



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

April 8, 2019

The Honorable President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
C/O Embassy of Egypt
3521 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear President Sisi,

We write to recognize and reaffirm the importance of the United States relationship with Egypt. We appreciate that security concerns in Egypt are among your most urgent priorities, and we want to be helpful in ensuring that Egypt maintains secure borders and safety for its people.

We appreciate Egypt's leadership and commitment to peace in the region and with its neighbor Israel. This relationship advances the mutual security challenges faced by both Egypt and Israel. Egypt has been an important security partner of the United States for decades. We recognize the security challenges Egypt has faced in the Sinai, and we extend condolences for the losses that Egyptian forces have suffered as they work to combat terrorism.

We must, however, raise concerns about certain human rights issues. According to a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report (16-435) on U.S. security assistance to Egypt, your government has failed to "provide regular access for U.S. officials to monitor such assistance in areas where the assistance is used." Such access is required pursuant to Sec. 7041 (a) of U.S Public Law 116-6.. To address these concerns, we call on your government to allow greater access for American diplomats into the Sinai Peninsula where Egyptian military operations have recently taken place, as well as other areas of Egypt. We recognize that your country faces legitimate security threats, and we want to ensure that U.S. assistance is being used to address these threats.

In addition, we are also concerned about reports that the Egyptian military and security services are using arbitrary detention, torture, and enforced disappearances, including reportedly thousands of political prisoners that have been held without trial, due process or access to

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counsel or international observers. Thus, we call on Egypt to allow detainees access to legal counsel, consular officers, and international observers, as is consistent with international law.

We are especially concerned by reports that the detainees include several American citizens. We urge you to release these American political prisoners. Finally, we call on Egypt to provide us with a comprehensive accounting of events surrounding the 2015 attack on American citizen April Corley and full compensation to her.

Given the strong, historic relationship between our two countries and deep mutual shared interests, we thank you for taking these concerns seriously.

We look forward to your prompt response to these important matters.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



TED DEUTCH
Chairman
House Subcommittee on the Middle East,
North Africa, and International Terrorism



JOE WILSON
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