

Dear friends,

in these days of blatant horror in the streets and squares of the cities of Egypt, in these days of breathtaking double-speak, double-standards and double-thought I sat down and tried to reflect on the situation.

The following are my seven thoughts on the recent events in Egypt, which I would like to share with you:

1

The military coup against the democratically elected President of Egypt was anti-democratic and illegal. There is no doubt that some decisions taken by the government of President Mursi during its one year rule were not up to the mark, president Mursi himself has admitted this.

However, having accepted this, the question rises, whether faulty decisions taken by a democratically elected government can ever be used as a justification for a military takeover.

Anyone out there counting the mistakes of Obama, Cameron, Merkel and Hollande and ready to call the U.S. Marines, the british SAS, the german KSK and the french BFST ?

2

The supporters of the coup d'etat, unfortunately including the Christian and Muslim clergy, have in reality failed in their alleged effort to safeguard the outcomes of the revolutionary processes in Egypt, which culminated in the downfall of Husni Mubarak in 2011. They have betrayed an ongoing revolutionary process by siding with a military dictatorship. They have decided to favor tyranny and remain silent before the tyrant. The so-called "Tamarod" movement and its allies have factually proven themselves as the gravediggers of Egypt's movement for democracy. They have paved the road for the new ruler's armada of tanks to smoothly and literally crush men, women and children. They have shamefully chosen to become subservient supporters of continued military rule in a civilian garb and they still have the cheek to call themselves the custodians of democracy.

Anyone out there still believing that these self-styled custodians of democracy can still be taken seriously after their masters killed thousands, brutally beat up and incarcerated tens of thousands in a matter of days that eclipses the 17-year long, ruthless rule of the infamous chilean dictator Pinochet?

3

After Algeria in 1991, Palestine in 2006 and now in Egypt in the year 2013, western politicians and governments have betrayed – once again - their own mantras of the rule of law and their demands for free and fair electoral processes. They have betrayed their values and convictions vis-a-vis democratic processes and the results thereof in the Muslim world. The reluctance of certain Western politicians and governments to call a spade a spade, to call a coup a coup sends a devastating signal to the people in Muslim majority countries.

Anyone out there still believing that the majority within the ruling elites in the West are honest in their dedication to the democratic processes in the Muslim world?

4

The old elites and nouveau riche who pillaged the wealth of their country under the decades-long rule of the generals at the expense of an impoverished, voiceless, struggling Egyptian people and who financed the illegal opposition to the legal government of Egypt do carry the sole responsibility for the ongoing carnage and repression that we are witnessing in the streets of Egypt. Respected journalists such as Robert Fisk in Cairo report that they were eye-witnesses, as security forces have paid handsome sums of money to criminal elements and militant goon-squads, including drug addicts to unleash their orgies of violence on peaceful demonstrators.

Anyone out there still believing that the demonstrations as of June this year against a legal government were a spontaneous expression of the “will of the people”?

5

There is a German saying that democracy is the art of drilling thick boards. Those who are the runner-ups in a free and fair electoral process must comprehend this very essence of democracy. Mass demonstrations are and can never be a substitute for legal, democratic processes; they cannot be (ab-)used as a pretext to overthrow a legitimate democratic government. This applies to every country, including Egypt.

Anyone out there still believing that every allegedly western-oriented, liberal or enlightened from and in the Arab world is always a sincere democrat?

6

The domination of politics and politicians by an armed gang, the ban of political parties and peaceful demonstrations as well as the killing of peaceful demonstrators, mass arrests, torture and murder of prisoners, the ban and the synchronization of media are crystal clear attributes of a dictatorship and not of a democracy where law reigns supreme.

Anyone out there still believing that the barracks of the Egyptian military are the breeding grounds for democracy in Egypt?

7

The military takeover of Egypt has nothing to do with Egyptians fighting terrorism. It has nothing to do with the “war on terror”, George W. Bush’s great gift to autocratic, dictatorial rulers and state terrorists. It has nothing to do with an alleged and much propagated Muslim-Christian divide in Egypt, a theme readily played to nurture the fears of Islam and Muslims, especially in the West. It has nothing to do with secularism versus theocracy, it is all about power, regional influence, privileges, plum posts, economic interests and lucrative assets. The military takeover of Egypt is also all about burying the budding democracies in the Arab world for the sake of an ill-founded, unjust definition of regional stability. It is also about the criminal policies of those who have been blessed with enormous material wealth but no vision, who dare not offer freedom of expression and power-sharing to their own people, who use their enormous wealth to suppress, ignore, vilify and obliterate their critics and opponents at home and elsewhere.

In the end Egypt is in essence about the right of credible democrats to civil disobedience. It is about criticizing and challenging a state of affairs that has and deserves no future, it is about those who are willing to challenge the present with the desire to change the future. Real democrats should recognize this fact when defining their adversaries: the enemies of democratic change, the enemies of free and fair electoral processes, the enemies of freedom of expression, the enemies of the rule of law.

Anyone listening?

mbm

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