

November 29, 2012

The Honorable Mohamed Morsi
President of Egypt
ADDRESS
Cairo, Egypt

Dear President Morsi:

We write to acknowledge your recent involvement in helping to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and to ask you to do more to help reduce the violence. As the most populous Arab country with a historic, standing peace agreement with Israel, Egypt has an important role to play in helping to bring about an enduring peace to a war-weary region. We are encouraged that you played a constructive role in helping to mediate a short term solution to the eight-day conflict, and we now look to the medium and long term for constructive solutions that will move all parties further down the path to lasting peace.

This peace cannot last if individuals and groups who call for the destruction of Israel – Egypt's partner in peace - have access to weapons from states with hostile intentions. We are deeply disturbed by statements from Hamas and Iranian leaders indicating that Iran is supplying weapons to Gaza, including long-range Fajr-5 rockets. Given Israel's naval blockade of Gaza, there's only one way to get weapons into Gaza, and that is through Egypt. In order for the ceasefire to hold, it is imperative that your government bolster its efforts to halt all weapons smuggling taking place via both overland and underground routes. Further action must also be taken to halt the flow of weapons crossing into Egypt from Sudan and Libya which end up in the hands of terrorists in Gaza.

We know you are well aware of the security situation in the Sinai, especially in light of the attack by militants in July 2012 that killed 16 of your soldiers. Both of our countries have a mutual interest in achieving an enduring solution to this ongoing conflict, and part of that solution is effectively cracking down on arms smuggling through Egypt into Gaza. In the interest of peace and security, Egypt should take immediate and decisive action to halt such smuggling. This is all the more important in light of the potential easing of restrictions on the movement of people and goods through Gaza border crossings as a condition of the ceasefire you helped to broker. Preventing Hamas from re-arming is just one step in helping to prevent violence from erupting again.

As a country with an interest in peace, Egypt has a responsibility to maintain the integrity and security of its borders. We hope you will continue your efforts to be a productive advocate for a sustainable, long-term solution to the situation in Gaza.

Sincerely,