

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2013

The Honorable Mohamed Morsi
President of Egypt
C/O Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik
3521 International Court, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear President Morsi,

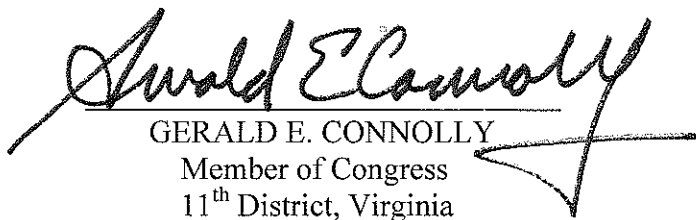
We write to express severe disappointment in the June 4th guilty verdict rendered by an Egyptian court against 43 non-governmental organizations' (NGO) workers—a diverse group that included 17 Americans. The verdict calls into serious question Egypt's progress toward an open society and raises key concerns about Egypt's commitment to democratic principles in a post-revolutionary context.

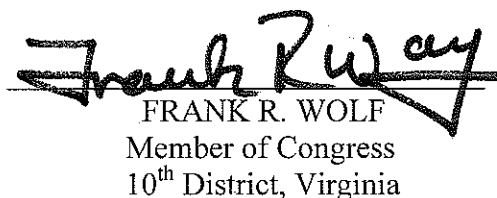
In the aftermath of the December 2011 raids against NGO offices in Egypt, friends of Egypt in the United States urged caution and patience, expressing optimism that Egyptian authorities would properly handle the matter. However, since seizing records, electronic equipment, and hard currency from the NGO offices, Egyptian authorities reneged on their word that the situation would be appropriately resolved. Despite mixed signals followed by a decision to prosecute, U.S. officials patiently waited for a fair conclusion. We do not consider the June 4th guilty verdict a fair conclusion.

We urge an immediate dismissal of charges against all 43 NGO workers. The United States supports the aspirations of the Egyptian people to become a free and fair society, in which all NGOs—regardless of their nation of origin—are allowed to operate freely, and we cannot in good conscience ignore the results of the June 4th trial. This verdict comes on the heels of a draft NGO law that further restricts NGOs, fails to meet Egypt's international commitments in terms of freedom of association, and lends credence to the opinion that there is an ongoing war against civil society in Egypt.

We urge you to immediately reconsider this matter and return confiscated property to the NGOs, dismiss charges against all NGO workers, and permit them to continue their work supporting a free, fair and open and democratic society. In order for the U.S. government and the American people to have any confidence that the Egyptian government is undertaking a genuine transition to a democratic state, under civilian control, where the freedoms of assembly, association, religion and expression are guaranteed and rule of law is upheld, we must see a swift and satisfactory resolution to this case that takes into full account the concerns expressed in this letter, including revisions to the proposed NGO law. A certification that the government of Egypt is implementing policies to guarantee these pillars of a free society, as required by law, seems impossible under the present circumstances.

Sincerely,


GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia


FRANK R. WOLF
Member of Congress
10th District, Virginia

Alan K...

Mike Dingley

Leo Frankel

Ted Deutch

Jim M^o Dermott

Cheri Bustos

Alan N...

Dan P. Jace

Ray C. Blum

Stacy Sawyer

Rodney Dier

W...

Leonard Lane

Peter Pasom

Wally Hally

William R. Keating

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Joseph R. Pitts

Sam Schick

AMMM

Al Loeuthal

Ally Smith

H.A. Bel

Joe Kelly

Joe Wilson

Steve Robert OHIO 1

Ernie Syph ^{FL} #3

Elia L. Engel

Gregory Walker

Dr. M. Belkic

Bobson

John Vargas

Koren Bass

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Jeff Luman SC-3

Randy K. Weber TX 14

John K. Smith 11-10

Gene Shum

Jim Moran

Mr. V. Anderson

Nichole Bachman

Carl C. Brun

Kent Starks

Rae E. Jatta

Jim Sinden WI-05

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Tommy Duckworth

Tulsi Gabbard

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Steve K. Pettin

Brian Higgins

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- 49.Shimkus, John (IL-15)
- 50.Smith, Christopher H. (NJ-04)
- 51.Vargas, Juan (CA-51)
- 52.Weber, Randy K., Sr. (TX-14)
- 53.Wilson, Frederica S. (FL-24)
- 54.Yoho, Ted S. (FL-03)