Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500-0005

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary, U.S. Department of State
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520-0099

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Kerry:

We write today to express our concerns regarding the military assets that the United States continues to provide to the Islamist-led government of Egypt. We urge you to reconsider the shipment of F-16 fighter aircraft to Egypt scheduled for completed delivery by the end of 2013, and to work with Congress to revise the United States' priorities for providing long-term and short-term foreign aid to Egypt especially during this time of political and social instability in that nation

As you know, the agreement to provide these military aircraft to Egypt originated in 2009 when the proposal was brought to Congress for purchase and delivery of the F-16s through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Program. Although Congress did not disapprove of this proposal, it is important to note that the aircraft in question were intended for receipt by the Egyptian government under the leadership of President Hosni Mubarak. In the three years it has taken for the procurement of these aircraft, Egypt has undergone significant changes in their government, including a revolution and the installment of a new leader, Mohamed Morsi, a former leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. Given this substantial change in circumstances, we strongly believe reconsideration of previously allocated military assistance to this nation is critical.

Recent and previous statements by President Morsi indicate a clear hostility towards non-Muslims in Egypt as well as towards the United States and her allies—particularly Israel. Specifically, multiple recent reports of President Morsi's anti-Semitic and anti-American comments, and of increased religious persecution and civil rights violations perpetrated by his government, are cause for great concern. The instability of the region is also evident from the continued anti-government protests over the past weeks that have resulted in at least 50 deaths and hundreds of injuries. We are also concerned with news of President Morsi granting emergency powers to the Egyptian military to arrest Egyptian civilians and serve as a police force in the country. Thus, the United States should be extremely cautious in providing any financial support to Egypt—to say nothing of military weaponry.

We recognize and understand the important and delicate nature of the relationship the United States maintains with Egypt, but, given the facts, we believe that our military support of this newly-established government must become conditional. Referring to Egypt in September 2012, Mr. President, you stated: "I don't think that we would consider them an ally." Further, the Administration has deemed inadequate President Morsi's apology for his anti-Semitic comments.

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Given that your Administration considers President Morsi's repudiation of these comments as inadequate and is unwilling to declare Egypt an ally, we should be more hesitant to provide his government with deadly military aircraft.

Although four of these aircraft have already been provided to Egypt, we urge you both to delay the transfer of additional aircraft and other military assistance until we are sure of Egypt's government, its alliance with the U.S. and respect for Israel and its people.

Sincerely,

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Ilena Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross
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Jim Gerlach
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Ed Whitfield
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Lynn Jenkins
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John Fleming
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Michael Burgess
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Steven Palazzo
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Leonard Lance
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Rick Crawford
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Tim Huelskamp
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Todd Rokita
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Luke Messer
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Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress

Robert Latta
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

Joe Heck
Member of Congress

Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
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Frank LoBiondo
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Bill Huizenga
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Alan Nunnelee
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Jim Jordan
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Steve Stivers
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