

Central

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in UK

المنظمة العربية لحقوق الإنسان في بريطانيا



Mr Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
United Nations
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16/07/2013

ACTION Mr. Feltman

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Dear Secretary General,

The Egyptian armed forces led by the Minister of Defense, General Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, on July 3rd 2013 carried out a full military coup and toppled the elected president Dr. Mohammed Morsi, who remains imprisoned in an unknown location. Following the coup the armed forces have attacked public freedom; including the closure of a large number of satellite channels, detaining their staff, confiscating their transmission equipment and banning coverage of protests, by thousands of people across Egyptian cities, in support of president Mohammed Morsi. Anti-Morsi satellite channels supporting the coup have been celebrating and inciting the killing of the demonstrators.

Civil dignitaries have played a major role in this coup, including the Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Attayeb; Pope Tawadros; the Judge of the Constitutional Court, Adli Mansour and as well as other notable personalities such as Dr Mohammed El Baradei, the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

On June 30th we witnessed the gathering of crowds of Egyptian citizens, including supporters and opponents of President Morsi, we appealed to all parties to exercise self-restraint, to use dialogue and renounce violence. However, the security forces and police allowed president Morsi's supporters to be assaulted, resulting in the killing and wounding of a large number of them.

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On July 1st, anti-Morsi protesters raided the national headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo. Protesters threw objects at windows and looted the building, stealing office equipment and documents. The Ministry of Health confirmed the deaths of eight people killed in clashes around the headquarters in Mokattam. On July 3rd, gunmen opened fire on a pro-Morsi rally, killing 16-18 people and wounding 200 others.

On the same day, the Egyptian military announced the end of Mohammed Morsi's presidency, the suspension of the constitution and the military appointed Chief Justice Adly Mansour as the interim president who would form a transitional technocratic government.

On July 8th the army and security forces attacked demonstrators in front of Republican Guards Headquarters where thousands were sitting – they killed 84 people, including children and women and injured more than 1000, according to statistics published by the Association of Egyptian Doctors.

The international reaction to the coup has been unclear; officials have refused to describe what happened as a coup. The United States position was very inconsistent before the media, although they were secretly supporting the coup. Credible media reports have revealed that the United States backed the coup and supported it financially.

The European Union's position has too been very shocking, whilst they talk about the importance of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power, they have appeared to support the coup. EU officials started talking about post-coup Egypt, as if nothing had happened, indifferent to the millions of people that are still stationed in the squares of Egypt demanding the return of President Morsi. The international position has not changed despite the killings and arrests which have been carried out on a wide scale by security and military forces. Only the African Union and Turkey, have condemned the coup with the African Union adopting a decision to freeze Egypt's membership of the Union.

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The leaders of the political Islamic movements did not spare any efforts in attempting to convince their supporters to engage in the political process and use the ballot box to bring about peaceful change. Throughout their history they have always condemned violence and rejected it. Although they have received painful blows, it has not diverted them from their peaceful plans for the future.

The Islamists participated like others, after January 25th revolution against the regime of President Hosni Mubarak, in the political process and reflected the will of the voters in five stages of elections, most recently the election of the president and the voting on the constitution.

This coup is a dispossession of the will of the people and gives the wrong message to the Islamists, suggesting that even if they use the ballot boxes they will not have a place in the political process. This will in turn result of in a broad cross-section of young enthusiasts turning to violence which will threaten the stability of Egypt and the region as a whole.

Millions of pro-President Morsi supporters are still in the streets and today on July 12th we have witnessed the largest demonstrations, according to some estimates, of approximately 13 million Egyptians demanding the return of legitimacy, in the coming days the numbers will grow. The fear is that things will not be under control and the police, security forces and thugs backed by the army will commit massacres like the July 8th killings. The security services and the army, backed by the media, demonize the demonstrators who support Morsi, accusing them of terrorism and claim that they will arrest and kill them.

The situation warrants urgent pressure on the military to review its coup decision, which was based on falsified data, attributing the wrong number of supporters to President Morsi and to his opponents. While the number of the opponents has been amplified, the media have deliberately underestimated the numbers of Morsi supporters.

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The prevailing sentiment in the Egyptian street and across the Arab world was that this coup was supported by other countries due to fears about the spread of the Arab Spring to neighboring countries. These concerns motivated their demonization of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt despite the great flexibility that been made locally and internationally. This does not mean that the ruling party has not committed errors and that President Morsi's popularity had not fallen but, this does not justify a coup.

In the United States and European Union the President or the Prime Minister wins by a small difference in votes and once elected by the people their legitimacy is not challenged because of a small difference in votes. During their period in office this difference may become slight and popularity may fall, but this would not justify a military coup. The ballot box remains the judge, and these surveys or demonstrations condemning the policies of president are considered a message to the president to correct their path until the next the elections.

Based on the aforementioned and in accordance with the information we have, in the coming days things will escalate and security agencies backed by the army have prepared bloody plans to break up the demonstrators, we invite you to take decisive steps condemning the coup and calling upon the leaders of the coup to revoke their decisions to save the blood of the Egyptians and to preserve the stability of Egypt and the region. We ask that you urge all parties to sit down at the table of dialogue and agree on constructive solutions which will end the crisis.

Yours sincerely

M. Jamil

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