

Vodafone Egypt: Shutting Down the Network – Revolutions and Corporate Responsibility

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The case deals with events in Egypt in early 2011 when mobile phone and internet providers were first ordered by the Egyptian authorities to shut down their services; and then to restore services but telecommunications companies were ordered to send text messages to subscribers urging them not to join anti-government protests. The case explores the options facing Vodafone Egypt's CEO, Hatem Dowidar, and asks what subsequently the global, parent company might do to learn from the crisis their subsidiary in Egypt faced. This recent example raises questions regarding the relationship between governments and large corporations, asking what the implications this example has, for the role that corporations should take and what their corporate responsibilities should be in such extreme situations. It concludes with discussion about the growing use of collaborative action both between companies, and amongst companies and other sectors including Civil Society and or governments. This case has been developed primarily from public domain materials.