

NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE

LESSONS FROM SERBIA APPLIED
IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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Wrong perception of Frozen Region and “Either Dictatorship Or Extremism” picture present for decades, instead, huge number of mostly secular educated and young people inspired by uprising in Tunisia has awakened throughout the region: and discover that they are in fact those who are powerful!



CANVAS has been in touch with groups from across the region, spatially Egyptian youth groups led by April 6th, student group formed in 2008. Whose representatives visited Serbian in July 2009, and after that developed mobilization and knowledge transfer capabilities which has given them pivotal role in protests 2011 and igniting phase of “Tahrir Square revolution”



1. Universal principles for success : Unity, Planning And Nonviolent Discipline
2. “Fear versus Enthusiasm” Phenomenon
3. Tactics of dispersion and Using humor to undermine the authority of ruler





UNITY IN SYMBOLS:

Similar to Serbs who stood behind OTPOR's fist, Individual Egyptian Groups have gave up their own symbols and replaced it with flag of Egypt



UNITY OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS:

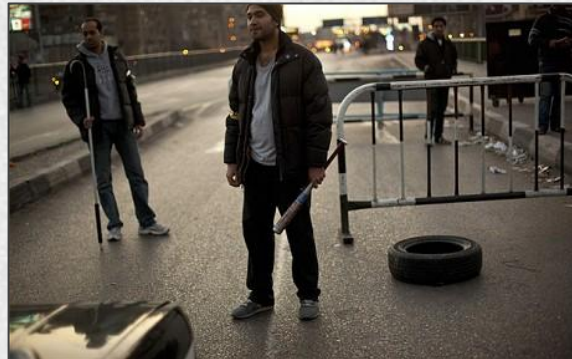
Powerful picture of Christians protecting with the “human chain” Muslims while they prey, and, only day after thousands of Muslims cheering Coptic wedding on Tahrir Square



PLANNING TO OVERTAKE SELECTED "PILLARS OF SUPPORT"



Fraternization with
Military from Day one



Overtaking role of police
withdrawn by Mubaraak to
provoke chaos and disorder
(pictures of common check
point between police and
protesters, and
neighborhood watches)



Communicating clearly
and moving international
progressively from
"terrified" and
"suspicious" - and
therefore reluctant to
give up "their dictators"
to "supportive to the
opposition"



Similar to Serbian 1996-97 students protest, when Milosevic was trying to push his supporters against Students at December 24th 1996, Egyptian protesters strategically avoided to clash with violent Mubarak Supporters when directly attacked, and maintain carnival and positive atmosphere



MELTING THE FEAR AND BUILDING THE ENTHUSIASM



Similarly to Chile, South Africa or Serbia middle east movements in Tunisia and Egypt has recognized that once FEAR starts melting and Enthusiasm growing repressive regime based on Pillars of Coercion like cannot flexibly accommodate. Using low-risk tactics of dispersion and humor was crucial in undermining fear and authority of Mubarak.



Various scenarios for other Arab countries depend on whether the individual movements can recognize and successfully apply principles of Unity, Planning and Nonviolent discipline and to which extent governments are ready to accommodate, or chose to use lethal force to maintain fear as their major source of power.



Egypt and **Tunisia** and their transition will be important test for the rest of Arab world. Energy of the movements should be carefully used for necessary legal and political changes, but also to keep new government accountable, elections free and fair and civil sector stable and durable - as the guarantee for long term democracy.



Movement pressure followed by regime accommodation-a number of regimes in fact understood that time of “frozen authoritarian state” has expired and either gladly or reluctantly makes accommodations, from “cosmetic” to substantial”. Societies like Jordan, Morocco and maybe even Algeria will experience gradual change and slow opening.



Movements are incapable to follow principles (Unity in Bahrain, nonviolent discipline in Libya etc) and regimes are ready to use deadly force - which will lead a number of this countries to the spiral of violence and threat of long-term conflict and divisions



SCENARIO 4: REGIMES LIKE IRANIAN

Regimes like Iranian (but also Belarusian and Venezuelan) who are researching People Power Revolutions Phenomenon will likely try to overtake political space from the opposition in order to avoid pro-democratic movement`s development with limited use of threat and violence), in which case outcome will depend on whether or not opposition may take the offense or loose ground.



ARAB SPRING - MAIN IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES:

More than 100 million people travelling from dictatorship to democracy (Tunisia and Egypt)
Global fear for energy and regional security (Gulf countries)
Increase of price for using violence against peaceful demonstrators (Libya)



ARAB SPRING - POSSIBLE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES



Democracy and human rights getting back to the top of the list of international agenda Spreading of “people power” to countries outside region or Arab world as Zimbabwe, Central Asia, Burma or even China.



Increase of nonviolent struggle practice in democratic countries Interest for “Nonviolent struggle” as phenomenon which should be expanded in academia, media but also in daily politics, diplomacy and educating intelligence and analytical institutions



KEY RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH



AL JAZEERA, “SEEDS OF CHANGE” - 29 minutes documentary by Caroline Pare

<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/peopleandpower/2011/02/201128145549829916.html>



Foreign Policy Magazine, “REVOLUTION U”
By Tina Rosenberg

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/02/16/revolution_u



Associated Press - Washington Post: “SERBIAN INSPIRATION EGYPT”
By Jovana Gec

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110222/ap_on_re_eu/eu_serbia_inspiring_egypt



Financial Times Magazine - “Blueprint for the revolution”
By Janine Di Giovanni

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/0ad005b4-5043-11e0-9ad1-00144feab49a.html>

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ARAB SPRING AND LESSONS FROM SERBIA

