

### **Editor's Note:**

The International Journal for Arab Studies began the New Year with a new ambitious project. We continue resolute in our endeavour to bring our readers high quality scholarship from young researches from the West and the Arab World. Our priorities lay beyond producing merely another online periodical. IJAS continues dedicated to publishing new perspectives on old and new realities experience in the Arab Middle East.

As events from North Africa to the Arabian Peninsula and the Levant develop rapidly amidst the growing number of popular Revolutions, it will become imperative for publications to provide forums where academics can present their work on such historical events. Such has been our guiding principle, to provide a new forum for academic discussions on vital issues shaping the region today, as well as the Arab communities present in Western societies. We cannot, by any means, underestimate the role of Arabs residing in the West during the uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and now Yemen, Bahrain, Palestinian Territories and Syria. Their role, utilizing rapidly expanding social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, has proven indispensable as proven by efforts from Libyan activists and the interim government to lobby Western powers from within the West.

As much of the media have pointed out since the events of late January in Tunisia, there appears a new Arab Middle East in the near horizon. Historical popular Revolutions will radically impact internal socio-political, economic and religious relations as well as Western approaches to these societies during this second decade of the twenty-first century. Many observers claim the map has been re-drawn, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1973 (2011) will undoubtedly set a new precedent for region and institutions such as the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Security interests of Western government appeared toward a collision with regional actors, who now directly engage protesters in Bahrain, Gaza

and Damascus. Now regional actors, such as Saudi Arabia, aim to stave off the ripples from Tunis before they reach their shores.

We will continue to encourage young academics to contribute to the ongoing dialogue and present new approaches to new realities in the Arab world. As the events continue to develop IJAS ([www.ijasjournal.com](http://www.ijasjournal.com)) will remain dedicated to providing new opportunities to young scholars and attract high quality scholarship through the help of our numerous reviewers, to which we owe great gratitude for their dedication to ensuring our publications remain of high standards, and articles produced by qualified authors provide great insight to our readers.

Our staff will continue to reach out to institutions to encourage publication by established scholars as well as young researchers dedicated to the study of the Arab Middle East. We hope our readers will find interest in our publications and we look forward to comments and feed back on our progress as an academic periodical of the Arab Middle East.

Editor-in-Chief

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