

February 4, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

## Canadian Policy on Egyptian Democracy Movement

The Canadian Union of Public Employees is extremely concerned about Canada's response to the crisis in Egypt. We are outraged that your government would continue to support a 'go-slow' transition when it is clear that the Mubarak regime is behind the violent repression of peaceful, pro-democracy demonstrators.

It is unconscionable that a country that prides itself on its democratic traditions could be so out of step with other democratic countries by continuing to support this dictatorial regime. The hope and aspirations of millions of ordinary Egyptians citizens is at stake and those ordinary citizens are to be applauded for their courage in standing up against a repressive government. Ending the violence against the demonstrators, calling for freedom of expression and a free and democratic society in Egypt should be your key demand. And that means that Mubarak must go and that Canada must demand that those responsible for the killings, assaults and intimidation of innocent people be brought to justice.

Further, we are very concerned about the suppression of information through the cutting off of internet access, cell phones and social media. We have been appalled at the attacks on the media; the shutting down of media outlets like Al Jazeera and the detainment and physical attacks on journalists, including Canadian reporters. Canada needs to be very strong in speaking out about freedom of the press and denouncing these attacks.

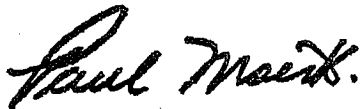
...2



We are also worried about the ongoing safety of Canadians in Egypt and their ability to find out information and to access support from Canadian officials. The lack of information and demands for payment up front to leave the country illustrate a troubling pattern of Canada's disregard for its citizens abroad. We would ask that your government take immediate action to ensure the safety of Canadians in Egypt.

CUPE calls on the Canadian government to make an unequivocal statement demanding the end to violence against the Egyptian people, for the immediate resignation of Hosni Mubarak and to support demands for a fair and just transition that allows the democratic voices of all Egyptians to be heard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Moist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAUL MOIST  
National President  
Canadian Union of Public Employees

cc: Claude Généreux, National Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE  
CUPE National Executive Board  
Kenneth Georgetti, President, CLC  
Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada  
Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois Party of Canada  
Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP)