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## Arab Spring and Refugees: Challenges and Remedies

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### Abstract

In contemporary time the problem of Refugee is increasing at the global level day by day. That's why it was decided to celebrate 20th June as World Refugee Day. The United Nation articulated on 4th December 2000 that the main motto of celebrating World Refugee Day is to indicate that no person in world can be called unrecognized no matter which country he belongs to. Apart from this, its purpose included making people aware at different levels are motivating them to help them. Generally, the United Nations Human Rights Council helps refugees, but in this context, each nation has to come forward to straighten the refugees at every level, only then we will be able to serve humanity in true sense. Present paper deals with the human rights of refugees during the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings that enveloped several largely Muslim Countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain. This paper examined the wave of revolution against the military regime in Arab Countries. In the same way it also highlighted the main challenges of refugees in the world as they faced.

**Keywords:** Arab Spring, Pro-Democracy, Human Rights, Refugee, Asylum

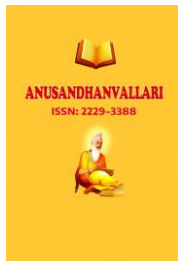
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### Introduction

Today, when the forces of Globalization at one level, and those of ethnic conflict, nationalist secessionism and communal violence at another level contribute to instability in many parts of the world, the concepts of good governance, civil society, the protection of human rights, individual sovereignty and humanitarian intervention are gaining currency in policy discourse. The prominence these concepts enjoy, at least rhetorically, is tied in no small way to two related but distinct Phenomena: Migratory movements and the forced displacement of peoples. The former is attributable, generally, to glaring inequalities in wealth between industrialized and poorer countries, and the impact of market forces. The later is directly attributable to massive human displacement as a consequence of armed conflict, persecution, if not attempt on the part of one group in a state to either annihilate or drive out another entire group of people.

As a result of the phenomenon of forced displacement. Refugee crises has become a prominent feature of international policy agenda for policy makers and for this reason effort have been made at various levels to address this problems through various international forums. But in different parts of the world, the circumstances of refugees becomes worse due to political conflicts, ethnic dispute and war. Due to this situation, these people are compelled to leave their land, relatives, their nations and take asylum in other nations.

Who is refugee?: "A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality,



political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic tribal and religions violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. (unrefugees.org).”

The problem of refugees in contemporary time remains the same as it was years ago. Although human rights organization have been formed at national and international level for rehabilitation and protection of their rights. But unfortunately these organizations also failed to eliminate their problems. The root cause of this problem is the continuation of political, social, ethnic and cultural conflicts at global level. As far as the Arab Spring is concerned, this conflict has further fueled the refugee problem. Since 2010, protests for the establishment of democracy, fair elections, eradication of unemployment, administrative reforms and mass movement against Islamization were carried out in Arab Countries. Many scholars called it the Arab Revolution, the Arab Spring or The Arab Rebellion.

The Arab spring was such a wave of revolution due to picketing, demonstration, protests, riots and armed struggle, worried the Arab countries as well as whole world. It arose in Tunisia as a reaction against corruption and economic stagnation. Its flames first reached Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen, which soon spread throughout the Arab League and its surrounding region. As a result of these protests, the ruler of many countries were forced to step down from the throne of power. While there were heavy protests in Bahrain, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, Kuwait, Morocco and Israel. In the same way Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Western Sahara and Palestine had negative impact. Although the revolution was taking place in different parts of the world, these were many similarities in the menace of their protests such as strikes, picketing demonstration and rallies.

According to experts of Global world, the main reason for Arab Spring was the dissatisfaction of the Public with the government socio-economic, political and economic inequalities and unequal distribution of resources. Apart from these, dictatorship, human rights, violation, corruption, unemployment, poor economy and local discontent were prominent. During this revolution many people took asylum in different nations because they wanted to secure their life by going in peaceful environment. Through the following points we will be able to explain how this revolution affected the standard by living of the refugees at large.

### **Human Rights**

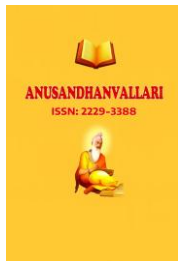
When the political struggle started in the Arab Countries, certainly the people at local, national and international level faced many problems. On the one hand they took shelter in other nations and on the other hand their human rights were crushed. In this way, these people had to face a double whammy.

### **Rehabilitation**

A large number of people took shelter in other countries during the Arab Spring. To rehabilitate such a large number of peoples, each nation made its own laws and policy. Refugees rehabilitated by Europe and other nations given the limited resources and available facilities. Refugees were forced to live in remote areas with limited natural resources. The lack of infrastructure, polluted environment and restrictions on the freedom and rights of the people were also imposed in these camps.

### **Health**

The camps set up during this incident, especially in European counties, where overcrowding caused many challenges such a lack of health facilities, diarrhea, hepatitis and other communicable disease. Such diseases



spread due to overcrowding. Apart from this, incidents of sexual violence were also seen and in such a horrific situation definitely created insecure environment.

### Education and identity crises

The major problems during the Arab Spring were related to the education and identity. Because each country has its own languages due to which the citizens of that country express their point of view to each other. Therefore, due to lack of proper understanding of the language, many European and other countries were unable to help the refugees. Secondly, they faced many challenges in getting employment due to lack of proper education system. Therefore illiteracy and poverty was increased.

### Remedies

Nations should facilitate the labour market for self-employment and integration of Refugees.

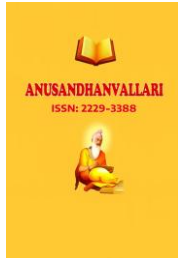
- Reforms in educational Policies.
- Affordable housing should provide to refugees and immigrants where labour demand is high.
- Improvement in living conditions.
- Effective healthcare services should be accessible.
- Nations should organize healthcare workshop in camps about communicable diseases

### Conclusion

So in this way we can say that Arab Spring started in 2011 with small wave of revolution. Since 2010, protests for the establishment of democracy, fair elections, eradication of unemployment, reforms of governance and mass movement against Islamization were carried out in Arab Countries. Many scholars called it the Arab Revolution, The Arab Spring or The Arab Rebellion. The Arab spring was such a wave of revolution that, due to picketing, demonstration, protests, riots and armed struggle, worried the Arab countries as well as whole world. It arose in Tunisia as a reaction against corruption and economic stagnation. Its flames first reached Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen, which soon spread throughout the Arab League and its surrounding region. As a result of these protests, the ruler of many nations were forced to step down from the throne of power. Such a frightening environment forced many people to flee. If we turn the pages of history, we come to know that there have been many movements at international level which have affected the Socio-economic and cultural environments of many nations. Although there are other reasons behind migration such as unequal development in different nations, unequal distribution of resources, geographical location, socio-economic circumstances etc. In other words, It can be said that it was an event whose purpose was to alert the ruling elite for political, economic and administrative reforms in different nations. As a result of this terrible event, many peoples took asylum in different countries and faced many problems. If a civil society is to be established at international level, then certainly all nations will have to adopt an egalitarian approach in the context of this challenge.

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