

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1670

To prohibit United States military assistance for Egypt and to express the sense of Congress that the amount of military assistance that would have been provided for Egypt for a fiscal year should be provided in the form of economic support fund assistance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2005

Mr. WEINER (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To prohibit United States military assistance for Egypt and to express the sense of Congress that the amount of military assistance that would have been provided for Egypt for a fiscal year should be provided in the form of economic support fund assistance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Egyptian
5 Counterterrorism and Political Reform Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the Middle East Media Re-
2 search Institute, two weeks before the September 11,
3 2001, attacks, the Egyptian Government daily news-
4 paper Al-Akhbar published a column that stated:
5 “The Statue of Liberty, in New York Harbor, must
6 be destroyed because of following the idiotic Amer-
7 ican policy that goes from disgrace to disgrace in the
8 swamp of bias and blind fanaticism.”.

9 (2) Since forging a “cold peace” with Israel in
10 1978, the Government of Egypt has placed severe
11 trade restrictions on Israeli goods and Egyptian
12 Government officials have allowed anti-Semitic arti-
13 cles and cartoons to flood the semi-official Egyptian
14 press.

15 (3) In violation of the 1979 peace agreement
16 between Egypt and Israel, Egypt continues to pro-
17 mote a boycott of Israeli products.

18 (4) The Israeli Defense Forces have repeatedly
19 found arms smuggling tunnels between Egypt and
20 the Gaza Strip. More than 40 tunnels were discov-
21 ered in 2003. Some of these tunnels originate in
22 Egyptian army and police outposts.

23 (5) Despite facing no major regional external
24 threat, Egypt has used military assistance from the
25 United States to purchase combat aircraft, advanced

1 missile systems, tanks, and naval vessels that under-
2 mine Israel's security.

3 (6) The Coptic Christian minority of between 6
4 and 10 million in Egypt is victimized regularly, and
5 remains without protection. The Government of
6 Egypt has never taken responsibility for the arrest
7 and torture of more than 1,200 Copts in late 1998
8 in the wake of sectarian violence.

9 (7) Egypt regularly tortures its citizens. Ac-
10 cording to the Egyptian Organization for Human
11 Rights approximately 13,000 to 16,000 people are
12 detained without charge on suspicion of security or
13 political offenses in Egypt each year. Amnesty Inter-
14 national published a report in 2003 stating that "ev-
15 eryone taken into detention in Egypt is at risk of
16 torture".

17 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES MILITARY AS-**
18 **SISTANCE FOR EGYPT.**

19 (a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
20 sion of law, for fiscal year 2006 and subsequent fiscal
21 years, United States military assistance may not be pro-
22 vided for Egypt.

23 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
24 tion of subsection (a) for a fiscal year if the President

1 determines and certifies to Congress that it is in the na-
2 tional security interests of the United States to do so.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the amount of United States military assist-
6 ance that would have been provided for Egypt for a
7 fiscal year but for the application of section 3(a)
8 should be provided for Egypt for such fiscal year in
9 the form of economic support fund assistance under
10 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
11 of 1961 and further that such assistance should be
12 in addition to economic support fund assistance al-
13 ready proposed to be provided for Egypt for such
14 fiscal year;

15 (2) funds for economic support fund assistance
16 for Egypt should not be used by the armed forces
17 of Egypt;

18 (3) 30 days prior to the initial obligation of
19 funds for economic support fund assistance for
20 Egypt for a fiscal year, the President should certify
21 to Congress that procedures have been established to
22 ensure that the Comptroller General will have access
23 to appropriate United States financial information in
24 order to review the uses of such funds; and

1 (4) the agreement among the United States,
2 Egypt, and Israel to decrease the overall amount of
3 United States foreign assistance for both countries
4 should continue.

5 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION.**

6 In this Act, the term “United States military assist-
7 ance” means—

8 (1) assistance for nonproliferation, anti-ter-
9 rorism, demining and related programs and activi-
10 ties, including assistance under chapter 8 of part II
11 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (relating to
12 anti-terrorism assistance) and assistance under
13 chapter 9 of part II of such Act, section 504 of the
14 FREEDOM Support Act, section 23 of the Arms
15 Export Control Act, or the Foreign Assistance Act
16 of 1961 for demining activities, the clearance of
17 unexploded ordnance, the destruction of small arms,
18 and related activities;

19 (2) assistance under section 541 of the Foreign
20 Assistance Act of 1961 (relating to international
21 military education and training); and

22 (3) assistance under section 23 of the Arms Ex-
23 port Control Act (relating to the “Foreign Military
24 Finance” program).

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