



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Situation in Egypt

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 3, 2011

After days of peaceful protests in Cairo and other cities in Egypt, yesterday we saw violent attacks on peaceful demonstrators and journalists. The United States denounces these attacks and calls on all engaged in demonstrations currently taking place in Egypt to do so peacefully.

The use of violence to intimidate the Egyptian people must stop. It is dangerous to Egypt, and a direct threat to the aspirations of the Egyptian people. We strongly call for restraint.

We don't know who is behind them, but given the claims the attackers are making as far as support for the Mubarak regime, there is a clear responsibility by the Egyptian government to repudiate and end these attacks.

In doing so, the government must clearly distinguish between those exercising their rights to peacefully assemble and express their views, and those using violence to intimidate and suppress expression. Peaceful protesters should not be intimidated.

We support the universal human rights of the Egyptian people, including the right to freedom of expression, of association, and of assembly, as well as freedom of media, to access information, and to communicate.

We continue to stand up for democracy and the universal rights that all human beings deserve, in Egypt and around the world.

As President Obama said, we support an orderly transition to a government that is responsive to the aspirations of the Egyptian people. This orderly transition must be meaningful, it must be peaceful, and it must begin now.

This is about more than just Egypt. The people of the Middle East, like people everywhere, are seeking a chance to contribute and to have a role in the decisions that will shape their lives. It is a concern for all of us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman