

## **The Truth About The Arab Spring Protests**

**By Ibrahim Keita**

At the Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) XXIV Conference, the topic discussed was the protests of the Arab Spring. During the Arab Spring, there were two deaths, dozens of arrests, and a number of people were wounded. These are the ‘facts’ that we’re told to the world.

In the middle of everything, a protest broke out in Algeria which provoked retaliation from the government. Protests also broke out in Syria and Lebanon. An agreement was attempted to be reached but one could not be agreed upon. This caused higher tensions when a delegate said he was going to reach out to foreign powers for assistance, to calm down, and regulate the protests. Another point brought up was that we do not need outside help and we should unite and help ourselves. The other Middle Eastern and North African countries also did not want any assistance from Western countries. Even though Algeria has tried to regulate the protesting, the protesters demanded change now. Firstly, the countries wanted to try and focus on the reason they are protesting. The countries could not fulfill every demand but tried their hardest. Eventually, the government had to give in.

After agreements started popping up, a pilgrimage to the oil rigs started. The solutions to this problem sounded very influenced by western values. One delegate said, “We must kick out all western inhabitants”. This brought up many points such as how the North African and Middle Eastern people should not follow some values except a select few. This prompted a delegate from Saudi Arabia to say, “We do not need them...they are not and should not be important to us.” This brought up conflict because some countries that stay out of most of the conflict, such as the U.A.E., were not affected. Other countries felt that we do need them since some countries do not have the authority to help and may need help from foreign powers. Large countries, like Syria and Iran, who have strong army alliances with Russia, felt disrespected in a sense saying that other countries do not need help but they do.

Now, turning the spotlight onto Tunisia. After The Arab Spring, Tunisia felt a deficit due to the event. Multiple assumptions and allegations started popping up. Americans were oblivious to the fact of what was happening due to fake news and immediate assumptions. These assumptions have been happening forever. Many people who were affected by the Arab Springs still experience the trauma and hardships it caused.

While the moderated caucus was in effect, the delegate Fouad Mebazaa said that the unemployment rate is a whopping 26%. A new goal of educating the public was created when finding out that former president, Ben Ali, was charged with embezzlement and sentenced to 35 years in prison. This led to efforts by Fouad Mebazaa to fix the court system into a more

democratic system. In conclusion, the Arab Spring was most likely one of the most important events in the Arab world.