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Egypt interim govt. declares Brotherhood a 'terrorist' group

12/25/2013

Egypt military-installed government declares the Muslim Brotherhood movement a "terrorist" group banning all its activities amid raging tensions in the North African country.

Egypt interim government officially designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist group on Wednesday, saying that its findings show the movement launched a bomb attack, killing 16 people and leaving some 140 wounded, in Mansoura on Tuesday.

"Egypt was horrified from north to south by the hideous crime committed by the Muslim Brotherhood group," interim Deputy Prime Minister Hossam Eissa said, adding, "This was in context of dangerous escalation to violence against Egypt and Egyptians and a clear declaration by the Muslim Brotherhood group that it still knows nothing but violence."

The Muslim Brotherhood had earlier denied any links to the Manousra attack and condemned the violence there. Also, a group of militants, who call themselves Ansar Beit al-Magdis, claimed responsibility for Tuesday bombing.

Cairo says anyone working with the group will be punished. It says all Brotherhood activities including protest rallies are illegal.

The designation of Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist entity has created speculations that the state is preparing for a major crackdown on the group.

Meanwhile, Egyptian prosecutors have recently referred ousted president, Mohamed Morsi, to a third criminal trial on murder and other charges related to a mass jailbreak during the 2011 revolution.

The military-backed government of Adly Mansour has launched a bloody crackdown on Morsi's supporters and arrested more than 2,000 Muslim Brotherhood members.

Morsi's supporters have been holding weekly demonstrations to condemn the interim government's harsh crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood and the arrest of its leaders and members.

They have been demanding justice for Brotherhood supporters killed in the army crackdown following Morsi's ouster in early July.

The interim government took power after Morsi was ousted by the army on July 3.

Hundreds of supporters of the group have been killed in clashes with the army over the past few months.