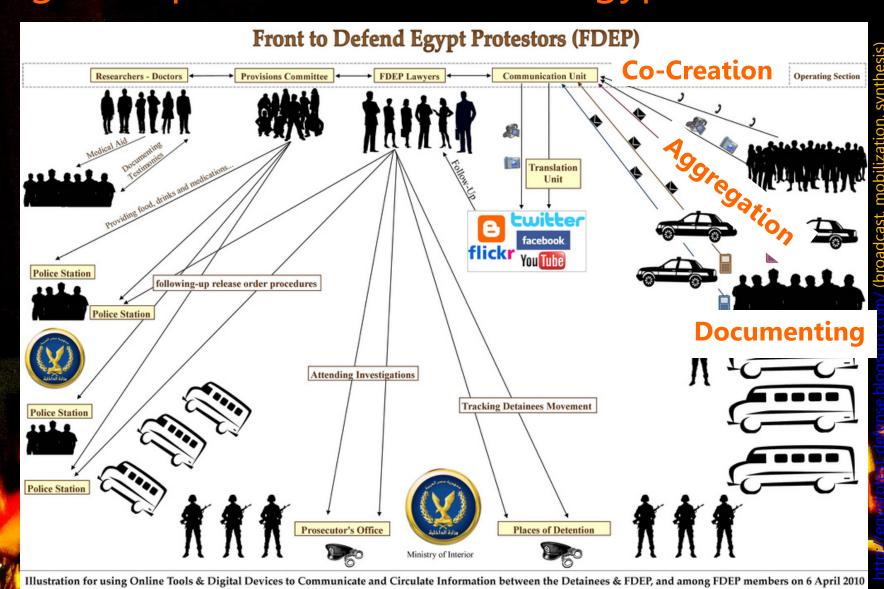
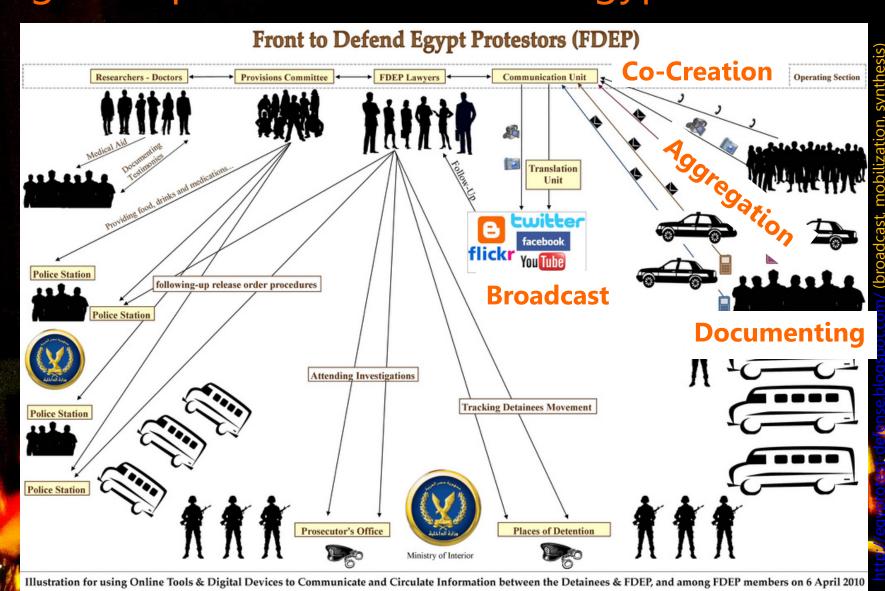
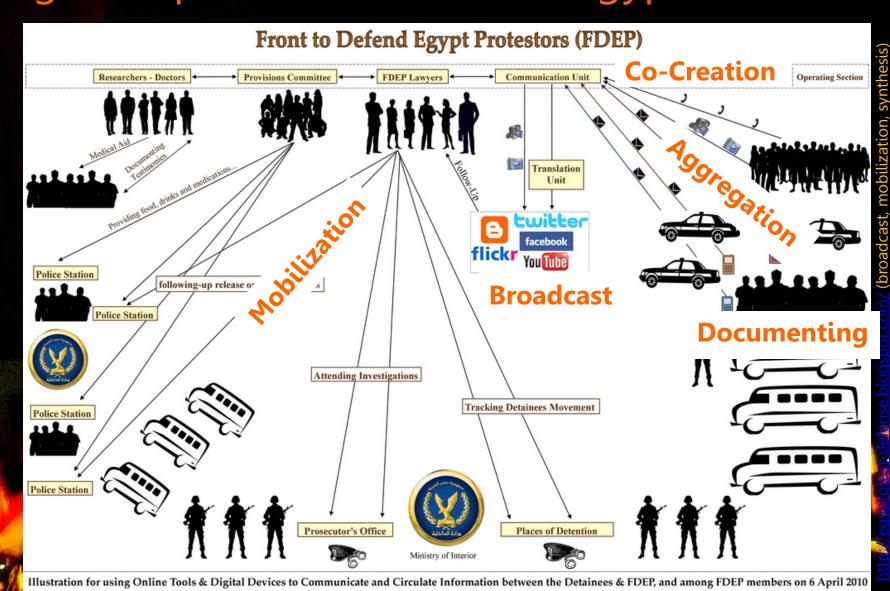


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# Applying the Framework Finding New Trends



#### **Merging of Online and Offline Tactics**

"The revolution belonged to the Internet youth. Then it belonged to the Egyptian youth. Then the revolution belonged to all the people of Egypt"

-Wael Ghonim

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yW59LZsjE\_g

#### **Thanks! Any Questions?**

