



### Former Egyptian Leader Mubarak Passes Away at the Age of 91

Former Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak passed away earlier this week in Cairo at the age of 91. Mubarak came to power in October of 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat, and ruled the North African nation for nearly 30 years until he was ousted in the 2011 Arab Spring. The autocratic leader's time in office was plagued by corruption and political repression, and he spent six years in prison until 2017 on various charges after his removal from power. After being released from prison, Mubarak spent the final years of his life in Cairo's Heliopolis district but had recently been hospitalized for several weeks following an operation to remove a stomach tumor. Egypt held a military funeral for Mubarak on Wednesday and the government declared that there would be three days of public mourning.

Mubarak's administration had a complex standing, both domestically and internationally. To most Egyptians, Mubarak was a strongman and dictator who was known for harshly cracking down on dissent and arresting his political opponents, and human rights organizations were highly critical of his policies which included police brutality, torture, and political censorship. However, he was a strong U.S. ally in the region and an opponent of extremist militancy. Additionally, Mubarak also helped transform Egypt into a market economy, and opened up the country to much-needed loans and foreign investment.

When he first ascended to power, Mubarak expressed a desire to bring about political reform in Egypt and pledged to only serve two six-year terms. However, Mubarak broke that promise and ran for a third presidential term in 1993, before eventually serving another 18 years until the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings which broke out across the Middle East and North Africa. Mubarak officially resigned on February 11th, 2011, under a wave of unrelenting pressure from protesters and the military. He handed over power to a military council and went into seclusion in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh. Later, in August of that year, he went on trial and faced charges of conspiracy for ordering the killing of anti-government protesters. In June of 2012, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, ultimately serving a six-year sentence after being acquitted by Egypt's highest appeals court.

Following his death, Egypt held a military funeral for Mubarak on Wednesday which focused on his service in the armed forces, as opposed to his contentious reign as the nation's leader. During their coverage of the funeral, Egypt's state television channel played footage of Mubarak in his pre-office days. Current president, Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, participated in the procession and walked alongside Mubarak's sons as their father's coffin was taken to the Field Marshal Tantawi mosque in Cairo. In a statement, el-Sissi praised Mubarak's service during the 1973 war with Israel but made no mention of his reign as president.

Overall, Mubarak leaves behind a complicated legacy in which some Egyptians praise the stability that he provided for nearly three decades, but most rebuke the high levels of corruption and repression that plagued his time as the country's leader and led to his eventual downfall.