

**Congress of the United States**

**Washington, DC 20515**

February 2, 2012

Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi  
President of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces  
of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Cairo

Dear Field Marshal Tantawi:

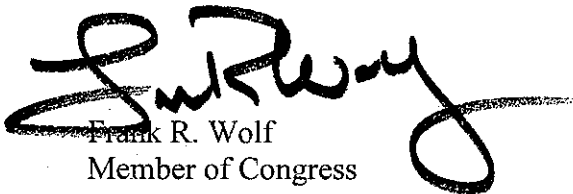
We write to express our serious concerns regarding the December 29, 2011, raids and ongoing investigations by Egyptian authorities aimed at civil society organizations in Egypt. As you know, the 17 raids on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) included U.S.-based Freedom House, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and the International Republican Institute (IRI). These raids are completely unacceptable and constitute an attack on Egyptian civil society writ large. These organizations have been carrying out important and legitimate programs to help support citizen participation in the transition process – a process approved by the Egyptian people in last year's referendum.

Egypt has been an important U.S. ally in the Middle East. We support your efforts to transition to a democratic government and recognize the challenges that you and a new government will face. In countries all over the world, including here in the U.S., independent civil society organizations are integral to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and strong democratic systems. It is our hope that your government recognizes their important role and will allow these groups to actively participate in the democratic process, freely and without interference, as they work to expand respect for human rights and help the Egyptian people in their efforts to form a more just, open, and equitable political system.

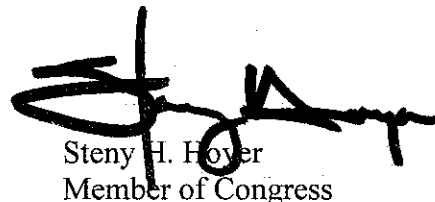
The absence of a quick and satisfactory resolution to this issue will make it increasingly difficult for congressional supporters of a strong U.S.-Egypt bilateral relationship to defend current levels of assistance to Egypt—especially in this climate of budget cuts in Washington. We hope the Egyptian government will immediately allow these offices to reopen, return all confiscated property, end the investigations into these organizations and other civil society groups, and allow NGOs to carry out their activities in an unfettered manner.

We wish to see a strong and mutually beneficial U.S.-Egyptian relationship. In order for this to happen, we must have confidence in your efforts to support a transition to a democratic system under civilian control, where the freedoms of assembly, association, religion and expression are protected.

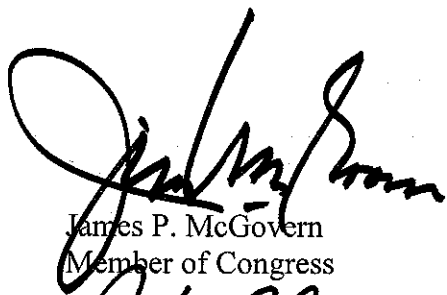
Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress



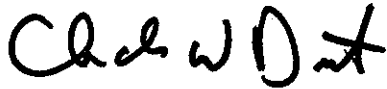
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress



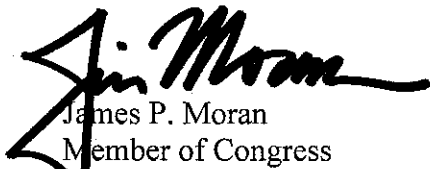
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



John R. Carter  
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent  
Members of Congress



James P. Moran  
Member of Congress



Jo Bonner  
Member of Congress



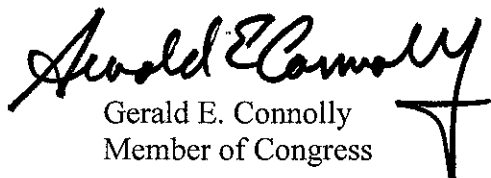
Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress




Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



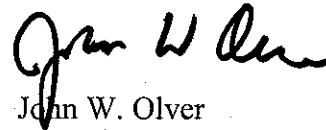
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



John W. Olver  
Member of Congress




Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



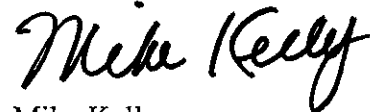
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



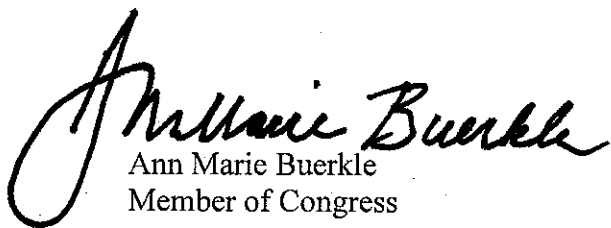
Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress



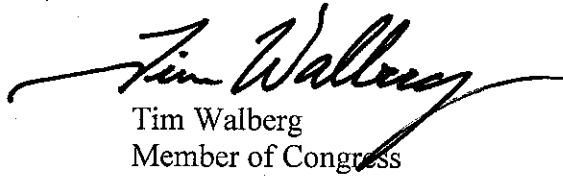
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

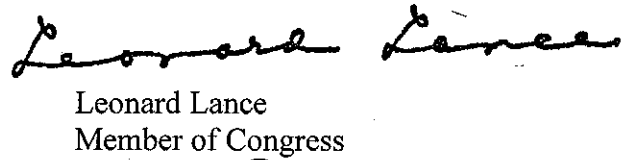


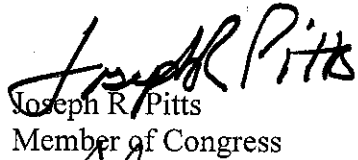
Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

  
Ann Marie Buerkle  
Member of Congress

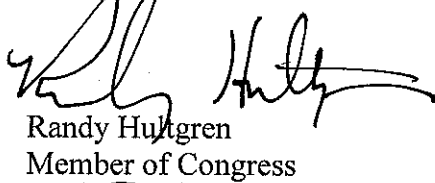
  
Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

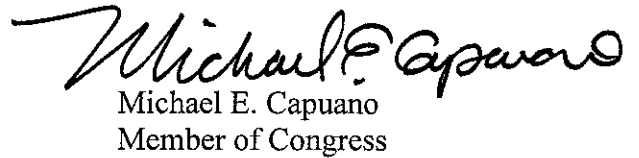
  
Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

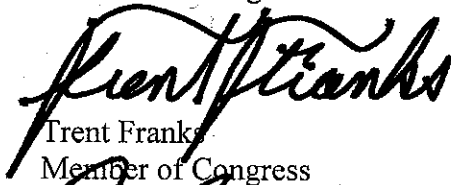
  
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

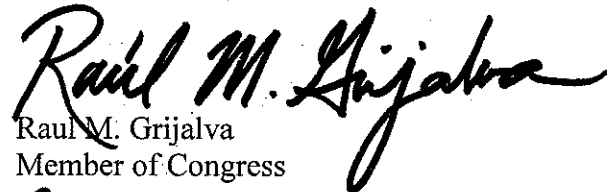
  
Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress

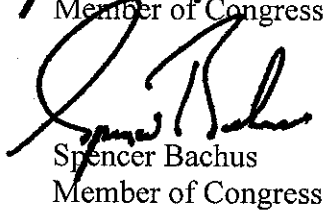
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

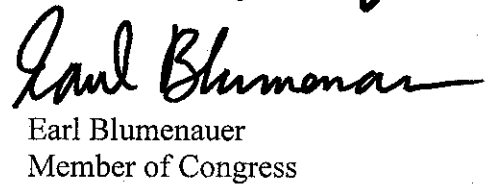
  
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

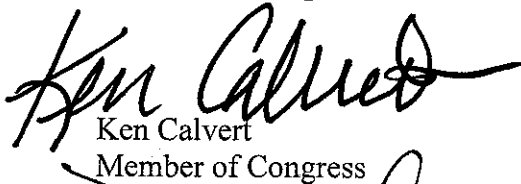
  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

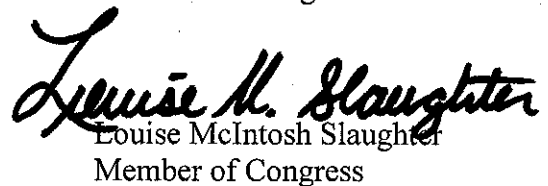
  
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress

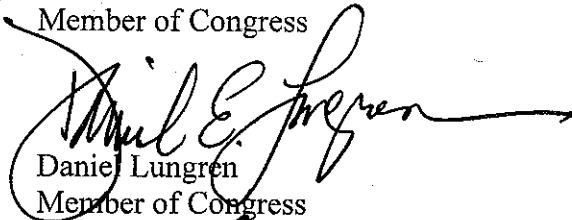
  
Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

  
Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

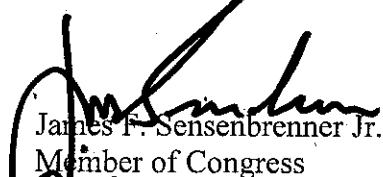
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress

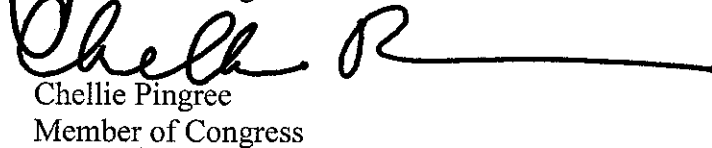
  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

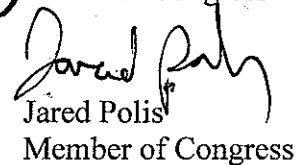
  
Daniel Lungren  
Member of Congress

  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
James F. Sensenbrenner Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
John Shimkus  
Member of Congress

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

*Maxine Waters*

Maxine Waters

Member of Congress