

What is next for AKP after poll win?

The screenshot shows the Arab News website interface. At the top, the logo 'arab news' is displayed in green. Below it, the date 'Wednesday, 2 April 2014 | 2 Jamadil Akhir 1435 AH' and a search bar are visible. A navigation menu includes links for Home, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, World, Economy, Sports, Lifestyle, Opinion, Islam in Perspective, Careers, and Ask an Expert. The 'LATEST' section features the headline 'Qatar is part of UAE: Dubai security official'. The main article is titled 'What is next for AKP after poll win?' by Harun Yahya, published on Wednesday 2 April 2014. The article text discusses the political upheaval following the Gezi Park protests and the March 30 local election, which was seen as a litmus test for the ruling party. It notes that the election was perceived as a vote of confidence for the government, despite controversies. The overall situation made the local elections more important, as everyone wanted to know if the government had lost its credibility and if the opposition had become stronger. Contrary to expectations, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) maintained its position as the most popular party, with a voter turnout of 89.1 percent, higher than in the 2009 local polls. The logical conclusion of the election result can be categorized as follows: Despite all corruption allegations, nationwide protests against the government, leaked audio recordings of government officials' conversations, and the intense tug-of-war between the government and the Gulen Movement, Turkey once again expressed confidence in the leadership of the AK Party. A sidebar on the right lists 'LATEST STORIES IN Columns' with titles like 'Between the Lines: Obama visit affirms strategic alignment', 'A wise royal move', 'ME peace remains elusive', '10 Things: Into the home stretch', and 'Changing face of global risk'. Below this is a 'More' link. Further down, there is a 'follow us on google plus' banner and a section titled 'AROUND ARAB NEWS' featuring an article about 'Three new universities in Jeddah, Bisha and Hafr Al-Baten' and another about 'AirAsia upset over new Malaysia terminal amid MH370 crisis'.

Keeping in view the political upheaval that began after last summer's Gezi Park protests and the allegations against the government, the March 30 local election was said to be a litmus test for the ruling party. This election was perceived as a vote of confidence for the government in the wake of a number of controversies that marred the political climate. The overall situation made the local elections all the more important, as everybody wanted to find the answer to one question: Has the government lost its credibility and did the opposition get stronger?

Contrary to the expectations of many, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) maintained its position as the most popular party. The voter turnout remained quite high at around 89.1 percent, which was relatively high as compared with the local polls of 2009. The logical conclusion of the election result can be categorized as follows:

Despite all corruption allegations, nationwide protests against the government, leaked audio recordings of government officials' conversations and the intense tug-of-war between the government and the Gulen Movement, Turkey once again expressed confidence in the leadership of the AK Party.

However, things are not as simple as they might appear. The government must consider the fact that AK Party did not fare well in the coastal regions considered to be a bastion of the liberals. It is imperative to understand this group, which opposes

the authorities on the issues of freedoms and democracy. In other words, 50 percent of Turkey not only opposed the AK Party but also is angry, frustrated and unhappy.

This calls for a review in AK Party's policies to address the issues facing the liberals concentrated in the coastal regions. The party has to adopt an all-inclusive approach to accommodate all segments of Turkish society. Although AK Party has succeeded in making significant gains in two of the coastal cities, it must be seen that the source of unrest in Turkey is the fear of oppression and prohibitions felt by liberals. To allay their fears, the government must lift bans on YouTube and Twitter and allow freedom of information. Furthermore AK Party needs a radical change of mindset that yields a liberal, reforming, innovating and drastically more democratic Turkey for all. In his address from the balcony of his party headquarters in Ankara on the night of the election, Prime Minister Erdogan said: "We aim a democracy more advanced than Europe." In order to achieve this goal, the lifestyles and requests of the liberals representing the coastal regions must be taken into account immediately and a policy change that will allow for a more liberal Turkey must be pursued.

| The defeat of the Republican People's Party (CHP) — the main opposition force — in the local polls may have come as a surprise to many. Under the circumstances in which Turkey went to the polls, it should have made significant gains but that did not happen. The main reason behind CHP's failure is the continuation of its policy of always siding against religious elements. The CHP and for that matter most of the left-wing parties have failed to understand that religious traditions are ingrained in the collective psyche of Turkish society.

In all fairness to the CHP, it tried to break away from its past but it was too little too late. In order for CHP to succeed, a radical persuasive change is needed. They need to embrace the religious conservative people in order to increase their outreach to the masses.

| It's time to throw some light on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The 30-year-old turbulent past Turkey had with this Leninist terror organization had somewhat calmed down during the last year with the ongoing peace process. The PKK has understood that it cannot achieve its goals by using guerilla terror tactics. It has assumed a new public avatar by adopting a peaceful approach to attain its goals. The Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), which supports the PKK, made significant gains in many cities in Southeastern Anatolia. The PKK, which has been terrorizing the Southeastern people, openly forced them to go to polling station and vote for the BDP. Under these conditions the Southeastern people were desperate. Even the cities that had different preferences for years abruptly changed their voting behavior. The PKK is attempting to establish a region where it can have more dominance and carry out its propaganda comfortably.

The threat of Turkey's disintegration has become much pronounced given the insidious methods that are being used now. The plan of establishing a communist state in the Southeastern Turkey by enslaving the Kurdish people is a great threat. Consequently the most important goal of the state should be foiling all plots against the integrity of Turkey and to eradicate terrorism in Southeastern Turkey. In addition to that, an inclusive education policy must be implemented. An anti-materialistic and scientific education is required to eliminate Leninist ideology so as to remove our Kurdish brothers from the ideological clutches of the PKK.

Simply put, with this election the Turkish people have sent a strong message to the world that Turkey undoubtedly can become the most democratic Islamic country of the world. It does not need any revolution — like the ones that are being experienced

by many Muslim countries — but it has the capability to transform through liberties and rational scientific strategies.

Adnan Oktar's article on Arab News:

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/549236>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/what-is-next-for-akp-after-poll-win>