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From: Hanley, Monica R <HanleyMR@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2012 4:04 AM
To: H
Cc: Huma Abedin
Subject: FOR AMR CALL --November 25 Letter from Dr. Essam Haddad to Ambassador Patterson

Cairo, November 25, 2012

Dear Ambassador Patterson,

I received with great concern the statement by the spokesperson of the department of state, on 23 November 2012 regarding the constitutional declaration issued by H.E. Dr. Mohamed Morsy President of Egypt.

In this regard, it is of utmost importance to stress that since the current Egyptian administration assumed its responsibility on July 1 2012, it has firmly committed itself to exert all possible efforts in order to fulfill the aspirations of the Egyptian people in freedom, justice and dignity, and to complete the democratic transition. That said, Egypt embarked on a serious exercise to build its democratic institutions through the adoption of a modern inclusive constitution as a corner stone for its political structure.

Unfortunately, we have been following throughout the past few weeks some irresponsible acts aiming at hindering this ongoing democratic process in a way that may destabilize the country and causes unrest.

Nonetheless, the administration has been, and still is, keen to hold an intensive and inclusive dialogue with all national stakeholders. We are confident of our ability to reach common ground and bridge any gap, and we are determined to pursue this positive approach leading to consensus.

Indeed, some concerns emerged after the decisions that we fully understand. However, a thorough and objective examination of the constitutional declaration reveals that it addressed most of the concerns of the Egyptian people, responded to their needs and most importantly prevented a political vacuum from occurring. The extension of the deadline of the constituent assembly to formulate its final draft will definitely serve that aim and will allow people to freely express their opinions in the envisaged referendum.

Moreover, it is important to emphasize that the temporary nature of the measures taken by the president, were not meant to concentrate powers

in his hands, but on the contrary to devolve power to democratically elected parliament and to avoid any attempt to undermine or abort two democratically elected bodies (upper house of parliament and constituent assembly).

In addition, the administration took these measures to accelerate the process of building the institutions of a democratic system, with checks and balances and separation of powers, in which the president himself will be accountable to the parliament due to be elected shortly after the adoption of the constitution. This clearly means that he President has indeed imposed a time cap (two months only from the previous deadline) on his legislative authorities.

In this context, the constitutional declaration may be conceived as a preemptive measure to neutralize the expected unconstructive role and attitude of some of the politically motivated members of the judiciary and preserving the impartial and professional aspect of the judiciary system.

As you may agree with me, Your Excellency, the Egyptian democratic transition needs the support of the international community in order to consolidate itself and prosper. Thus, Egypt expects the United States'

support to these efforts, and to the genuine Egyptian democratic transition process. We are confident of our abilities to lead the country to good governance and rule of law, in order to make of Egypt a success story and a model for other Arab Spring countries.

Sincerely,

Dr. Essam Al-Haddad

Assistant to the President of Egypt

For External Relations and International Cooperation