

Beat: Miscellaneous

UN chief says 'inclusive dialogue' is key to solving Egypt's

-, 05.07.2013, 03:44 Time

USPA News - Appealing once again to the people of Egypt to exercise restraint and pursue inclusive dialogue, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday expressed serious concern about "military interference" in the political crisis gripping the country. "At this moment of continued high tension and uncertainty in the country, I reiterate my appeals for calm, non-violence, dialogue and restraint," Ban, who has been traveling through Europe this week, said during a joint press conference in the Danish capital of Copenhagen with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

The the press conference, Ban recalled the statement issued by his spokesman in New York City on Wednesday night on the current situation in Egypt, where massive nationwide protests against the Government of Mohamed Morsi have sparked a political crisis. It led to Morsi being deposed, the Constitution being suspended, and paved way for an interim government. The UN chief said that in their protests, many Egyptians voiced deep frustrations and legitimate concerns. "At the same time, military interference in the affairs of any State is of serious concern and is not consistent with fundamental democratic principles," he said, adding: "Therefore, it will be crucial to quickly reinforce civilian rule in accordance with principles of democracy." "We are following closely, and with continuing concern, the fast-moving developments in Egypt," Ban added, stressing that an inclusive approach is essential to addressing the needs and concerns of all Egyptians. "I think one key to a successful resolution of this crisis is inclusivity and any discussions, dialogue or governing bodies should include representatives from the wide spectrum of Egyptian politics." Prior to the military coup this week, the army had issued a 48-hour ultimatum to resolve the crisis and warned it would else be forced to step in to restore order. The threat came after Egypt had been rocked by escalating civil unrest for several days, resulting in huge rallies and deadly clashes between supporters and opponents of Morsi.

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-1216/un-chief-says-und39inclusive-dialogueund39-is-key-to-solving-egyptund39s-crisis.html>

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