



AMINA ISMAIL/MCT

Residents try to move their dead into the overwhelmed Zeinhoum mosque in Cairo on Thursday in an effort to get them outside of the heat.

Egypt

Death Toll From Violence Rises To 638

Obama Scraps U.S. Military Exercises With Egypt

CHILMARK, Mass. (AP) — President Barack Obama on Thursday canceled joint U.S.-Egypt military exercises, saying America's traditional co-operation with Egypt "cannot continue as usual" while violence and instability deepen in the strategically important nation.

It's unclear whether scrapping the Bright Star exercise will have any impact in stopping the clashes between Egypt's military-backed interim government and supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi. Obama said his administration would look at possible further steps, but he gave no indication that the U.S. planned to cut off its \$1.3 billion in annual military aid to Egypt.

Speaking from his vacation home on Martha's Vineyard, Obama said the U.S. wants democracy in Egypt to succeed. But he said achieving that outcome is not the responsibility of the United States.

"America cannot determine the future of Egypt," Obama said in his first statement since violence erupted Wednesday. "That's a task for the Egyptian people. We don't take sides with any particular party or political figure."

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO — Weeping relatives in search of loved ones uncovered the faces of the bloodied, unclaimed dead in a Cairo mosque near the smoldering epicenter of support for ousted President Mohammed Morsi, as the death toll soared past 600 Thursday from Egypt's deadliest day since the Arab Spring began.

World condemnation widened for the bloody crack-down Wednesday on Morsi's mostly Islamist supporters, including an angry response from President Barack Obama, who canceled joint U.S.-Egyptian military maneuvers.

Violence spread Thursday, with government buildings set afire near the Pyramids, policemen gunned down and scores of Christian churches attacked. As turmoil engulfed the country, the Interior Ministry authorized the use of deadly force against protesters targeting police and state institutions.

The Muslim Brotherhood, trying to regroup after the assault on their encampments and the arrest of many of their leaders, called for a mass rally on Friday in a challenge to the government's declaration of a monthlong nationwide state of emergency and a dusk-to-dawn curfew.

At least 638 people were confirmed killed and nearly 4,000 wounded in the violence sparked when riot police backed by armored vehicles and bulldozers smashed the two sit-ins in Cairo where Morsi's mainly Islamist supporters had been camped out for six weeks calling for his reinstatement. It was the deadliest day by far since the 2011 popular uprising that toppled autocratic ruler Hosni

Cairo death toll

More than 500 were killed when security forces stormed protest camps in Cairo.



Confirmed deaths

Rabaa al-Adawiya At least 137
Nahda Square 57
Helwan suburb 29
Other provinces 198
Security forces 43

NOTE: Deaths still being confirmed at above sites; this total does not equal overall deaths
Source: BBC, ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NACTEQ, NRCan © 2013 MCT

Mubarak and plunged the country into more than two years of instability.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that 288 of those killed were in the largest protest camp in Cairo's Nasr City district, while 90 others were slain in a smaller encampment at al-Nahda Square, near Cairo University. Others died in clashes that broke out between Morsi's supporters and security forces elsewhere in the Egyptian capital and other cities.

Mohammed Fathallah, the ministry spokesman, said earlier that the blood-soaked bodies lined up in the El Imam mosque in Nasr City were not included in the official death

toll. It was not immediately clear if the new figures included the ones at the mosque.

Inside the mosque-turned-morgue, the names of the dead were scribbled on white sheets covering the bodies, many of them charred, and a list with 265 names was plastered on the wall. Heat made the stench from the corpses almost unbearable as the ice brought in to chill the bodies melted and household fans offered little relief.

Over the mosque speakers, announcements urged people to leave because their body heat was making the humid conditions worse inside the mosque, where posters of Morsi were piled up in a corner.

Many people complained that authorities were preventing them from obtaining permits to bury their dead, although the Muslim Brotherhood announced that several funerals had been held Thursday for victims who had been identified. Fathallah denied that permits were being withheld.

Omar Houzien, a volunteer helping families search for their loved ones, said the bodies were carried to the mosque from a medical center at the protest camp in the final hours of Wednesday's police sweep because of fears that they would be burned.

Elsewhere, a mass funeral was held in Cairo for some of the 43 security troops who authorities said were killed in Wednesday's clashes. Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, who is in charge of the police, led the mourners. A police band played solemn music as red fire engines bore the coffins draped in white, red and black Egyptian flags in a funeral procession.

Powerful Car Bomb Kills 18 In Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A powerful car bomb tore through a bustling south Beirut neighborhood that is a stronghold of Hezbollah on Thursday, killing at least 18 and trapping dozens of others in an inferno of burning cars and buildings in the bloodiest attack yet on Lebanese civilians linked to Syria's civil war.

The blast is the second in just over a month to hit one of the Shiite militant group's bastions of support, and the deadliest in decades. It raises the specter of a sharply divided Lebanon being pulled further into the conflict next door, which is being fought on increasingly sectarian lines pitting Sunnis against Shiites.

Syria-based Sunni rebels and militant Islamist groups fighting to topple Syria's President Bashar Assad have threatened to target Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon in retaliation for intervening on behalf of his regime in the conflict.

Thursday's explosion ripped through a crowded, overwhelmingly Shiite area tightly controlled by Hezbollah, turning streets lined with vegetable markets, bakeries and shops into scenes of destruction.

Dozens of ambulances rushed to the site of the explosion and firefighters used cranes and ladders to try to evacuate terrified residents from burning buildings. Some fled to the rooftops of buildings and civil defense workers were still struggling to bring them down to safety several hours after the explosion.

Recorders Found From UPS Plane Crash

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Investigators found flight recorders on Thursday that could hold important clues about why a UPS jet crashed at Birmingham's airport, killing two pilots.

The voice and flight data recorders were found among the wreckage of the plane that went down as it was attempting to land in Birmingham early Wednesday. The plane slammed into a hillside just short of the runway.

Workers in white coveralls focused Thursday on the tail section of the aircraft where the devices are typically found. In the late morning, one of them emerged from the partially burned section carrying one of the recorders and put it on an all-terrain vehicle. Other debris remains on the ground and hasn't been moved.

The search of the tail area had been delayed because it was still smoldering late Wednesday.

The A300 jet headed from Louisville, Ky., to Birmingham, Ala., landed in a field near the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth Airport around daybreak Wednesday, killing the two pilots on board and scattering wreckage over a wide area. The aircraft rained pieces of metal into front yards and sheared off a piece of one family's back deck.

New mammal

Scientists have discovered a previously unknown species of mammal — the olinguito, a small raccoon-like animal.

A shy bear

First carnivore species discovered in the Western Hemisphere in 35 years

Diet Mainly fruit; some may also eat insects and nectar
Behavior Solitary, mostly nocturnal

Found in Ecuador and Colombia "cloud forests"

Mistaken identity

Some olinguitos previously thought to be olingos, a larger member of raccoon family

Olinguitos are

- Smaller
- Shorter tail
- Rounder face
- Tinier ears
- Darker fur



Source: Smithsonian, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

New Mammal Species Discovered

WASHINGTON (AP) — Imagine a mini-raccoon with a teddy bear face that is so cute it's hard to resist, let alone overlook. But somehow science did — until now.

Researchers announced Thursday a rare discovery of a new species of mammal called the olinguito. The reddish-brown animal is about 14-inches long with an equally long tail and weighs about 2 pounds.

It belongs to a grouping of large creatures that include dogs, cats and bears.

The critter leaps through the trees of mountainous forests of Ecuador and Colombia at night, according to a Smithsonian researcher who has spent the past decade tracking them.

Hagel Looks To Cut Impact Of Recent Obama Remarks On Sexual Assaults

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a highly unusual move to blunt the legal impact of the president's comments on military sexual assaults, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is ordering his top leaders to be sure to only base their judicial decisions on facts and their own independent judgment.

The one-page memo tells the military that even though senior U.S. leaders may openly condemn sexual assault, drug abuse, hazing and other crimes, such comments are not intended to sway the outcome of any particular case.

In early May, as high-profile incidents of sexual assault in the military spiked, President Barack Obama — the nation's commander in chief — declared he had no tolerance for the matter.

"I don't want just more speeches or awareness programs or training but, ultimately, folks look the other way," he said. "If we find out



Hagel

fired, dishonorably discharged. Period."

Obama's remarks have already affected the outcome in some cases, including the decision by a judge in South Carolina to dismiss sexual assault charges against a soldier. Defense lawyers have argued that the president's remarks amounted to unlawful command influence on the cases.

"The comments made by the president did result in an impact in some of the cases that were ongoing from the view of the judges," Lt. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, director of the Joint Staff, said during a

somebody is engaging in this stuff, they've got to be held accountable — prosecuted, stripped of their positions, court-martialed,

Pentagon press briefing Thursday. "As a result, we believed it was necessary ... to make a statement, simply to ensure that commanders understood that they act independently, based on the merits of a case, and to ensure that there's no taint in any of the jurisdiction that takes place or any of the cases that are ongoing now."

It's not clear if the memo will effectively limit the legal arguments that defense attorneys have made. But Scaparrotti said that commanders understand their responsibility to act on the merits of a case and will continue to act independently in line with the justice system.

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