

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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**U.S., U.K. Partner for Global Stability, Peace, Security**

By MacKenzie C. Babb  
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and British Foreign Minister William Hague say the U.S.-U.K. relationship is a global “cornerstone of stability” and have recommitted the partnership to pursuing peace and security around the world.

Clinton said the United States and the United Kingdom have a “similar perspective, shared values and a long history of facing foreign policy challenges together as partners and friends” at a May 23 joint press conference with Hague in London. The two addressed reporters after discussing the Arab Spring, conflict in Libya and Syria and joint efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Hague said changes in the Middle East and North Africa have “brought renewed hope of a better life to millions of people.” He also said the United Kingdom will work closely with the United States and other allies “to support democracy and human rights in the region, and to challenge those who take the path of violence and repression.”

Both diplomats condemned the use of violence against peaceful protesters in Syria and the mass detention of demonstrators. Clinton said an estimated 1,000 people have been killed so far by the government’s violent crackdown. “This cruelty must end, and the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people must be honored,” she said.

Hague praised recent sanctions by the United States and the European Union against senior Syrian officials. “Democratic nations can’t stand silent in the face of such acts,” Hague said, adding that the United Kingdom “is committed to working with the United States to increase pressure on the regime.”

Clinton said they also discussed the situation in Libya and reiterated their “shared commitment to enforce the U.N. Security Council resolutions and to protect Libyan civilians.”

The council passed two resolutions earlier in 2011 aimed at ending attacks on the Libyan people by forces loyal to Muammar Qadhafi. The first condemned the Libyan leader’s use of violence against civilians and imposed an arms embargo on the country, and the second authorized a no-fly zone to prevent Qadhafi from using air assets against his people.

“We are making progress, but we know that our resolve must be firm and that we have to make it clear that time is

running out for Colonel Qadhafi and those around him,” Clinton said.

She and the foreign minister also reviewed the situation in Afghanistan, where Clinton said British and American troops “continue to work side by side to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida and its terrorist allies.” She said military and civilian efforts have “made great progress,” and the United States and the United Kingdom are determined to continue to combat al-Qaida, even after the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden by U.S. forces May 1.

Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan, where the United States has killed more terrorists than anywhere else in operations that “could not have been done without the cooperation of the government of Pakistan,” Clinton said. She called on the international community to support Pakistan as it tackles political and economic problems, as well as the threat of internal violence.

The secretary said the United Kingdom and the United States support the Pakistani people “as they chart their own destiny, away from political violence, toward greater stability, economic prosperity and justice.”

Clinton and Hague met for talks ahead of President Obama’s state visit to the United Kingdom May 24–25. He has visited Ireland and will travel to Poland during his six-day European tour, and will take part in the Group of Eight (G8) summit May 26 in Deauville, France.

**During European Trip, Arab Spring Is on Agenda**

By Jeff Baron  
Staff Writer

Washington — The setting for President Obama’s trip this week is Europe, but a major topic on the agenda will be North Africa and the Middle East. The goal is a more democratic, more prosperous region.

The president set the stage by delivering a major policy speech on the Middle East on May 19 in which he applauded movements for political and economic self-determination and pledged financial support for new governments in Tunisia and Egypt. From his arrival May 23 in Ireland through stops in Britain, France and Poland, meetings with other world leaders will cover a range of economic and security issues. But U.S. officials say the Arab Spring and how the United States and its partners should respond to it will be major topics.

White House officials say the region is on the agenda for May 25, when Obama meets with Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron. “We’ve been closely coordinating with the United Kingdom throughout the last several months,

obviously with regard to Libya but also with our broader support for democratic movements in the Middle East and North Africa," Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes told reporters in advance of the trip.

The president will travel to Deauville, France, for the summit meeting of eight major industrial powers, known as the G8. "We expect the G8 to continue to discuss the ideas that the president laid out in his speech surrounding international support for Egypt and Tunisia, as well as the support of international institutions for democratic transitions," Rhodes said.

The second day of the G8 summit will include meetings with the prime ministers of Egypt and Tunisia and leaders of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations. The result, presidential adviser Mike Froman said, should be "one of the most important outcomes of the G8, which is that we expect there to be a broad embrace of an approach" to the region that includes "supporting financial stabilization, modernization, reform of the economies in the region to support private-sector growth, entrepreneurship and job creation and further integration both regionally and with the global economy."

Obama and another partner in the Libyan operation, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, are scheduled to meet as well, and Rhodes said the two sides have "great interest with regard to the events in the Middle East and North Africa more generally."

Liz Sherwood-Randall, the senior White House director for European affairs, said the uniquely close relationship between the United States and its European allies — based on shared values — allows them to be "a catalyst for global action" in such challenging situations as Afghanistan, Libya and elsewhere in North Africa and the Middle East.

Obama and others have drawn a parallel between the Arab pro-democracy movements of today and pro-democracy movements 20 years ago in Eastern and Central Europe. The final stop of his European tour is Poland, where leaders of Eastern and Central Europe will be meeting. Rhodes said the Middle East will also be on the agenda for Obama's meeting with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski.

### **Arab-American Democracy Initiative Meeting Challenges**

By M. Scott Bortot  
Staff Writer

Washington — Khaled Beydoun, founder of Democracy in the Arab World Now (DAWN), is educating Americans

about the Arab world one bracelet at a time.

"We circulated wristbands that created visibility and serve as a conversation starter for individuals who don't know much about the region," Beydoun said. Nearly 10,000 bracelets have been distributed since DAWN began in February.

According to its website, "DAWN is a campaign of Americans who stand in solidarity with Arab citizens across the Middle East who seek a new dawn of freedom and democracy in their countries." Just a few months after its launch, DAWN shows that successful grass-roots movements start with commitment and determination.

"When you are a grass-roots organization, a lot of your funding and time is needed," Beydoun said. "A lot of our membership and our leadership are fully employed individuals, so time is always at a premium."

DAWN's steering committee, which funded most of the bracelets, paid for them out of pocket. "It was one of those issues where you are generating a lot of popularity, and we just wanted to circulate them and get them out," Beydoun said.

Along with time and money, DAWN's core challenge is keeping its audience aware of key issues. As events rise and fall in the region, DAWN informs followers through its website and Facebook page.

"But when crises reach a point where they become almost commonplace, for instance in Libya ... because they have stretched and extended for so long, people's ears are less focused on what is taking place," Beydoun said.

To expand public engagement, Beydoun said, DAWN is partnering with the Network of Arab-American Professionals (NAAP). With chapters in eight major U.S. cities, NAAP strengthens the community through social, cultural, professional and political initiatives.

Beydoun said the connection to NAAP is through Sarab Al-Jjakli, co-founder of NAAP's New York chapter and DAWN supporter. Still in the planning stage, the partnership assures wider audiences for DAWN.

"Once we make our full integration into NAAP, we are going to have workshops and teach-ins that are housed through the respective NAAP chapters nationally," Beydoun said, adding that DAWN plans to appoint a representative at each NAAP chapter nationwide.

Another approach to engaging with the community, Beydoun said, is connecting with individuals who can promote DAWN's message.

“One of our strategic objectives was to attract members who already had an established platform or had positions where they had direct access to individuals whose ears were open,” Beydoun said. DAWN supporters include consultants, attorneys, physicians and academics.

As regional events unfold, Beydoun said, DAWN is adapting to changing needs. One of its early initiatives included a petition urging President Obama to support Arabs striving for democracy. Future petitions will focus on specific issues.

“We are looking to adjust and revise petitions based on the developments and the fluidity as to what is happening in the region,” Beydoun said. “Instead of having a broad petition, we are going to progressively have more focused and narrowly tailored petitions that focus in on the most pressing events taking place in the region.”

For the future, DAWN seeks more NAAP-type partnerships. Beydoun said one possibility is working with the Egyptian American Rule of Law Association, of which he is a member.

Partnering with like-minded groups and expanding programs will require further funding and logistics support. Beydoun is already thinking about that time.

“Ideally, we will reach a point where we can apply for grants and get the resources and potentially hire some full-time staff at some juncture,” Beydoun said.

### **USAID Reviews Decades of Health Sector Cooperation with Egypt**

By M. Scott Bortot  
Staff Writer

Washington — A review by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) of its work to assist health sector programs in Egypt shows that long-term efforts yield positive results.

On May 23, development officials familiar with Egypt’s health sector participated in a panel to discuss USAID’s “Egypt Health Legacy Review” at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington.

M. Peter McPherson, a former USAID administrator, said that enduring and effective development involves detailed planning.

“Economic support funds, the political foreign policy funds of the foreign aid programs, can have very dramatic developmental impact,” McPherson said. “When you tie together a country’s commitments with a project and a

portfolio, you can really make a difference.”

The “Egypt Health Legacy Review” presented data that looked at a 32-year period of USAID assistance to Egypt’s health sector. Compiled by interviewing USAID employees and Egyptian government officials and reviewing program documents, the review looked at 10 health areas that demonstrated sustained, positive outcomes.

Partnerships play a major role in enhancing the effectiveness of USAID health programs. Nahed Matta, a senior maternal and newborn health adviser for USAID in Egypt, said teamwork helped to eliminate polio in Egypt.

“I witnessed a great collaboration effort between USAID, WHO, UNICEF and Rotary International, led by the [Egyptian] Ministry of Health,” Matta said.

Through this collaboration with the Ministry of Health, infant deaths were reduced from 124 per 1,000 births in 1976 to 24 by 2008, and Upper Egypt saw a 72-percent decrease in the maternal mortality ratio between 1993 and 2008, according to the review.

Leslie Curtin, a former USAID Foreign Service officer and review co-author, said efforts to develop Egypt’s health sector produced wide-ranging results.

“What I find so remarkable about these achievements is the breadth and the depth of these demographic and health outcomes,” Curtin said. “Each segment of the health sector has produced such enormous progress and this, in turn, has had an incredible synergistic effect on improving the health of all Egyptians.”

USAID also worked to achieve enhancements in health systems development, including primary health care services and disease surveillance. Sameh El-Saharty, a senior health policy specialist at the World Bank, said health sector successes stem from quality management.

“It is important to understand that these results were not achieved in a vacuum,” El-Saharty said. “There were systems that were great, effective management and institutional capacity that were put in place in order to achieve those results.”

Motaz Zahran, a political counselor at the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, said as Egypt undergoes change, further cooperation with USAID is likely.

“At this particular juncture in Egypt’s history, we probably need, as much as we did in the past, efforts of both sides to continue towards development in times of fiscal, financial, economic crisis,” Zahran said. “This partnership is probably going to see much more fruition

in the future.”

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