

XXVI

TECMUN Jr.

Historical League of Arab
States

Dear Delegate:

I am found in the place where I will stand up front and salute you as my mere equal. For the next few days we will be working towards a common goal, to try and understand each others differences, to be tolerant and to solve the problems that the common man has been seeking desperately for years, and for a moment we will make the difference they couldn't. Unfortunately that change is only a small dream that wished our reality was based on, an ideal that we've conquered in our minds to set the world's peace on. I believe that hard work pays off, that for the next three days we will be working exhaustively to achieve a resolution, but it is not about the paper itself but about all the effort behind it, by the common understanding of what it represents to all of the committee, of what it means to work together, dialogue and knowledge development.

I believe on what man can achieve with the right encouragement. I know it is not going to be easy, I believe that if you have the guts to stand up and speak, never go back in your words and stand firm behind your arguments because that is how you defend and opinion, your way of thinking and understanding the world, it may be nerve crushing, and to stumble on your words from time to time is completely normal, just remember your President and the chairs are there to help you through it, guide you. Do not fear saying your opinion but do fear, please, regretting not saying anything. Finally, learn from your mistakes, learn to stand up from the ashes, do learn your path and the marks of your feet throughout your journey of self discoverment, you are your best judge and teacher, and I wish you trouble so you will know how to deal with the world adversities.

Diana Alhelí Ortega Alfaro

President of the Historical League of Arab States

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Outline of the Historical League of Arab States

The League of Arab States (LAS) is the regional organization of Arab States around North Africa, the horn of Africa and Arabia. It was formed in Cairo, its current administrative center, in 1945 with 6 main members: Kingdom of Egypt, Kingdom of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, Yemen would later join as an official member of the league. Currently the league is conformed of 22 official members, including Palestine, however, Syria's participation was suspended due to its conflicts during the Syrian Civil War. The League's main goal is to draw closer the relations between member States and coordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries. This means to improve coordination among its members on matters of common interest. The League was chartered in response to concerns about postwar colonial divisions of territory as well as strong opposition to the emergence of a Jewish state in Palestine.

Topic A

Developing arrangements for the renegotiation for the Arab Charter of Human rights of 2004 as a countermeasure for the polemic western opposition 2008

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Outline

After World War II, the United Nations created a committee in charge of creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session on 10 December 1948, this committee was led by Eleanor Roosevelt, but it is said that this Declaration was made just considering the occidental culture, therefore, in 1994 the League of Arab States met to adopt The Arab Charter of Human Rights with 53 articles, which came into force after been presented to Arab League summit, held in Tunisia on May 23th, 2004. It was later ratified by seven countries including Jordan, Bahrain, Libya, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine and Yemen.

This was celebrated by Louise Arbor January 24th, 2008, a high comrade for human rights, as a result of which disputes broke out on the part of the pro-Israel communities since it contains issues such as the death penalty, the treatment of women and Zionism. According to the League of Arab States, the creation of this Charter was to demonstrate that the Shaira (document by which the Muslim countries are governed) is not at odds with International Law. Eric Sottas, director of the World Organization against Torture (hereinafter referred to as OMCT), aforementioned that some issues are not very clear and have some contradictions with other papers that the League of Arab States has previously signed, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child held on November 20th, 1989.

Keeping the moral and ethical boundaries of western Human Rights and the involvement of religious influence inside the Arab Charter of Human Rights, it is important for the League of Arab States to reestablish certain affirmations concerning the clarification of points such as women and children rights regarding tortures and unjust punishments, keeping in mind the agreements it already has with other international organisms.

Background of the conflict

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights were extremely influenced by the Western political thought, particularly in freedom of speech and organizing parties: the first phase tried to nullify them for the freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration, especially religious freedom and propagating any kind of sect or religion are contradictory to Islamic Shari'ah which recognizes Islam as the true religion and does not regard any other religion as true and recognizes the change of religion as apostasy. Muslim principles are endeavored to demonstrate that these rights were better explained in Islam. Muslim thinkers thought of using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a paradigm for formulating the human rights as accepted by Islam. So far more than seven declarations have been issued as to the human rights in Islam by

the Muslim Assembly in Europe, the Kuwait Conference and the Organization of Islamic International Conference and more than five Islamic constitutions have been published; the Islamic Constitution of the Assembly of Islamic Thoughts in al-Azhar in 1978 is an example of this case. Most of these bills are relevant to the last twenty years from 1978.

Three bills on human rights were published by the Organization of Islamic Conference; one was published in Mecca in 1979 on the fundamental rights and duties in Islam; the second was approved and issued by the Summits Conference in 1981 on the human rights in Islam and the third one was the Cairo Bill of Human Rights in Islam approved in 1990 in the nineteenth conference of the foreign ministers of the Member States. In fact, it was the most comprehensive and official bill ever approved and issued. It was agreed that the aforementioned draft be proposed and approved in the nineteenth assembly of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference members (Dr Mihrpur.1995).

Outbreak of the conflict

After the first declaration of The Arab Charter of Human Rights adopted in Cairo on September 15, 1994, there were mayor outbreaks as it was stated to be quite radical and against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as it states inside their articles to eliminate all practices of zionism, allowed death penalty. As much as these penalties are stated with much humanity, it is concerning as the Arab Charter of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as ACHR) has the purpose of keeping its external relationships intact with the acknowledgement of the close interrelationship between human rights and world peace whilst at the same time keep their ideological religious values.

The ACHR is reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the provisions of the United Nations International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam while pursuing the eternal principles of brotherhood and equality among all human beings which were firmly established by the Islamic Shari'a and the other divinely-revealed religions.

Importance of the Conflict

Among the remnants of the wave of reform that is said to have hit the Arab world is the Arab Charter on Human Rights, adopted at a summit of the League of Arab States in May 2004. The Charter came into force in March 2008 accepted by ten Arab states: Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan,

Libya, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Charter, which revises a 1994 document, is part of a larger process of modernization of the Arab League, which includes the creation of a Peace and Security Council as well as the establishment of an interim Arab Parliament. The Charter's significance lies in the fact that it is an instrument from the region, negotiated by states of the region. It therefore has the potential to diminish and eventually end the continued questioning by Arab states of their duties to respect, protect, and promote human rights in many areas (Rishmawi, 2009).

As Mervat Rishmawi, a legal advisor at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, said:

Aside from the obvious question of whether Arab states will follow through in making actual changes in law and practices to conform to the Charter, there is the question of whether Arab civil society organizations will engage in the process in the same way they do with other regional and international systems. For the Charter to succeed in furthering human rights, Arab governments would have to be willing to re-open the debate on some provisions that clearly contradict international standards. Another measure of the significance of the Charter will be whether, once states submit their reports on measures they have taken to conform to the Charter, serious debates on human rights start to take place within the walls of the Arab League (Rishmawi, 2009).

The conflict

The Arab league is looking to answer and respond to a major question as to how to achieve accountability for the gross human rights violations, transnational sectarian violence, and humanitarian crises left in the wake of the region's growing instability. Part of the League's answer to the question has been the proposed establishment of a human rights court to provide a common judicial mechanism to respond to the region's needs. The court's jurisdiction would rest within the framework of the Arab human rights system, namely the 2008 Arab Charter on Human Rights. It is intended to provide redress for human rights abuses among the League's member states. Yet controversy and doubt surround the proposal. Regional and international human rights defenders claim the statute does not uphold international standards of human rights or guarantee the protection of procedural justice and due process (McCrone, 2015).

Apart from the issues around the juridical compromise by the Arab League, certain concerns focus around overtures such as the syrian crisis, their involvement in the Gulf wars of 1990 and 2003 and allegations of mass atrocities inside their State Members which are not

enough to cause the international human rights community to overlook the continued abuse of human rights at the national level among many of the League's member states.

The challenges that the League is facing overall seem like the lack of compromise from all State Members, seeking a good judicial enforcement mechanism to compel compliance with its decisions in order to help the human rights crisis, the sheer challenge of developing a supranational jurisprudence over a vast geographical area of diverse legal systems, though here they are also based on various codes combining the major legal traditions of both civil and Islamic bodies of law, and the polemic due to the standards due to their conservative interpretation of Islamic law and limitations on the rights of women, children, and freedom of speech, among others (McCrone, 2015).

Historical League of Arab States and The Arab Charter of Human Rights.

The Leaders of the Arab States are committed to the principles upon which the League of Arab States was founded and to the objectives enunciated in its Charter, as well as to the noble universal values spelled out in the United Nations Charter and to all the instruments of international legality; therefore, it is taking into account the new world changes and the challenges and stakes they generate to determined to pursue efforts in order to strengthen the solidarity and cohesion of the Arab Nation.

The league's response to this series of problems is to develop the system of joint Arab action, to amend the Arab League Charter and to modernize its work methods and its specialized institutions, based on the various Arab initiatives and ideas included in the proposals put forward by the Secretary General as well as on a consensual and coherent vision and on a gradual and a more international balanced approach. To reaffirm the States commitment of the humanitarian principles and the noble values of human rights in their comprehensive and interdependent dimensions, to the provisions of the various international conventions in order to add to the Arab Human Rights Charter, as well as to the reinforcement of the freedom of expression, thought and belief and to the guarantee of the independence of the judiciary (OHCHR, 2004).

The League of Arab States seeks for the appropriate measures to enable good relations with the international law enforcement as well as with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as to show cooperation and partnership with other arab countries. Determination to consecrate dialogue among religions and cultures and to highlight the civilisational and humanist mission of Islam which calls for disseminating the values of tolerance, concord and peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations, and rejects hatred

and discrimination. This vision will require revisiting the proposed court's statute and reforming the existing Arab human rights system to better comply with international standards. This may allow the victims of human rights violations in the region to finally have their day in court (McCrone, 2015).

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Glossary

A

Apostasy: a total desertion of or departure from one's religion, principles, cause, etc.

C

Compel: to force or drive, especially to a course of action; to submit.

Consecrate: to make or declare sacred; to make something, an object, of honor or veneration to some purpose.

Covenants: an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. *Law.* an incidental clause in such an agreement.

D

Disseminating: to scatter or spread widely, promulgate extensively; broadcast; disperse.

J

Jurisprudence: the science or philosophy of law; a body or system of laws.

N

Nullify: to render or declare legally void or inoperative.

P

Paradigm: a framework containing the basic assumptions, ways of thinking, and methodology that are commonly accepted by members of a scientific community.

S

Sovereignty: supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community.

Summit: the highest state or degree.

Supranational: outside or beyond the authority of one national government, as a project or policy that is planned and controlled by a group of nations.

Z

Zionism: a worldwide Jewish movement that resulted in the establishment and development of the state of Israel.

Topic B

Nation Building in Egypt as part of the political instability of the Arab Spring during January of 2011

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Outline

In the year of 2010, a large list of countries across the Middle East underwent into a series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions. This series of events are known as the arab spring. The arab spring started in Tunisia with the uprising against the government of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. After two months of protest the government of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, fell. Egypt was among the countries that participated in the arab spring. Inspired by the successful uprising in Tunisia, the 25 of January of 2011 the protest in Egypt against the government of Hosni Mubarak started. Protesters came on the streets demanding the overthrow of the president Hosni Mubarak complaining of corruption, unemployment, poverty and autocratic government of Mubarak who ruled the country of Egypt for 30 years. Mubarak used police forces to fight against the protestants and he blocked the access to the internet in order to avoid the organization of the oppressor groups against him. Violent clashes between the protester and the security forces ended up taking the life of hundreds of people and leaving thousands seriously injured. The revolution did not last long, 18 days were enough for Mubarak to resign as president, giving an end to the armed rebellions in the country the 10 of february of 2011. After the arab spring there was a lot of hope in Egypt for a better future but, five years later, in 2016, the authoritarian regime of Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi was consolidated. The unemployment rate went down to 13.4% the poverty index turned into a 25.2% and more than 40% of the population suffers of hunger.

Taking into consideration that the arab spring lead Egypt to a humanitarian crisis, the main goal of the presented topic is to reach a political, economical and social stability in the country. Having in mind that Egypt is the largest Arab country and it has a central role in Middle Eastern politics in modern times, it is of huge relevance reaching the stability of the country. The arab spring's consequences left the country in crisis conditions as well as almost all the Middle East. Making emphasis in reconstructing the biggest arab country in the Middle East is a step forward to bring stability to all the region.

Background of the Conflict

The Arab Spring is the wave of pro-democracy protesters and uprisings that took place in the Middle East and North Africa beginning in 2010 and 2011, challenging some of the region's entrenched authoritarian regimes. Demonstrators expressing political and economic grievances faced violent crackdowns by their countries' security forces (Britannica, 2015). It was a movement of violent and violence less protests and civil wars started from Tunis on December 18, 2010 and extended all over the Arab world later on. It was against the long term despotic

rules of the authoritarian rulers, continuous state of emergency in which Police and the Interior Ministry had excessive powers to crush the people causing unemployment, poverty, inflation, in between other problems. All the regimes which were affected by the Arab Spring used their powers vehemently to crush the demonstrators and consequently the peaceful protesters also became violent. The common slogan of the protesters throughout Arab Spring was “the people want to bring down the regime” (QadirMushtaq, 2017).

The popular idea of democratization helped break down the weak and resilient Middle Eastern Autocracies as it aims towards dictatorships in powerful regimes once thought to be stable, Egypt’s situation is particularly aiming to protest against modern sultans. After the protests, it was expected that Egypt would make a stable transition to democracy, however, it was never the case. After the revolutions, Egypt broke down into a series of debates over taxation and state spending, corruption, foreign policy, the role of the military, the powers of the president, official policy on religious law and practice, minority rights, and so on (Goldstone, 2016).

Conflict

Massive protests broke out in Egypt in late January 2011. The Egyptian government also tried and failed to control protests by offering concessions while cracking down violently against protesters. After several days of massive demonstrations and clashes between protesters and security forces in Cairo and around the country, a turning point came at the end of the month when the Egyptian army announced that it would refuse to use force against protesters calling for the removal of the president Ḥosnī Mubārak, having lost the support of the military, Mubārak left office on February 11 after nearly 30 years, ceding power to a council of senior military officers. (Britannica, 2015).

Some of the main causes for the Arab Spring that Egypt had to suffer were its role on the global crisis as the progressive of economic conditions and structures because of Egypt tourism and manufacturing as its main source of income, next is the food crisis as its high price and constant inflation caused Egypt and other Arab countries to suffer at the hands of public protests due to price increase in food grains. Unemployment was also an important consequence as the decrease in the manufacturing of different goods during 2010 increased the unemployment rate especially among the youth and females. Other problems Egypt was facing at that time include the social disconformity with education and democracy, problems with freedom and economic inequalities, the discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities

as prejudice against the ethnic and religious minorities is uncontrolled in the region and it was one of the most important causes behind the Arab Spring.

The expected consequences of the Arab Spring is what led to the situation dealing with Egypt as it caused the removal of the Authoritarian Rulers from Tunis, Libya, and Egypt, the grant of political and social rights, the impacts on the surrounding states, the international reactions, the developing of the political sphere, a place where common people could discuss politics at public places and discuss their expected future and effort to attain democratic transition in Arab world. One of the major triumphs of the Arab Spring was the birth of the Arab citizen. The Arab League was also the victim of internal clashes and it played an important role in Arab Spring. Some members of the Arab League posed a dual standard as they were supporting the demonstrators against rulers of some states while on the same time they were supporting the rulers of some states against the protesters (QadirMushtaq, 2017).

Importance for the Committee

After the victory of the protesters, Egypt was now moving towards a process of democratization, not without facing certain important issues. Mainly Egypt has to deal with Egypt's current president, former general Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, who was once widely greeted as a hero whose military intervention saved the country from a polarizing interim government run by the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood. Today it is said that El-Sisi's grip on power is as tight, or tighter than that of the authoritarian regime Egyptians overthrew seven years ago. The government is also struggling greatly to bring down what has been one of the region's highest budget deficits. Billions of dollars in support from wealthy Gulf backers like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have helped. But Egypt was forced to lift currency controls in 2016 to seal a \$12 billion International Monetary Fund loan, sending inflation soaring to a peak of more than 33 percent. While the rate has since eased to around half that, Egyptians still struggle with high prices and a dearth of jobs. At the same time, a sweeping crackdown on Islamists and other dissenters has silenced all but the bravest of critics. After El-Sisi and other officers ousted the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi from the presidency in 2013, security forces killed hundreds of Egyptians and jailed tens of thousands of others (El-Tablawy, 2018).

The concerning situation in former Egypt and nearby countries is alarming to the League of Arab States (hereby referred to as LAS) as the Arab Spring has been a movement that has highly affected the arab world due to the constant revolutions moving from a conservative authoritarian government to a democracy, however, this transition has a background of historical deficit and various problems that led the protesters to take matters in

their own hands. From socio economic disconformity to a non responding and violent government, led people to understand the need for a change as the civil society is dysfunctional. There are big problems with policy-making and human rights abuses, at the same time, the economy is dependent on loans but big investments are needed, not small loans, especially for SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises). Better educational opportunities and independent media capacity-building are needed, as well as judicial support and legislative advice with more flexible constitutional mechanisms such as direct referendums (Tisdall, 2011).

Egypt being one of the most important countries in the middle east, reaching its complete stability from its crisis is one of the goals that the committee should consider within a huge relevance. The League of Arab States main goal is to bring all middle east countries together in order to bring balance among the region. Taking into consideration that the biggest country on the region is suffering from one of the biggest humanitarian crisis isn't such a good start to bring stability to the whole middle east. Once Egypt has a political, economical and mainly social balance, then the huge collaboration that Egypt have can actually help to restore peace in the hole region. Egypt not only have an important role in the middle east, it also have a huge influence around the world in many aspects. Egypt have control over one of the most important waterways in the world, the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal is an artificial sea waterway that provides the shortest route between Europe and the Indian and Pacific oceans. Nowadays the canal is extensively used by modern ships as it is the fastest crossing from the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean. Nevertheless the violence in Egypt that increases everyday, put in risk the control of the canal, which is one of the most important resources that sustains Egypt economy. Egypt crisis have a huge impact all over the world, mainly in the United States. "The great trends that have affected the United States have come out of Egypt," says Fareed Zakaria. Egypt is the closest ally in the arab region, as a consequence of that, the crisis in Egypt highly affects United States economy.

Historical League of Arab States and Egypt

Egypt supported the efforts of the Arab League as a key tool of joint Arab action, by providing the necessary capabilities to reform its structures and assist it to play its role properly, regarding upgrading its existing structures and adding new structures, in order to promote joint Arab march and to strengthen the capacity of the Arab League to contain such disputes before its escalation, by mechanisms to avoid disputes or to managing and settling them peacefully.

Egypt permanently confirms the importance of moving forward in the Arab economic integration projects and implementing measures and policies that lead to liberate trade, capital, individuals and technology among the Arab countries. Egypt also affirms the productive portal in developing Arab economies, building joint ventures and improving chances of joint investment opportunities, which would lead finally to the establishment of the aspired Arab joint market, as well as the need to reach a unified concept of the collective Arab security, the reality of directed threats and the necessary procedures to protect it, in addition to discuss ways of enforcing the agreements and the frameworks of joint Arab cooperation in all fields.

Egypt attaches great importance to collective Arab cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education and culture, and also to developing bilateral relations among Arab countries in these areas with accepting gradual and selective approach in implementing development and reform operations, taking into account the circumstances of each country.

To support and protect Arab national security in a comprehensive way and its political, economic and military dimensions, which based on Egypt's acknowledgment that the national security of each Arab country is separate and would be achieved only in the framework of the Arab national security. At the same time, in order to strengthen solidarity among Arab countries, it settles disputes among them peacefully and enforce mechanisms to avoid disputes or manage and settle them peacefully.

For Egypt, it is important to commit all Arab states to the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states, and affirms that to support the Arab League's efforts as a key tool of joint Arab action, it is important to provide the necessary capabilities to reform its structures and enable it play its role properly. It is fundamental to establish the concept of the modern nation-state and protect the Arab social fabric with all its components and pursuing to strengthen relations between the Arab countries and each other, especially in trade and economic fields, in order to establish the Arab common market as a strategic objective for each Arab nation. Finally the Arab integration in the war against terrorism and to fight violent extremism and intellectual extremism is one of the Arab League's main priorities when it comes down to threaten any of the State Members or damages the Arab public world image (Arab Republic of Egypt, n.d.).

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Glossary

A

Autocratic: pertaining to or of the nature of autocracy or of an autocrat; absolute.

B

Bilateral: pertaining to, involving, or affecting two or both sides, factions, parties, etc.

C

Concessions: the act of conceding or yielding, as a right, a privilege, or a point or fact in an argument.

D

Deficit: the amount by which a sum of money falls short of the required amount; lack or shortage.

Despotic: relating to, or of the nature of a despot or despotism; autocratic; tyrannical.

Dissenters: a person who dissents, as from an established church, political party, or majority opinion.

F

Framework: a frame or structure composed of parts fitted and joined together.

G

Grievances: a complaint or resentment, as against an unjust or unfair act.

I

Inflation: a persistent, substantial rise in the general level of prices related to an increase in the volume of money and resulting in the loss of value of currency.

R

Referendums: the principle or practice of referring measures proposed or passed by a legislative body, head of state, etc., to the vote of the electorate for approval or rejection.

Resilient: springing back; rebounding.