



STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST NORTH AFRICAN PROTESTERS

Approved by the Social Democrats USA National Committee on February 24, 2011

Members of the Social Democrats USA have celebrated the fall of Hosni Mubarak and rejoice that the democratic revolution in Egypt is continuing forward. However our concern for what is happening in the Middle East and North Africa does not end in Egypt. The Social Democrats USA support fully the democratic aspirations and actions of the peoples of Libya, Bahrain, Yemen, Algeria, and other nations in which people are rebelling against repressive regimes to gain democratic and human rights.

Beyond wanting to go on record in support the struggles of the peoples of these nations, we also want to call upon the Obama administration to do what it effectively can to support the process of liberation. The SDUSA is well aware that the United States has real vital interests in the Middle East and North Africa that need to be pursued. Many right wing propagandists such as Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh have used the existence of these arguments to argue that the United State must support the dictators in their struggles to repress their own peoples. To support this argument they argue that Muslims are in some way intrinsically unfit for democratic governments, thus fit only to be slaves. The Social Democrats USA reject such an idea completely.

The SDUSA recognizes that all currently practiced religions are a complex mix of traditions that have elements that can be used to repress or liberate people. We believe that those same elements of both repression and liberation are just as present within Islam as in Judaism and Christianity. Therefore we believe that the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa will be able to develop democratic societies in which the better elements of Islam may be able to play a significant and positive role.

Again we are aware that the development of democratic republics in the Middle East and North Africa will make the process of American diplomacy in the region more complex and difficult than is presently the case. However we believe that in the long

run democracy will stabilize these societies and strengthen peace between nations in this part of the world.