

PAS condemns Egyptian army's violence

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PAS has called for an emergency sitting of the Malaysian parliament to condemn the violence against supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamad Morsi by the Egyptian army.

Its vice president Salahuddin Ayub said convening the parliament would offer members from both sides of the divide to express their disgust over events in Egypt.

"We have seen this type of violence once before in Bosnia and we thought we will never see it again. But it has happened," he told a crowd of some 2,000 people this evening at a rally organised by the Islamist party at Padang Merbok in Kuala Lumpur.

DAP organising secretary Anthony Loke, while calling for an emergency sitting of the parliament, criticised Putrajaya over its silence regarding the events in Egypt.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak could find time to comment on alleged irregularities in DAP's party elections but not to condemn Egypt's military government.

PAS deputy president Mohamed Sabu said the violence by the Egyptian army and police on the Morsi's supporters was a "shameful" act against its fellow citizens.

"The police and army in any country are supposed to protect its citizens, not kill them. Mohamad Morsi was elected democratically," Mat Sabu said at a solidarity rally in Padang Merbok, Kuala Lumpur.

Mohamad Sabu called on the Organisation of Islamic Conference to intervene and help restore democracy in Egypt.

The crowd, including flag-bearing Egyptians living here, started gathering at around 2pm.

Egyptian security forces have earned worldwide censure over the violent force used on Morsi's supporters.

The bloody crackdown has resulted in the deaths of hundreds in Egypt. More than 1,000 supporters of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood have been arrested according to reports.

The Egyptian cabinet issued a defiant statement after the unrest, saying it was confronting a "terrorist plot."

"The Cabinet affirms that the government, armed forces, police and the great people of Egypt are united in confronting the malicious terrorist plot by the Muslim Brotherhood," it said.

And the Interior Ministry, which authorised police to use live fire if government buildings came under attack, accused the Brotherhood of attacking police stations, saying it foiled attempts to storm buildings.

The United States had led the international outcry against the Egyptian army with President

Barack Obama said the US was cancelling a joint US-Egyptian military exercise, but stopped short of suspending Washington's annual US\$1.3 billion (RM4.3 billion) in aid.

Human rights organisation Amnesty International called for a full and impartial investigation into the bloodshed, said the authorities' response to the protests had been "grossly disproportionate".

But the international response was not uniformly critical. Saudi Arabia and Jordan said they backed Egypt's fight against "terrorism". - 17 August, 2013.

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