

MIMUN 2011
Security Council

Topic: Egyptian Uprisings: Human Rights and International Response

Dear Delegates,

I am really excited about the MIMUN 2011 conference and cannot wait to see the hard work and new ideas that our committee creates in terms of the on going emergence of revolution in Egypt and its effects on the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Linker and I am currently a freshman at the University of Michigan. I am studying business, but I do have an affinity for international relations and global interactions. I am originally from Chicago, and love Chicago baseball – specifically the White Sox. I have a lot of Model U.N. experience, participating in conferences for all four years of high school and assisting with the UNA-USA middle school conference in Chicago.

My goals for our committee this conference will be to create positive and flowing debate on the many views on the effects of the revolution. I hope that our committee can decide on the future actions of the Security Council in terms of uprisings of this scale as they continue on the global scene. As the Security Council we have the unique ability to not only suggest United Nations actions, but to work to implement a response in terms of what the Security Council can and should be doing.

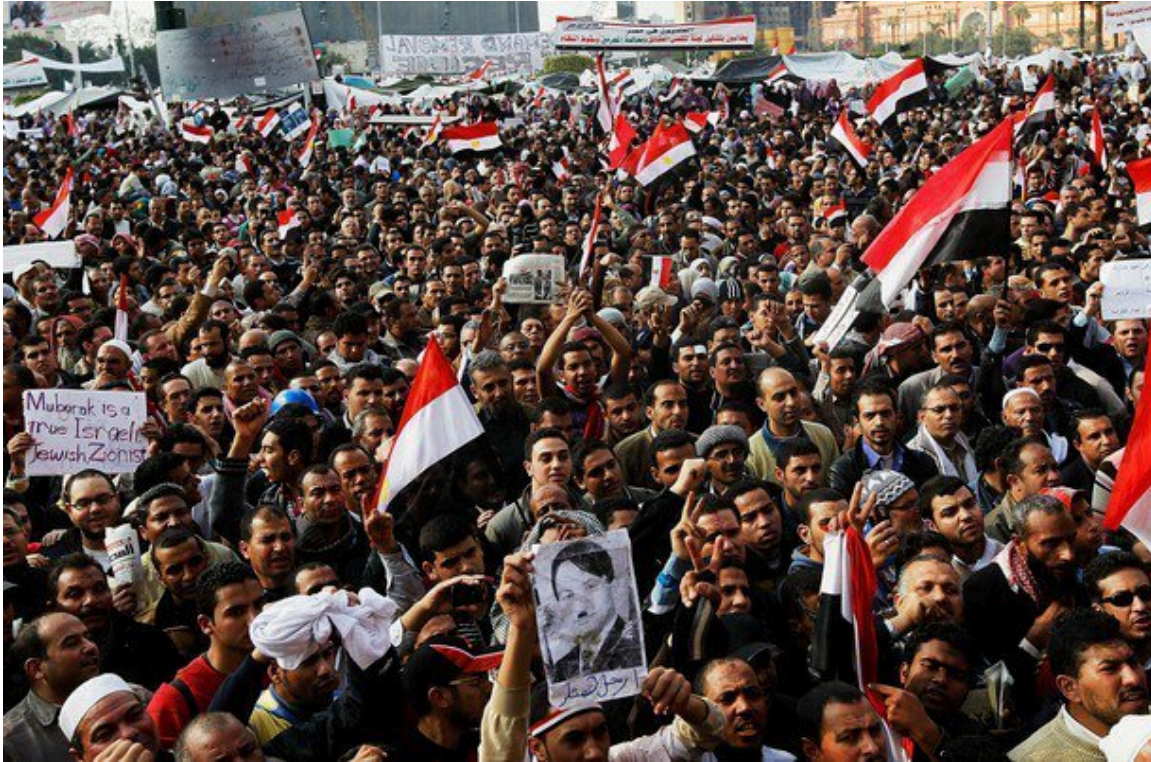
I know that at first conferences can be daunting, but I encourage each of you to use this conference as a learning experience and to get involved. I love Model U.N. and I hope that I can share my passion with you. I know it can sometimes be hard, but it is really important that throughout this conference you stay true to the national policies you are representing. Even though you may not agree with the positions you represent, it is necessary that you stay in character and continue to respect your nation's policies.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions while you write your position papers, research your topic, or just if you want to chat about anything. I am really looking forward to hearing from you and the great ideas you for our topics at hand.

See you all in a few weeks!

Jennifer Linker
Director of Security Council
jrlinker@umich.edu

Brief Background on the Issue



Over the past few months the Middle East has become open ground for continued revolution as nation after nation stands up for the human rights they claim to be lacking, overthrowing their governments and attempting to create nation-states that they feel better reflect their wants and needs. The conflicts began in Tunisia, when the people overthrew their long time president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The conflict quickly spread to Egypt and Libya where protesters continued to express their unhappiness with their nation's current states of affairs.

Egypt has been known as a nation of stability in the Middle East, its president, Hosni Mubarak, has been in power for nearly thirty years. After the Tunisian conflict arose, it inspired protesters to speak out in other nations, notably Egypt. In Egypt, the protests emerged, allowing the people to speak out against police brutality, the restrictions of freedoms including the freedom to vote and the freedom of speech, corruption, high unemployment, inflation, and low minimum wages. The people utilized their protests as a way express their distaste for Mubarak and against the Emergency Law that had been implemented since 1981. Under this Emergency Law, elections were postponed and the people did not have a voice in the course of their government's progression.

The outcry was mostly lead by the Egyptian youth, those members of society who were tech-savvy and able to spread their message easily over the Internet, but others have joined the revolution including the formerly outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. There is not one dominant leader to the protests, as a general trend in the uprisings has been a movement away from the status quo, returning more power to the hands of the people.

The Egyptian government is now in shambles, Mubarak has stepped down and the constitution has been suspended. The military is currently leading the government, with the aid of Mubarak's cabinet, which will continue to guide the nation despite the dissolved legislature. This rule will continue for six months until a more permanent arrangement can be created. This is a very hostile and insecure arrangement, and it is now uncertain how the nation's government will rebuild and reshape.

Questions to Consider

1. What should the international body do in response to a crisis like this? Should the Security Council be getting involved in order to prevent further conflict or harm?
2. What role does social media play in the conflict? Is this an issue?
3. Is National Sovereignty significant in a case like this?
4. What should be the international response if uprisings and revolutions like this continue to spread across the Middle East?
5. How would your nation respond to revolution? Would your nation support the people or the government, and in which way do they intend to support either side?
6. What is democracy and what role does it play in a conflict like this?
7. How has the United Nations already gotten involved in the conflict? Should its actions be continued?

Resources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12324664>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/30/egypt-revolution-2011_n_816026.html

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/20/books/review/Creswell-t.html>

<http://images4.fanpop.com/image/photos/19100000/egyptian-revolution-revolution-19162928-610-402.jpg>