



National Religious Campaign Against Torture

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Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

In response to reports of Egyptians being tortured by security forces during the current unrest, and as representatives of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, we write to you today to ask you to press those who govern Egypt to end the use of torture in Egyptian jails. For many years, the U.S. has had a strong relationship with Egypt, and Egypt is the recipient of significant U.S. aid. Whatever happens as the result of the current unrest in Egypt, we ask you to make it clear to those who govern Egypt that in the future the strength of our relationship with Egypt will depend, in part, on the Egyptian government's record on torture.

The U.S. has a particular obligation to encourage Egypt to end its use of torture because in the past, out of fear and cynicism, we abandoned our values and rendered individuals to Egypt with the expectation that they would then be tortured. Having contributed to Egypt's delinquency, we must now help it improve its practices. This will reap practical as well as moral benefits for both the U.S. and Egypt. Being seen as inhumane has harmed U.S. interests around the world and has helped to imperil the current Egyptian regime. Further, ending the use of torture is a moral imperative for people of all nations and creeds.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is a coalition of 300 religious institutions, representing most of the major faith groups, all of whom unequivocally oppose the use of torture. We hope that you will view this time of change in Egypt as an opportunity to promote U.S. values by encouraging the humane treatment of prisoners.

Sincerely,

Linda Gustitus, President

Rev. Richard L. Killmer, Executive Director