



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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Editor  
Letter to the Editor

John Baird's first international foray as Canada's Foreign Minister shows a promising, new, energized foreign policy. **(Baird secretly meets with Libyan rebels June 28)** While he cautions, rightly, that Libya's National Transitional Council does not make a perfect democracy, his presence shows Canada recognizing a life and death struggle for freedom. The National Transitional Council is a remarkable group that has identified youth and women as integral components of the way forward. That the Minister also met with civil society during his visit sends a Canadian message that democracies are built by the people. Canadian development that continues to focus on the full engagement of women in new governance structures will reap enormous benefits for the region. This too was emphasized by the Minister.

The future will be arduous for those in Libya, and for those in countries like Egypt and Tunisia now off our front pages. Actively and forcefully signaling Canadian support of those who pursue fairness and the peoples' voice is something all Canadians appreciate, expect and applaud.

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