

Call for boycott mars Egyptian elections

by UPI

CAIRO -- The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt said it called for a boycott of municipal elections amid protests and a government crackdown on candidates. The ruling National Democratic Party of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak runs unopposed for many of the 52,000 seats. The Muslim Brotherhood had thousands of candidates rejected by the national government placing only 20 candidates on the ballot, the BBC said Tuesday. A crackdown on opposition groups left many potential candidates behind bars prompting protesters to rip down billboards of Mubarak and torch several buildings during the weekend. Escalating food costs and declining wages bolstered resentment against the Egyptian government. The BBC said Cairo was calm Tuesday, but reported opposition leaders said its demonstrators could return to the streets at a moments notice.

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