



“An American-Moroccan Youth Dialogue On Democracy and Security”

May 25-26, 2007—Rabat, Morocco

Policy Recommendations

Education

1. We recommend using education and critical thinking to increase political awareness, civic education, and encourage political participation of youth in the US and Morocco.
2. The US should increase funding to promote youth, cultural, and technical exchanges between Americans and citizens around the world.
3. The Moroccan Government should enforce mandatory schooling and literacy programs. Included in this is a system of attendance monitoring, new school construction projects that service areas with a dearth of educational facilities, and means of transportation to and from schools.

American Democracy Promotion Projects

4. In order for U.S. democracy promotion efforts to have a sustainable effect, they should encourage the installation of local training bodies that would be in charge of assisting and perpetuating these efforts.
5. The US should fund, focus on, and track projects that would reduce poverty in Morocco.
6. U.S. foreign policy and democracy promotion should include a more tailored approach that considers the needs of the people in each country.

Moroccan Politics and Governance

7. We recommend the introduction of discussions about the relationship between Islam and democracy and encourage dialogue about the issue.

8. We recommend the creation of political space, free of any legal consequences, for debate and dialogue about democratic processes that will create an environment more conducive to citizens' political participation.
9. We recommend the promotion of parliamentary accountability through a tracking of member votes and attendance, including a written code of conduct for all Members of Parliament as well as creating a contract with its constituency.
10. The Moroccan Government should advocate for an independent judiciary that would uphold all laws equally—regardless of political ramifications.

Combating Terrorism

11. The US should close Guantanamo and other detention centers and end U.S. inconsistencies in defining and fighting terrorism.
12. The US and its allies should develop stricter rules protecting due process and the rights of suspected terrorists including requiring arrest warrants, limiting detention periods for the accused, and defining acceptable interrogation methods in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.
13. The counterterrorism efforts of the US and its allies should focus on promoting independent development, civic participation and fiscal accountability through targeted projects like the Millennium Challenge Account, micocredit loans and local partnerships.
14. In order to potentially prevent future terrorist attacks, the American and Moroccan governments should engage in dialogue with dissidents in order to better understand their grievances and concerns.
15. Morocco and involved parties should expedite the resolution of the status of Western Sahara in order to avoid future security problems in the region.
16. The U.S Government should re-open consular services in Morocco immediately.
17. Morocco should avoid mass arrests after terrorist attacks and re-evaluate all prison conditions to conform to international law and refuse extraordinary renditions.

The Media

18. Morocco should promote the creation of local, organic news media (such as community radio programming) in local languages.
19. Morocco should relax press restrictions so as to allow for greater dissent.
20. The US should end its policy of self-promoting media (such as Voice of America). These broadcasts should be replaced with clearly defined communications on US actions and goals to local news sources.