Egypt - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 August 2013

Current information on the military takeover including important events subsequently and demonstrations

A timeline issued by *Reuters* in August 2014 includes the following listings:

> "July 3 - Egypt's armed forces depose Mursi after huge street protests against his rule. Mursi is sequestered in a Republican Guard barracks after denouncing what he called a 'military coup' that stripped him of power a year after he was freely elected.
> July 8 - More than 50 people are killed when the army opens fire on Mursi supporters. Protesters say shooting started as they performed morning prayers outside the Cairo barracks where Mursi was believed to be held.
> July 9 - Gulf Arab states shower Cairo with $8 billion in aid, showing their support for the interim military-backed government.
> July 16 - An interim cabinet of 33 ministers, mostly technocrats and liberals, is sworn in, led by interim head of state Adli Mansour.
> July 27 - Security forces shoot dead at least 80 Brotherhood supporters after a day of rival mass rallies.
> August 7 - Days of international mediation efforts collapse and the army-installed government repeats its threat to take action against supporters of Mursi.
> August 14 - Egypt imposes a month-long state of emergency after 149 people are killed in a raid on Cairo protesters demanding Mursi's reinstatement and in other clashes nationwide. State news agency says 1,403 have been wounded. Interim vice president Mohamed ElBaradei resigns, saying such bloodshed would benefit only extremists" (Reuters (14 August 2013) *Timeline: Egypt in crisis*).

A report issued in July 2013 by *Amnesty International* states:

> "On 3 July 2013, following vast and mounting protests against President Mohamed Morsi, General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Minister of Defence, announced the ousting of President Mohamed Morsi, a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) until he took office after elections a year earlier. Two days later, rival marches and protests in support of and against the deposed President led to widespread violence across Egypt. Eighty-eight people have been killed since Friday 5 July, including some apparently as the result of excessive and unnecessary force by the security forces. Security forces intervened too late or not at all during clashes between supporters and opponents of Mohamed Morsi" (Amnesty International (10 July 2013) *Egypt, Unlawful Killings In Protests And Political Violence On 5 And 8 July 2013*, p.6).

This report also points out that:

> "On Friday 5 July, supporters of Mohamed Morsi organized marches and protests across Egypt against his removal from power. Violence quickly

erupted across the country, including in Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia and Sharkiya. This led to at least 34 deaths and over a thousand injuries, according to officials of the Ministry of Health. Many died during clashes between pro- and anti-Morsi protesters, as security forces failed to intervene effectively to end the violence. At least four people died as a result of excessive and unnecessary lethal force by security forces in protests in front of the Republican Guard Club" (ibid, p.7).

This document also states:

"On 5 July, hundreds of supporters of the deposed President marched towards Tahrir Square, where anti-Morsi protesters were holding mass rallies" (ibid, p.10).

This report also notes:

"At least 17 people died in clashes between supporters and opponents of Mohamed Morsi in Alexandria on 5 July, as both groups organized rival protests in the city. A further 300 people were injured, including members of the security forces, according to Alexandria officials at the Ministry of Health and hospital staff" (ibid, p.13).

This document also points out that:

"Violence in the early hours of 8 July around Cairo's Republican Guard Club left at least 54 people dead – including three members of the security forces – and over 400 injured, according to officials including at the Ministry of Health" (ibid, p.18).

In July 2013 *Human Rights Watch* notes:

"Both local residents and demonstrators supporting former President Mohamed Morsy died in clashes on the night of July 2, 2013 near Cairo University. The clashes were the deadliest incident of the past week, with 18 people reported dead" (Human Rights Watch (5 July 2013) *Egypt: Deadly Clashes at Cairo University*).

A document issued in July 2013 by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

"On July 5 the Muslim Brotherhood called for nationwide marches in support of the ousted president, Mohamed Morsy. Clashes between pro- and anti-Morsy demonstrators, and between Muslim Brotherhood supporters and the army, took place in Cairo, Alexandria, Zaqaziq, Fayyoum, Minya, Assiut, Luxor, and al-Arish, based on media reports and witness accounts to Human Rights Watch. In many instances, witnesses said, security forces looked on without intervening as pro- and anti-Morsi supporters attacked each other. Egyptian media reported on July 6 that Mohamed Sultan, deputy head of Egypt's national ambulance service, said that 36 people had been killed on July 5 and the Health Ministry said that more than 1,000 had been injured" (Human Rights Watch (7 July 2013) *Egypt: Threat of Escalating Street Violence*).

In July 2013 a report released by *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

"Egypt's interim president Adly Mansour should ensure impartial investigations of military officers and police for killings outside the Republican Guard headquarters on July 8, 2013, Human Rights Watch said today…Witnesses described a sequence of events on July 8, in which the military and police used unnecessary force, leading to the deaths of 51 protesters. Prosecutors have investigated only Muslim Brotherhood supporters and leaders for their alleged roles in the clashes, but not the military and police forces" (Human Rights Watch (14 July 2013) *Egypt: Investigate Police, Military Killings of 51*).

A report issued in July 2013 by *Amnesty International* states:

"In the last two weeks, hundreds of members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of Egypt's deposed President, Mohamed Morsi, have been rounded-up and are facing accusations of inciting or participating in violence" (Amnesty International (17 July 2013) *Arrests Of Muslim Brotherhood Members And Supporters*, p.5).

In July 2013 a report released by *Amnesty International* notes:

"Since the beginning of the latest political crisis in Egypt, Amnesty International has documented a consistent pattern of failure by the Egyptian security forces to protect protesters, bystanders and residents from attacks by armed assailants, or to put an end to violent clashes between rival groups. The heightened political tensions after the ouster of President Morsi have resulted in frequent clashes between his supporters and opponents, leading to deaths and injuries on both sides in several governorates across Egypt" (Amnesty International (25 July 2013) *Egypt Risks Spiralling Into Partisan Violence*, p.5).

This report also points out that:

"At least 12 people were killed in clashes in Greater Cairo early on 22 and 23 July 2013, among them supporters and opponents of the deposed President, as well as bystanders" (ibid, p.6).

This document also states:

"On the evening of Friday 19 July 2013, thousands of supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi marched in the city of Mansoura, 125 kilometres north-east of Cairo. Protesters said that after completing the evening prayers of the Muslim month of Ramadan (Tarawih) they marched peacefully for around an hour from Zeraieen Mosque to the east of Mansoura. They then continued to march into the city on the main road, Abdel Salam Aref. They proceeded onto Al-Teraa Street, where unknown assailants in civilian clothes attacked the march" (ibid, p.9).

This report also notes:

"Clashes in Giza Square between supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi and local residents left at least nine people dead as a result of 'gunshots', according to a source at the Forensic Pathology Department in Cairo…According to pro-Morsi protesters and local residents, clashes erupted on 22 July at about 11pm around Giza Square" (ibid, p.15).

This document also points out that:

"On 22 July 2013, several marches by supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi reached downtown Cairo, coming close to Tahrir Square where anti-Morsi protesters have been staging a sit-in since the end of June 2013. One march, protesting the killings of Morsi's supporters, stopped in front of the office of the Public Prosecutor at around noon. At the same time, Morsi's family held a press conference at the Engineers' Syndicate, which is on the same street, denouncing the fact the fact that the deposed President and nine members of his team are being detained in an unknown location. In the afternoon, Morsi supporters marched to the US Embassy, near Tahrir Square, to protest against the US's position towards Morsi. These marches didn't result in violence. However a video taken by a journalist showed men in plain clothes – apparently Morsi supporters – wearing helmets and armed with sticks and guns, firing intermittently in the direction of Tahrir Square, sparking clashes with anti-Morsi protesters" (ibid, p.17).

In July 2013 *Human Rights Watch* states:

"Many of the at least 74 pro-Morsy protesters killed in clashes with Egypt's…riot police and plain clothed men who stood alongside were shot in the head or chest. They were killed on July 27 over a period of several hours during clashes on a road near the Muslim Brotherhood's sit-in at Rabaa al-Adawiya in eastern Cairo" (Human Rights Watch (28 July 2013) *Egypt: Many Protesters Shot in Head or Chest*).

A report released in July 2013 by *Amnesty International* notes:

"Evidence that the security forces have once again used unwarranted live fire and other excessive force underlines the crucial need for police reform, said Amnesty International after a weekend of violence left 90 dead. Security forces used live rounds and tear gas to disperse supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi during demonstrations on Saturday, leaving 80 people dead. A further 10 people were killed by gunfire during clashes in Alexandria" (Amnesty International (29 July 2013) *Egypt: Police must be reined in to prevent further bloodshed*).

In August 2013 a publication issued by the *Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset* includes a graph of conflict events including July 2013 (Armed Conflict Location and Events Dataset (12 August 2013) *Conflict trends (no. 17): Real-time analysis of African political violence, August 2013*, p.3).

A report published by the *Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights* (EIPR) in August 2013 points out that:

"According to a preliminary count by the EIPR, more than 165 people were killed and hundreds more injured in political violence from 27 June to the end of July in 16 governorates: Cairo, Giza, Qalyoubiya, Alexandria, Daqahliya, Sharqiya, Assyout, Fayyoum, Beni Soueif, Kafr Sheikh, Ismailiya, Minya, Suez, Beheira, Port Said and Gharbiya" (Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (12 August 2013) *Public Prosecution must investigate criminal failure*

of the police to protect the lives of demonstrators; more than 165 killed in civil clashes in 16 governorates in July).

In August 2013 *Amnesty International* states:

"At about 6am on 14 August 2013 the security forces carried out operations to clear two pro- Morsi sit-ins in Greater Cairo, ongoing since 28 June 2013. The dispersal came after repeated threats by the authorities to remove the protesters, who they said were 'terrorists' endangering 'national security'. The smaller sit-in in al-Nahda, by Cairo University, was cleared with relative ease after a couple of hours, with clashes quickly spreading to other parts of Giza, and continuing late into the night. However, the operation to disperse the Rabaa al-Adawiya sit-in took about 10 hours, with protracted clashes documented from at least three entrances to the sit-in, and in surrounding side-streets, in some cases about 1.5 kilometres away from the radius of the main sit-in area. As of Friday morning, Egypt's Health Ministry reported 638 deaths across Egypt. Of these, 288 were in the Nasr City neighbourhood, the site of the main pro-Morsi sit-in at Rabaa al- Adawiya Square. This makes it the bloodiest single incident since the outbreak of the '25 January Revolution' more than two years ago" (Amnesty International (16 August 2013) *Egypt: 'People Were Dying All Around Me', Testimonies From Cairo Violence On 14 August 2013*, p.5).

A report issued in August 2013 by *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

"Egyptian security forces' rapid and massive use of lethal force to disperse sit-ins on August 14, 2013 led to the most serious incident of mass unlawful killings in modern Egyptian history" (Human Rights Watch (19 August 2013) *Egypt: Security Forces Used Excessive Lethal Force*).

In August 2013 *Article 19* notes:

"In the early morning of 14 August 2013, Egyptian security forces started to clear the Muslim Brotherhood's six week long sit-ins in Rabaa Mosque Square in Nasr City, east of Cairo, and Nahda Square. The sit-ins had been set up by protesters demonstrating against the removal on 3 July of elected President Mohammed Morsi , his continuing detention and the suspension of the 2012 Constitution. As result of the violent intervention by the security forces, unconfirmed numbers of civilians have reportedly been killed by live ammunition, and a higher number of civilians have been seriously injured. According to the BBC the Egyptian Ministry of Health has reported 95 people killed and nearly 400 injured. The Ministry of the Interior has also reported that six security officers have been killed by armed protesters. For the Muslim Brotherhood, a massacre has been committed resulting in the killings of some 500 protesters" (Article 19 (19 August 2013) *Egypt: Article 19 condemns the killings of scores of pro-Morsi protesters while clearing peaceful sit-ins in Cairo*).

A report published by *BBC News* in August 2013 notes:

"More than 80 people have been killed in Egypt, officials say, as protesters loyal to the ousted President Mohammed Morsi clashed with security forces. Most of the reported deaths were in Cairo, but about 25 were elsewhere,

including 12 in Nile Delta cities" (BBC News (17 August 2013) *Egypt crisis: Dozens dead in Egypt 'day of anger'*).

Agence France Presse in August 2013 points out that:

> "According to an AFP tally, at least 1,042 people have been killed since June 26, when Morsi supporters began protesting before mass demonstrations against the Islamist leader that prompted the military to end his single year of turbulent rule on July 3" (Agence France Presse (17 August 2013) *Egypt police end standoff with Islamists at mosque*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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