

An Open Letter to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

LETTER ID	LTL-ACT-055
ADDRESSEE	President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
COUNTRY	Egypt
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PUBLISHED	2026-06-10 12:00:00
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English

Mr. President,

I am writing this letter to you from Cairo, standing on a bridge over the Nile beneath the scorching sun, while all around me churns this eternal, teeming metropolis of millions, choked by traffic. We Egyptians are a proud nation—a population of one hundred million with a magnificent history spanning millennia. And we remember the chaos that gripped the country before your arrival. You gave Egypt the very thing without which the Middle East simply burns up: stability and security. You saved us from religious radicalism and transformed the army into an unbreakable shield.

But today, Mr. President, as we look at our wallets and the price tags in shops, that shield seems too costly. Our society is exhausted. While state television broadcasts your grand visits to international forums and new parades every day, the ordinary Egyptian thinks of only one thing: how to feed their family until the end of the week amidst the endless slide of our currency.

Egypt is suffocating; what we need is not new mega-projects in the desert, but an

urgent rescue of the country's real economy:

- Debt bondage and inflationary hell: The Egyptian pound has been reduced to mere paper, and inflation devours our earnings faster than we can make them. We have taken on billions in loans from the IMF and Gulf states. But where did that money go? We see billions poured into the concrete of the New Administrative Capital, while ordinary hospitals and schools in Giza and Aswan are falling apart. It is time to put an end to this construction frenzy. We need a functioning industrial sector and support for farmers, not ostentatious palaces in the desert where no one lives.
- Military monopoly versus free enterprise: Our military controls everything—from road construction to pasta production and fish farming. Military conglomerates are exempt from taxes and inspections, completely destroying fair competition. Private business in Egypt is either dying out or forced to kowtow to the generals. You promised at Davos forums to pave the way for the private sector, yet in practice, the military hierarchy stifles any independent initiative. Let the economy breathe; send the military back to the barracks to focus on their primary duty: defense.
- Water crisis at the source of the Nile: For Egypt, the Nile is life itself—it is our lifeblood. Ethiopia has now completed its massive Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and continues to regulate the water flow. You engage in endless diplomatic negotiations and assure us of stability. Yet, herders and farmers in the Nile Delta are already facing water shortages for their fields. If Ethiopia turns off the tap, Egypt will dry up. We need a tougher, uncompromising stance on the international stage. On this issue, we have no room for diplomatic niceties.
- A powder keg at our borders: Egypt finds itself ringed by fire. To the west lies a fractured Libya; to the south, a burning Sudan—sending millions of desperate people fleeing our way; and to the east, the humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip shows no signs of abating. We appreciate that you are keeping the country from being dragged into these foreign conflicts and maintaining a balance. However, the strain on our budget and security is immense. We want to be certain that our army is prepared to defend domestic peace rather than squander resources on geopolitical games.

Mr. President, you are a field marshal—a man of strict discipline and command. You have built the Egypt of the "Second Republic," a system where everything is

subordinate to a rigid chain of command. Order is a good thing. But order cannot be sustained for long on an empty stomach.

Halt the "projects of the century." Redirect state funds away from purchasing imported concrete and toward subsidies for the poor, healthcare, and the creation of genuine manufacturing industries. Allow the civilian sector to operate without total surveillance by the security services. We want to take pride in our country not because we have the region's widest highways, but because Egyptians can live on their own land well-fed, free, and with dignity.

With deep respect for your service and a call for change,

A Citizen of the Arab Republic of Egypt

P.S. Performance Audit: Abdel Fattah el-Sisi — An analysis of the Egyptian leader's governance effectiveness (on a scale of 1 to 5):

- Political stability and security control: 4.9 (An absolute triumph of the military power structure. The army and security services fully control the political landscape; any signs of opposition have been completely eradicated.)
- Foreign policy and geopolitical weight: 4.7 (A master of balancing acts. Sisi manages to remain a key partner for the US and the EU, secure billions from the Saudis, purchase weapons from Russia, and build economic hubs with China.)
- Decisiveness and crisis management: 4.0 (Acts on a grand scale and fearlessly; unafraid of unpopular decisions such as cutting bread subsidies and implementing harsh currency reforms demanded by the IMF.)
- Socio-economic health: 2.3 (The regime's weakest point. Colossal external debt, the devaluation of the pound, and widespread poverty create constant, simmering social tension that desert megaprojects cannot suppress.)

Final verdict: 3.98 / A Marshal in the Desert of Uncertainty. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is a classic Middle Eastern "father of the nation" of the military mold. He guarantees external players and domestic elites absolute security and predictability regarding the

Suez Canal and the Sinai borders. His standing in foreign affairs is unshakable. However, his economic model—built on borrowed funds and a race of "megaprojects"—has led the country into a dangerous dead end. Sisi's historic triumph will depend on whether he can loosen the military's grip on business in time and save the middle class from destitution before Egypt's social pressure cooker boils over once again.

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