



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

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National Lawyers Guild NYC Chapter Condemns Arrest and Torture of Human Rights and Legal Workers by Mubarak Regime and Demands Their Immediate Release

After almost one week of peaceful mass protests by the people of Egypt, the Mubarak regime continues to refuse the wishes of the people and has, instead, launched a brutal assault against the Egyptian people, leaving ten dead and thousands more wounded.

On February 3, 2011 at approximately 3:30 p.m., Mubarak's intelligence agents raided the Hisham Mubarak Legal Aid Center. The legal workers and human rights advocates were severely beaten and taken into state custody to an unknown location, for an unknown duration and without probable cause. In this atmosphere of chaos and impunity, the National Lawyers Guild - NYC Chapter (NLG-NYC) issues its strongest condemnation and appeals to all human rights organizations and legal unions to stand in defense of the workers of the Hisham Mubarak Legal Aid Center and all human rights workers who have come under increasing attack under the Mubarak regime.

The NLG-NYC calls on U.S. government officials to exert pressure on the Mubarak regime to ensure the safe and immediate release of the workers of the Hisham Mubarak Legal Aid Center and all victims of wrongful imprisonment, and calls on all human rights advocates to join the campaign for the release of the legal aid workers and to monitor the conditions of the legal workers until they are released.

Human rights advocates have historically played a pivotal role in defense of people seeking the restoration of their basic rights to life and liberty. In times of uprising, the role of the legal aid workers becomes more critical as they are tasked with defending the people against false charges and bear the great burden of documenting the abuses the people suffer. It is imperative that all legal aid and human rights workers be free to conduct their duty of serving the people.

We also call for the immediate end of all Egyptian government orchestrated attacks against the pro-democracy movement in Egypt and call on the government of the United States to facilitate the immediate withdrawal of the Mubarak regime by removing the Egyptian Ambassador and terminating all military aid to Egypt until democratic elections are held.

We further call on the international community to launch an investigation in preparation for prosecution of the war crimes committed by the Mubarak regime against the people of Egypt.

The National Lawyers Guild, founded in 1937, is the oldest and largest public interest/human rights bar organization in the United States. Its headquarters are in New York and it has chapters in every state.