

Open Letter of Support to the People of Tunisia, Egypt, and Other African and Middle East Nations Yearning for Democracy, Freedom of Expression, Rights, Responsibilities, and the Restoration Dignity and Justice

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In the last couple of days, we have witnessed the direct involvement of the people of Tunisia in taking control of the restoration of their social well being long overdue. By working collaboratively to remove a dictator that repressed their progress for many decades, Tunisians took the lead and gave notice to all dictators in Africa and the Middle East that there is no longer room for repression and oppression. Over many decades, brutal usurpation of power, the manipulation of national resources to form brutal police, and military machines have often been used to force timorous subservience from most citizens. This has generally been the order of business in Africa and many parts of the Middle East. Citizens of these nations are continually choked to death in tragic poverty, incomprehensible social misery, and hopelessness by unrelenting dictators who are addicted to power and materialism. Such addiction to power and brutality have caused the Continent of Africa and the Middle East untold economic, political, and social regression. While dictators and their selected loyalists live extremely comfortable lives, more than three quarters of their populations wallow in abject poverty, fear, and social degeneration. The fear of challenging the status quo, and the fear of venturing beyond prescribed conditions have crippled women and men, forcing them to distrust and mistreat each other. Those who simply can no longer take it migrate to Western and other nations bringing their talents, struggles, and sometimes frustrations to these new places. But even their new homes away from their homelands do not often bring the total reprieve. Over the last couple of years, we have seen the excesses of profiling affect our African, Arab, and Muslim citizens in Western nations because of fear and suspicion that they may be linked to extremist behaviors. In the end, so many of them are faced with a very difficult scenario. They cannot simply return to their home country because of the massive dictatorial apparatus which clamps down on anyone who makes effort to enlighten the people. But they are equally frustrated in the West because their humanity as African, Arab, and Middle Eastern and their choice of religion force them on to the radar of suspicion which infringes upon their rights and dignity.

We, the members of the Justice Studies Association (JSA) in the United States strongly believe that the yearning for democracy and freedom which has been enacted by the people in Tunisia, Egypt, and South Sudan is an excellent starting point for reclaiming their humanity and freeing themselves from the multiple physical and mental prisons imposed on them for decades. We would like to encourage and support this journey for liberation as a continued peaceful process in view of re-organizing these vulnerable societies into havens of progress and prosperity. In addition, we specifically commend the Egyptian military for admirable restraint, and encourage and support the creation of a lasting and responsible civil society where distributive or social justice, absent for many decades, takes precedence. We would also in solidarity encourage the people of Tunisia, Egypt, and South Sudan in Africa, and the rest of the Middle East to include in their yearnings collaborations of lasting friendships with each other within the continent of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the West, Australia, and New Zealand so as to create a productive and lasting outcome to their efforts. We believe that the more all of our societies

are able to interact with each other as we exchange positive experiences that produce harmony and prosperity, the more global peace takes roots. Finally, we support the people of Tunisia, Egypt, South Sudan, and Cote d'Ivoire for their pursuit of democracy, human rights, and human dignity expressed as the justice that liberates for personal, collective, and global social good.

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On Behalf of All JSA Members