Resolution on the Arab Spring

The MENA region has witnessed unforeseen transformations in recent months. Discontent at entrenched corruption in political systems, alienation from political participation, the demand for more civil liberties, a respect for human dignity, freedom and the fight against corruption were the key elements behind the uprising.

People in the Arab world are calling for public accountability. Recent challenges mean that governments need to accommodate to a new role - one which serves the people in a more citizen-oriented, effective, transparent, and accountable manner while creating solid infrastructure to support investment and economic activity and enforcing the rule of law.

The bravery and courage of citizens across the region have brought about the changes we have witnessed. Transparency International recognises the contributions of the many extraordinary and ordinary people who risked and still risk their lives and is proud of the work of our chapters and contact groups in the region.

In particular, we congratulate Tawakkul Karman, a female political activist and member of Transparency International's contact group, Yemeni Transparency & Integrity Team, who was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2011 for her "non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."

The Transparency International movement, however, is concerned that in the changed landscape in numerous MENA countries, many of the citizen's demands have still not been met.

We call for:

1. The governments of the Arab countries to set up and implement effective, fair and transparent systems to hold all those responsible for corruption to account.

2. The returning of stolen or misappropriated assets by the governments or financial institutions where those are kept. New Administrations have a historical duty to ensure that these monies flow back to the people.

3. The changing of repressive laws across the region which restrict people's freedom of expression and association.

4. Increased action by all governments and financial institutions to enforce money-laundering laws and to require disclosure of, and freeze, transfers of funds and significant real estate transactions of questionable legality.

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