

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2011

Chairwoman Kay Granger  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee  
HT-2 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee  
1016 LHOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We write today to respectfully request that conditionality be placed on U.S. military aid to Egypt as the subcommittee works to complete the annual foreign assistance appropriations bill.

As you know, the United States gives Egypt \$1.3 billion in military aid annually and regularly engages with the Egyptian military in training exercises. At a time when the U.S. is struggling to balance our budget and get our nation back on a path of fiscal sustainability, it is unacceptable to continue to provide unconditioned military aid to a country that disregards the basic principles of human rights and religious freedom. Numerous incidents in the past several months have demonstrated the need for the U.S. to condition aid in order to incentivize peaceful and democratic change and offer serious consequences for continued backsliding on basic political and human rights.

On Sunday, October 9th, tens of thousands of Coptic Christians took to the streets in the Maspero section of Cairo to protest the interim military government's failure to protect against attacks on their churches. While the protests reportedly began peacefully, violence ensued after unidentified elements attacked the protestors. Subsequently, the military further incited the situation and army personnel carriers plowed through the crowds, crushing protestors as soldiers fired on civilians. While the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) promised an independent investigation into the deadly incident, Copts have been arrested, but no known action has been taken against military perpetrators.

Most recently, the U.S. government shipped tear gas to the Egyptian government in the wake of the military's use of tear gas canisters to quell peaceful protests in Tahrir Square. Ten of thousands of protestors had converged on Tahrir Square to demand an end to military rule on November 18.

According to news reports, clashes between the security forces and protestors escalated dramatically in the following days resulting in dozens of deaths and thousands of injuries. The use of U.S. manufactured products to suppress the basic rights of the Egyptian people is yet another example of why it is imperative that aid be conditioned.

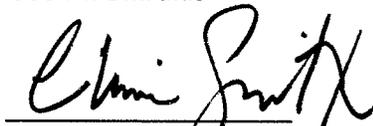
As you know, the Senate State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill places conditions on annual U.S. aid to Egypt based on the holding of free and fair elections, the repeal of the restrictive Emergency Law, and respect for due process and human rights and the freedoms of expression and association. We believe these conditions are appropriate given recent events in Egypt and ask that they be included in the final conference report, along with additional conditionality of funds based on government respect for the human rights of minority religious communities and security for their places of congregation of worship.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



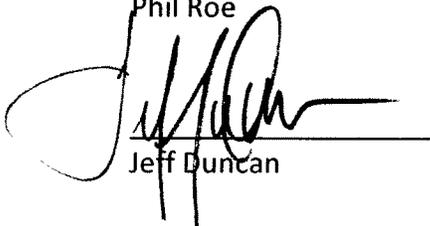
Gus M. Bilirakis



Christopher Smith



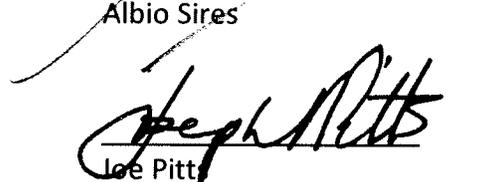
Phil Roe



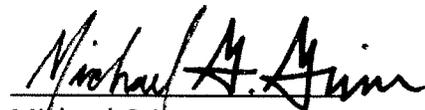
Jeff Duncan



Albio Sires



Joe Pitts



Michael Grimm