

RELEASE IN FULL

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To: H
Subject: Egypt

This is readout from Panetta-Tantawi call:

Secretary Panetta spoke by phone to Egyptian Field Marshal Tantawi earlier today. The Secretary expressed his deep concern about the raids that took place on December 29 on the offices of American and other NGOs. He also conveyed his appreciation for Field Marshal Tantawi's prompt decision to halt the raids, and to take steps that will make it easier for NGOs to operate in Egypt. After two successful rounds of parliamentary elections, the Secretary emphasized that it is critical for Egypt to continue on the path to democratic transition. The Secretary reaffirmed the importance of the US-Egyptian security relationship, and made clear that the United States remains committed to the strategic partnership and stands ready to cooperate with Egypt as it continues its democratic transition.