

Remarks of Dr. Azza Kamel
Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development (ACT)
Acceptance of 2011 Madeleine K. Albright Grant

Washington, D.C.
November 7, 2011

On behalf of ACT, I wish to thank NDI for awarding us the 2011 Madeleine K. Albright Grant. We are especially honored that Secretary Albright is with us tonight.

Dr. Albright, you are an example of women's empowerment and participation. Your career is an inspiration to ACT and the women of Egypt.

The Arab Spring was more than what was reported in the media. Tahrir Square in Cairo certainly was the focal point, but people came into the streets across Egypt. Women had the courage to join the front lines alongside men, not only in the capital, but throughout the country.

We helped make the revolution. Now we want to shape the society that will emerge. Like women everywhere, we are invested in our families and our children.

Working together, we can achieve what seemed impossible a few short months ago – democratic rights for all and the proper place of women in Egypt's public life.

Our purpose at ACT is to unite women across Egypt and throughout the Arab world: reaching out to women everywhere and helping them find common ground.

The near absence of women in the new government and the likelihood that few women will be elected to parliament next month is of great concern to us.

It is this parliament that will write the new constitution, and ACT is reaching out to women throughout Egypt to build a coalition that cannot be ignored and will not be silenced.

This award will help me and my wonderful team at ACT to be there every step of the way – participating in the process and providing the pressure that will be necessary to encourage and safe-guard the realization of our collective dreams in Egypt.

The quest for freedom, dignity and justice that inspired the revolution is not just the privilege of men. Egyptian women want to lead empowered lives free of violence with equal access to the decision-making process.

That has been our message and the Madeleine K. Albright Grant will enable us to carry it forward, to the men and women of Egypt and the Arab World. Thank you, NDI, for your support, and your vote of confidence in the future of my country.