

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 18, 2010

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-6800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
2201 C St NW Ste 7276
Washington DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I write today to express my grave concerns regarding the situation in Egypt in the run up to the parliamentary elections. I ask that you and other top administration officials speak out and call on the Egyptian government to respect basic freedoms and human rights.

As you know, on November 28 Egypt will hold parliamentary elections. The pre-election environment has been marred by an increase in arrests, police violence against the opposition, and press restrictions. There has also been a notable increase in sectarian violence between Muslims and Copts due to the failure of the Egyptian government to address the issue. In a recent press interview, Mohamed El Baradei, Nobel peace prize winner and leader of the National Movement for Democratic Change, stated that the Obama Administration has turned its back "on democratization efforts in the Arab world."

In President Obama's Cairo speech he addressed an unyielding belief that all people should have "the ability to speak your mind and have a say in how you are governed; confidence in the rule of law and the equal administration of justice; government that is transparent and doesn't steal from the people; the freedom to live as you choose." Unfortunately, the actions of this administration have failed to support its rhetoric. I was disappointed to learn there appeared to be no discussion of the upcoming elections in your meeting last week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit.

Again, I urge you to speak out against the abuses of the Egyptian government prior to the November 28 elections. The parliamentary elections are an important precursor to the upcoming 2011 presidential elections in Egypt. The failure to speak out will send the wrong message to those fighting for democracy and human rights around the world. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your response.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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