



**2012 - 2013**

**Model Arab League**

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**Council on Political Affairs**

**[ncusar.org/modelarableague](http://ncusar.org/modelarableague)**

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



## **Topic 1: Reexamining Article 8 of the Arab League Charter in light of recent developments, events, and actions in order to best protect collective security**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

Collective security is a system of preventing and stopping wars. In a collective security agreement, an attack against one state is considered an attack against all states involved. Collective security agreements are not always successful, as in the case of the League of Nations and United Nations, due to states' conflicts of interest.<sup>1</sup> Sovereignty is the principle that a state is an independent actor within the international system.<sup>2</sup> In collective security arrangements, it is necessary to consider individual states' interests and sovereignty with that of the collective organization, in this case, the Arab League.

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

State sovereignty in the organization has been emphasized since the League's inception. It is stated in Article VIII of the Arab League Charter, "Each member-state shall respect the systems of government established in the other member-states and regard them as exclusive concerns of those states. Each shall pledge to abstain from any action calculated to change established systems of government."<sup>3</sup> The idea of collective security is evident in the Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Between the States of the Arab League adopted June 17, 1950.<sup>4</sup> Although the Treaty states that "the Contracting States consider any [act of] armed aggression made against any one or more of them or their armed forces, to be directed against them all", recent events and the actions in response to these actions have been contrary to these two established articles.

The Arab Spring uprisings have challenged the doctrine of collective security and the importance of state sovereignty in the Arab League. In 2011 when the Libyan government responded with brutality to anti-government protests, the Arab League barred the nation from meetings and then backed the UN resolution authorizing attacks.<sup>5</sup> In this instance the Arab League did not respect Libya's methods of governance, nor their form of government in violation of Article VIII. More recently, the Arab League condemned the Syrian government's crackdown on protesters and then suspended the nation from the League.<sup>6</sup>

---

1 "Collective Security (international Relations)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, Web. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/125567/collective-security>>.

2 "Sovereignty: Encyclopedia of IR." *Sovereignty: Encyclopedia of IR*. Web. <<http://www.towson.edu/polsci/irencyc/sovrein.htm>>.

3 League of Arab States, *Charter of Arab League*, 22 March 1945, <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html>>.

4 "Council on Foreign Relations." *Council on Foreign Relations*. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/treaty-joint-defense-economic-cooperation-between-states-arab-league/p25904>>.

5 "Timeline: Arab League." *BBC News*. BBC, 15 Nov. 2011. Web. <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/1550977.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550977.stm)>.

6 Ibid

## II. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

Collective security and states' rights have always been a topic of relevance for the Arab League. In light of recent events concerning the Arab Spring, the League has adopted a new stance on respecting established governments and collective security measures that seem to contradict the previous League's positions. A future solution by the Council may clear up some of these inconsistencies. While Article VIII served the necessary purpose of ensuring that national sovereignty was not infringed upon in the Arab League Charter, the needs of the League have evolved as the political climate within League states has changed. It is the job of the Political Affairs committee to weigh the needs for collective security against the importance of national sovereignty to determine the effectiveness of Article VIII in light of the impact of the Arab Spring on these matters.

## III. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- How has my country been affected by recent events in terms of respecting established governments and collective security?
- What steps has my country taken to address collective security and state sovereignty concerns?
- Has my country signed treaties regarding collective security and respecting other government systems?
- Would my country be willing to sign a treaty that addresses these new concerns?
- Have other multinational groups addressed issues of collective security, and if so have any of these methods been effective?
- What "recent developments, events, and actions" have threatened collective Arab Security?

## IV. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- What actions can the Arab League take to address issues of collective security and governmental concerns caused by the Arab Spring?
- Should the Arab League Charter be amended and how?
- How might other institutions play a role in creating a solution to this issue?
- What areas of collective security need to be addressed for the Arab League to act effectively, why, and what methods could the Political Affairs Committee use to achieve these changes?

## V. Resources to Review

League of Arab States. *Treaty of Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation*. 1950.  
<[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/arabjoin.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arabjoin.asp)>.

"Collective Security (international Relations)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, Web. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/125567/collective-security>>. Definition of collective security

"Timeline: Arab League." *BBC News*. BBC, 15 Nov. 2011. Web.  
<[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/1550977.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1550977.stm)>.

Danin, Robert M. "At Last, the Arab League Hears the Voice of the People." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 1 Dec. 2011. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/last-arab-league-hears-voice-people/p26646>>.

### **Discussing state sovereignty in Libya**

"Middle East: Sovereignty Reconsidered." *International Policy Digest*. Web.  
<<http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2011/03/16/middle-east-sovereignty-reconsidered/>>.

## **Topic 2: Assessing the impact of the Arab Spring on Arab League and member states' relationships and agreements with the international community**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

In late 2010, the Arab Spring movement began when a man, Mohamed Bouazizi, set himself on fire in a demonstration against the corrupt Tunisian government. Sparked by his actions, protests arose across the nation and continued to spread throughout the Middle East, including Egypt and Yemen. The Tunisian and Egyptian presidents, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak, eventually stepped down as unrest began in Bahrain, Libya, and Syria. More regime changes occurred when the Libyan president Moammar Gadhafi was killed and the Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh resigned. Tunisia held its first election after the authoritarian ruler fell. Protests in Syria soon became a civil war after President Bashar Assad's brutal reaction to demonstrators caused thousands of civilian deaths.<sup>7</sup>

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

Since the beginning of the Arab Spring, the movement has continued to grow and affect the Middle East, Arab League, and the international community. As protests spread throughout the region, the Arab League responded with various measures. During the Tunisian demonstrations, then Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa warned other countries' leaders about the spread of protests.<sup>8</sup> The League took more significant measures concerning Libya by barring Libya from Arab League meetings, supporting a no-fly zone, and backing United Nations authorized airstrikes. The League's responses to the Arab Spring continued regarding Syria, when they condemned the Syrian government's suppression of protesters, suspended the country from the League, and sent an observer detail to the country. Eventually the League and the United Nations co-sponsored a resolution calling for Assad to step down and sent their joint representative Lakhdar Brahimi to Syria.<sup>9</sup>

### **II. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future**

Although at first the Arab League did not take action concerning Arab Spring events, more recent responses consist of collaborating with the United Nations and sharing the sentiments of the international community. A future decision by the League regarding its attitude towards international agreements may provide more precedence for international cooperation and stronger relationships.

---

7 "Timeline: The Major Events Of The Arab Spring." *NPR*. Web.

<<http://www.npr.org/2012/01/02/144489844/timeline-the-major-events-of-the-arab-spring>>.

8 "Profile: Arab League." *BBC News*. 1 Feb. 2012. Web. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-15747947>>.

9 Ariosto, David, Laura Smith-Spark, Richard Roth, Joe Vaccarello, and Kiran Khalid. "Ahmadinejad Tells U.N. That Iran Is Threatened - CNN.com." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 01 Jan. 1970. Web.

<[http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/26/world/new-york-unga/index.html?hpt=hp\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/26/world/new-york-unga/index.html?hpt=hp_c2)>., "Despite 'very Grim' Situation in Syria, UN-Arab League Envoy Sees Glimmer of Hope." *UN News Centre*. United Nations, 24 Sept. 2012. Web. <<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42982&Cr=syria&Cr1=-.UGN14Y2PX-5>>.

The events of the Arab Spring, and the global response to these events has shown that issues within this region are felt around the world, and many nations have felt compelled to respond to these issues. Within this spectrum, it is necessary to recognize the effects and influence of globalization on Arab nations who have been a part of the Arab Spring. If the Arab League does not understand this global relationship and respond by developing a framework for these interactions, it stands to lose its impact as a joint body. In order to not forfeit the League's right to develop a framework for global involvement the first step for the the Arab League is to understand the nature of these relationships vis-à-vis the events of the Arab Spring.

### **III. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- How has my country's relationship with other Arab nations been affected by the Arab Spring?
- How has my country's relationship with non-Arab nations been affected by the Arab Spring?
- How has the Arab Spring affected my country's economy and/or trade agreements my country has with other nations?
- Has my country taken any steps to address the Arab Spring's impact on the Middle East and the rest of the world?
- Has my country signed any treaties concerning this?
- Would my country be supportive of more joint ventures with the United Nations, or any other international organization?

### **IV. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- What methods would be effective for assessing the impact of the Arab Spring?
- Has the Arab League supported all outside attempts at intervention and aid focused on the Arab Spring? If not, what should the Arab League's policy be in the future regarding this?
- What actions might the Arab League take to address the effects of the Arab Spring?
- Should the Arab League and the United Nations collaborate more on agreements, envoys, or any other tasks?

### **V. Resources to Review**

"Has the Arab Spring Widened the Arab Divide? - Inside Story - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. 30 Mar. 2012. Web.

<<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2012/03/201233065139590907.html>>.

#### **UN Security Council Resolution concerning Yemen**

"Resolution 2014." United Nations, 21 Oct. 2011. Web.

<[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/UN/UNSC\\_Res2014.pdf](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/UN/UNSC_Res2014.pdf)>.

"Timeline: The Major Events Of The Arab Spring." *NPR*. Web.

<<http://www.npr.org/2012/01/02/144489844/timeline-the-major-events-of-the-arab-spring>>.

Blight, Garry, Sheila Pulham, and Paul Torpey. "Arab Spring: An Interactive Timeline of Middle East Protests." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 01 May 2012. Web. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline>>.

Leyne, Jon. "Arab Spring Revolution at the Arab League." *BBC News*. BBC, 13 Nov. 2011. Web. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-15714771>>.

"Arab League Urges More UN Monitors in Syria - Middle East - Al Jazeera English." *Arab League Urges More UN Monitors in Syria - Middle East - Al Jazeera English*. 2 June 2012. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/06/20126221714569625.html>>.

Tatlock, Christopher W. "UN Resolutions on the Mideast and North Africa." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 21 Sept. 2011. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/un/un-resolutions-mideast-north-africa/p11233>>.

Danin, Robert M. "At Last, the Arab League Hears the Voice of the People." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 1 Dec. 2011. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/last-arab-league-hears-voice-people/p26646>>.

### **Topic 3: Encouraging and assisting in border demarcation, control, and crossings between member states to enhance security and reduce disputes**

#### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

##### *A. General Background*

Borders are what give a country its sovereignty. Since sovereignty is described as supreme authority over a geographic area, it is essential to know how far your authority stretches. A political border is a line drawn on the map where one nation's geographic area and legal authority ends. With the advancement of transportation methods, borders have become more significant and in some cases, hostile territory. The extreme wealth disparity and lack of opportunities in some nations has caused tighter border security to keep people from crossing borders without that government's permission. Political borders have been used as far back as the Ancient Egyptians, while the geographic accuracy might have not been as precise as today's political borders, the same school of thought existed: a nation's laws can only extend as far out as its border reaches.<sup>10</sup>

##### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

Borders in the Middle East are a British and French invention following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. The British and the French drew borders in the newly acquired region loosely based on how the Ottoman Vilayets were formed.<sup>11</sup> According to the Sykes Picot agreement, signed in 1916, the Ottoman provinces that are present day Syria and Lebanon would come under French control, while the provinces that are present day Jordan and Israel/Palestinian Territories would become British Protectorates.<sup>12</sup> Due to the poorly considered borderlines, disputes are common between Arab states. This has led to border disputes across the region, most notably the numerous disputes between Lebanon and Syria.<sup>13</sup> Territorial disputes are all too common in the Arab world; such issues have caused stifling relations between member states.

In addition to effectively and accurately demarcating borders, effective border security is necessary in the Arab world due to the rise of terrorism. Border Security has proven to be a challenge in the Middle East, as we can see with the illegal crossing of Yemeni insurgents into Saudi Arabia. However, complete border control has proved to be extremely difficult for countries with vast deserts and inaccessible borders.<sup>14</sup> Member states have put forth an effort to improve security and simplicity at border crossings linking member states. Completed in 1986, the King Fahd Causeway is the only road linking Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, and essentially the rest of the world. The causeway has not only made it easier to travel from Saudi Arabia to

---

10 Daniel, Glyn. *The First Civilizations*. Londres: Phoenix, 2003. Print.

11 Ibid.

12 "The Avalon Project : The Sykes-Picot Agreement : 1916." *The Avalon Project : The Sykes-Picot Agreement : 1916*. N.p., n.d. Web. <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/sykes.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/sykes.asp)>.

13 "Lebanon- Syria Borders 2009 Report." *Now Lebanon*. Web. <<http://www.nowlebanon.com/Library/Files/EnglishDocumentation/Other Documents/Border Report NOW.pdf>>.

14 "Saudi-Yemeni Border Difficult to Monitor." *The Peninsula*. 1 Nov. 2010. Web.

<<http://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/middle-east/131180-saudi-yemeni-border-difficult-to-monitor.html>>.



Bahrain but has significantly increased commerce between the GCC nations.<sup>15</sup> Due to the success of the King Fahd Causeway, there are plans to build a similar highway between Bahrain and Qatar.<sup>16</sup>

## **II. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future**

Solutions to border disputes in the Arab world are not common as most border disputes are still being challenged. The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League have offered mediation efforts in border disputes which have, on several occasions, ended unsuccessfully. Member states have taken border disputes to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in lieu of mediation.<sup>17</sup> Both the GCC and the Arab League have urged member states on numerous occasions to tighten security on their borders, for the sake of regional security.

As the necessity of improving border security increases, the methods used for this task will need to advance to keep pace. Technological advances such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) provide a tool that has the potential to serve a beneficial purpose in Arab League efforts to secure borders by providing access to information of greater accuracy than has been traditionally relied upon. The future of this issue within the Arab League will depend upon the League's ability to utilize all available resources.

## **III. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- Does my country have any pending border disputes? If yes, how has this dispute been addressed?
- What steps has my country taken to enhance border security?
- What are my country's policies on crossing between member states?
- Is my country involved in trade agreements with neighboring countries? How is border security in these areas affected by such agreements?
- Are there areas within my country's borders which are difficult to secure? What measures has my country taken to address this issue?
- Is my country's border clearly marked?

## **IV. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- What action can the Arab League take to solve border disputes?
- What can be done to prevent future border disputes?
- How can member-states work together to tighten security on the borders?
- What can be done to make border crossings between member states secure?
- How can member-states improve border crossings between each other?
- How might the Arab League assist Arab countries in ensuring that their non-disputed borders are clearly demarcated?

---

15 "History." *Kind Fahd Causeway Authority*. Web. <<http://www.kfca.com.sa/en/pages.aspx?pageid=265>>.

16 "Qatar- Bahrain Causeway." *COWI*. Web. <[http://www.cowi.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/cowi/en/menu/03.Projects/03.Transport/6.Bridges/Other\\_file\\_types/0233-1702-057e-02b-low.pdf](http://www.cowi.com/SiteCollectionDocuments/cowi/en/menu/03.Projects/03.Transport/6.Bridges/Other_file_types/0233-1702-057e-02b-low.pdf)>.

17 "Border Disputes on the Arabian Peninsula." *Policy Analysis*. Washington Institute, 15 Mar. 2001. Web. <<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/border-disputes-on-the-arabian-peninsula>>.

- How can the Arab League ensure that the flow of goods over borders is safe, legal and not assisting insurgents?

## V. Resources to Review

"Border Disputes on the Arabian Peninsula." *Policy Analysis*. Washington Institute, 15 Mar. 2001. Web. <<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/border-disputes-on-the-arabian-peninsula>>.

"Disputes- International." *The World Factbook*. Central Intelligence Agency. Web. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2070.html>>.

"The Avalon Project : The Sykes-Picot Agreement : 1916." *The Avalon Project : The Sykes-Picot Agreement : 1916*. Web.

Copeland, Carla S. "The Use of Arbitration To Settle Territorial Disputes." *Fordham Law Review*, 1999. Web. <<http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3585&context=flr&sei-redir=1&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3Ddifference%2520between%2520border%2520and%2520territorial%2520disputes%26source%3Dweb%26cd%3D4%26ved%3>>.

"International Migration in the Arab Region." United Nations, 11 May 2006. Web. <[http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGM\\_Ittmig\\_Arab/P14\\_PopDiv.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGM_Ittmig_Arab/P14_PopDiv.pdf)>.

Forseberg, Tuomas. "Explaining Territorial Disputes: From Power Politics to Normative Reasons." *JSTOR*, Nov. 1996. Web. <<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/424568?uid=3739936&uid=2&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21101401457867>>.

## **Topic 4: Exploring questions of treatment, due process, detention, asylum, and extradition of political prisoners in and between member states in light of ongoing conflicts**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### *A. General Background*

A political prisoner is someone who has been arrested for their political beliefs or actions. Although there is no legal definition of a political prisoner in terms of international law, the idea of a political prisoner has been present throughout history.<sup>18</sup> The term is also mentioned in the Geneva Convention of 1949.<sup>19</sup> A political prisoner can also fall under the larger umbrella term “prisoner of conscience”, which also includes those who are imprisoned because of religious or any other held beliefs.<sup>20</sup> Due process is the right that the arrested individual’s rights are being protected.<sup>21</sup> A prisoner may seek asylum, or protection, from another country.<sup>22</sup> The prisoner may also be extradited from one country to another for trial.<sup>23</sup>

#### *B. History of the Topic in the Arab World*

Although political prisoners and the processes involved with them are not specifically mentioned in any Arab League documents, some of the processes, such as extradition are referenced. In the Arab League Charter under Article II, it is stated that the League “also has as its purpose the close co-operation of the member states [regarding] [...] the extradition of criminals.”<sup>24</sup> Extradition was once again addressed by the League in 1952 with the “Arab League Extradition Agreement”, which discusses extradition within the League as well as the possibility of extradition agreements between member states.<sup>25</sup>

As the Arab Spring spread throughout the Middle East, and more politically charged protests arising, the issues involving political prisoners have also become more prominent. In Egypt, many protesters were arrested in the brutal crackdown by then President Mubarak and considered as political prisoners.<sup>26</sup> The estimated over a thousand prisoners includes many

---

18 "When Is a 'criminal' a 'political Prisoner'?" *BBC News*. BBC, 9 Jan. 1998. Web.

<[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special\\_report/46095.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/special_report/46095.stm)>.

19 "International Humanitarian Law - Third 1949 Geneva Convention." *International Humanitarian Law - Third 1949 Geneva Convention*. Web. <<http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/com/375-590006?OpenDocument>>.

20 "Free Prisoners of Conscience." *Amnesty International USA*. Amnesty International, n.d. Web.

<<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/prisoners-and-people-at-risk/prisoners-of-conscience>>.

21 "Due Process (law)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, Web.

<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/173057/due-process>>.

22 "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR, Declaration of Human Rights, Human Rights Declaration, Human Rights Charter, The UN and Human Rights." *UN News Center*. UN, Web.

<<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>>.

23 "Extradition (law)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, Web.

<<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/199080/extradition>>.

24 League of Arab States, *Charter of Arab League*, 22 March.

1945, <<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html>>.

25 "BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS:." *Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters*. Web.

<[http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/can/en\\_can\\_prost.en.html](http://www.oas.org/juridico/mla/en/can/en_can_prost.en.html)>.

26 "Egypt 'frees Political Prisoners' - Middle East - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. 8 Feb. 2011. Web.

<<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/02/201128153142101446.html>>.

civilians that the new President Morsi has pardoned.<sup>27</sup> Similarly in Libya and Bahrain following protests motivated by political reform, many civilians were taken as political prisoners, but were eventually released.<sup>28</sup>

One case during the Arab Spring where the League did become involved is with Syria. In the aftermath of protests and the government crackdown, it is estimated that over 25,000 people have been arrested and are considered political prisoners. As the situation in Syria deteriorated the Arab League stepped in and as one of the points in a plan proposed by the League, Syria was required to release the political prisoners. The government released over 500 political prisoners in compliance with the League's wishes.<sup>29</sup>

## **II. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future**

As the Arab Spring continues on, more protesters are being arrested and considered political prisoners. Although the Arab League has lobbied for the release of peaceful protesters, defining what a political prisoner is, as well as laying out the actions to take when arresting them, an agreement by the League would improve the processes. An agreement that addresses extradition between member states regarding political prisoners would also improve the processes.

In addressing processes such as due process and detention, general agreements protecting prisoners' rights would also improve conditions in the member states' countries and protect political prisoners. In issues where international cooperation is necessary to expedite processes, it is vital that the Arab League develop and adopt common definitions and procedures concerning due process and detention, so that these issues do not become unnecessarily complicated.

## **III. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- How has the Arab Spring been involved with issues concerning political prisoners?
- How might the Arab League define a political prisoner?
- Does my country currently have political prisoners?
- Has my country signed any extradition agreements?
- Would my country be willing to sign an extradition agreement with the League or with any other member states?
- Does my country grant asylum? Would you consider this process successful?

## **IV. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- What actions could the Arab League take in addressing political prisoners?

---

27 "Egypt's Morsi Pardons 'revolutionaries' - Middle East - Al Jazeera English." *Egypt's Morsi Pardons 'revolutionaries' - Middle East - Al Jazeera English*. 9 Oct. 2012. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/10/2012108203931826506.html>>.

28 "Bahrain Frees Political Prisoners - Middle East - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. N.p., 23 Feb. 2011. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2011/02/20112238343514111.html>>., "Libyan Political Prisoners Set Free - Africa - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. 27 Aug. 2011. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2011/08/20118276513464304.html>>.

29 "Syria Releases 500 Political Prisoners." *USATODAY.COM*. 5 Jan. 2012. Web. <<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2012-01-05/syria-political-prisoners/52387422/1>>.

- Would a resolution creating a common definition of what a political prisoner is make a significant change in the processes concerning them?
- Should all member states ratify an agreement addressing extradition?
- Instead of an arrangement between member states, would bilateral agreements among states be more productive?
- What initiatives can the Arab League take on to try to ensure that political prisoners are given due process of law?
- Should the Arab League adopt a shared policy for granting asylum? If yes, what should this policy look like?

## V. Resources to Review

"Detention and Imprisonment | Amnesty International." *Detention and Imprisonment | Amnesty International*. Web. <<http://www.amnesty.org/en/detention>>.

**Although not concerning Arab League, this article gives a background on defining political prisoners.**

"The Definition of Political Prisoners." Parliamentary Assembly, 26 June 2012. Web. <[https://docs.google.com/a/nd.edu/viewer?a=v&q=cache:C7UnaQWIX\\_sJ:assembly.coe.int/Communication/2012-06-26\\_ENpressajdoc21.pdf+&hl=en&gl=us&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESi6iovWx0uwP9WMXgG9Gn9dsC8yXU4xxcZAnlOkAaO\\_JHj\\_jUKLcOLACKer3TK9TLPHNKJnzu42xvTjBUcLzwG0ENQfBN2TdN](https://docs.google.com/a/nd.edu/viewer?a=v&q=cache:C7UnaQWIX_sJ:assembly.coe.int/Communication/2012-06-26_ENpressajdoc21.pdf+&hl=en&gl=us&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESi6iovWx0uwP9WMXgG9Gn9dsC8yXU4xxcZAnlOkAaO_JHj_jUKLcOLACKer3TK9TLPHNKJnzu42xvTjBUcLzwG0ENQfBN2TdN)>.

"Extradition." International Criminal Justice Cooperation, n.d. Web. <[https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&q=cache:TunFFQgV9XQJ:www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296\\_tool\\_4-2.pdf+league+of+arab+states+extradition&hl=en&gl=us&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESjSCgtipjLD7D\\_PyFeySpXdIb7LRGzEjL8zGfYfjc9\\_GFsUN-sZbEIOs](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&q=cache:TunFFQgV9XQJ:www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Toolkit-files/08-58296_tool_4-2.pdf+league+of+arab+states+extradition&hl=en&gl=us&pid=bl&srcid=ADGEESjSCgtipjLD7D_PyFeySpXdIb7LRGzEjL8zGfYfjc9_GFsUN-sZbEIOs)>.

"Egypt Military Trying Political Prisoners - Middle East - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. 6 Apr. 2011. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/middleeast/2011/04/20114613402348545.html>>.

"Libyan Political Prisoners Set Free - Africa - Al Jazeera English." *Al Jazeera English*. 27 Aug. 2011. Web. <<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/africa/2011/08/20118276513464304.html>>.