General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News
Creator: Brian Williams/Richard Engel
Event Date: 07/03/2013
Air/Publish Date: 07/03/2013

Resource Type: Video News Report
Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Copyright Date: 2013
Clip Length: 00:04:13

Description

Tens of thousands turn out in Cairo's Tahrir Square to celebrate the ousting of President Mohammed Morsi, the first democratically-elected president in Egypt, from the government by military intervention.

Keywords

Egypt, Mohamed Morsi, Mohammed Morsi, Cairo, Tahrir Square, President, Military, Coup, Revolution, Citizens, Civilians, Egyptians, Celebration, Muslim Brotherhood, Islam, Muslim, Protests, Protestors, Fundamentalists, Fundamentalism, Religion, Votes, Election, Constitution, Army, Democracy, Intervention, Embassy, Radical, Uprising, Arab Spring, Supporters, Politics

Citation

MLA
"Egypt's President Morsi Ousted by Military." Richard Engel, correspondent. NBC Nightly News. NBCUniversal Media. 3 July 2013. NBC Learn. Web. 8 September 2018
**Transcript**

*Egypt's President Morsi Ousted by Military*

**BRIAN WILLIAMS**, anchor:

Good evening. It is a wild night in Tahrir Square in Cairo and across Egypt for that matter because just today and just like that, their new president is gone. The last time we saw an upheaval like this was during the Arab Spring, when Hosni Mubarak was thrown from power. The new president, Morsi, was democratically elected, now he’s gone after a year in office. And right now, tonight the power structure is vague after the military rolled in. Our team is in place in Cairo tonight, including our chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel back on some familiar territory. Richard, good evening.

**RICHARD ENGEL**, reporting:

Good evening, Brian. Some people here are saying what has happened today was a coup. That is certainly what the now ousted President Morsi is saying. In his only statement so far, he has said, quote, "A revolution has been stolen." But in Tahrir Square, they are not calling this a coup. They say it was an intervention by the military at their request for change.

Just watch and listen. It’s the cry of millions of Egyptians, an outpouring of joy and relief that a weight has been lifted from their shoulders--the end of an experiment in political Islam gone wrong.

**WOMAN:** I’m crying because I’m so happy. So happy we get rid of them.

**MAN:** We are now free Egypt, out of the Muslim Brothers.

**ENGEL:** A reset button pushed once again in Egyptian politics by protests and ultimately the military. Tonight, as army helicopters flew over Tahrir Square dropping flags, Egyptians lit them up with lasers, thanking the military for driving out President Morsi, who they claim neglected the needs of the people while empowering Muslim fundamentalists.

Make no mistake these celebrations are not against Islam, or even Islam in politics, but against Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood for using religion to win votes and then governing badly.

The celebrations were triggered by this highly anticipated announcement: the army chief on national television outlining a roadmap.

Morsi out, the constitution suspended; the head of the constitutional court, the new president--but only until early elections. The army stressed it doesn’t want to run Egypt. But can it be believed? And what
about Morsi and his supporters? They're calling this a naked coup, an affront to Islam, a plot by Israel and America. They are furious. The army has deployed armored vehicles to contain them but they are armed and some could start an insurgency.

Back in Tahrir Square, back with the winners, what about democracy? Is a military intervention really what they wanted? No, but they say it was their only choice to fix a mistake they don’t want to repeat. And, Brian, tonight there are deep concerns about what will happen next in this country. The U.S. embassy, which is located just at the back of Tahrir Square, has ordered all nonessential personnel and their families to leave Egypt and is even encouraging American citizens in Egypt to leave the country. Brian.

WILLIAMS: And-- and Richard, Isn’t job one of the military now to convince a couple of million people to go home and to peacefully leave the Square? And what will victory look like for them in that way?

ENGEL: These protesters are probably going to be in this Square for the next several days at least. The first order of business from the military seems to be to try and limit incitement. And already there’ve been arrests and moves to close down some of the Muslim Brotherhood’s television stations. The-- they do not want radical clerics, radical Islamists taking to the airwaves and calling on Morsi supporters to come out and start an uprising. The army’s concern right now is not these people in the Square, but mostly the people who backed Morsi who tonight did not get their way.

WILLIAMS: Amid the fireworks, gunfire, and laser pointers, Richard Engel above a very noisy and boisterous Tahrir Square tonight. Richard, thanks.