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February 2, 2011

Hon. Hillary Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW, Room 7226
Washington, DC 20520


Dear Madame Secretary:

The developments today in Egypt, where pro-government thugs attacked peaceful protesters in Tahrir Square, are appalling. The attackers, some of whom are reportedly plain clothes security police, injured over 100 protesters in the initial attack, according to early news reports. This unfortunate turn of events has been corroborated by our Egyptian colleagues, with whom we have been in contact as the peaceful protests have unfolded.

Yesterday, the Egyptian people seemed on the verge of removing their authoritarian leader by peaceful means and beginning the road to democracy. Now, that dream is threatened. The refusal of the army to intervene to restore order is particularly ominous.

I call on you and on our government to oppose any attempt by the Egyptian regime to snatch freedom back from the people who have struggled to earn it. Justice demands that we defend the protesters in Tahrir square as does our basic interest in a stable and peaceful Egypt. If this movement is crushed by force, Egypt will face a future that is neither stable nor peaceful.

Sincerely,


Randi Weingarten
President

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