



Egypt and the United States: What They're Saying

From April 1 through 6, 2017, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi visited the United States at the invitation of U.S. President Donald Trump. While in Washington, President El Sisi met with President Trump at the White House, as well as with Congressional leaders, Cabinet officials, business leaders and other key influencers. During this visit, a number of officials commented publicly on the status and future prospect for Egypt-U.S. relations.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

On the Egypt-U.S. Strategic Partnership:

“It’s great to be with the President of Egypt. And I will tell you, President El Sisi has been somebody that’s been very close to me from the first time I met him. We agreed on so many things.... And I just want to say to you, Mr. President, that you have a great friend and ally in the United States and in me.... We have a great bond with the people of Egypt, and I look forward to working with the President.”

—**Donald J. Trump**, President of the United States (4/3/17)

“The strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt is essential to securing regional stability and defeating terrorism.”

—**Rep. Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (4/4/17)

“The U.S.-Egypt partnership is built on decades of cooperation to advance our shared interests, and I am confident that we can continue to work together to achieve the security, prosperity, and freedoms that the people of Egypt and the region deserve.”

—**Senator Tim Kaine**, (D-VA) (3/31/17)



On Egypt's Leadership Role:

“Our military-to-military relationship, Mr. President, is based on mutual respect built over many years and it acts as a steadying influence and I think it is fundamental to giving your government and people a path toward a safe and prosperous future. In particular, our cooperation to counter terrorism is very, very strong and I’m committed to strengthening those efforts alongside you. Above all, thank you, Mr. President, for your personal leadership in calling for a more tolerant relationship among all peoples and all religions.”

—**James Mattis**, U.S. Secretary of Defense (4/5/17)

“The key area of overlap between President Sisi and President Trump really is their common focus on fighting radical Islamist extremism. For President Trump, President Sisi really will be the ‘poster child’ for partnership with the United States in the battle against radical Islamic extremism. There really is not another leader of... stature in a major Middle East country that rises to level of President Sisi... And I think on this issue, President Trump and President Sisi will be arm in arm.”

—**Robert Satloff**, Executive Director The Washington Institute for Near East Policy: (4/4/17)



On Military and Security Cooperation:

“Egypt plays a key role in a turbulent region by helping promote stability in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere.”

—**Rep. Ed Royce** (R-CA), Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (4/4/17)

“I’m hopeful that President El Sisi’s visit to Washington will open a new chapter of partnership with Egypt. The United States should support Egypt as it addresses security threats and economic growth.”

—**Senator Ben Cardin** (D-MD), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (3/31/17)



On Economic Reforms:

“Egypt is implementing a strong economic reform program to help the economy return to its full potential, achieve more growth and create more jobs. We recognize the sacrifices made and the difficulties faced by many Egyptian citizens, especially due to high inflation. The IMF is working to help the government and the Central Bank bring inflation under control and supports the steps the Egyptian authorities are taking to protect its poorest and most vulnerable citizens.”

—**Christine Lagarde**, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (4/5/17)

“A new era in the U.S.-Egypt relationship commenced yesterday as President Sisi met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House in Washington, DC. Early indications show we have entered a promising new period defined by the opportunity to forge a stronger partnership between the United States and Egypt based on common, vital interests.”

—**Steve Lutes**, Executive Director of the U.S.—Egypt Business Council at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (4/4/17)

