

Egypt tense after army ultimatum

Egypt remains in a state of tense uncertainty after the military issued a 48-hour ultimatum to President Mohammed Morsi to resolve the crisis in the country or have the army step in with its own plan



■ **Mohammed Morsi** has rejected ultimatum, saying he will pursue his own plan for national reconciliation, despite resignation of several members of his cabinet. U.S. urging Morsi to respond to demands of demonstrators

■ **Morsi's Islamist allies, including Muslim Brotherhood,** have called for pro-government rallies to defend democratic legitimacy. Many Islamists depict protests as fight against Islam



OPPOSITION



and force him to step down

■ **National Salvation Front (NSF)** – largest opposition bloc headed by **Mohamed ElBaradei** – has urged military to declare Morsi “illegitimate”

MILITARY

■ Egypt's army, led by **General Abdul Fatah el-Sisi**, has praised anti-Morsi protests but leadership denies that ultimatum amounts to coup



■ **Military may want to avoid coup to prevent backlash from Morsi's supporters. Army was heavily criticized for human rights abuses and lack of progress during brief rule after ousting of former president Hosni Mubarak**

TAMAROD (REBEL)



■ Group organizing anti-Morsi protests claims it has collected over 22 million signatures calling for president to step down. Wants head of Supreme Constitutional Court to become interim president, drafting of new constitution and new presidential elections within six months