A Meeting on Arab Spring and Uprising in Middle East and North Africa

Public Meeting

The Morality of Intervention, Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the Role of United Nations

Chair: Lord Frank Judd (Former Minister for International Development)

Speakers:

Geoffrey Robertson Q.C. (Human rights lawyer and author) | John Baron M.P. (Member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee) | Christopher Black (Lead Defence Counsel ICTR) | Jeremy Gilley (Founder, Peace One Day) | Tim Wallis (Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce) | Vijay Mehta (Chair, Uniting for Peace)

Venue:

House of Lords
Room 4A,
Westminster,
London SW1P 3, UK

Time & Date:

Wednesday
9th November, 2011
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Ten years after 9/11, the Middle East is experiencing a phenomenal and historical Arab awakening. From Tunisia to Bahrain to Morocco to Libya and Egypt and Yemen, the younger generations have risen in revolt against long standing military dictatorships and monarchies to claim popular representation. The autocratic regimes have cracked down ruthlessly shedding much blood, but the tide is running in favour of the new generation. This is a grass-roots phenomenon based on general discontent with lack of human rights, democratic representation, employment prospects and revolving around easy access to social media and mobile communications. After its decade of war in the Middle East, can the West reconcile its differences with the Arab/Muslim world and endorse the emergence of popular democratic movements? How can the United Nations act when there is no agreement in the Security Council? When is intervention justified and how can it be made effective under United Nations authority? Realistically, how can civilian populations be “protected” by the UN? Who will do it when the Arab states won’t and US and European public opinion has no appetite for it? Can the blunders of the Bush and Blair era be transformed into reparation and reconciliation?

The distinguished speakers will discuss whether it is justifiable for the West to intervene in Sovereign countries. When is it right to apply Responsibility to Protect doctrine and where does UN stand in all this?