**ARAB SPRING 2011 : NEW ERA FOR NORTHERN AFRICA**

When Mohamed Bouazizi, an unemployed university graduate, committed suicide to protest against corruption in Tunisia, he certainly did not think the impact his death would have, not only in his country, but worldwide. He marked the starting point of a spontaneous popular uprising of average people in these troubled regions of Northern Africa, where social media has played a role in both influencing the protests and reporting on them.

It is a well known fact that Internet based-communication has been gaining importance in these countries. The rapid spread of mobile connectivity, as well as internet access, has allowed a growing number of people to take part in the “global conversation” where an anti-government sentiment is perceived.

Nowadays, the mentality of the people in these countries is changing; they are fed up of the authoritarian repression, economic stagnation and loss of hope. Consequently, the person in the street is willing to throw away his fear of the old regimes and put his life in danger for the sake of liberty, freedom and democracy.

Many young people are channelling their energy towards a non-violently democratic political change in those regions; however, most people feel that if democracy were established in these countries, it would have global implications. In one hand, this change could lead to regional instability which can cause a heightened risk of terrorism, increased immigration flows and also commercial disruptions. On the other hand, this change should be done under the supervision and control of an international military organism, to guarantee security and stability.

In summary, the transition from autocracy to democracy in this region is likely to be unstable. Political turmoil in the Northern Africa has powerful military, economic and financial implications. Furthermore, if stagflation emerges, there is a serious risk of a recession for the global economy that is trying to emerge from its worst crisis in decades.

One thing is clear; the Arab world has entered the era of a deep change whose outcome will be unknown for very long time.