**TOWARDS DEMOCRACY?**

In the last months, civil population from several North African countries has played the leading role in the process that has led consolidated administrations to be overthrown, apparently looking for democracy and, of course, better living conditions and more freedom.

Western countries have been witnesses to the collapse of several governments in North Africa, whose former rulers were more or less firm allies now or in the past. However, they have attended their fall in a passive but encouraging attitude in more of cases or, as in Libya, participating actively by giving military support to rebels. Has it been a wise decision?

Although we cannot say it about Libya, countries as Tunisia an Egypt, as well as Morocco, have represented, in one or another way, a barrier against Islamic fundamentalism, due to the moderate attitude showed by their governments, contributing to stabilize the Mediterranean area and constituting a buffer zone for Europe.

Will these countries be our friends in the future? Will they carry out a progressive rapprochement to fundamentalism? Intelligence analysts have detected the presence of “Society of Muslim Brothers”, which is the world’s oldest and one of the largest Islamist parties, backing up all opposition movements. If this sliding occurs, stability in the area will be threatened, and Europe will be open for Islamist terrorism to access. Libya’s case is very different and much more dangerous, since this country is still immersed in a civil war, and has been a shelter for Islamist terrorists in the past.

On the other hand, developed countries will continue helping the new governments, so the economical and social situation will be improved as for the early moments. This fact can help to keep the good direction.

Nevertheless, the results of these regime changes are to be seen in the future and it would be advisable to keep an eye on the process, just in case.

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