



## [Two Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Announce the Formation of the Egypt Human Rights Caucus](#)

Two Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives have formed the Egypt Human Rights Caucus in an effort to shed light on the growing human rights abuses in the country under the el-Sisi regime. Representatives Don Beyer and Tom Malinowski are creating the bloc in order to re-evaluate the United States' relationship with Egypt. Both members of Congress acknowledge the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, but they are also highly critical of the Egyptian government's actions to silence dissent, repress their citizens, and infringe upon inalienable rights. The announcement of the caucus' creation comes on the 10th anniversary of the Egyptian uprising which ousted strongman leader Hosni Mubarak. International organizations have congratulated Beyer and Malinowski on the creation of their new caucus, and urged greater focus on the human rights situation in Egypt.

Human Rights Watch has outlined that the el-Sisi regime has degraded human rights in Egypt to its lowest point in decades. Similarly, Amnesty International said it was "thrilled" that Congress was seeking to recalibrate its relationship with Egypt away from unconditional support for the military. The election of President Biden in the United States is also likely to lead to a greater focus on the human rights situation in Egypt. Biden's predecessor, President Trump, referred to el-Sisi as his "favorite dictator" and turned a blind eye to the human rights abuses orchestrated by his regime. Now, however, there seems to be a larger appetite from the United States to push back on Egypt's grave human rights violations.

In a joint statement released by Representatives Beyer and Malinowski announcing the formation of their caucus, they criticized the United States' unconditional support for the Egyptian military, particularly given their affiliation with the human rights abuses occurring in the country. Egypt is notorious for detaining political prisoners, including American citizens, and the military provides President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi with the muscle required to keep an iron grip on Egyptian society. The Egyptian military is also responsible for interference in the Libyan conflict where their actions have prolonged civilian suffering. Prior to his role as president of Egypt, el-Sisi was a member of Egypt's military elite and experts have linked his relationship with the military to the crackdown on dissent and political freedom.

Back in 2011, dictator Hosni Mubarak was ousted after mass protests across Egypt during the Arab Spring. Democracy, freedom, and social justice in Egypt were the demands of protesters when they toppled Mubarak, but the subsequent Egyptian regimes have failed to meet these expectations. Under el-Sisi now, Egypt's human rights situation is at its lowest point in years. It is estimated that the Egyptian regime has imprisoned over 60,000 people for political reasons, and el-Sisi has made repression of freedom of speech and political opposition a key part of his government. Representatives Beyer and Malinowski hope that the creation of the Egypt Human Rights Caucus will shed additional light on the human rights abuses occurring in Egypt, and push the U.S. government to re-evaluate parts of its relationship with the Egyptian regime.