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# Police open fire in Egypt

## Five dead, 40 injured during parliamentary vote

EL-AMAR, Egypt (AP) — Police fired live ammunition and pummeled opposition supporters with batons and tear gas in clashes Tuesday that left five people dead and 40 injured during the final round of parliamentary voting.

In the Nile Delta village of El-Amar, 20 miles north of Cairo, fighting erupted when supporters of an independent candidate broke down the doors of polling stations after they were not allowed to enter to vote, according to residents and police speaking on condition of anonymity.

Four people were killed and five injured there.

Hundreds of voters in Shubra El Kheima, in northern Cairo, also clashed with police Tuesday when polls did not open on time. Police, some on horseback, fired into the crowd after attacking the protesters with batons and dogs and using tear gas. That clash left one dead and 35 people — including children — injured.

Police also blocked polling stations and fired tear gas at would-be voters in the southern Cairo district of Maadi. In Hawamdiya, another

district south of Cairo, police detained 75 people for election-related disturbances, according to the police officials.

**"Is this the democracy that (President Hosni) Mubarak is calling for?"**

— Kamal Abdel Karim  
Egypt citizen

"Is this the democracy that (President Hosni) Mubarak is calling for?" asked Kamal Abdel Karim, who said he was prevented from entering a polling station in Maadi. Other voters complained about confusion over voting rolls and polling stations opening late.

Egyptians in eight provinces voted in runoffs for 125 parliamentary seats for which no candidate won a majority in voting Nov. 9.

After the violence in the impoverished Nile delta village of El-Amar,

a black-clad Sana Abu Yehia, consoling as she mourned her 22-year-old Ayman Shabrawy.

"My son, my son, my dear Abu Yehia cried as the woman Amar tried in vain to comfort her.

"No one knows what he was doing," screamed Ahlam, Shabrawy's six sisters. "He left the world to us."

Twelve people have been killed in election-related violence this year.

Egypt promised the fairness of a high court to judge the poll stations in memory after a high court that judges must monitor the election.

In the last election, Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party won 97 percent of the seats amid widespread allegations of fraud and violence in which 1,500 people were killed and 1,500 injured.

Opposition candidates' servers have said that in polling stations where they are present, fraud has increased and the rate of voter intimidation has risen. However, they say the streets, police backing the party still regularly intimidate and harass supporters of opposition candidates.

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# Philippines begin first ever impeachment trial in Senate

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — To cries of "resign," the House on Monday sent impeachment charges against the president to the Senate for trial, charging Joseph Estrada with taking millions of dollars in payoffs from illegal gambling.

Estrada, who has been in office for two years, welcomed the chance to clear himself in what would be the first trial for impeachment in the history of the Philippines. Although four other Philippine presidents have faced impeachment complaints, the House had never forwarded charges to the Senate.

There was no vote by the full House, as had been expected. Speaker Manuel Villar said it was unnecessary because more than the required one-third of the members signed a petition endorsing impeachment.

It was unclear whether the petition process without a vote fulfilled the legal requirements for impeachment, and Assistant Majority Leader Gilbert Teodoro said the Senate might reject the complaint because of procedural flaws.

The Senate has no impeachment rules because it has never had to hold a trial. Last week, Senate President Franklin Drilon ordered a rapid drafting of rules patterned after those used by the U.S. Senate during President Clinton's impeachment trial.

"It's now up to the Senate to start the trial," Villar said. "We have indicted the president."

Estrada supporters jeered at the decision, while Estrada foes jumped with joy, chanting "Erap resign,"

using the president's popular nickname as a movie action star. They embraced each other and surged toward Villar and hugged him.

Before walking into the House chamber, opposition congressmen prayed and lit candles near a Philippine flag. They wore peach-colored ribbons to signify their struggle to impeach Estrada.

Estrada may have just enough support in the Senate to remain in office. Two-thirds of the Senate must vote for removal and the process could take months.

But Presidential Press Undersecretary Mike said: "This development is most welcome. The president said that he wants this expedited so he would provide a chance to air his position."

The impeachment complaint charged Estrada with bribery for allegedly taking \$200,000 a month in payoffs from illegal gambling operators; with graft and corruption for allegedly accepting \$2.6 million in tobacco bribes, and with underdeclaring his personal net worth.

It also accused him of betraying the public trust by favoring friends and relatives in government contract investigations, and of violating the constitution in his family-controlled real estate business despite a prohibition on outside business interests while in office.

Estrada was accused last month by provincial governor Louie Singson of accepting more than \$100 million in payoffs from illegal gambling lords and other co. taxes. He has acknowledged being offered a million bribe by Singson but insists he refused it.

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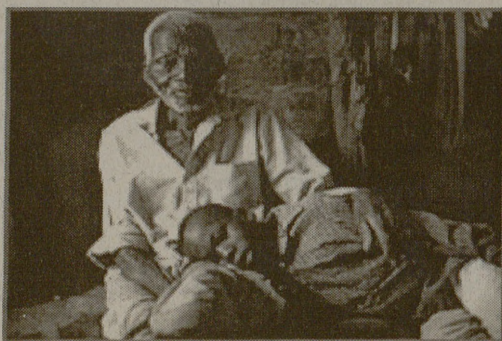
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