

ATTACK ON ITALIAN CONSULATE IN EGYPT

Mayda I. Youssef

(RIEAS Research Associate & Security Analyst based in Cairo, Egypt)

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Egypt has been facing a rising bombing wave that is not only hitting Sinai, but also hitting Cairo at its core. Fortunately, IS's affiliated Islamic extremists "Ansar Beit El Maqds", based in Sinai, claim responsibility for nearly all of the attacks that take place, giving the state a sign of who its immediate enemies are.

However, in order to be able to set a counter-terror strategy, one should analyze the past incidents that definitely shock the Egyptian society. It also succeeded in establishing an image of an unstable and weak regime, not only to the international community, but also to Egyptian civilians.

On Saturday, July 11th 2015 at 6am the Italian consulate in central Cairo was bombed. Knowing that this was not a working day; and although the incidence took place in a highly populated area, it took place early in the morning, it could easily be concluded that killing a mass amount of Egyptian citizens or Italian convoys was not necessarily the main objective. Hence, why the Italian consulate?

After Egypt's second uprising in 2013, the international community highly condemned the ousting of President Morsi and later the presidential elections that brought President El Sisi to power.

However, Italy did not take the same position Western powers pursued. On the contrary, the strong relationship between the two countries has been maintained, if not strengthened during Sisi's era. This did not only take place on the diplomatic level, but Prime Minister Matteo Renzi also expressed his interest in building a strong defense and military relationship with Egypt, as the Italian government continued to view

Egypt as a strategic partner in fighting ISIS and El Qaeda franchises, eliminating its threat to reach the gateway of Europe, Italy.

The attack followed the killing of Egypt's Prosecutor General, Hisham Barakat, also in the middle of Egypt's capita. Both were successful missions setting cornerstones that will serve their vision in damaging Egypt, or at least the government's reputation. Unfortunately, the government is not setting any counter-strategies and continues to work with a reactive mode, which will not help in eliminating, or diminishing the risks the country is facing.

Hence, the country needs to deal with the consequences and the impacts of such events.

The two recent incidents resulted in a drastic increase in safety concerns, as people, feel that the threat is not further away anymore and that the government failed in providing security, not only to its people, but also to its top political figures. Additionally, diplomats feel threatened and will definitely continue on viewing Egypt as a high-risk area, as the government also failed in securing a diplomatic building. Both, natives and foreigners, will be highly concerned due to the lack of security.

However, most importantly, the bombing of the Italian Consulate indicates, that the Egyptian government is weak and has no capabilities to deny IS access to Italy, if it wishes to.

Hence, Sisi's government will automatically be in a very critical position internally and externally. These incidents negatively impacted the economy and any potential investments, and terrified citizens, negatively impacting the feeling of safety and security. Hence, the government's major profiles, economy and security, were drastically hit.

In addition, considering Egypt a valued strategic partner in fighting the Islamic extremists will continue to be questioned by the Western powers, and will be questioned by Italy, especially if such incidents kept on increasing.