Cairo Shaken by Bomb Blasts

26/02/2015



Five bomb blasts ripped through Cairo, Egypt Thursday, killing one person and injuring at least five others.

A police station may have been the target of one of the attacks, which security officials say were likely carried out with home made explosives. Authorities immediately blamed insurgents from the Sinai Peninsula, though no group has claimed responsibility.

The Sinai has become Egypt's powder keg since president Mohammed Morsi was overthrown in a military coup led by current president General Abdel Fattah Sisi.

The worst of the violence has been restricted to the Sinai, where last month dozens of people were killed in a <u>slew of militant attacks</u>.

However, Cairo has increasingly been hit with attacks in the lead up to a key Egyptian economic conference next month. Sisi is touting the conference as an opportunity to coax businesses back to Egypt, despite a stagnant economy.

Later this year Egypt will also hold two-stage parliamentary elections.

The country has been without a parliament since June 2012 when lawmakers were dismissed by a controversial court decision. Sisi has ruled the country with executive powers without a Parliament, and has been accused of suppressing political freedoms.

Under Sisi, almost all street protests have been banned, and authorities have been accused of <u>cracking down on dissent</u>.

Since the controversial Protest Law was enacted late last year, thousands of Egyptians have been imprisoned for openly protesting against the government.