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Egyptian Junta Moves Against Protesters, Strikers

Posted By [Jason Ditz](#)

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The newly installed Egyptian junta, though by and large supported under the assumption that their pledge of a free and fair election within six months will come to pass, has begun taking a number of concerning moves against the protest movement, nominally to “restore order.”

Soldiers and military [police are reportedly beating protesters who have refused to leave Tahrir Square, the site of Cairo’s largest rallies](#), and with martial law now in place, the military has issued a ban on all public protests as well as trade union meetings, and has ordered all striking government workers to return to their jobs.

Meanwhile, [the Mubarak-era state of “emergency” remains in place, and the hundreds of protesters who were disappeared off the streets by the military](#) in the waning days of Mubarak’s regime remain in custody, uncharged it seems.

Whatever the new junta’s long-term plans are, and even if they truly intend to eventually allow Egypt to transition into a free country, the near term consequence has been a brutal crackdown, and the question of whether the Mubarak-style crackdown will be tolerable to people so long as the actual Mubarak remains sidelined.