



**Hon. Deepak Obhrai**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and for  
International Human Rights

# Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

**December 4, 2013**

## **Canada concerned over female protesters jailed in Egypt; 7 girls under the age of 18**

(Ottawa, December 4, 2013) Hon. Deepak Obhrai, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and for International Human Rights, today made the following statement in the House of Commons:

“Canada has been following with concern the case of 21 female protesters, including 7 minor girls, in Alexandria, Egypt, who were sentenced to lengthy jail terms earlier this week. The 14 women were sentenced to 11 years in jail, while the 7 young girls were similarly sentenced to 11 years juvenile detention.

We have raised our concerns with the government of Egypt. At this time in Egypt's ongoing transition to democracy, we believe that it is critical that Egyptian authorities protect the rights of all citizens, including women and girls, to voice their opinions and protest peacefully.

The respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law is the foundation of democracy and we encourage the Egyptian government to adhere to these principles and to continue to pursue the transition road map as the best way to give all Egyptians a stake in the future stability and prosperity of their country.”

**For more information, contact Julian Pecchia in the Office of Hon. Deepak Obhrai, P.C., M.P. at (613) 995-1851**

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