



EMBASSY
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
VIENNA

16 August 2013

PRESS RELEASE

Re: Recent Events in Egypt

1. Following the historic revolution of June 30th, 2013, an interim President has been sworn in and a new government has been appointed. The interim President has announced a road map approved by the different political forces El Azhar and the Coptic Church, paving the way for a new constitution, parliamentary elections, followed by presidential elections bringing Egypt back to full democratic rule, according to a specified timeframe.
2. There is a consensus in the current government for the need to institute a process of political reconciliation, especially with the Moslem Brotherhood, based on the principle of broad political inclusion. Unfortunately, the Moslem Brotherhood have so far declined to participate in this process.
3. During the past six weeks, the Egyptian authorities tolerated and protected mass demonstrations and sit-ins by the members and supporters of the Moslem brotherhood in Rabaa El Adaweya and Al-Nahda squares in the heart of Cairo, that have quickly developed far from being a peaceful form of freedom of expression:
 - a. Machine guns, pistols, and other firearms have been spotted, on camera, in almost every Moslem Brotherhood protest, coupled by the construction of defensive arrangements using sand bags, concrete walls, and disassembled tiles from neighboring sidewalks and surrounding trees, amidst massive disturbance to the neighborhood and beyond, as well as the widespread destruction of public and private property.
 - b. A surge in attacks against citizens not affiliated to the Moslem Brotherhood, by supporters of the Muslem Brotherhood, resulting in tens of deaths and/or injuries on an almost daily basis. A number of individuals officially reported that they were taken to the sit-ins, interrogated, held against their will, and tortured. More than a dozen bodies were found discarded on the fringes of the sit-ins bearing signs of torture. Amnesty International and several non-governmental organizations reported that supporters of the former president tortured individuals from a rival

- political camp. UNICEF and several NGOs also reported that young children were used in the demonstrations of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- c. Some Moslem Brotherhood members and supporters often left the locations of these two sit-ins seeking to block other landmark roads in the already congested Cairo, thus intimidating the nation. In some instances, they sought to attack military sites to induce the security forces to react, thereby causing bloodshed among their supporters. The fact that they managed to call some members of the foreign press to such locations in advance, is an indication of pre-planning from their part.
 - d. An unprecedented and quite alarming level of incitement by the Moslem Brotherhood is on record.
4. Meanwhile, the government has tried all possible means to clear these sit-ins peacefully through dialogue, efforts, and the good offices both national and international parties. Since these efforts failed to achieve the intended purpose, the Government had no option or alternative but to assume its responsibilities, enforce the rule of law, keep citizens' security, and maintain the civil peace. The council of ministers had to authorize the dispersion of the sit-ins on August 15th, 2013, after a decision by the Prosecutor General and several days of solemn undertakings and offers of safe passage for all the participants in the sit-ins.
 5. The police forces undertook an operation to disperse the sit-ins while exercising the highest degree of self restraint to minimize the loss of human lives, but on the same day the Moslem Brotherhood launched a massive terror campaign throughout the country. A large number government, public and private property, along with many churches and other related properties in different parts of the country were ransacked or set ablaze. The Government expresses its deep sorrow and regret for all victims.
 6. As a popular reaction to the acts of terrorism launched by the Moslem Brotherhood, many Egyptians, Moslems and Copts, have spontaneously formed neighbourhood watches to protect Egyptian churches from further attacks, along with other government, public and private property.
 7. In order to help the Austrian public to get a more accurate picture of the situation in Egypt and the nature of the sit-ins that have been dispersed, a number of video links documenting atrocities perpetrated by the Moslem Brotherhood are listed in annex to this press release.
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Some links showing the non peaceful nature of the sit in and the armed resistance of the protestors to the security forces

- Muslim Brotherhood supporters burning the Giza Governorate building on August 15, 2013. Many civilians were inside:

http://youtu.be/OH_7kaYXPb4

- Muslim Brotherhood supporters burned 17 churches in addition to some mosques:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151834731938126&set=a.10150457831958126.416572.618273125&type=1&theater>

- Muslim Brotherhood supporters destroying a Cross:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=400742736714622&set=a.162992530489645.31203.162987713823460&type=1&theater>

- Muslim Brotherhood supporters beating to death an Egyptian taxi driver for posting a photo of the Egyptian minister of defense on his car window:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=557338824314419&set=a.252302988151339.56871.206701716044800&type=1&theater>

- Muslim Brotherhood using weapons against police officers:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=589688991073760&set=vb.188253824602484&type=2&theater>

- Muslim Brotherhood terrorists push a police armored vehicle off the 6th of October bridge. 8 police officers died:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=646536998703904&set=a.243232925700982.70358.243057639051844&type=1&theater>

- Muslim Brotherhood terrorism:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=293546264121098&set=a.275769795898745.1073741828.275743515901373&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=587973511254652&set=a.366918160026856.102192.366906990027973&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151834172123126&set=a.10151185336388126.499311.618273125&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=506551472763387&set=a.159503360801535.41126.159429420808929&type=1&theater>

- A Massacre of Egyptian police officers on duty in Kerdasa police station, by Muslim Brotherhood terrorists:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7_QHkHaegM

- The Egyptian authorities took every measure possible to end the sit-in at the Rabaa El Adaweya square in a peaceful manner:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=liDsWwPx5V0

Additional Links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pv8-rjyfeA&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6UWAGD6Uqk&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhHu-B0IV9Q&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhPQYxc3EtY&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.mediafire.com/?m24n7no6boev7un>

<http://www.mediafire.com/?ao2gjx9cerkf6l>

<http://www.mediafire.com/?upv06najh5cic8b>

<http://www.mediafire.com/?if5pccyspd0bzvu>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-zfaxxBuOA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXXexuGmAwo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUiNAv1kSg8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liDsWwPx5V0>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=670292669665305&set=vb.100000537347010&type=2&theater>