

From: e-Dear Colleague

Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 1:46 PM

To:

Subject: Appropriations, Budget, ForeignAffairs: Dear Colleague: Dear Colleague: Suspend Aid to Egypt

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From: The Honorable Vern Buchanan

Sent By: Sean.Brady@mail.house.gov

Date: 12/10/2012

Suspend Aid to Egypt

Dear Colleague:

Since 1979, Egypt has been the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, receiving an average of \$2 billion annually. The U.S. has formally provided foreign assistance in the form of economic, military, and political aid all across the world since the 1950s to help advance our interests and goals of promoting freedom and democracy abroad.

However, Cairo and the Muslim Brotherhood-backed Morsi government have been sending increasingly troubling signals. Mohammad Morsi has raised serious questions about whether Cairo will recognize the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, as he has previously called for the treaty to be scrapped and his foreign minister has accused Israel of violating it.

I agree with *Politico*'s analysis of the recent Hamas-Israel conflict that "the Egyptian government clearly sides with Hamas." *Politico* continued that "Egypt recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv, and Morsi castigated Israel for what he called 'wanton aggression on the Gaza Strip.' Neither he nor any other Egyptian official offered even a glancing acknowledgement of the scores of rockets Hamas fired into Israel, igniting the current crisis..."

While it was recently purported that President Morsi rescinded his decree, it is unclear whether the most critical element granting him total power over the judiciary was substantially altered. He has also refused to cancel a referendum on the contentious draft constitution that many have called illegitimate.

The actions of President Morsi are entirely unacceptable. It is time we halt aid to Egypt and use the leverage that its aid provides to press for a more U.S. friendly approach from Cairo – both in its regional relations and its behavior at home.

Please contact Sean Brady (sean.brady@mail.house.gov) in my office to cosponsor.
Sincerely,

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress