

Meet Abdelfattah el-Sisi. Since he swept to power in Egypt with the military coup of July 2013, he has presided over a wave of repression which has left thousands dead, tens of thousands in jail, and millions denied rights to express dissent



Now meet his British backers ...



David Cameron

The Coalition government recently redoubled its efforts to promote UK investments in Egypt which reached over \$5 billion in 2013/4, a nearly 30 percent increase compared to the previous year. The British Embassy's website celebrates Sisi's economic reforms, and prospects for Egypt's "democratic transition". Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond led a large British delegation to the Egypt Economic Development Conference (EEDC) in March 2015, including representatives of oil giant BP, gas producer BG group, Vodafone and WHSmith.



Martin Sorrell

The chief executive of WPP, the world's largest advertising company, counts Sisi's regime among his clients. WPP affiliated companies provided the event management for the EEDC, organised media accreditation and are working hard to "reposition" Sisi's branding for a global audience. How much is the Egyptian government paying for the services of Sorrell's company? Judging by his £40 million pay packet from 2014 it seems likely that the WPP boss expects his account managers to drive a hard bargain.



Tony Blair

Blair was at pains to point out last year that his "advice" to Sisi was given for free. So maybe his appearance at the EEDC was also strictly pro bono. He was gushing in his praise for Sisi, telling delegates at the conference: "I think for the first time ... in my memory you have a leadership in Egypt that understands the modern world." If recent revelations of his attempts to set up a £30m contract to advise the UAE government are correct, such support may come with a heavy price tag.



Peter Mandelson

Like Blair, Labour peer has embarked on a career as a 'strategic consultant', perhaps with the hope of emulating his colleague's huge earnings. Mandelson's Global Counsel consultancy business is a WPP affiliate and its offices are listed on the EEDC conference promoters' website as their London address. He also chairs the board of Lazard, the financial consultancy which is advising Sisi on his economic policy.

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