

United States Must Support A Peaceful Solution in Egypt

by Michele Steinberg

July 29—In his Friday webcast on July 26 (www.larouchepac.com), Lyndon LaRouche issued his assessment of the situation in Egypt, in answer to a question from members of U.S. policy institutions. That day, July 26, more than 10 million Egyptians—both Christians and Muslims—answered the call by Army chief Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to mobilize in support of the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood.

“What you’ve seen in the way in which Egypt has reacted to the threats from one faction, which has been conspiring to try to overthrow the government—well, they did an excellent job,” said LaRouche. Referring to the interim government under General al-Sisi, LaRouche continued, “They unified all the healthy elements, essentially all the elements of Egypt together, to prevent this new chaos.

“Now, there are two aspects to this. There’s the Egyptian aspect as such; there’s also the aspect of nations like the United States, because these outside nations do have an influence in determining what the result is going to be, in terms of this election process itself. It can suddenly explode; the Egyptian military and others are well aware of that, and have taken specific precautions against it. . . .

“We just have to contribute our part to this process. This is not a predetermined result; this is a result that *we* have to actively be involved in, not by putting our troops on the ground, but in putting support for a peaceful solution for the present situation,” LaRouche concluded.

Also on July 26, as millions turned out to support

al-Sisi, several hundreds of thousands of pro-Morsi Egyptians allied with the Muslim Brotherhood took to the streets. By July 28, following days of sporadic fighting between Muslim Brotherhood members and Egyptian security officials, the death toll has risen, with government officials reporting civilian deaths in the tens, and Morsi supporters reporting deaths in the hundreds.

According to a well-informed Egyptian analyst, the Muslim Brotherhood strategy is now to maximize the number of arrests, injuries, and deaths, by carrying out violent street attacks in order to hoist the “bloody shirt” of human rights violations.

“The Muslim Brotherhood has lost politically, and they are just sending their members into the streets” as cannon fodder, the analyst said on July 28. “The Brotherhood is playing to the international community, not to the Egyptian people,” he added, noting that the MB is banking on the Obama Administration and other international players to label the al-Sisi government takeover as a coup and begin a process similar to the Anglo-Saudi-Qatar-Obama attacks on Syria.

Terror Danger

General al-Sisi’s call for the July 26 demonstration was a risky move, reported Egyptian sources, but it was taken in response to hard intelligence that the Muslim Brotherhood was arming its members—up to 700,000 of them—as part of a ten-day offensive that was to begin on July 26, and culminate on the 27th day of the Muslim month of Ramadan—the most holy day, known

as the Night of Power.

High-level Washington intelligence sources confirmed the Egyptian reports that the Morsi and Muslim Brotherhood forces were about to unleash a campaign of bombings, assassinations, and attacks on police stations and military barracks.

In Cairo and other Egyptian cities, the terrorist plot of bombings was averted by pre-emptive government action that *did not* prevent the Brotherhood's peaceful demonstrations. But, the Brotherhood attacks in the sparsely populated Sinai caused casualties on both sides.

There is no question that the turnout of millions of demonstrators in support of al-Sisi is an extremely significant warning to Morsi's supporters that the population is not supporting them, Egyptian sources told *EIR*. But at the same time, the Islamists were able to maintain a sizeable vigil outside the Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque in Cairo's populous Nasr City district for close to a month, to demand that Morsi be reinstated.

Prior to the July 26 demonstrations, the Egyptian Army charged Morsi with specific crimes, including "conspiring" with the Palestinian organization Hamas and killing police and prison guards. The charge was


made, reported Egyptian sources, under increasing pressure from the United Nations (including Secretary General Ban Ki-moon) and from human rights groups to "charge Morsi with a crime or release him." Following the charges, an Egyptian court ordered Morsi to be held for 15 days while an investigation is conducted.

While the July 26 events were largely peaceful, Egyptian sources warned that violence could explode at any moment. The Muslim Brotherhood leaders who are detained by the government are refusing to negotiate—continuing the stonewalling they practiced in the lead-up to the June 30 demonstrations which involved up to 22 million citizens who demanded the removal of Morsi.

So far, the Brotherhood has opted for confrontation and violence. Its leaders are depending on the power of "humanitarian" organizations to force the military to reinstate Morsi. On July 25, the London-based rights group Amnesty International criticized al-Sisi's call for rallies.

Solidarity Across Religious Lines

"In a gesture to show national unity and solidarity, ... Egyptian Christians will be fasting today alongside



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CONTENTS

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- Greece, and a Marshall Plan for the Mediterranean Basin
- Spain: Bridge to African Development
- The Rebirth of Italy's Mezzogiorno
- Africa Pass
- The Transaqua Project
- North Africa: The Blue Revolution
- What Europe Can Learn from Argentina
- A German Economic Miracle for Europe

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their Muslim countrymen, and for the first time in history, the Egyptian Coptic churches will ring their bells at sunset signaling breakfast time along with those of al-Maghreb Azan” [the Islamic call to prayer], reported journalist Wael Nawara in *al-Monitor* on July 26, in a morning article before the massive pro-al-Sisi rally began.

According to Ahram Online’s reporter in the field on July 26, a number of high-ranking police officers joined the pro-military protesters in Cairo’s Tahrir Square. The officers were welcomed with cheers and chants of “the Army, the police, and the people are one hand.”

The Coptic Church’s ringing of the church bells in a gesture of solidarity with Muslims observing Ramadan, was prominently reported on TV and Internet video coverage throughout the world, showing Egyptian demonstrators moved to tears by the unprecedented collaboration at a time of great tension. Arab media reports also showed photos of Christian crosses alongside the Muslim crescents at the demonstrations supporting al-Sisi.

Many Egyptians are well aware that al-Sisi was a crucial voice in insisting that the Army serves the people, not a particular regime. In a July 26 article, Yasser Rizq, editor-in-chief of the Egyptian paper *al-Masry al-Youm*, reported that in 2010, al-Sisi had written a paper for then Army Field Marshal Muhamed Hussein Tantawi, giving an assessment of the coming instability in Egypt. In it, al-Sisi warned about an uprising against the authoritarian rule by Hosni Mubarak. “Tantawi asked him: ‘At that time, what do you think we should do?’ Al-Sisi replied: ‘We will support the people’s uprising and will not fire on a single citizen,’” reported Rizq.

But many—both Egyptians and outside observers—do not know that al-Sisi also met many times in recent months with Morsi, urging him to open his government to a coalition that included the opposition. Morsi reportedly arrogantly replied that Washington would never allow the military to remove him from power.

Unless there is improvement in the economic situation¹—jobs, food, bread, milk for the children, and fuel—there will be a social explosion against whoever is in power. Despite the Army’s success on July 26 in preventing large-scale Muslim Brotherhood terrorist actions, stability is far from assured.

1. See Hussein Askary, “Proposal for an Egyptian Declaration of Economic Independence,” *EIR*, July 26, 2013. Also available in [Arabic](#).