



Super-texter Gigi Ibrahim.

GIGI IBRAHIM

GIRL CRUSH:

She helped take down a dictator— with her BlackBerry

■ Gigi Ibrahim, a recent college graduate living in Cairo, had seen her country run by dictator Hosni Mubarak for her entire life. This year, at age 24, she helped end his 30-year reign. Using Twitter and Facebook, she and a team of activists organized the mass demonstrations in January; then she reported on the protests in real time, using her BlackBerry to post a stream of updates about the size and scope of the gatherings, as well as the security situation—the police brutality, tear gas, water cannons, and

Groppers, Beware

Hollaback rolls out an international pervert alert

■ YOU MAY HAVE heard of Hollaback, the website dedicated to combating street harassment by letting women post tales, photos, and videos of offensive behavior. Now the site is going global, in a big way: This spring, the site is launching 15 satellite sites around the world. That's in addition to the 12 international sites Hollaback has already started this year, in countries such as Argentina, Mexico, Croatia, and the Czech Republic. "People are starting to realize that we don't put up with this at home or in the workplace, so why are we putting up with it on the street?" says 30-year-old Emily Mays, who launched the site (hollaback.org) with a group of friends in New York in 2005, after getting fed up with catcalls and gropes. She adds that despite the possibility for mistaken identity or revenge stories, no one has ever challenged the veracity of a posting. Hollaback has also sparked a slew of similar sites, including 101wankers.com in England, objectively.com in Jordan, and harassmap.org in Egypt. Stopstree harassment.com, another U.S. site, offers an interactive global map, with women's stories from Iceland to India. Hey, pervs: Gotcha! —Sarah Pratt

Ibrahim says it was "inevitable" that she would become an activist.

rubber bullets (she got hit by one of those especially when her Egyptian relatives thought she should stay home, be safe—and stop causing trouble for her country? Ibrahim credits a college class she took at the American University in Cairo, where she studied the history of activism against authoritarian regimes: "It was my inspiration to get in touch with these movements," says Ibrahim, who was born in California but spent most of her life in Egypt, where her family runs a garment factory. "I started taking part in different protests, sit-ins, and strikes—not just as a participant, but as a citizen journalist, spreading awareness about what was happening that the government censored and didn't want the public to know." After witnessing people's struggles firsthand—at one protest, a depressed worker tried to hang himself—it was "inevitable," she says, that she would become an activist. Ibrahim, who plans to pursue a career in journalism and human rights, notes that she doesn't give social media all the credit for the revolution, especially since the government blocked Internet and phone service for part of the protests. She says it's the "power of the people"—those who took to the streets and risked their lives—that vanquished Mubarak. Follow her on Twitter at Gsqare66. —Abigail Pesta



Ladyboys, ready for flight.