## **Fault Lines: Sinai Peninsula**

20 OCT 2017

The Sinai Peninsula is a complicated operational environment (OE). At present, there are a number of interconnected conditions creating instability and fostering a favorable environment for the growth of Islamic extremist groups. Egypt is battling this situation with large-scale security operations, yet militant activity is not diminishing. The Egyptian government, in coordination with the Israeli government, is placing renewed interest on countering insurgent actors in the region and establishing a lasting security. Despite its best effort, Egypt has been largely unsuccessful. A variety of factors have contributed to the continued rise of the insurgents. We submit there are four key fault lines contributing to instability. These fault lines are neither mutually exclusive nor are they isolated to the Sinai. In fact, they are inexorably intertwined, in ways between Egypt, Israel, and the Sinai Peninsula. Issues related to faults create stability complications, legitimacy concerns, and disidentification problems that can be easily exploited by interested actors. It is essential to understand the conditions creating the faults, the escalation that results from them operating at the same time, and the potential effects for continued insecurity and ultimately instability in the region.

**Egypt-Israel Relations** - Enduring geopolitical tension between Egypt and Israel, and complex coordination needs between dissimilar and traditionally untrusting cultures, has potential for explosive effects on regional stability.

**Political Instability** - Continued political instability, generated from leadership turmoil, mounting security concerns, and insufficient efforts for economic development may lead to an exponentially dire security situation and direct and violent challenges to the government.

**Political Alienation** - Years of neglect combined with a decade of Israeli occupation has created an environment where the Sinai people feel politically disenfranchised, indignant, and desperate and this puts the population in a vulnerable position to be influenced by external stakeholders.

**Economic Deprivation** - A lack of economic opportunities, discrimination against the Bedouins for rightful employment, and the growth of an illicit economy fosters an ideal operational environment for insurgent activity.



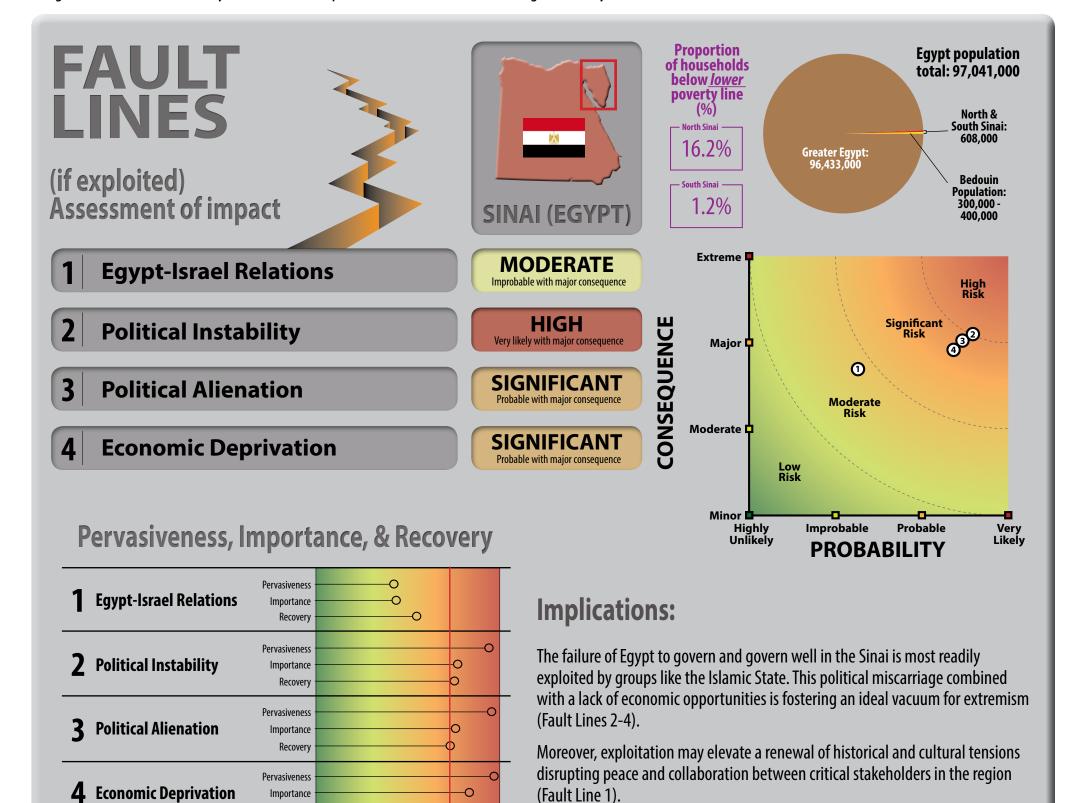
FAULT LINES

are "exploitable

sources of

instability in the
human domain;
they can be real or
perceived."

Source: GCKN Fault Line Methodology, 2017



Recovery

## SINAI PENINSULA BEDOUIN TRIBES Suwarkah Tarabir Saadiyin Aqailah ISRAEL Ismailia North Sinai Azazmah JORDAN El Shatt Huwaitat Ahaiwa Suez Badarah Tarabin Awarma South Sinai SAUDI ARABIA Red Sea

## SINAI PENINSULA SECURITY & EVENTS Port Said ISRAEL North Sinai Ismailia ZONE D ZONE C Only the MFO and Egyptian police, except in the north **ZONE A** JORDAN **ZONE B** our battalions of Suez weapons South Sinai SAUDI ARABIA Red Sea Conflict events between 1 Jan and 1 Aug 2017



Events data: Global Database of Events, Language, and Tone (GDELT).
Military zones: Stratfor.

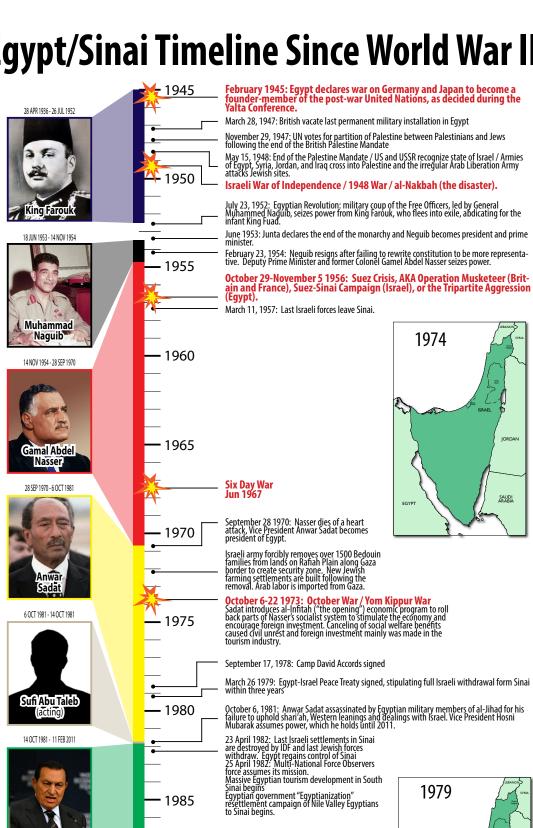
**Tribal data:** de Jong, Rudolf E. A Grammar of the Bedouin Dialects of Central and Southern Sinai. Boston: Brill, Leiden, 2011.

A Fault Line Analysis is our methodology for identifying unstable and exploitable conditions within an OE.

undary data: GADM, Natural Earth v2.0

Boundary data: GADM, Natural Earth v2.0 Imagery: Derived from 90M SRTM (NASA)

## Egypt/Sinai Timeline Since World War II



1990

1995

2000

2005

11 FEB 2011 - 30 JUN 2012 **Mohamed Hussein** 

A IIII 2013 - 8 IIIN 2014 Adly Mansour

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

1982 SAUDI ARABIA



Series of bombings in South Sinai against tourist locations and Multinational Force Observers personnel in transit by Tawid wa Jihad, an Egyptian Islamist group composed of mainly Bedouins and Palestinians from North Sinai.

June 2007: Hamas gains control of Gaza and smuggling partnership between Hamas and Sinai Bedouins begins

February 11, 2011: Mubarak resigns, military takes over and dissolves parliament and suspends the constitution

February 15, 2012: Parliamentary elections result in overwhelming majority for Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists

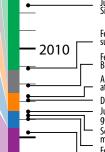
August: Egypt launches "Operation Sinai" to eliminate the Sinai insurgency, prompted by attack near the Israeli border that killed 16 Egyptian soldiers.

December 22, 2012: New constitution approved in low-turnout referendum July 3, 2013: Military ousts Morsi, suspends constitution and imposes interim technocrat government.

September 2013: Egypt launches largest military operations since 1973 War against Islamic militants in Sinai.

Egyptian military rubbles hundreds of homes in and around Rafah to create a border buffer zone.

October 29, 2014: Sisi government issues a decree ordering the depopulation and rubbling of 79 square kilometers in and around Rafah to clear out extremists and stop smuggling into



2017