

Violence Escalates Between Security Forces and Protesters in Egypt

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2013/08/egypt-update>

Clashes between Egyptian law enforcement and supporters of the ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi continue to escalate, prompting fears that Egypt could follow nearby Syria into civil war.

The current violence in Egypt began when military leaders ousted democratically elected President Morsi in a coup in early July, barely a year after he took office.

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi's main support base, protested the coup and built camps around Cairo to sustain their opposition. But the military cracked down on the demonstrations, killing at least 72 protesters in one day in late July.

Since then, the military and police have vowed to crush the protests. Their harsh tactics have resulted in the deaths of nearly 1,000 people and more than 100 police officers.

"The objective wasn't to use massive force," Mohamed Tawfik, Egypt's ambassador to the United States, told the NewsHour about the crackdown. "The objective wasn't to get anyone killed. The objective was to apply the rule of law."

However, the violence seems has bolstered the case of the Muslim Brotherhood, who have traditionally held the role of the oppressed opposition group within Egypt.

"We have no guns. We have no -- we have water, only water. We have our bodies, only our bodies," said one protester.

"They have stolen our votes, and we want our votes back," said another. "And we are not going to leave the streets, whatever happens, before getting the democracy back."

Recently, Mohammed al-Baradei, a Nobel laureate and prominent secular political leader who helped organize the Egyptian revolution in 2011, stepped down from his post as Egypt's interim vice president in protest over the violent tactics of the military.

Crackdown considered threat to a democratic Egyptian future

The military removed President Morsi from office July 3 after citizens held massive rallies to protest his job performance. Frustration stemmed from the bleak economy, high unemployment, a tourism industry that has not recovered from the 2011 uprising and major fuel shortages that have caused transportation pains.

“No, the army didn’t carry out a coup,” said Egyptian protester Rida Abdul Malak. “This is the people’s will. The Muslim Brotherhood has failed. They failed to govern.”

However, as the country failed to accept its first-ever democratically elected leader, some worry that the country is not yet ready for a democratic system of government.

“Incremental change produces more durable results; liberal democracies must be constructed from the ground up,” wrote Georgetown University professor Charles A. Kupchan in a recent New York Times op-ed. “Constitutional constraints, judicial reform, political parties, economic privatization — these building blocks of democratic societies need time to take root.”

Egypt waits on elections

As the military, police and protesters battle on the streets of Cairo, the Egyptian people wait to vote in new elections.

Judge Adly Mansour has been sworn in as the country’s temporary leader. Mansour is the former chief justice of Egypt’s Supreme Constitutional Court, who says he will uphold the spirit of the 2011 revolution while quickly organizing new presidential and parliamentary elections.

“I vow to safeguard the republican system and to respect the law and constitution and to look after the interests of the people and to preserve the independence of the homeland and its safety,” he said at his swearing-in ceremony.

Despite these promises, no dates have been announced for elections.

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August 22, 2013

WARM UP ACTIVITY

Egypt Revolution Basics

1. Give students the Egypt Pre-Quiz (located below) to test what they already know about the country. Collect their quizzes for now. You will return them at the end of the class and let them re-take the quiz on the bottom of the Pre-Quiz sheet.
2. Share the Egypt Basic Facts page with students and answer any questions that come up during the review.
3. As a class, go through the Egypt Timeline that covers the important recent history of Egypt. You may choose to watch some of the videos as you scroll through depending on how much time you have.
4. After you go through the timeline hand out the Important Dates in Egyptian Revolution spreadsheet and ask students, in pairs, to go back through the list of events. Instruct them that they need to:
 - Choose the 15 most important events from the timeline.
 - Explain its importance in column four.
5. As a class go through the entire sheet together and have students raise their hands when an event they ranked as a top 15.

Main Activities

1. Different Points of View

1. Have students read the article “Egypt” for more information about the current situation in Egypt and as a class ask the students to do the following:

- How do supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood see the situation?
- What is military's the point of view on the situation?
- What other points of view may exist?

2. You be interim President Adly Mansour! (A 4 Corners Activity)

The country of Egypt is on the brink of a bloody civil war. President Mubarak- who ruled for 40 years- was thrown out of office, and was replaced in a democratic election by President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood. After mass demonstrations against Morsi, who had achieved little of what he had promised in the last year, he stepped down from power. Although the majority of the country had supported the ousting of Morsi, Egyptians from the Muslim Brotherhood protested his removal by setting up tent cities in the capital and refusing to leave until Morsi was reinstated.

Last week the military decided to use lethal force to remove the tent cities, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of people and injuring thousands more. You are receiving increasing pressure from outside influences to put an end to the violence or military and financial support will be taken away. With your country in crisis, what do you do!?

- Do nothing- waiting this out is the best solution.
- Return disposed President Morsi to power immediately.
- Call for new elections immediately.
- Decide to run the country yourself as a dictator and make sweeping changes with the support of the military.

1. Read students the scenario and the four choices. Ask students to choose which solution they would pick if they were in charge and to go stand in that corner.

2. Allow students several minutes to come up with reasons supported by evidence that their solution is the best as a group.

3. Have each group share out their arguments as to why their solution is the best, and then allow students to change corners if their minds have been changed after listening to the other groups.

Egypt Fact Sheet

The modern country of Egypt, spanning between the far northeast corner of Africa and the westernmost tip of Asia, is located in one of the most geographically important places on the planet. At around 85 million people, it is one of the most populous countries in the Middle East and Africa, and home to the region's largest city, Cairo.

Before the Arab Spring protests of 2011 paved the way for democratic elections in Egypt, the country had been ruled for 30 years by President Hosni Mubarak, a strong-armed leader who justified his tactics by claiming that he was maintaining security and order in the face of religious extremists.

Egypt may be best known for being a “cradle of civilization”, as one of the world's first major civilizations. Its strategic location along the Nile River helped foster a cultural legacy that includes mummies, the pyramids and the predecessor to paper.

EGYPT FACTS – *from the CIA World Factbook*

Geography

Total area: 1,001,450 sq km (30th largest in the world, and slightly more than three times the size of New Mexico)

Water: Bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the East. Egypt has control over the Suez Canal, the only sea link between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.



People

Languages: Arabic is the official language, though English and French are widely understood

Religion: 90 percent of Egyptians are Muslim (majority Sunni), 9 percent are Coptic Christian, while 1 percent are other types of Christians

Population: 85.3 million people (15th most in the world)

Government

Capital: Cairo (population 11 million)

Executive: Interim President Adly Mansour

Type of government: currently in flux

Economy

GDP: \$548.8 billion (27th largest in the world)

Unemployment rate: 13.5 percent (134th in the world, but nearly double that of the U.S.)

Egypt Pre-Quiz

1. Name one country that Egypt shares a border with:
2. What is the largest city in Egypt?
3. What is a revolution? Are they always violent? Name one you have studied before.
4. What kind of government does Egypt have?
5. Who is President Hosni Mubarak?
6. Who is President Mohammed Morsi?
7. Who is the Muslim Brotherhood?
8. What is significant about Tahrir Square?
9. What is the military's role in Egypt?
10. What is the state of the current relationship between the US and Egypt?

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Teacher Copy - See below for student copy

Number	Date	Event	Votes
1	1/25/2011	The "Day of Anger"	
2	1/28/2011	Egypt goes offline	
3	1/29/2011	Mubarak fires cabinet	
4	2/4/2011	The "Day of Departure"	
5	2/11/2011	Mubarak steps down	
6	2/12/2011	The military takes power	
7	3/4/2011	A new prime minister	
8	3/19/2011	Constitutional referendum	
9	4/13/2011	Mubarak arrested	
10	5/24/2011	Mubarak trial announced	
11	10/9/2011	Troops kill protesters	
12	11/21/2011	Government to resign	
13	4/14/2012	Muslim Brotherhood candidate disqualified, Morsi Emerges	
14	5/23/2012	Presidential elections	
15	6/14/2012	Parliament dissolved	
16	6/16/2012	Presidential runoff election	
17	6/30/2012	Morsi takes oath of office	
18	8/12/2012	Military leaders to retire	
19	11/19/2012	Constitutional assembly boycott	
20	11/22/2012	Morsi takes more power	
21	11/30/2012	Islamists take over constitution	
22	12/4/2012	Demonstrators protest new constitution	
23	12/15/2012	New constitution approved	
24	12/29/2012	Egyptian economy in peril	
25	1/25/2013	Revolution passes two-year mark	
26	1/26/2013	Protesters killed in Port Said	
27	4/7/2013	Religious tension escalates	
28	6/23/2013	Shiites under attack	
29	6/30/2013	Calls for Morsi resignation	
30	7/1/2013	Morsi receives ultimatum	
31	7/3/2013	Military overthrows Morsi	
32	7/4/2013	Mansour sworn in	
33	7/8/2013	Brotherhood protesters killed	
34	7/27/2013	Crackdown on protesters kills at least 72	
35	8/7/2013	Diplomatic efforts fail	
36	8/14/2013	Security forces attack pro-Morsi protest camps	
37	8/16/2013	Morsi supporters stage "Day of Rage"	
38	8/19/2013	Mubarak to be released from prison	
39	8/20/2013	Muslim Brotherhood leader arrested	

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**Do nothing- waiting
this out is the best
solution.**

**Return disposed
President Morsi to
power immediately.**

**Call for new elections
immediately.**

Decide to run the
country yourself as a
dictator and make
sweeping changes.