

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 44

Supporting democracy, universal rights, and the peaceful transition to a representative government in Egypt.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Supporting democracy, universal rights, and the peaceful transition to a representative government in Egypt.

Whereas the United States and Egypt have long shared a strong bilateral relationship;

Whereas Egypt plays an important role in global and regional politics as well as in the broader Middle East and North Africa;

Whereas Egypt has been, and continues to be, an intellectual and cultural center of the Arab world;

Whereas on January 25, 2011, demonstrations began across Egypt with thousands of protesters peacefully calling for a new government, free and fair elections, significant constitutional and political reforms, greater economic opportunity, and an end to government corruption;

Whereas on January 28, 2011, the Government of Egypt shut down Internet and mobile phone networks almost entirely and blocked social networking websites;

Whereas on January 29, 2011, President Hosni Mubarak appointed Omar Suleiman, former head of the Egyptian General Intelligence Directorate, as Vice President and Ahmed Shafik, former Minister for Civil Aviation, as Prime Minister;

Whereas the demonstrations have continued, making this the longest protest in modern Egyptian history, and on February 1, 2011, millions of protesters took to the streets across the country;

Whereas hundreds of Egyptians have been killed and injured since the protests began;

Whereas on February 1, 2011, President Hosni Mubarak announced that he would not run for reelection later this year, but widespread protests against his government continue;

Whereas on February 1, 2011, President Barack Obama called for an orderly transition, stating that it “must be meaningful, it must be peaceful, and it must begin now.” He also affirmed that: “The process must include a broad spectrum of Egyptian voices and opposition parties. It should lead to elections that are free and fair. And it should result in a government that’s not only grounded in democratic principles, but is also responsive to the aspirations of the Egyptian people.”;

Whereas despite President Hosni Mubarak’s pledge in 2005 that Egypt’s controversial emergency law would be used only to fight terrorism and that he planned to abolish the state of emergency and adopt new antiterrorism legisla-

tion as an alternative, in May 2010, the Government of Egypt again extended the emergency law, which has been in place continuously since 1981, for another 2 years, giving police broad powers of arrest and allowing indefinite detention without charge;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2009 Human Rights Report notes with respect to Egypt, “[t]he government’s respect for human rights remained poor, and serious abuses continued in many areas. The government limited citizens’ right to change their government and continued a state of emergency that has been in place almost continuously since 1967.”;

Whereas past elections in Egypt, including the most recent November 2010 parliamentary elections, have seen serious irregularities at polling and counting stations, security force intimidation and coercion of voters, and obstruction of peaceful political rallies and demonstrations; and

Whereas any election must be honest and open to all legitimate candidates and conducted without interference from the military or security apparatus and under the oversight of international monitors: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) acknowledges the central and historic im-
3 portance of the United States-Egyptian strategic
4 partnership in advancing the common interests of
5 both countries, including peace and security in the
6 broader Middle East and North Africa;

7 (2) reaffirms the United States’ commitment to
8 the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom

1 of speech, and freedom of access to information, in-
2 cluding the Internet, and expresses strong support
3 for the people of Egypt in their peaceful calls for a
4 representative and responsive democratic govern-
5 ment that respects these rights;

6 (3) condemns any efforts to provoke or insti-
7 gate violence, and calls upon all parties to refrain
8 from all violent and criminal acts;

9 (4) supports freedom of the press and strongly
10 condemns the intimidation, targeting, or detention of
11 journalists;

12 (5) urges the Egyptian military to demonstrate
13 maximum professionalism and restraint, and empha-
14 sizes the importance of working to peacefully restore
15 calm and order while allowing for free and non-vio-
16 lent freedom of expression;

17 (6) calls on President Mubarak to immediately
18 begin an orderly and peaceful transition to a demo-
19 cratic political system, including the transfer of
20 power to an inclusive interim caretaker government,
21 in coordination with leaders from Egypt's opposition,
22 civil society, and military, to enact the necessary re-
23 forms to hold free, fair, and internationally credible
24 elections this year;

1 (7) affirms that a real transition to a legitimate
2 representative democracy in Egypt requires concrete
3 steps to be taken as soon as possible, including lift-
4 ing the state of emergency, allowing Egyptians to or-
5 ganize independent political parties without inter-
6 ference, enhancing the transparency of governmental
7 institutions, restoring judicial supervision of elec-
8 tions, allowing credible international monitors to ob-
9 serve the preparation and conduct of elections, and
10 amending the laws and Constitution of Egypt as
11 necessary to implement these and other critical re-
12 forms;

13 (8) pledges full support for Egypt's transition
14 to a representative democracy that is responsive to
15 the needs of the Egyptian people, and calls on all
16 nations to support the people of Egypt as they work
17 to conduct a successful transition to democracy;

18 (9) expresses deep concern over any organiza-
19 tion that espouses an extremist ideology, including
20 the Muslim Brotherhood, and calls upon all political
21 movements and parties in Egypt, including an in-
22 terim government, to affirm their commitment to
23 non-violence and the rule of law, the equal rights of
24 all individuals, accountable institutions of justice, re-
25 ligious tolerance, peaceful relations with Egypt's

1 neighbors, and the fundamental principles and prac-
2 tices of democracy, including the regular conduct of
3 free and fair elections;

4 (10) underscores the vital importance of any
5 Egyptian Government continuing to fulfill its inter-
6 national obligations, including its commitments
7 under the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty signed on
8 March 26, 1979 and the freedom of navigation
9 through the Suez Canal; and

10 (11) ensures that United States assistance to
11 the Egyptian Government, military, and people will
12 advance the goal of ensuring respect for the uni-
13 versal rights of the Egyptian people and will further
14 the national security interests of the United States
15 in the region.

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