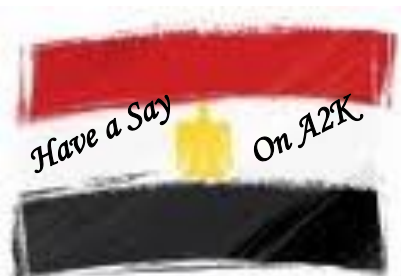


# BA A2K Platform Newsletter

Non Periodic Issue (12)

March 2011



## Under the protection of the People

Alexandria saw massive demonstrations throughout the city leading to the stepping down of President Hosni Mubarak. The Library was protected by the people who joined hands around the building. Young students from the university designed and made a huge National Flag, and put it on the steps of the Library which elicited cheers from passing demonstrators as the director waved to the crowds.



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See [Video](#) More Photos [here](#)

## A Symbol for the New Egypt

Looking like a massive computer chip or the disc of the sun rising up from the Mediterranean coast, the hyper-modern successor to the ancient library of Alexandria stands out as a beacon of hope, efficiency and enlightenment among the crumbling buildings of Egypt's second-largest city. This revived storehouse of knowledge, destroyed at least twice in classical antiquity, has been spared damage in the country's current violent unrest after Egyptian youths held hands last week to form a human cordon around the massive building on the Alexandria Corniche.



Read [more](#)

*"The world only gets better because people risk something to make it better. Congrats Egypt" .. (Paulo Coelho)*

## News Highlights

### Did tweeting topple Tunisia?

January 23, 2011

When Tunisia's dictator, Zine al Abidine ben Ali, abruptly bowed to demonstrations against his corrupt regime and fled to Saudi Arabia after 23 years in power, a predictable wave of euphoria broke out — not only in Tunis, where citizens are still wrangling over the shape of their new government, but also in the West.

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### The Cost of Egypt's Internet Blackout: \$110 Million+

February 6, 2011

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has come up with a figure of \$90 million for the financial cost of the Egyptian Internet blackout. It may be much higher..

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### Internet Freedom? There's No App for That

February 8, 2011

The Washington Post published another editorial criticizing the State Department's funding for Internet freedom programs. The Post faults the State Department's recently issued request for proposals as too broadly drawn,

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### Transcript: Access Speech to UN Human Rights

March 11, 2011

When George Orwell introduced us to Big Brother in 1949, could he have predicted that after just a few generations, governments, ISPs, and social networks would be monitoring our every move online and search engines would be surreptitiously linking together our likes, dislikes and political preferences into predictive algorithms?

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## A2K In Egypt



### Egypt Leaves the Internet

Confirming what a few have reported this evening: in an action unprecedented in Internet history, the Egyptian government appears to have ordered service providers to shut down all international connections to the Internet.

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### Who is the “Author” of This Book of Tweets?

On the eve of their fifth birthday, Twitter published some remarkable statistics: on average, per day users send 140 million tweets and 460,000 new accounts are opened. Without a doubt, we are living interesting times.

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### OPENMESH Is Seeking Alternatives To Egypt-Style Internet Blackouts

Galvanized by the unprecedented Internet shutdown in Egypt, angel investor Shervin Pishevar has launched OPENMESH a forum for people who want to discuss ways of preventing governments from blocking communications networks.

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## Latest Publications of the BA A2K Project

### 1. Translated Material

#### Key Issues for the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity & the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

While trade in valuable living organisms is an age-old practice, research on and trade in genetic resources per se is relatively new. In a modern context, there are many overlapping and sometimes conflicting aspects to genetic resources. These include: biotechnology and biosafety, trade, intellectual property rights, conservation of the environment and biodiversity, traditional knowledge, food security and poverty eradication, health, etc. One consequence of this multitude of angles to genetic resources is that their governance falls under the purview of numerous international organizations and instruments.

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To view the full **Arabic** version click [here](#)

### 2. BA A2k Toolkit II

#### A2K: a Brazilian Experience

Pedro Paranaguá

One of the first institutions in Brazil to work with access to knowledge issues was Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) in Rio de Janeiro, less than a decade ago. A group of young, yet competent, lawyers began their work on copyright law and the Internet.

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#### A2K to Change Society

Gaëlle Krikorian

I sometimes use my own experience to explain how participation in the A2K movement often comes as a logical evolution of an involvement in other political issues, as it is the case with many A2K advocates who have been or still are active on other social fronts.

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*"I see nothing new in Egypt. Egyptians have made history as usual!"..*  
*(Berlusconi)*