

## ***Malou Innocent on The Establishment's Ongoing Egyptian Confusion***

June 28, 2012 [Craig D. Schlesinger](#)

The Cato Institute's foreign policy analyst Malou Inncoent has a great new piece on Egypt over at [The Skeptics Blog](#):

In [2008](#), a top U.S. diplomat reported that when U.S. officials talked to leaders of Egypt's Ministry of Defense about border security, counter terrorism, civil defense, and peace-keeping, these efforts were met with limited success, and Egypt strongly resisted—and only later supported—millions in U.S. foreign military funding for a counter-smuggling system on the Gaza-Egyptian border. Furthermore, in [2007](#), the director of the Israel Security Agency reported to U.S. diplomats that Egyptians seal up tunnels under the Rafah border crossing but have done nothing to shut down extensive smuggling operations that bring explosives from Sudan, and perhaps Yemen and Libya, and that Egypt could have acted to cut off much of the smuggling, but did not.

[...]

U.S. aid continues to flow even as Egypt's illiberal democracy backslides. Indeed, U.S. aid continues to support a brutal regime that maintains its authority through the denial of free speech, arbitrary imprisonment, savage repression, and routine torture.

[R]ecent news reporting has focused on Egypt's new president, Muhammad Morsi. Morsi has claimed that Egypt will adhere to its international commitments, but U.S. officials may want to take that pledge with a grain of salt. Aspects of the U.S.-brokered Camp David Peace Agreement, such as Egypt's sale of natural gas to Israel below the global market rate, will certainly be up for review. Moreover, even though Morsi professes freedom for all Egyptians, including women and Coptic Christians, the Muslim Brotherhood of which Morsi's a part has a history of going back on its promises. Last year, it [claimed](#) it would not run a candidate for president. It has [argued for free market policies](#) even as [Morsi invokes the need for minimum and maximum wages](#).

Let us hope that the situation in Egypt progresses, but the likelihood of significant liberal economic and political reforms does not look good.