



Baroness Catherine Ashton of Upholland  
Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 16 August 2011

Honourable High Representative

Yesterday former president of Egypt Hosni Mubarak was back in court to face charges of corruption and unlawful killing of protesters. Whilst Hosni Mubarak, his family members and the former political establishment are being tried in civil courts, over 10.000 civilians do not have the same rights and are being tried before military courts. What we are witnessing today are the same unlawful and intimidating practices that remind us of the old regime.

In recent weeks statements have been made by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces which has accused several youth movements and individuals of inciting violence and creating unrest. Additionally, thousands of demonstrators have been prosecuted by military courts and sentenced to years in prison without having spoken to a lawyer or their families

The chilling effect of the large-scale military inquisitions on free speech, the future political leaders and human rights activists is cramping reform and progress the Egyptian people so badly want and deserve. It is damaging the promise of the revolution, the promise of freedom, rights and opportunities for all Egyptians.

Today, the EU should be a staunch and imperturbable defender and partner in establishing the rule of law and an independent judiciary. It should commit to the future prosperity and social justice of the Egyptian people.

As you said before, now it is time for the EU to ensure that the revolution will not be high-jacked, neither by the military nor by others who seek to limit Egyptian's rights and opportunities, instead of guaranteeing them. The EU cannot afford to repeat its mistakes of the past and lose all its credibility. As a community of values, with a direct interest in stability and prosperity for people in our Southern Neighbourhood, the EU must speak out firmly and swiftly.

We therefore urgently ask you to express the EU's deep concern about the large-scale unlawful detentions and military trials of civilians, including the peaceful youth activists whose courage we praise. Civilians have the right to transparent and fair trials before independent civil courts, and should not be tried at all for merely speaking freely or for peacefully assembling. Human rights should be guaranteed under any future state model.

Egypt needs a public reckoning with the rules and politics of the past in which justice will prevail. The EU must ensure its commitment to Egypt's development and offer its partnership to an Egypt based on principles of human rights, the rule of law, social justice and economic development.

Yours sincerely,

Marietje Schaake (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament

Franziska Brantner (GREENS)  
Member of European Parliament

Edward McMillan-Scott (ALDE)  
European Parliament Vice-President

Mário David (EPP)  
Chair Delegation for relations  
with the Mashreq countries

Hélène Flautre (GREENS)  
Chair Delegation to the EU-Turkey  
Joint Parliamentary Committee

Barbara Lochbihler (GREENS)  
Chair Delegation for relations  
with Iran

Sonia Alfano (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament

Hans van Baalen (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament  
President Liberal International

Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament

Leonidas Donskis (ALDE)  
Member European Parliament

Lena Ek (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament  
Vice-Chair Delegation to the EU-Croatia  
Joint Parliamentary Committee

Fiona Hall (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament

Sophie In 't Veld (ALDE)  
Vice-Chair Committee on Civil  
Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Renate Weber (ALDE)  
Member of European Parliament

Nessa Childers (S&D)  
Member of European Parliament

Tanja Fajon (S&D)  
Member of European Parliament

Ana Maria Gomes (S&D)  
Member of European Parliament

Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)  
Member of European Parliament

Peter Skinner (S&D)  
Member of European Parliament

Monica Luisa Macovei (EPP)  
Chair Delegation to the EU-Moldova  
Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

Othmar Karas (EPP)  
Member of European Parliament

Ulrike Lunacek (GREENS)  
Member of European Parliament

Bart Staes (GREENS)  
Vice-Chair Committee on  
Budgetary Control

Keith Taylor (GREENS)  
Member of European Parliament

Emilie Turunen (GREENS)  
Member of European Parliament

Charles Tannock (ECR)  
Vice-chair Delegation for relations  
With the NATO Parliamentary  
Assembly