

Five Protesters Dead in Fresh Egypt Protests



Cairo, January 18 (RHC)-- Five people have been killed and several others wounded after Egyptian police used excessive force against anti-government protesters in the capital, Cairo, and the city of Alexandria.

Four protesters, including a 15-year-old, were killed in Cairo as police fired tear gas and bird shot to disperse supporters of ousted president, Mohamed Morsi, who took to the streets after Friday Prayers to denounce the recent constitutional referendum.

Similar rallies were also held in other parts of Egypt, including the northern coastal city of Alexandria, the city of Giza, the Nile Delta, the seaport city of Suez and the Sinai Peninsula.

The new wave of unrest comes after a two-day constitutional referendum that was hoped to end the deadly clashes across the country. The army-installed government is expected to announce the official results over the weekend.

Officials say 38 percent of Egyptians voted to back a draft charter that would pave the way for a new presidential election later in the year. The Anti-Coup Alliance, a coalition led by the Muslim Brotherhood, rejected the referendum and pledged to stage further protests against the army-installed interim government.

The draft charter bans the formation of religious political parties, allows prosecution of civilians in military courts and also empowers the army to appoint the defense minister and keep its budget beyond any civilian scrutiny.

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