

Defend democratic rights in Egypt - A petition

Monday 10 February 2014, by [Egypt Solidarity Campaign](#), [Petition / Sign-on Letter](#) (Date first published: 9 February 2014).

Dear comrades and friends:

We are writing to ask you to sign on to the petition published below. It has been written in collaboration and input of several key organizations in Egypt who are facing both repression and organizing resistance against the curtailment of basic democratic rights in the country.

We are launching (or rather relaunching) an Egypt Solidarity campaign. In January 2012, we helped in gathering an international petition of protest in defense of the real Egyptian revolution. [1]. We are now asking you to sign on to a new effort to defend fundamental democratic rights that were central demands of the events known as the “25 January revolution” in Egypt.

It is a very short statement in defense of democratic rights in Egypt. As all of you know there has been a massive increase in repression there.

We believe it is important to gather an as large a number of signatories as possible. We are also helping organize protests in the US on February 11 —the third anniversary of Mubarak’s resignation — but certainly not limiting our campaign to this date.

If you are in agreement with the petition, please circulate this widely.

AND please circulate to your lists.

**In solidarity,
David McNally & Ahmed Shawki
On behalf of egyptsolidaritycampaign.org [2]**

TO:
President Adly Mansour
Prime Minister Hazem el Beblawi

WE, THE undersigned, condemn the Egyptian government’s arrest, detention and torture of activists exercising their right to legally and peacefully protest. Human rights groups, journalists’ associations, and other organizations have documented abuses by Egypt’s police and security forces, including the use of excessive force, mass arrests, and the torture and killing of those who dissent.

Since the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, one government after another has pledged to hold the state's security apparatus accountable for its abuses of Egyptian citizens, and one government after another has failed to do so. The right to speak out and to peacefully assemble and protest is an essential component of a democratic society, and the Egyptian Revolution was broadly celebrated for achieving this most fundamental aspiration of the Egyptian people. But this aspiration has been thwarted by the military's rehabilitation of the hated security laws as well as some of the same individuals who carried out these repressive laws before they were driven from public life by the 2011 revolution.

We call on all those who stand for such basic rights as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to protest to join us in demanding the immediate release of activists targeted by the Egyptian regime in the exercise of their democratic rights and an end to the government's use of repression against all those who wish nothing more than the dignity of having their voices heard.

SIGN THE PETITION AT: <http://egyptsolidaritycampaign.org>.

P.S.

* <http://egyptsolidaritycampaign.org>

Footnotes

[1] You can see the petition from 2012 the <http://egyptsolidaritycampaign.org>

[2] [Egyptsolidaritycampaign gmail.com](mailto:Egyptsolidaritycampaign@gmail.com)