

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 2010

Dr. Robert Kagan
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036-2103

Dear Dr. Kagan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the upcoming elections and status of political reform in Egypt. The Obama Administration is fully committed to advancing political reform in Egypt and continues to work with the Egyptian government and members of Egypt's civil society to promote this goal.

The United States supports free, fair, and transparent elections in Egypt as in any part of the world. Although the decision of who will run in or win the elections belongs to the Egyptian people alone, we have consistently encouraged the Egyptian government to adopt further political reforms to open political processes to wider participation and representation. We also believe it is important for Egypt to expand public discourse and relax restrictions on NGOs, political parties, journalists, and bloggers. Such action would increase the space for greater political participation and lead to greater transparency in Egypt's electoral process.

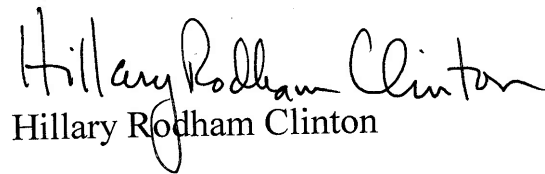
Senior Administration officials have engaged with the Government of Egypt in an ongoing, important dialogue with Egyptian civil society representatives and NGOs who share the desire for political reform and expanded democratic participation in Egypt. This Administration values its dialogue on these issues.

As appropriate to the circumstances, we have spoken out publicly and brought our concerns to the attention of Egyptian authorities. Following the April 6 protests in Cairo, for example, the Department of State publicly expressed concern over the arrests of Egyptians under the Emergency Law and called on the Egyptian government to allow its citizens to participate in the political process to determine who will run in and win Egypt's upcoming elections.

We also recognize the value of direct support for Egyptian civil society and believe it is essential to continue this support. In FY 2009, the U.S. government funded projects with a broad range of NGOs focused on elections, political reform, human rights and the rule of law, civic participation, media, and anti-corruption. We intend to continue our support of Egyptian civil society organizations in FY 2010.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter and your support for political reform in Egypt.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton