



Egypt Erupts into Violence, Heralds Dark Days Ahead

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The Egyptian interim government's attempt to physically disperse Muslim Brotherhood members and their supporters from two sites in Cairo, where they have been encamped and arming themselves for almost six weeks in protest against the removal of the Brotherhood government of Mohamed Morsi on July 3, has resulted in the eruption of escalating violence throughout the country. According to official reports, hundreds of people have been killed (other reports cited by major media rise much higher—ed.), and the interim government has declared a month-long national emergency which brings into effect the emergency laws of 1958.

Egypt's Vice President and pro-reform leader Mohamed ElBaradei has resigned, in protest against the military action. Sources have told *Ahram Online* that Egypt's two Deputy Prime Ministers, Hossam Eissa and Ziad Bahaa El-Din, will both offer their resignations as well.

It is evident that the Brotherhood members, who were harboring al-Qaeda-linked terrorists in their midst, were fully prepared to commit violence as the interim government was preparing to end their protests, and in fact responded to the government's move with molotov cocktails and other weapons. As the violence spread, Brotherhood forces launched bombings and other violent attacks against Christian Coptic churches, especially in the south of the country.

Amnesty International had reported some ten days ago that the Brotherhood camps were also being used to kidnap and torture pro-government individuals that they captured.

The Brotherhood was also well aware of the foreign support that they enjoy. Following the outbreak of violence, the White House has condemned the crackdown on protesters and strongly opposed the declaration of a state of emergency by Egypt's military leaders. White House spokesman Josh Earnest, briefing reporters as President Barack Obama was on an eight-day vacation, urged Egypt's military leaders to respect the basic human rights of the Egyptian people.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement today: "I condemn the use of force in clearing protests and call on the security forces to act with restraint." Turkey's President Abdullah Gül said today that an armed intervention by Egyptian security forces against protesters in Cairo supporting ousted President Mohamed Morsi was "completely

unacceptable."

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