The Tahrir Institute
for Middle East Policy

ESHHAD MAP METHODOLOGY AND DATABASE CODEBOOK
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1. Introduction

1.1 Eshhad

Eshhad is an online platform that aggregates and collates publicly available information on sectarianism in Egypt. After data is collected, verified, and placed in the Eshhad Database, the data is displayed on the Eshhad Map to illustrate and map out the frequency of incidents.

The project's main objective is to document reports of sectarian attacks against religious minorities in Egypt. Eshhad's vision is to encourage transparency and to influence policy by providing a context in which sectarianism occurs throughout the Middle East. While Eshhad is currently focused on highlighting the proliferation of sectarian attacks on minorities in Egypt, its long-term vision will expand to include sectarianism against all marginalized groups in Egypt and the region as a whole.

For more information about Eshhad, please visit the website at http://eshhad.timep.org

1.2 Defining Sectarianism

For documentation purposes, Eshhad aggregates and collates data on events or incidents that may rise to the level of sectarianism and violence against religious minorities in Egypt. Difficulties in discerning the intent of each incident arise when researchers and investigators are not directly at the incident documenting and verifying all alleged facts. For this reason, Eshhad collects data regardless of the intent or motive, while fully recognizing the variety of reasons that may have motivated any particular incident. Monitoring and collecting a wide range of incidents provides a context in which sectarian violence thrives and allows observers to understand the history of the village or area in which the event occurred and to potentially identify areas of concern.

While there is no single political or legal definition of *sectarianism*, for the purposes of the database and map, Eshhad defines sectarianism as actions that are motivated—in whole or in part—or colored by bigotry, discrimination, or hatred regarding perceived differences between divisions within a group on account of a minority status, whether religious, ethnic, or another defining feature, by state or non-state actors.

Eshhad's specific focus is sectarianism of a religious nature. Sectarianism includes both non-state and state actions. Further, sectarianism can be committed against persons, private properties, or religiously affiliated entities. The means by which sectarianism can occur include but are not limited to verbal threats, media incitement, discriminatory legal policies, kidnapping, the taking of personal property, physical violence, and murder.

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Although Eshhad most frequently refers to these divisions in a group as minority groups, there are instances where a minority group perpetrates religiously motivated violence against a majority population. When relevant, Eshhad will include these types of incidents as part of its mandate as well.

For more information about Eshhad and its initial phases please refer to the Project Introduction.

2. Map Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The Eshhad Map is a geographic representation of the data that Eshhad collects on sectarian incidents in Egypt. This is the same data that is publicly accessible in the Eshhad Database; it is merely presented in a different, more interactive format.

The Eshhad Map allows users to visualize the location of incidents of a sectarian nature; filter events by incident type, time range, and location; and highlight trends depicting the reality on the ground.

At present, the map, like the database, documents incidents of a sectarian nature in Egypt from August 2013 to the present. The expansion of the map to include previous dates and a wider geographic scope will match the expansion of the database.

The interactive Eshhad Map is a live project that incorporates events as they occur and represents data gathered from domestic and international media sources, domestic and international non-governmental organizations and human rights entities, and on-the-ground reports. It was created to provide journalists, researchers, analysts, and policymakers with an opportunity to visualize the data and highlight geographic trends that may not otherwise be immediately obvious.

2.2 Map Interface

The Eshhad Map is composed of primarily two layers, including the base map from Stamen, Toner Lite, which is produced by OpenStreetMap data first; and, second, the geocoded incidents that are recorded in the Eshhad Database. The map displays geocoded markers to indicate individual incident reports, allowing users to isolate an incident and review its particular *External Notes* (see Database Codebook 3.4.10), *Date of Incident* (see Database Codebook 3.4.1), and Incident Type (see Map Methodology 2.2.2 and Database Codebook 3.4.6).

2.2.1 Target Type

After an incident is identified, it is classified and coded from a set of several target types. Each incident is then displayed on the Eshhad Map following a particular color-code as displayed on the "Target Type" filter bar at the top of the map.

2.2.2 Incident Type

When an event can be classified under more than one incident type, the Eshhad Database coder will use discretion to code each incident under the appropriate "Incident Type" and will also record a "Secondary Incident Type" in the next column of the database if necessary. If filtered by the incident type, the map will reflect all incident types, whether in the primary or secondary columns. It is important to note

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that numbers for incident types and statistics reflected on the Eshhad website and publications also take into account the secondary incident type while not affecting the total number of incidents overall.

For more detailed internal definitions for each incident type and how incidents are categorized under each "Incident Type," refer to section 3.4.6 of the Database Codebook.For more detailed internal definitions for each incident type and how incidents are categorized under each "Incident Type," refer to section 3.4.6 of the Database Codebook.

2.2.3 Map Filters

The filters on the Eshhad Map allow the user to control the data that is displayed. By selecting what data the user wants to view, different patterns of violence can visually be expressed or manipulated on the map. To complement this feature, Eshhad researchers have also provided statistics on the website that show a variety of perspectives and conclusions that can be drawn from the data provided in the Eshhad Database. Commentary and analysis on the TIMEP and Eshhad websites often rely on these data in addition to expert opinions on the ground.

The map filters provide the user with the ability to sort by target types, target groups, and incident types, in addition to time range and location filters. Locations are filtered by provinces. More detailed location information is provided in the Eshhad Database.

The current set of Eshhad's data begins primarily in August 2013 and is kept up to date within a seven-day margin from the incident's occurrence[1]. Future phases of the Eshhad project will likely include expansion of the data set to cover the January 2011–August 2013 time period. As the team expands the dataset and gathers prior data, the time range selectors will accordingly expand.

2.2.4 Total Counts

Total Counts are the total numbers of recorded incidents from June 2013 until present. Total Counts will only reflect the numbers that are documented on the Eshhad Map. The number is located on the timeline slider at the bottom of the map.

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1   Two incidents that occurred before August 2013 were recorded in the database. Other than that, only incidents occurring after August 2013 are included in the database until it is expanded.

3. Database Codebook

3.1 Introduction

The Eshhad Database is the central location where all data is stored and recorded. Incidents to be recorded will include those that are clearly sectarian in nature as well as those that have the potential to turn sectarian in the future; consequently, the data may include criminal activities or security concerns that are not immediately sectarian in nature but can become sectarian when others get involved on account of religious identity or divides.

Eshhad relies on a number of available sources, including Arabic and English news sites and reporting and on-the-ground verification of particular cases conducted by international and domestic non-governmental organizations and human rights groups. Due to security concerns, not all incidents are uploaded onto the public database; at times, names of victims may also be omitted.

The data that Eshhad collects helps to illustrate and visualize certain realities that are not fully evident through traditional journalism and other reporting mechanisms. Eshhad and TIMEP rely on the data to produce minority and issue briefs as well as monthly reports that feature tracking and trend analysis. In doing so, Eshhad serves as a platform that provides researchers, policymakers, and journalists with data that is crucial to addressing issues of security, rule of law, and freedoms of religion and thought. With an increasing crackdown on activists, lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders, obstacles to the gathering and dissemination of information have only become greater. Consequently, the need for a comprehensive database is of growing importance. TIMEP aims to fill an information gap and provide a clearer picture of religious discrimination and violence through this project.

3.2 Data Parameters

3.2.1 Time Range

The Eshhad Database began tracking and documenting sectarian-related events beginning on August 14, 2013. While not presuming to be fully comprehensive, the database continues to undergo constant updates and maintains information up to the present day.

Project administrators are preparing for future phases of the project to expand the dataset. The first future phase will include all data beginning with the bombing at the Coptic Orthodox Church of Saint Mark and Peter on January 1, 2011 until August 2013. A second future phase will include events prior to 2011.

3.2.2 Locations

Until further notice, Eshhad will only publicly display data on incidents occurring on Egyptian territory and in a few exceptional cases, incidents targeting Egyptian minority groups in neighboring countries.

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While Eshhad monitors incidents in the entire region, it is currently not comprehensively or publicly displaying this data. While Eshhad monitors incidents in the entire region, it is currently not comprehensively or publicly displaying this data.

3.3 Data Sources and Verification

3.3.1 Data Sources

Eshhad gathers data collected from domestic and international media outlets, social media sources, domestic and international non-governmental organizations and human rights entities, collaboration with peer organizations, and direct victim witness reports. Published incident reports reference at least one source in the source columns in the Eshhad Database; when possible, multiple sources will be provided. When security is a concern for certain populations or individuals, information that is gathered will not be made public.

3.3.2 Collection Process

(1) Data Collection and Entry *Pre-Vetted Database*	Eshhad coders and researchers collect data from a variety of sources including: · Domestic and international media; · Social media sources; · Domestic and international non-governmental; organizations and human rights entities; · Collaboration with peer organizations; and · Direct victim witness reports. The data is placed into a *pre-vetting database* before being placed in the main Eshhad Database.
(2) Data Review *Database*	Data in the *pre-vetting database* is reviewed by Eshhad and TIMEP staff. The data is checked for accuracy and source reliability, and whether other independent sources are available to corroborate the report. The information recorded for each incident is an aggregate of all sources based on the discretion of the researchers. Not all information provided in each resource or website is used in the Eshhad incident record and external notes. Any external submissions are also reviewed at this stage and included in the main database if the information can be corroborated.

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(3) Data Mapping and Sharing	A second data coder inserts location latitude and longitude and reviews the record once more for accuracy. The incident is then uploaded publicly onto the Eshhad Database and the Eshhad Map.
(4) Data Revision	When necessary, information in the database will be edited or changed if new information is released, inaccuracies are found, or a general revision of the information is necessary.
(5) Data Analysis and Reporting	Through monthly reports, issue and minority briefs, and commentary that Eshhad produces, the data is analyzed for trends and patterns.

3.3.3 Verification and Reliability Process

Eshhad does not claim to fully verify each incident independent of the source that is cited in the Eshhad Database. However, throughout the data collection process (see section 3.3.2), researchers and coders start the process with a set of pre-determined sources that Eshhad considers reliable and legitimate. When some sources are not independently reliable, coders obtain a second source. If the only source available cannot be verified—or, at minimum, relied upon—the incident is not made public or placed on the Eshhad Map.

· Factors that coders look for in a reliable source include:
· Reputable domestic or international news outlets;
· Reputable domestic or international non-governmental organizations; and
· Research conducted directly by coders, researchers, or those in a trusted network.

When there is a conflict of information between different sources, the more conservative number (or more measured account, if the disputed data is qualitative) is taken if both sources are trusted equally.

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3.4 Incident Report Details

This section describes and details the information that comprise each incident, including information that is publically available on the database as well as information that Eshhad does not make public on the Eshhad Database or Eshhad Map.

3.4.1 Incident Dates

Columns B, C, and D of the database provide the start date of the incident, the end date of the incident, and the date that the incident was recorded by Eshhad coders. If an incident only occurred on one day, the start date and end date will be the same. A coder will list "ongoing" in the end date if the incident is still occurring.

3.4.2 Incident Descriptions

Column E of the database provides a brief description and title of the incident.

3.4.3 Victim Name

When the name of a victim has been made public through social media or traditional media sources, Eshhad will record and also publicly display the victim's name in Column F. When information is directly sent to Eshhad from firsthand sources or the victim him/herself, coders will privately log the victim and/or family member names, while maintaining full anonymity on the public database. Unless the victim and/or family members expressly give consent for information to be publicly recorded and displayed, Eshhad will maintain anonymity.

3.4.4 Target Group and Denomincation

In Column G, Eshhad publicly displays groups that are targeted in each incident in the "Target Group" column per the following categories:

· Bahá'í
· Christian
· Jew
· NonReligious
· Quranist
· Shia
· Sunni

Within the Christian category, there are a wide variety of denominations that coders list in a Column H. This information is for research purposes and is not displayed publicly.

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Anglican	The category "Anglican" includes Episcopalian.
Catholic	The category "Catholic" includes Roman Catholic, Coptic Catholic, Latin, Armenian, Chaldean, Greek, Melkite, and Syrian.
Protestant	The category "Protestant" includes Apostolic Grace, Baptists, Brethren, Church of Christ, Church of God, Christian Model Church, Faith Church, Gospel Missionary, Open Century, Methodist, Message Church of Holland, Pentecostal, Presbyterians, and Revival of Holiness.
Coptic Orthodox	Since this is the largest denomination in Egypt, this category is always listed alone.
Orthodox	The category "Orthodox" includes Greek Orthodox, Syrian Orthodox, and the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The category "Non-Religious" includes Atheists and Humanists or any other groups that do not subscribe to a known or recognized religion.

3.4.5 Perpetrator

If the perpetrator is known and clearly identified by the source, coders will use Column I to list the individual and/or entity who perpetrated the attack. When the perpetrator is not known, the coder will use the category "Unknown."

Additionally, "Unknown" is used when the perpetrator is assumed to be a member of a group irrespective of whether that individual is identifiable through clear traits or information. For example, during the widespread attacks on churches on August 14, 2013, many news sites listed the Muslim Brotherhood as the perpetrators of most attacks. Although it is commonly believed among human rights researchers in Egypt that many of the perpetrators were in fact members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the overarching societal bias against the Brotherhood and the political context at the time make factual accuracy difficult to obtain. In such instances, Eshhad codes the perpetrator as "Unknown."

3.4.6 Incident Type 1 and 2

Incident types are stored in Columns J and K and are used to color-code data and place it on the Eshhad Map. Definitions are provided for each incident type.

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When an event can be classified as more than one incident type, the database coder will use discretion to input the "Primary Incident Type" and will also record a "Secondary Incident Type" if necessary. The decision to code an incident type in a particular way is left to the discretion of the coder based on the information provided.

By definition, some incident types are inherently more inclusive of several actions than others. For example, "mobbing" is used as the primary incident type when groups of people surround a house of worship, an individual, or personal property with the intent of harming the person or the property. Naturally, while physical injury to the individual and/or damage to the property may ensue thereafter, the incident will be recorded as mobbing. In cases like this, coders will only document a secondary incident type if it is clear from the information provided that the purpose or intent included the secondary action that occurred.

Incident types are defined as follows:

Incident Type	Definition
Abduction/Disappearance	The category "Abduction/Disappearance" includes kidnappings, forced disappearances, and the disappearances of persons without an identified motive.
Arson/Burning	The category "Arson/Burning" includes the deliberate burning of a target type.
Attempted Attack	The category "Attempted Attack" includes unsuccessful or incomplete efforts to commit any of the attacks or incidents otherwise mentioned here.
Assault	The category "Assault" includes a physical attack committed against a person. This category includes beatings or other forms of mental or physical abuse.
Beheading	The category "Beheading" includes the act of cutting off a person's head in an execution.
Bombing	The category "Bombing" includes the causing of an explosion due to an incendiary device. "Bombing" also includes the use of smoke, gas, or other destructive substances that cause an explosive effect.

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Incident Type	Definition
Clashes	The category "Clashes" includes violent confrontations between people or groups of people. This includes clashes with police or other security forces.
Criminal Investigation	The category "Criminal Investigation" includes police or state action to carry out formal inquiries in response to a criminal event.
Demolition	The category "Demolition" includes knocking down, destroying, flattening, or tearing down a building or wall belonging to a targeted individual or organization.
Detention/Arrest	The category "Detention/Arrest" includes formal government-sponsored arrest as well as extra-judicial arrest and detention.
Discrimination	The category "Discrimination" includes the unjust or prejudicial treatment of persons based on their religion. "Discrimination" can be committed by both private entities and the state.
Displacement	The category "Displacement" includes forced migration, forced removal, and removal that becomes inevitable due to surrounding circumstances.
Execution	The category "Execution" includes the carrying out a legal or extra-judicial death sentence against a person.
Forced Conversion	The category "Forced Conversion" includes the conversion of an individual out of his/her religion to another under the threat of force or violence.
Forced Marriage	The category "Forced Marriage" includes the marriage of an individual under the threat of force or violence, motivated in whole or in part by sectarian intent.

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Incident Type	Definition
Forced Taking	The category "Forced Taking" includes theft of property, including the displacement of persons from their land for economic purposes, motivated in whole or in part by sectarian intent.
Government Action	The category "Government Action" includes state-sponsored actions that have sectarian implications or effects.
House Arrest	The category "House Arrest" includes the forced confinement of a person to his/her home.
Incitement	The category "Incitement" includes the provocation of unlawful behavior. "Incitement" can occur in person, via broadcast media, and via traditional or social media sources.
Judicial Verdict	The category "Judicial Verdict" includes the issuing of a judicial sentence that has sectarian implications or effects.
Legislation	The category "Legislation" includes the issuing and ratification of laws or decrees that have sectarian implications or effects.
Looting/Destruction of Property	The category "Looting/Destruction of Property" includes breaking and entering, raids, and acts of vandalism.
Mobbing	The category "Mobbing" includes the crowding around a building to commit an attack or create a sense of fear. "Mobbing" also includes the sieging of a building.
Police Action	The category "Police Action" includes any measures taken by police officers with sectarian implications or effects.
Prevention of Renovation	The category "Prevention of Renovation" includes the efforts of private actors or security forces to prevent the renovation or reconstruction of a building.

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Incident Type	Definition
Protection Money	The category "Protection Money" includes forcing a person to pay protection money (also known as jizya) to a non-state actor to ensure his/her safety.
Rumor	The category "Rumor" includes the spreading of false statements that harm or tarnish the victim's reputation.
Shelling/Mortar	The category "Shelling/Mortar" includes the use of explosive artillery projectiles or bombs.
Shooting	The category "Shooting" includes the killing or wounding of a victim with an arrow or gun.
Stabbing	The category "Stabbing" includes the killing or wounding of a victim by the thrusting of a knife or other pointed object or weapon.
Stoning	The category "Stoning" includes the killing or wounding of a victim by throwing stones, rocks, or pebbles at them.
Threat	The category "Threat" includes expressing an intent via actions or words to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action towards a person or group.
Torture	The category "torture" includes inflicting severe pain on a victim as punishment or to force them to commit an act.

The generic category "Killing" is used (albeit rarely) when the source does not clearly indicate how the person was killed.

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The "Target Type" in Column L is a category that codes each incident as an Educational Institution, Individual, Personal Property, Institution, or House of Worship. The types of targets are delineated as follows:

Educational Institution	Personal Property	Institution	House of Worship
Schools	Stores	Christian NGOs	Churches
Nurseries	Homes	Orphanages	Mosques
	Boats	The Bible Society	Monasteries
		Television Channels	Nunneries

3.4.8 Numbers of Dead, Injured, Missing Persons, Arrested/Detained

For each incident record, the numbers of dead, injured, abducted and disappeared, and the arrested and detained are recorded in Column M, N, O, and P. When numbers of the dead and injured are not specifically listed in reports, the coder will list either "few" or "many" depending on each incident.

Death is a violent act occurring between two or more individuals or parties of different religious backgrounds or beliefs that results in the death of an individual from any of the involved parties. This can include stoning to death, beheading, shooting, or fatal injuries.

Injury is a violent act that occurs between two or more individuals or parties of different religious backgrounds or beliefs that results in the injury of an individual. Injury can be caused by a host of actions including, but not limited to, beating, sexual or physical abuse, non-fatal torture, or general violence that results in the injury of individual(s).

Without on-the-ground research and investigation, it is often difficult to determine whether a specific incident can be recorded as *abduction* or *disappearance*. Abductions are usually kidnappings for criminal purposes, sometimes encouraged or driven

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by sectarian motives. Often times, organizations and victim families report all missing persons as abductions. At times, some Christian females voluntarily leave or disappear for the purpose of divorce, conversion, or eloping with a Muslim male. For this reason, Eshhad codes all such incidents as "Abducted/Disappeared."

The category "Arrested/Detained" includes individuals arbitrarily or legally detained by the state as well as individuals detained by other citizens or figures of power. This category also includes house arrests.

3.4.9 Locations

Coders document and publish the precise location of an incident when 1) the information is available online, and 2) when publishing precise locations is not a security risk for any of the individuals or properties involved. When security is an issue, a more generic location is chosen and designated under "standard coordinates." The Eshhad Database will indicate which locations are standard coordinates and which are actual coordinates. Coders will aim to be as precise as possible; if the precise location is unknown, coders will try to locate a street name or specific landmark close to the location of the incident. When no actual location can be determined or made public, standard coordinates are chosen based on the most specific information available. For example, some incidents will be recorded in a specific village. In such cases, coders will identify a set of coordinates for the village to broadly and visually represent where the incident occurred.

Locations in the database are coded by Country (Column W), Province (commonly known as a governorate – Column V), District (equivalent to the Arabic word *"Markaz"* – Column U), and Town/Village/City or Other identifying geographic factors (Column T).

3.4.10 External and Internal Notes

For each incident record, noted in Column Y, Eshhad provides a short summary of what occurred, including as many details of the incident as possible. Information in this section may include an anecdotal representation of the date, the incident type, the name of the target or the target type (when the name is not available or is not being made public), as well as the location and details regarding what happened.

If new information is made public, a coder will update the record by including the new information at the end of the notes as marked with the words: "UPDATE [Date]."

Information in the External Notes includes the most relevant and reliable information obtained through the sources available to Eshhad coders.

Internal Notes in Column Z includes information that is not made public but may be of internal relevance for future updates and research purposes. This might include a

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victim's name, the names of lawyers and activists who may be available for comment or verification, and other information that coders keep to communicate internally.

3.4.11 Entered, Reviewed, Uploaded, and Revamped Signatures

For each step taken in the data collection process as highlighted in section 3.3.2 of this Codebook, the coder, researcher, or staff member will electronically initial and sign their name to the Eshhad Database. These columns (AA, AB, AC, and AD) are not made public.

3.5 Translation and Transliterations

When possible, the English translation is provided for church names or other targets and transliterations are used for location names. When the English translation for a church name or target does not provide a correct representation of what was targeted, then coders will use an English transliteration. For example, there are some smaller residential neighborhoods or areas that do not translate well into English. In these cases, coders will keep a transliteration (Ezba or Nazla) instead of translating it to a hamlet or farm since neither English translation captures what it these words actually mean. Most location names are not translated; rather, they are transliterated into English.

Below are a few transliterations and translations that are commonly used throughout the database:

St.	St. is a literal translation of "Mar" that are commonly used prefixes to many church names. Eshhad coders use the word St., not Saint, "Mar," or "Mary."
George	Many church names include the Arabic equivalent of the name George. The Eshhad Database translates church names to "St. George" and does not transliterate it to "Mar Gerges" or any other transliteration form. However, individuals or victims' names are not translated, rather transliterated to Gerges. Other spelling forms, including Guirguis, are not used even though they are commonly seen in other sources.

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al-	When transliterating an Arabic name into English that begins with a determiner "the," Eshhad transliterates it "Al-" or "al-." Although commonly used in other sources, Eshhad does not use El or any other transliteration. "Al-" is used for the beginning of sentences while "al-" is used all other instances.
Ezba/Ezbet	*Ezba* is an Arabic word meaning literally a farm. However, the local understanding of an *ezba* is a smaller residential neighborhood that may or may not be located within a city or village. Many of these *ezbas* are named after individuals, presumably named after the original landlord who began building. *Ezba* is spelled "Ezbet" when it is pronounced that way in Arabic as part of an *idafa* genitive construct (e.g., "Ezbet al-Hagana").
Nazla/Nazlet	*Nazla* is a word that is commonly used as part of the name of a residential neighborhood, similar to *ezba*. *Nazla* is also spelled "*Nazlet*" when it is pronounced that way in Arabic.

3.6 Data Sharing and Publishing

Portions of data on the Eshhad Database are available for public viewing on the Eshhad website. Any reference to or republication of the database of other related documents must cite Eshhad and TIMEP. Any requests for information related to the database can be submitted to Eshhad and TIMEP staff and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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3.7 Project Contributors and Contact Information

Contributors:

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- Amir Beshay
- Kirollos Barsoum
- Karim El Hayawan
- Seham Ahmed

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