*THE MEDITERRANEAN TSUNAMI*

*By Miguel Rodríguez Sánchez for International Review.*

What seemed a minor incident , it is shaking the foundations of what it was so far the most traditional society, the Muslim society. One young unemployed Tunisian graduate who was trying to make a leaving selling fruit, in a desperate reaction to the confiscation of his goods, overwhelmed, downtrodden, sick of a life with no hope, decided to burn himself as a final act of protest. His immolation provoked a revolution, a chained reaction that has pulled down all North African governments except that of Morocco and Jordan that were forced to make changes in their constitutions in a ultimate effort to keep the current political status quo under control, and the Syrian and Iranian governments that are cracking down on their citizens in order to avoid riots and demonstrations, under the good-for- nothing watching eye of the international community, more interested in the Libyan petrol than in the Damascus mosques.

It´s doubtful whether the Islamic radicalism is the brain behind all these fits of anger that has pushed most of the Muslim youth to demand a new way of life but prosperity and radicalism are not in good terms with each other. The wise combination of petrol plus education could lead these societies to a never- seen –before economic development. This would contribute to increase peace and prosperity in the area, migration towards Europe would stop as well but recent clashes in Egypt between Christians and Muslims jeopardize all the democratic goals already achieved ; the track to democracy is long and strenuous but new foundations have been already laid for a new society.