

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 8:14 AM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Egypt sets Feb. 26 as start date for NGO trial (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 07:03 AM
To: NEWS-Mahogany
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Egypt sets Feb. 26 as start date for NGO trial (AP)

CAIRO - (AP) Egypt's state news agency says the trial of 43 people including 19 Americans in a politically charged case against foreign-funded groups will begin Feb. 26.

The investigation has caused the deepest crisis in American-Egyptian relations in decades. American officials say it could hinder more than \$1 billion in U.S. aid. Egyptian authorities have blasted what they call U.S. interference in legal affairs.

Nineteen employees of U.S.-based groups are among those to be tried. They work for the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, Freedom House and a group training journalists.

Only seven of the Americans are in Egypt. Some have sought refuge at the American Embassy in Cairo. It remains unclear if they will attend the trial.

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