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Protesters chant anti-government slogans during mass demonstrations against Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Tahrir Square in Cairo, 4 February 2011.

## Egypt in Crisis

The Egyptian political crisis enters its twelfth day today and the situation getting more fluid as President Hosni Mubarak insists on finishing his fifth term as president despite the huge protests against his regime.

The Leader of the Revolution Muammar Gaddafi, who is also the Chairman of the Arab Summit phoned on Thursday Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as part of his 'continuous communications' with the Egyptian president over the situation going on in Egypt, the Libyan news agency JANA reported.

Later, the leader phoned the

Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, JANA said.

Gaddafi also received a call from the General Secretary of the Arab League Amr Mossua during which the talks focused on unfolding events in Egypt.

Over two million protesters gathered on Friday in Tahrir Square demanding Mubarak to leave office and allow a new coalition government to be formed.

All major and small cities in Egypt also held protests against the regime calling for Mubarak to quit his post.

As the pressure is mounting

on Mubarak both from his people and from his foreign allies such as the United States, the protesters have pledged to stay on the streets of Egypt's cities until embattled Mubarak steps down.

The protest organizers said there will hold protests by the millions on Sunday and Tuesday.

The Egyptian prime minister has said the crowds in Tahrir Square will not be forced to leave and state television says the curfew has been shortened.

In a press conference on Friday US President Barack Obama urged Mr. Mubarak to

listen to the Egyptian people's calls for an orderly transition of power, saying the country could not go back to its "old ways".

Obama stopped short of urging President Hosni Mubarak to step down from power but made it clear that suppression and violence would not be effective in dealing with

Egypt's ongoing protests.

"In light of what's happened, going back to the old ways is not going to work," Obama said at a televised news conference. "Suppression is not going to work, violence is not going to work."

"The only thing that is going

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### Blackouts in northeast Brazil affected 13 million

A widespread blackout cut power to millions of people across Brazil's northeast Friday, but officials insisted the outage should not raise worries about the energy supply in a nation that will host an Olympics and a

World Cup.

Officials said the power failures began in the early morning and quickly spread across eight states in the vast region. An estimate by energy companies indicated at least 13

million people were affected.

In some areas, the power was only out for a few minutes, in other areas a few hours.

Mozart Bandeira Arnaud, director of operations at the Sao

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