

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Out of the turmoil: A new Middle East?

The Arab Spring has spread with enormous force across the Middle East and has already forced Ben Ali in Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt from power.

Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen and Bashar al-Assad of Syria could all be next in line.

However, no clear path for the region's future has yet been chartered and it is too early to know whether more broadly legitimate and democratic governments will emerge.

London Metropolitan University's Global Policy Institute, in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in London, is launching a new policy project on the transformations happening in the Middle East.

'Out of the turmoil: A new Middle East?' is a six month project to delve into the issues that are gripping the Middle East. It will include public events, an expert policy workshop, opinion editorials, policy papers and a final policy report.

The project will be launched on June 2 with an expert panel discussion on: 'The Arab Spring and the West: The Future of Democracy in the Middle East and Partnership with the EU'.

Professor George Joffe, Professorial Research Fellow at the Global Policy Institute and Professor Fawaz Gerges, Director of the Middle East centre at the London School of Economics, will debate the topic in depth.

Professor Joffe said: "It will be many months, if not years, before we can be certain what the Arab Spring has really achieved but the fact that it occurred at all was remarkable enough. Nor would anybody have expected revolutionary change in the Arab world based on peaceful demonstrations and not dominated by political Islam!"

Other events in the series include: 'The New Geopolitics of the Middle East: Iran, Israel and Turkey' on 27 June; and 'Saudi Arabia and the Gulf: A House Built on Sand?' on 18 July.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

The Arab Spring and the West: The Future of Democracy in the Middle East and Partnership with the EU'

2 June 2011 at 5.30pm, followed by a reception

Venue: Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB

To register please email: events@gpilondon.com

Please see the attached flyer for information on the other project events.

The Global Policy Institute is a Research Institute of London Metropolitan University. It was founded in August 2006 to analyse the issues of globalisation and to formulate innovative policy solutions. It is based in Jewry Street in the City of London, and draws on both a rich pool of local academic and business professionals and its extensive international connections. The Institute gives non-partisan guidance to policymakers and decision takers in business, government, and NGOs.

<http://www.gpilondon.com/>

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