

**NAFSA: Association of
International Educators**

1307 New York Avenue NW
Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20005-4701
Telephone: 1.202.737.3699
Fax: 1.202.737.3657
E-mail: inbox@nafsa.org
<http://www.nafsa.org>

*President and
Chair of the Board of Directors*
Meredith M. McQuaid, JD
University of Minnesota

*Vice President for Education
and Professional Development*
Mary H. Reeves, PhD
Commission on English
Language Program Accreditation

*Vice President for
Member Relations*
Susan M. Thompson
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

*Vice President for
Public Policy and Practice*
Sherif Barsoum
Vanderbilt University

Treasurer
Peter M. Robinson
U.S. Council for
International Business

Secretary
Bonnie Bissonette
Northcentral Technical College

Executive Director and CEO
Marlene M. Johnson

May 6, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write on behalf of NAFSA: Association of International Educators to commend you for supporting the release of Libyan frozen assets to be used for humanitarian purposes. I respectfully request that if this occurs, funding be made available to the approximately 2,000 Libyan foreign students and exchange visitors in the United States.

As the world's largest nonprofit association for international education professionals, NAFSA has nearly 10,000 members at colleges and universities throughout the United States and around the world. Our members have expressed serious concerns over the impact recent events have had on Libyan students and exchange visitors currently attending U.S. institutions. Already worried about their families at home, Libyan students and exchange visitors find their own situation to be terribly precarious. As the end of the semester approaches and they are unable to access promised funding from the Libyan government or private sources, they risk no longer being able to continue their studies and legally remain in the United States in student or exchange visitor status. And as the conflict continues without an end in sight, returning to Libya presents a terrifying prospect.

For temporary relief, our members are already connecting Libyans with local food banks and other services they will need until funding is restored. But this can only be a stop-gap measure. Therefore, I request that if Libyan assets are made available for humanitarian purposes, provisions be included for the Libyan students and exchange visitors currently in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlene M. Johnson
Executive Director & CEO