



## **AFRICA/EGYPT - The dissolution of Parliament marks the breaking point between the military and the Islamist forces**

Cairo (Agenzia Fides) - On the eve of the June 16 presidential runoff, the Egyptian Constitutional Court ruling that declared unconstitutional all the articles of the electoral law with which the People's Assembly (the lower House of the Egyptian Parliament) in a series of election rounds held between November 28, 2011 and January 11, 2012 has caused a stir. The Vice President of the Court, Maher Sami, clarified that the verdict entails the dissolution of all the Assembly even if the laws so far approved will remain in force.

"The Egyptian society seems to be divided into two camps: the liberals support the decision of the Constitutional Court to dissolve Parliament, since it is dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis. The Islamists are contrary and, especially the Salafis, that have stated they are ready to occupy Tahrir Square if the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCARF) organizes fraud in the second round of the presidential elections " says to Fides Fr. Rafic Greiche, a Greek-Catholic priest, director of communications for the Catholic Bishops of Egypt.

"I think that among the common people there is a sense of relief because somehow there is a need to correct the mistakes made in the past year and a half after Mubarak's fall" continues Fr. Greiche. "This is because right from the beginning the military relied on the Muslim Brotherhood to discover that their interests diverged. Now this covenant is broken and has created animosity between the two parties."

The revolution in 2011, which ousted Mubarak, was intended to put an end to the regime in which the military was the backbone. Regarding the position of liberals and revolutionaries in this clash between military forces and Islamist, Fr. Greiche responds: "A lot of liberals now support the military as anti Brotherhood. The revolutionaries of Tahrir Square are themselves divided, because each has its own political vision: there are those close to the Islamists, others have more liberal views and others above all desire to get rid of the military rule in Egyptian society ". (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides 15/6/2012)