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<p>Abstract</p> <p>Egyptian media support for the struggle of the Maghreb in general, and Morocco (Al-Maghrib al-Aqsa) in particular, provided a significant impetus that enabled the latter to advance its liberation program; this support intensified considerably with the increasing frequency of hostile and arbitrary practices against the Moroccan people and their King, especially after France's decision to dethrone King Mohammed V and exile him to Madagascar. The Egyptian press, across its various orientations, was prompt in covering the details of this prominent event, foremost among them the venerable Al-Ahram newspaper. In light of this, the article traces the repercussions of this critical French action within this Egyptian newspaper, illustrating how it interacted with the event. The study relies on diverse and significant scholarly material, which has enabled the revelation of information of considerable scientific value regarding the role played by Al-Ahram in conveying the facts of this important event to the Egyptian public opinion specifically, and the Arab public opinion generally, which contributed to increasing the sympathy of Arab peoples for the struggle of the Moroccan people to attain their independence.</p>		
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Introduction

The decision by the authorities of the French Protectorate in Morocco to dethrone and subsequently exile Sultan Mohammed V, appointing Mohammed Ben Arafa as the new sovereign, triggered a wave of outrage and condemnation among the Moroccan populace, as the people expressed their rejection through various available means, most notably an attempted assassination of the new Sultan shortly after his appointment. Given the event's significance, it became a focal point for various Arab and even international media outlets, foremost among them the Egyptian press, where Egyptian newspapers allocated considerable space to covering this critical event, with Al-Ahram ranking among the first Egyptian media institutions to relay the details of this prominent affair to the Egyptian and broader Arab public, and it sought to highlight the gravity of this French escalatory step for the

future of the Moroccan people and the Moroccan cause as a whole; its issues during that period contained a significant number of articles detailing the injustice inflicted upon Sultan Mohammed V and Moroccans in general.

The choice of Al-Ahram as a representative example of the Egyptian press stems from the major role it came to play in supporting liberation causes in the Maghreb, particularly the Moroccan issue, following its emancipation from subservience to Western colonial powers, chiefly France, as this shift was a result of the paradigm shift in the newspaper's orientation, which was reflected in its handling of the Moroccan cause since the early 1940s, especially after it became a platform for various Egyptian and Arab writers, notably those with liberal and pan-Arab tendencies such as Taha Hussein, May Ziada, Mansour Fahmy, Salama Musa, and others.

Based on the foregoing, the study's central problem explores the extent of Egyptian support—particularly media support at the time—for Moroccans against the French Protectorate authorities and their oppressive practices against the King and people of Morocco, and the impact this support had on the trajectory of the Moroccan national struggle during this crucial period in the history of both countries. Consequently, the following questions are raised: What was the resonance of this important event in the international and Arab press? How did Egyptian newspapers, led by Al-Ahram, contribute to highlighting the seriousness and aggressiveness of the French Protectorate's actions and their repercussions on the national struggle in Morocco? Furthermore, how did this newspaper contribute to lifting the veil of obscurity imposed on the policies of repression and tyranny practiced by France in Morocco? What were the implications of this positive stance by the Egyptian media in general, and Al-Ahram in particular, regarding the events in Morocco on the activities of the national movement there?

Accordingly, this study aims to highlight the positive role of Egypt, particularly through popular media support, in bolstering the struggle of the Moroccan people for independence, especially during that pivotal stage, which began to witness the emergence of unified Morocco confronting the Protectorate authorities and their colonial schemes.

1. The Dethronement and Exile of Mohammed V: Circumstances and Causes

Al-Ahram newspaper¹, like most other Egyptian newspapers, sought to follow the issue of the conflict between Sultan Mohammed V² and the authorities of the French Residency General in Morocco since the period when General Alphonse Juin³ assumed the duties of Resident-General; this conflict culminated in the French authorities' decision to depose him and exile him from Morocco, an event the newspaper strived to convey to the Egyptian and Arab public.

¹ Al-Ahram's Founding and Early History: Founded by the Lebanese brothers Salim and Bishara Taqla in 1875, the newspaper initially emerged as a weekly in Alexandria, a city with significant European communities, before relocating to Cairo, where it continued its weekly publication. In its early years, it adhered to a policy of avoiding political commentary to comply with the conditions set by the [Egyptian] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, until the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War. Following the conflict between Khedive Tawfiq and France, the newspaper sided with the French, a stance that led to its closure by the Egyptian government. It subsequently resumed publication through the mediation of the French Consulate. For further details, refer to: Hamza Abdul Latif: The Story of the Arab Press in Egypt (From its Inception to the Mid-Twentieth Century), Al-Ma'arif Press, Baghdad, 1967, pp. 67-69.

² Biography of Sultan Mohammed V: He was Mohammed Ben Youssef, the youngest son of Sultan Youssef Ben Al-Hassan I, born in 1911. The latter had designated his eldest son, Prince Idris, as the heir apparent. However, upon Sultan Youssef's death in 1927, intelligence officers and military officials collectively agreed to bypass the designated heir and endorse Mohammed V due to his youth, believing he would be easier to control and manipulate. Over time, the new Sultan demonstrated the opposite; he became engaged in the defense of his country's independence alongside the leaders of the Moroccan National Movement, who placed their trust in him, especially after they declared the day of his accession to the throne a national holiday. As a result, the King faced harassment from the French authorities, most notably his exile from Morocco on August 20, 1953. After his return in 1955, he continued to rule until his death in 1961. For more information, see: Abdulla Kamoun: Memories of Moroccan Notables in Science, Literature, and Politics, Introduction and Translation by Mohammed Ben Azzouz, Vol. 3, 1st Edition, Dar Ibn Hazm, Moroccan Cultural Heritage Center, Morocco, 2010, pp. 1542-1560. Al-Sabti Ghilani: The Relationship of the Algerian National Liberation Front with the Kingdom of Morocco during the Algerian War of Liberation, PhD Thesis, Supervisor: Youssef Mnassria, University of Batna, Academic Year: 2010/2011.

³ Biography of General Alphonse Juin: A prominent military figure, born in the city of Annaba in 1889 to a Corsican mother. He received his military education at the Saint-Cyr Academy. He participated in World War I, where he was wounded, and also fought in World War II, where he was captured and later released after the armistice. He served under Marshal Pétain and worked as a liaison officer with the Germans, assigned by Marshal Pétain. He attempted to resist the Allied forces during their landings in Morocco and Algeria, but upon recognizing their superiority, he joined them. Subsequently, he fought alongside the Allies against the Germans in Tunisia, Italy, Germany, and France. He oversaw the deposition of the Tunisian Bey, Mohammed Al-Munsif, in 1943. After the liberation of France, he assumed the role of Chief of the General Staff. He married in Algeria, the daughter of a colonist. He was known for his hatred of Arabs and Muslims. He arrived in Morocco harboring two key ideas: a hatred for Moroccans, and the objective of achieving a political victory in Morocco that would break the strength of the national movement there. See: Abdelkrim Ghallab: History of the National Movement in Morocco (From the End of the Rif War to the Construction of the Sixth Wall in the Sahara), 1st Edition, Vol. 1, Al-Maghrib Al-Aqsa Publishing, 1987, p. 337.

In its issue number 24398, Al-Ahram elaborated on what it termed the "developments in Morocco," dedicating several articles to the matter. One such article was titled: "The Transfer of the Sultan of Morocco and His Family to a New Exile." In it, Al-Ahram's correspondent reported the news of the transfer of Mohammed Ben Youssef, the former Sultan of Morocco, as the newspaper noted, along with his two wives, his sons, and his daughters, from Ajaccio⁴ to his new residence in the village of Zonza, located 30 km south of Ajaccio (Al-Ahram, 1953, p. 3). And Al-Ahram newspaper, in its issue dated September 5, 1953, had paused at the French authorities' objective of deposing Sultan Mohammed V; affirming that the aim of this French move was to dismantle the unity of Morocco and eradicate its Arab identity, while pointing to the legitimacy of the Moroccan demands presented to the Arab nations, which were, in its view, no less significant than achieving full independence (Al-Ahram, 1953b).

2. Moroccan Reactions to the Deposition and Exile of Sultan Muhammad V:

The Moroccan masses vehemently denounced the French authorities' decision to depose and exile the country's legitimate Sultan; especially since this action was taken without convincing legal justification, and at a time when the Sultan was at the forefront of those demanding independence and the withdrawal of French forces alongside the leaders of the Moroccan National Movement. These manifestations of rejection were evident in the Moroccans' retaliation against the colonizer and its internal traitorous lackeys by attacking anyone associated with the French Protectorate authorities; these reactions were reported by the Egyptian press, including Al-Ahram, which covered some of the events that occurred in this context.

The first strong Moroccan reaction to the King's deposition and exile came in the form of an assassination attempt on the new King, Muhammad bin Arafa, who was installed by the French Protectorate authorities; Al-Ahram extensively covered this operation when it reported the details of the attempt on the life of the new Sultan appointed by France, as mentioned earlier. In this regard, it published an article titled in bold font on its front page: "Assassination Attempt on the New Sultan of Morocco"; it included brief details about the attempt, noting that the assailant broke into the Sultan's motorcade with his car and tried to kill him with a knife⁵; however, the alertness of the new Sultan's personal guard prevented the attacker from executing his plan; the assailant was killed by a guard's bullet, and the Sultan survived (Al-Ahram, 1953a).

The following day, Al-Ahram continued its coverage of the failed operation targeting the new Sultan; it titled its article on this subject: "The Direct Reasons for the Assassination Attempt on the Sultan of Morocco". In it, the newspaper returned to discussing the failed attempt to assassinate the new Sultan, Muhammad bin Arafa, appointed by France; the latter was considered by the Committee for the Liberation of the Arab Maghreb in a statement it issued as a traitor and a French agent, while simultaneously affirming that the Moroccan people view the new Sultan Muhammad bin Arafa as a French puppet and detest him intensely, which explains—according to the committee—the attempt on his life. The newspaper indicated, citing the committee, that most observers confirm that Morocco has entered a new, decisive phase, and that the French have hastened their own end by deposing Muhammad V (Al-Ahram, 1953b).

Subsequently, the newspaper again discussed the details of the reasons that led to this assassination attempt; the direct cause, according to it, was the new Sultan's signing of a series of decrees that shattered the country's sovereignty, specifically when he agreed to cede his legislative powers to an executive authority, half of whose members were foreigners; thus, the newspaper adds, the French applied the principle of the separation of powers, which they had been boasting about for five years, which was compounded by a statement from the treacherous Sultan, described by the newspaper as disgraceful, in which he claimed that Moroccans were not yet worthy of enjoying the principles of democracy. In a related context, the newspaper reported news of the French army attacking the capital, Rabat, and occupying several areas within it; where they arrested everyone proven to have known the martyr who attempted to kill the new Sultan. Al-Ahram concluded its article by emphasizing that the cause of the conflict in Morocco is the Moroccan people's desire to achieve independence and rid themselves of foreign invaders (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

⁴ Ajaccio: A French city located on the island of Corsica. Following the decision to dethrone and exile him, Sultan Mohammed V was initially transferred here before being moved to Zonza, and subsequently to the nearby village of L'Île-Rousse. He remained there until late January 1954, when he was transferred to Madagascar with his family, where he stayed until November 1955. See: Abdelkrim Ghallab: Op. cit., p. 565.

⁵ This attempt took place three weeks after the deposition of King Mohammed V. The operation was carried out by a man named Allal bin Abdullah, a carpenter from the city of Rabat, who attacked Mohammed Ben Arafa with a bladed weapon while the latter was on his way to the mosque to perform Friday prayers (Hassan, 1997).

Reference: Hassan, A. (1997). Al-Youssifiya: the ideology of Moroccan nationalism [Paper presentation]. Symposium on Moroccan Resistance Against Colonialism 1904-1955: Roots and Manifestations, Agadir, Morocco. Publications of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Al-Ahram sought to publish and document everything related to this assassination attempt; it placed at the top of the front page of its issue number 24407 a picture of the car used by the citizen who tried to kill the new Sultan of Morocco, accompanied by another picture of the incident (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

Continuing its coverage of the disapproving Moroccan reactions to the King's deposition and exile, Al-Ahram tracked the various operations targeting the French presence, which occurred in different regions of Morocco. In its article published in issue number 24396, titled "Activity of the Fedayeen in Morocco", Al-Ahram reported on a group of Moroccans blowing up French army depots, which created a state of terror among the members of the French community in Morocco. The newspaper quoted a statement broadcast by the Committee for the Liberation of the Arab Maghreb, stating that the Moroccan fedayeen had been notably active in the past week; they managed to escape an ambush set by the French invaders, and succeeded in burning French army depots and blowing up the Rabat municipality, which spread terror within the French community in Morocco, where the newspaper added that a certain Al-Ayadi Al-Rahmani, the commander of the largest district in Casablanca, had resigned from his position in protest against the French assault on his legitimate King. Al-Ahram noted that this commander had declared his solidarity with the King, leading to his arrest by the French (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

In its endeavor to get closer to important Moroccan figures and understand their reactions to the actions of the French authorities, Al-Ahram conducted an interview with the Amir of the Caliphal Zone, Moulay El Hassan Ben El Mahdi⁶, the essence of which it presented in its issue number 24451. He provided a statement confirming that he personally, and the Moroccan people, did not recognize Ibn Arafa as the Sultan of Morocco. In his remarks, he also indicated that any rapprochement between the Arab League and Spain would inevitably serve the causes of North Africa. At the same time, he praised Egypt and its President⁷, thanking him for his country's sympathy towards Morocco and its people, and expressing his delight at the President's gift and his message to the Egyptian people. Al-Ahram appended its article with the full text of the message directed by the Caliph Moulay El Hassan Ben El Mahdi to the Egyptian people via the Al-Ahram newspaper, alongside publishing a photograph showing the Caliph of the Caliphal Zone speaking to Al-Ahram's envoy to Spain (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

The newspaper continued its coverage of the meeting between its correspondent and whom it referred to as the 'Leader of Morocco'; he declared to them that "by persisting in these policies, colonialism is pushing us to take up arms to reclaim our freedom"; he added that France had become afraid of the weapon of media, which Moroccans had resorted to in their struggle; pointing out that France feared the voice of the Arabs and was therefore doing its utmost to prevent it from reaching the ears of patriots in Morocco. He also made an appeal through Al-Ahram, urging the Arab League to adopt a positive policy to save them from their ordeal (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

The response from the French authorities was severe; Al-Ahram, citing Reuters which had received a telegram from Casablanca, reported that the police authorities in that city had announced the arrest of fourteen members of the Istiqlal Party⁸, described as the party's general body in the Casablanca region, who would be brought to trial on charges of undermining state security. The newspaper also reported, based on another telegram, that what

⁶ Moulay El Hassan Ben El Mahdi; was born in 1911 in the Zarbatnah district of Fez. Sultan Moulay Youssef appointed him as his Khalifa (Viceroy) in Tetouan in 1926 when he was only 15 years old, following the vacancy of this position since 1923 after the death of his father, Prince Moulay El Mahdi. His jurisdiction as Khalifa was not limited to the northern zone of Morocco but extended to all areas under the Spanish administration (Sidi Ifni, Ait Baamran, and the Saharan territories). He was known for his support of the Moroccan nationalist movement. After his country's independence, he declared the end of his mission as the Sultan's Khalifa and pledged his allegiance to King Mohammed V. Between 1957 and 1965, he served as Morocco's ambassador to London, then as ambassador to Rome from 1965 to 1967. Subsequently, he was appointed Director-General of the National Bank for Economic Development before being appointed by King Hassan II as the Governor of Bank Al-Maghrib (Central Bank of Morocco), a position he held until his death on November 1, 1984 (Maânino, n.d.).

⁷ Mohamed Naguib; was born on July 7, 1902, in Khartoum. He began his education there and studied at Gordon Memorial College, graduating as an officer. He left Sudan covertly for Cairo in 1917, where a new phase of his life began upon joining the Egyptian army, eventually becoming a high-ranking officer. He is considered one of the founders of the Free Officers Movement, which led the July 23, 1952 Revolution. He subsequently became the first President of Egypt (Naguib, 2003).

⁸ To ensure the application of the Moroccan popular demands for independence and the attainment of full rights, the establishment of the Istiqlal Party was announced by members of the National Party, who called for a general conference encompassing all political and social factions of the country. On January 11, 1944, this conference resulted in the creation of the Istiqlal Party, whose primary mission was to achieve independence. This party comprised:

- The National Party, which included the majority of farmers, artisans, merchants, and the educated elite of the country.
- The presidents and members of the administrative councils of alumni associations from various Moroccan cities.
- Numerous prominent figures of the nationalist movement.
- Sharia judges, muftis, senior Makhzen officials, professors from the University of Al Quaraouiyine and other major institutes, secondary school teachers, and instructors from both public and private schools. Source: (El-Fassi, 1992, pp. 284-285).

they referred to as 'terrorists'⁹ in Casablanca had thrown a bomb into a pharmacy and another into a house, without causing any casualties (Al-Ahram, 1953c); Furthermore, in its September 19, 1953 issue, Al-Ahram reported news broadcast by the French authorities about the arrest of nine leaders of the Istiqlal Party, bringing the total number of arrests, according to them, to twenty-three in Rabat alone (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

3. The Arab Stance on the Deposition and Exile of Mohammed V

The operation of deposing and exiling King Mohammed V sparked a widespread wave of Arab disapproval, and the Moroccan monarch received significant Arab sympathy, as this sentiment was translated into swift moves by the Arab League, which rushed to condemn the events in Morocco and held emergency meetings for its members to discuss how to respond to this arbitrary French measure. In this context, Al-Ahram newspaper published an article titled in bold font: "In the Fourth Meeting of the Arab League's Political Committee: Consensus on Taking Practical Steps to Halt the French Aggression in Morocco. International Communications Regarding the Moroccan Issue Conducted by Arab and Afro-Asian Bloc Countries". Within its details, the newspaper addressed the outcomes of the Arab League Political Committee's meetings, which, according to it, had unanimously agreed on the necessity of finding a serious and practical method to halt the barbaric French actions in Morocco; especially after the French authorities had dared, in defiance of all international norms and powers, to depose the country's legitimate Sultan and exile him from his homeland, as they did not stop at that, but also confronted the popular protests rejecting this move and supporting the Sultan with suppression, arrests, and killing, under the gaze of world public opinion. And, again according to Al-Ahram, the Arab states also decided to initiate communications with various international powers, in coordination with friendly countries, particularly Asian ones, to examine the details of referring the Moroccan file once more to the United Nations and presenting it there. In the same issue, the newspaper included another article titled: "Report of the Subcommittee on Morocco and Palestine," in which Al-Ahram presented the report published by the subcommittee on the situation in both Morocco and Palestine, in addition to studying how to reach a consensual solution for both countries (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

Continuing within the context of discussing Arab reactions to the deposition and exile of Sultan Mohammed V, Al-Ahram published an article in its issue number 24,400 titled: "League States Do Not Recognize the New Situation in Morocco." It dealt with the Arab reactions rejecting the recent French step, after consultations among the Arab League states resulted—as it stated—in their non-recognition of what the French authorities had undertaken. The article emphasized that taking any positive measures towards the French authorities was contingent upon fulfilling the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the Maghreb (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

On the same matter, Al-Ahram, in its issue dated September 2, 1953, published an article titled: "Calls to Boycott France Over its Policies in Morocco"; it reviewed the key points from the press conference held by Saleh Ben Youssef¹⁰, the former Tunisian Minister of Justice, at the headquarters of the Committee for the Liberation of the Maghreb¹¹; where attendees demanded the necessity of boycotting France until it desists from its repressive and exclusionary practices in Morocco (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

In stark contrast to the resolute Arab stance against the injustice perpetrated against the Moroccan people and their King, Al-Ahram reported news of the United States of America's recognition of the new Sultan of Morocco, appointed by the French protectorate authorities, Mohammed Ben Arafa. In this regard, the newspaper

⁹ Al-Ahram's use of this term, as relayed by the agency without alteration, raises a question mark regarding the reason and purpose behind doing so.

¹⁰ He was born on March 8, 1906, in Djerba, into a well-off family. He began his education in his hometown before moving to Tunis later, where he studied under a group of Tunisian scholars, most notably Al-Sadiq Al-Zamri. He then traveled to France to pursue his university studies at the Sorbonne University after obtaining his baccalaureate in 1931, earning a degree in Law and Political Sciences in 1933. The following year, he returned to Tunisia to work as a lawyer and became one of the prominent leaders of the Neo-Destour Party, which led to his arrest by the French authorities. He held several political positions before independence, such as Minister of Justice in the government of Mohamed Chenik in 1950.

He subsequently moved to Egypt, where he strengthened his ties with Egyptian and Arab politicians, leveraging these connections to garner support for his country's cause, especially after the success of the July 23, 1952, Revolution. He later entered into a conflict with Habib Bourguiba, which negatively impacted the activity of the Tunisian national movement, after he accused his rival, Bourguiba, of succumbing to French dictates and monopolizing national decisions, particularly regarding the issue of independence.

After 1956, he became a fierce opponent of Bourguiba's regime, using Libya and Egypt as bases for his activities. He was assassinated in Frankfurt, Germany, on August 12, 1961.

For further reading, see: (Sonia Ahmed, 2013, pp. 15-27).

¹¹ It was established on the initiative of Prince Mohamed bin Abdelkrim El Khattabi, who exerted strenuous efforts to bring it to fruition. The Committee for the Liberation of the Maghreb was officially announced on January 5, 1948, under the presidency of Mohamed bin Abdelkrim El Khattabi. It encompassed the various Maghreb independence political parties present in Egypt, following the diligent endeavors undertaken by Prince El Khattabi. See: (Ibn Al-Aqoun, 1984, p. 147).

published an article titled: "America Recognizes the Sultan of Morocco: Its Envoy in Rabat Presents His Credentials to the Sultan. Lebanese Deputies Denounce France's Policy in North Africa."

Within the article, the newspaper reported the news of the United States' recognition of the Sultan of Morocco appointed by the French authorities, Sidi Mohammed Ben Arafa, as the newspaper referred to him, whom it added had been recently installed as the ruler of Morocco; this came, according to the newspaper, after Mr. Joseph Satter, the U.S. diplomatic representative holding the rank of Minister, went to the royal palace and presented his credentials to the Sultan, where Al-Ahram added that the American diplomat was accompanied by the U.S. Consul General in Casablanca and the naval and air attaché in Tangier. The ceremonies concluded with a reception held by the Sultan in his palace, which was attended by General Augustin Guillaume¹² (Daghsh, , 2004, p. 141), the French Resident-General in Morocco, the newspaper confirmed.

In a related context, the newspaper added that the French police had arrested about ten Moroccans, most of them nationalists, on charges of arson, which led to several buildings being burned (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

4. The French Reform Policies Following the Exile of Mohammed V:

Immediately after deposing Sultan Mohammed V and installing the new Sultan, Mohammed Ben Arafa, the French authorities in Morocco initiated a series of reforms that the deposed Sultan had previously refused, as Al-Ahram newspaper covered the Protectorate authorities' announcement of these reforms, their implementation, and the internal and external reactions they provoked, striving to shed light on these developments and convey their reality to Arab public opinion.

In this context, Al-Ahram published an article in its issue No. 24407, titled: "The French Government in Morocco Approves Reform Projects for Morocco", where the newspaper delved into the substance of these reforms, whose most prominent feature, according to its analysis, was the separation of powers, the establishment of municipal councils, elected regional assemblies, and the creation of mixed councils composed of French and Moroccan members, as these mixed councils were to assume some of the powers previously held by the Sultan. The newspaper added that these reforms, presented by Georges Bidault to the Council of Ministers, included the creation of municipal councils, the establishment of elected regional assemblies, the amendment and reform of judicial systems based on the separation of powers, the creation of new courts, and the enactment of new laws governing crimes and punishments. Furthermore, the newspaper stated that the Sultan would retain only his spiritual powers, while mixed French-Moroccan councils would be formed to undertake some of the Sultan's former responsibilities (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

The new Sultan did not hesitate to approve this set of reforms. In its issue No. 24413, Al-Ahram published an article titled: "The New Sultan of Morocco Agrees to the Formation of Seven Advisory Councils in the Country", where the newspaper indicated that after the newly named Sultan, Sidi Mohammed Ben Moulay Arafa, issued a decree to establish seven advisory councils in the important regions of the country, composed of Moroccan and French members, convening twice a year to set the regional budget and other measures, this came - the newspaper added - following the Sultan's approval of these reform measures (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

Continuing its coverage of the new political reform measures undertaken by the French authorities in Morocco, Al-Ahram, in its article titled "A New Advisory Government in Morocco," published in its issue dated October 16, 1953, reported on the Protectorate authorities' move to form a new advisory government in Morocco, as this government was established based on the recommendations of the French Resident General, Guillaume. The newspaper confirmed that the newly appointed Sultan, Mohammed Ben Arafa, had ratified the French decree mandating its creation, replacing the Council of the Governor-General. In the same article, Al-Ahram quoted a statement by Georges Bidault requesting the closure of information offices belonging to Moroccan national parties in America, while simultaneously downplaying the voices condemning the deposition of Sultan Mohammed V, considering the matter of the Sultan's deposition a purely internal affair.

In the same vein, Al-Ahram, in one of its articles featured in the issue published on September 19, 1953, covered the news of the French authorities in Morocco taking a series of stringent precautionary measures to protect the new Sultan of Morocco following a failed assassination attempt; simultaneously, the article pointed out that the French government had begun distributing the draft statement concerning the reform projects it intended to implement, which, according to Al-Ahram's phrasing, aimed to prepare Moroccans for self-rule while safeguarding French interests (Al-Ahram, 1953c).

¹² Guillaume assumed the position of French Resident-General in Morocco on August 28, 1951. See: (Daghsh, , 2004, p. 141).

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has arrived at a number of findings, which can be summarized as follows:

- The process of isolating and subsequently exiling Sultan Mohammed V by the French protectorate authorities on August 20, 1953, constituted a significant historical event; as it occurred during an exceptional and highly sensitive period for Morocco, which was witnessing the peak of the national struggle for independence, following the combined efforts of the national movement and the Sultan to achieve this goal—a matter which captured the attention of most international media outlets, foremost among them Egyptian newspapers, particularly Al-Ahram.
- The new policy of Sultan Mohammed V, which mandated standing with the Moroccan people and uniting with the national movement to realize the dream of independence, coupled with his refusal to align with French directives that sought to keep Morocco under French hegemony, was a direct cause prompting the French occupier to depose and subsequently exile him outside of Morocco.
- This French action triggered a major upheaval among all components of Moroccan society, which directed its full fury against the French authorities and their collaborators in Morocco; the most salient evidence of this being the attempted assassination of the new Sultan, Mohammed Ben Aarafa, who was installed by the French protectorate authorities, in addition to the repeated attacks targeting French forces and administrations across the entire Moroccan territory.
- The Sultan and the Moroccan people did not find themselves alone in facing this French policy of arrogance; rather, they were supported by brotherly and friendly nations, particularly the Arab countries and specifically the Arab League, all of whose members condemned this French arbitrary measure and launched an extensive diplomatic campaign across various international platforms, especially the United Nations and the Security Council, to pressure France and compel it to reverse its aggressive action in Morocco.
- The importance and, simultaneously, the gravity of this French measure made it a focus of interest for the international press, led by the Egyptian press and notably Al-Ahram newspaper, which covered the event by dedicating significant space in its pages to its coverage; whereby it examined its circumstances, context, repercussions, and outcomes, in addition to the reactions it provoked, be they Moroccan, French, or Arab.
- Finally, it can be said that the Egyptian newspapers, specifically Al-Ahram, despite being heavily preoccupied with addressing the Egyptian national issue aimed at completing the evacuation of the remaining British presence from their country, were not detached from the events in Morocco; they closely followed all developments there and relayed them to the Egyptian and Arab public opinion, which had a profoundly positive impact on the course of the Moroccan national endeavor.

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Conflict of Interest Declaration

The author declarea no conflict of interest regarding the conduct, results, or publication of this research. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript and agree with its submission to an international peer-reviewed journal.

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