



مؤسسة قرطبة

*The Cordoba Foundation*

Rt. Hon. Mr William Hague  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street,  
London, SW1A 2AH  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

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Dear Foreign Secretary

Today you have rightly condemned the violence that has taken place in Egypt. Some 42 people were killed by an Egyptian Army that has staged a coup d'etat against a democratically elected president. This same Army has suspended a constitution ratified by the majority of the Egyptian people, closed down TV stations and arrested dozens of political activists.

This is nothing short of a power grab for the Egyptian Army who has used the pretext of a popular uprising against the incumbent President. They have also used the pretext of stability and preventing chaos: we are in fact witnessing a dramatic escalation of instability.

From our long and informed experience with the politics of the Middle East, we can assure you that circumventing people's freedom and violating their human rights will only lead to violence, instability and antagonism towards the democratic values we all share and believe in its merits and its benefits to the well being of all people around the world.

We all remember how Algeria's stability and civil harmony was shattered in the 1990s when the army decided to overturn the democratic process simply because the Algerian people chose the "undesired" political party. Unfortunately many Western countries did not stand firm to oppose this illegal and ill-fated policy of the proponents of military rule and dictatorship. As a result nearly 200 000 innocent lives were lost along with the country's peace and civil harmony. Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of young Algerians were forced to flee their country across the Mediterranean for a better life. This, from a country whose population is much smaller than Egypt's.

Upholding democracy in the Middle East is an important modern cornerstone of Britain's foreign policy. We recognise the sensitivity of the situation and the critical



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balance of international relations, but inaction or giving mixed signals will only encourage others to turn back the wheel of progress towards democracy and freedom in the Middle East. The African Union voted overwhelmingly on Friday to suspend Egypt's membership in the union for ousting an elected president and suspending the constitution.

It is time for the United Kingdom to do the same. We believe that Britain with its reputation as the oldest democratic country has to take the lead in the Western world in denouncing this illegal and unconstitutional act. We are sure that this morally and ethically weighted position will boost confidence in democracy in the Middle East and dampen the drive towards extremism and violence.

We look forward to your reply.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Dr Anas Altikriti

CEO

The Cordoba Foundation