

RELEASE IN PART  
B6

**From:** Anne-Marie Slaughter [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** H  
**Cc:** 'SullivanJJ@state.gov'; Huma Abedin  
**Subject:** Velvet rather than violent revolution

I sent the article from which this clip is drawn to Jake this morning. Essentially argument is that not all revolutions are violent; some are velvet -- see Czech revolution as example where pres. resigned and parliament passed massive reforms. And Czechs had been under more of a dictatorship than Egyptians. Would anyone say that Arabs less ready for democracy than Eastern Europeans? Given capacity for self-organization they are showing right now in Tahrir Square? And note reference to your prophetic voice in Doha.

"Secretary Clinton needs to recover her prophetic voice. She can start by getting real about Egypt's 1971 constitution. It is no venerated text for Egyptians, as the 1787 U.S. constitution is for Americans. Certainly the Mubarak government has never been particularly fastidious about it, effectively subordinating the constitution to a 30-year state of emergency. For that matter, the Americans themselves never gave a thought to relying on the constitution of Baathist Iraq to guide Baghdad's transition once their invasion had vacated Saddam Hussein's office.

Certainly, it would be nice to segue smoothly from one government to the next. But it is hardly realistic to think the head of the outgoing regime's repressive apparatus, Omar Suleiman, can control the pace. Indeed, his dark threats to stage a "coup" and to "deal with Egyptian society with police tools" have rendered him radioactive as a reform facilitator.

If Secretary Clinton and President Obama want a seamless transition from the discredited organs of the old regime, there are precedents in Eastern Europe. The model is Czechoslovakia's 1989 revolution. When the usual brute force failed to quell growing demonstrations against Prague's Communist regime, 20-year incumbent president Gustáv Husák resigned. The Communist parliament meekly adopted constitutional amendments providing for free multiparty elections (held six months later) and then installed Václav Havel, a playwright and leader of the Czech democracy movement, as president -- all within the span of four weeks from the first protests.

Hosni Mubarak is no Husák, and is entitled to his gold watch for honorable service. His faux parliament is filled with political careerists of malleable loyalties who can read the handwriting on the wall and want to land on their feet; they simply have to give swift approval to transition measures and a transition president. "

AM

----- Original Message -----

**From:** H [mailto:HDR22@clintonemail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 10, 2011 07:30 AM  
**To:** 'slaught[redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: one more quick thought re women and Egypt

I've been having berry problems so just seeing this and your first email and agree w both. I'm doing Alarabiya and Al Jazeera today and try to include these thoughts. Thx so much. Pls keep the ideas coming!

Hope you and your family are doing well--all in one place--all the best, H

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Anne-Marie Slaughter [redacted]

To: H  
Cc: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>; Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>; Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
Sent: Wed Feb 09 21:51:10 2011  
Subject: one more quick thought re women and Egypt

I think it could be important for you to make the point that we need to be hearing from all of Egyptian society, the voices of women as well as men. There are plenty of women evident among the protesters. Where are their voices? Who is representing their needs in negotiating with the government or just more generally? This is a real-time opportunity to insist that women be present and accounted for. AM