



LIBYA AT THE ARAB LEAGUE ON THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN EGYPT AND SECTARIANISM

Egypt remains locked in a protracted process of political transition. Hence, Libya is deeply concerned at the consolidation of a semi-authoritarian regime in Egypt following the military intervention against President Morsi and at the country's further deviation from the aspirations of social justice, human rights and democracy that motivated the uprisings of Egyptian society in 2011.

A national reconciliation is urgently needed, including Mubarak supporters, Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliated Morsi supporters, the military, the religious groups in Egypt and the international community, particularly Arab states. It is in the hands of all of these to restore peace and stability to the area by finding a long-lasting and viable solution to the conflict.

Referring to the newly adopted Constitution, Libya must express its reservations. Although it has introduced some formal improvement in terms of protecting human rights, the vagueness in its drafting allows, however, for the possible restriction of these rights by leaving the interpretation of several of its articles to statutory law. Thus, many will try to use this law as to impose their own views, including in ways this hastily drafted Constitution might have avoided if it had been more precise in its wording. Furthermore, there is a particular concern over the provisions which further enshrine the predominance and impunity of the military.

Libya condemns the violent clashes related to the constitutional referendum that took place in Egypt on 14 and 15 January 2011. Moreover, stresses its strong opposition to the multiplication of arbitrary detention and the sentencing of human rights and youth activists.

Nevertheless, the conflict in Egypt is just the tip of the iceberg. Behind the content a threat that affects the MENA region is hidden. While the world focuses on the intra-Sunni struggle between the Muslim Brotherhood and other streams of thoughts, the uneasy coexistence between Shiites and Sunnis is still largely ignored.

As the Middle East and North Africa enters its fourth year of what is likely to be a path to democracy and change, it is becoming increasingly clear that the hopes in 2011 of a new dawn are being dashed by sectarian violence. The existence of militias and religious groups trying to establish virtual states within a country is a serious threat both for the Arab world and the entire planet.

Especially, the Sunni-Shia schism has taken a turn for the worse. Across the globe, in Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan or Bahrain a bloody sectarian warfare has been declared and specifically in Syria, where an internal conflict has transformed into a civil war.

Libya is highly concerned about the needs of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict and to end the wave of violence that began on 2012 with the Benghazi Consulate attack. Bearing in mind that a transnational conflict requires a transnational response, Libya enhances the importance of cooperation by narrowing channels of communication and information between Arab countries and those states facing a similar dispute.

Despite the efforts of Libyan government to dissolve illegal militias by forming the “National Mobile Force”, mayhem remains. It urges to find a strong response to ensure that the States are to continue with the exclusive monopoly of the use of force.

In addition, being aware of the terrible consequences of sectarian war on human rights such as displacement and refugees, Libya calls for states to collaborate and prosecute those groups advocating terrorism and employing violence as a strategy to gain power. However, Libya strongly believes peaceful coexistence is possible and expects the battle of inclusiveness defeats exclusiveness and bloodshed so that the MENA region will not be a cauldron of conflict anymore.

Sectarianism should be taken as a serious threat. For that reason, Libya is committed to seeking an agreement to ensure the principle of mutual co-existence and promote cohesion among different religious groups. Severe measures and thorough control should be applied so as to halt the spread of religious aggressions.

To conclude, the International community should not remain unmoved by humanitarian conflicts. Its weapon is diplomacy, and through negotiation we should all respect the sensitivities of the various nations and fight tyranny. After all, the best way in which two brothers can honor his father is by listening and helping each other with a deep respect for their differences.

