

Petition in Solidarity with the Real Egyptian Revolution

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One year ago brave activists in Egypt electrified the world. Sweeping into Tahrir Square in Cairo, and similar sites in other cities and towns, protesting outside government offices, and striking for living wages, workers' rights and against corrupt managers, they overturned a dictator and drove forward a process of mass democratic upheaval that has been dubbed "the Arab Spring." In the process, Egypt's revolution became an inspiration to millions around the world.

Every step of the way, millions of ordinary people struck blows for women's rights, independent unions, democracy and social justice. But every step they were also brutalized by a military apparatus intent on blocking real change. Even after the dictator, President Mubarak, was toppled, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) has continued to rule via "state of emergency" law, while responding to the revolutionary process with arrests, torture, beatings, and killings. Since Mubarak's fall, as many as 14,000 people have been subjected to military tribunals and the beatings and torture associated with them. As a result, one year later, the revolution hangs in the balance.

In recent months, attacks by SCAF on youth, women, and workers have become more ominous. Ongoing violence against women protesters has intensified. The army has been clearly linked to assaults on Coptic Christians, twenty-four of whom were murdered in October of last year. Then, in December, an alarming escalation in army attacks on peaceful protesters created more martyrs of the revolution. Meanwhile, youth activists associated with the April 6th Movement have been arrested and charged with insulting the army and trying to overthrow the state - merely for distributing anti-SCAF posters. Simultaneously, SCAF and the Ministry of the Interior launched a threatening smear campaign against activists of the socialist left, and sent soldiers to raid the offices of seventeen NGOs. In these and many other ways, SCAF has made clear that it does not intend to give up power.

But courageous Egyptians are refusing to stand down in the face of these attacks. November and December saw huge popular mobilizations, teachers' strikes, an inspiring 10,000 strong women's march in Cairo, and a gathering of 50,000 in Tahrir Square to inaugurate the new year. These actions are a source of great hope for the future of Egypt's popular revolution.

As writers, trade unionists, organizers, scholars, and activists who have supported Egypt's democratic revolution we refuse to be silent in the face of these assaults, especially in light of the silence of our governments. We publicly condemn all attacks on freedom of speech, assembly, religion and association in Egypt. We call for the release of all political prisoners. We condemn the actions of foreign governments such as those of the US and Britain that hypocritically mouth support for the Egyptian revolution while supplying SCAF with arms and tear gas to crush protests. And we proclaim our solidarity with the democratic, trade union, women's, youth and socialist groups who insist that the Egyptian Revolution must continue on the road to genuine democracy and social justice.

Signatories include:

Australia

John Pilger

Filmmaker and journalist

Jim Casey

General Secretary, NSW

Fire Brigades Union

Sandra Bloodworth

Editor, Marxist Left Review

France

Annick Coupé

Union Syndicale Solidaires

Michel Husson

Economist

François Chesnais

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Christian Mahieux

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Nouveau Parti anticapitaliste (NPA)

Christiane Marty

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Alain Krivine

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Alain Bihr

Sociologist

Greece

Antonis Ntavanellos

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Sara Anastasiadou

Hospital workers union

Sotiris Martalis

Confederation Public Servants of Greece

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Pietro Basso

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Christian Dandrès

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Rebecca Comay

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David McNally

Professor

Mary-Jo Nadeau

Professor

Judy Rebick

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Noam Chomsky

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Activist

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Al-Awda: The Palestine

Right to Return Coalition

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Left Business Observer

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Bertell Ollman

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Professor

Ahmed Shawki

International Socialist Review

Wallace Shawn

Actor

Michael Yates

Monthly Review

United Auto Workers

Local 2850 Joint Council

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View online : <http://www.egyptsolidaritycampaign.org/>

P.S.

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