



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 29, 2011

**Contact:** Kathy Gest, [kgest@ndi.org](mailto:kgest@ndi.org), 202-728-5535

**NDI DEEPLY TROUBLED BY RAIDS ON NGO OFFICES IN EGYPT**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is deeply troubled by today’s raid on its Egyptian offices in Cairo, Alexandria and Assiut, as well as those on Egyptian and other international organizations. During the raid, Egyptian police confiscated NDI’s equipment and documents, sealed the office, and provided no warrant or explanation for their actions.

“NDI has been operating in Egypt since 2005 in an open and transparent manner, working to assist the efforts of political parties and civic organizations seeking to take part in their country’s evolving political process,” said NDI President Kenneth Wollack.

NDI said it is particularly concerned that the Egyptian authorities targeted local organizations, some of which are working on observation efforts for the country’s ongoing parliamentary elections. The third and final round for those polls is scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

“Cracking down on organizations whose sole purpose is to support the democratic process during Egypt’s historic transition sends a disturbing signal,” Wollack said.

We hope that the authorities will allow the offices to reopen and return property so these organizations can continue their work, NDI said.

NDI works in 65 countries worldwide. Its programs in Egypt are designed to assist the long-term development of civic groups, political parties, parliaments and government, with special attention to the active engagement of women and youth in the political process. The Institute does not seek particular electoral outcomes; does not align itself with any political party, ideology or candidate; and it does not provide financial or materiel assistance to political parties.

All programs in Egypt are nonpartisan and based on requests from local partners. They have been funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and the National Endowment for Democracy.

###