**EJERCICIO 4**

**THE ARAB SPRING, HOPE OR FEAR**

The Arab Spring, also known as the Arabic Rebellions or the Arab Revolutions, began at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 like a social protest, headed first by youth and called mainly by Internet and SMS. Those socials protests have changed quickly and in a different manner in each country and also with different results, Tunisia and Egypt have suffered revolutions with the final result of Government changes, Lybia is under a civil war, and major protests have taken place in Syria, Yemen, Kuwait, Morocco, Jordan, etc. Changes like those were unimaginable some months ago due to the geostrategic interests in this area of the world.

Initially those movements were viewed with sympathies by Western and in some cases took part in favor of the revolutionaries, like in Lybia, where NATO troops are protecting civilians against the interest of Muahmar Gadafi. But now, in some of those countries where the power has changed, the reality is other than the initial intention of freedom and democracy, and we can see how the Islamic extremists are reaching the power and changing laws, putting on their place “The Sharia”. The last week some murders were committed against Coptic Christians in Egypt, western customs banned and the yearning for freedom buried.

Actually is very difficult to evaluate the implications of this movements, not only under a military point of view, but also social and economic, because a lot of changes have been taken place in this area in a very short time and for this reason I think that we are in time of hope and fear.

Miguel Rodríguez Sánchez