



SITUATION UPDATE

Middle East & Africa
18 March 2011



| Country | Last Protest | Next Protest | Reason | Summary |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| Algeria | 12-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | Relatively peaceful with few injuries. |

Overview: After 19 years, the government officially lifted a state of emergency in February following strikes and protests. But protest marches, which were not allowed under the state of emergency, continue to be banned in the capital, Algiers. Some viewed the move as a "ruse" to placate protesters, who continue to turn out for weekly demonstrations that are quickly broken up by large numbers of police.

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| Angola | 06-Mar | Unknown | Anti-government | |

Overview: Planned protest for 6 March failed due to government clampdown.

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|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bahrain | 16-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 14 Deaths to date - hundreds injured |

Overview: After a violent crackdown on protesters in the capital, Manama, that killed seven people, the crown prince in February called for a national dialogue between the Sunni-led government and the mostly Shiite protesters. Demonstrators have been sceptical of the government's offer, and they continued to stage daily marches, with many calling for the ousting of the monarchy. Following fighting between protesters and police, a military force from Saudi Arabia and neighbouring Gulf states entered Bahrain at the royal family's request on March 14. A day later, the king declared a three-month state of emergency. On March 16, security forces in Manama stormed the Pearl traffic circle, where many protesters had camped out, driving out hundreds of demonstrators and setting tents on fire. Several people were killed. The FCO has advised against all travel to Bahrain until further notice.



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| Cote d'Ivoire | 15-Mar | Ongoing | Election results protests | 100's Deaths to date. |

Overview: Authorities using deadly force, including mortar shell attacks - clashes spreading.

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| Djibouti | 04-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 2 Deaths to date. |

Overview: Further protests blocked by security forces. Election scheduled for 8/4/2011.

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| Egypt | 16-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 100's Deaths to date. |

Overview: Protesters took to Egypt's streets in January, demanding the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak after three decades of rule. Mubarak supporters clashed with demonstrators in Tahrir Square, which became the focal point of protests in the capital, Cairo. More than 300 protesters were killed in the uprising. Although Mubarak pledged not to run again, fired his government and appointed a vice president for the first time in his three decades of rule, the protests intensified until Vice President Omar Suleiman announced that the president had handed over power to the military. Protesters have continued to demand that the military rulers carry out reforms. In early March, one of their demands was met when Ahmed Shafiq — whom Mubarak appointed as prime minister amid the protests — resigned. The government fulfilled another demand March 15, when it dissolved the widely hated state security agency, a powerful symbol of the Mubarak regime. Amid the ongoing tensions, clashes have broken out between Muslims and Christians, killing more than a dozen people. On March 19, the country will hold a referendum on constitutional changes that are intended to ensure competitive elections.

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| Iran | 09-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 3 Deaths to date. |

Overview: Tens of thousands of demonstrators turned out Feb 14 for the biggest protests the country had seen since the aftermath of the disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2009. After clashes between security forces and the protesters, hard-line lawmakers called for opposition leaders to be put on trial and put to death. On March 1, protesters rallied in Tehran to demand the release of opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, who supporters say have been moved from house arrest to prison. Riot police used tear gas and batons to break up the demonstrations, according to witnesses and opposition websites.



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| Iraq | 11-Mar | Ongoing | Basic amenities | 23 Deaths to date. |

Overview: Small, scattered protests, focusing on unemployment, corruption and a lack of services, began taking place in Iraq in early February. Protests intensified in the city of Sulaimaniyah — where demonstrators oppose the leaders of Kurdistan, the semiautonomous region in northern Iraq — and in Basra, where the governor resigned. A nationwide "Day of Rage" called for Feb. 25 turned violent in Mosul and other cities, leading to the deaths of more than a dozen protesters. Protesters again turned out in Baghdad and other cities in early March for demonstrations that were mostly peaceful. A crackdown on journalists and activists has raised concerns about civil liberties under the U.S.-backed democratic government.

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| Jordan | 14-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | Relatively peaceful with few injuries. |

Overview: Protesters have been gathering on Fridays to demand more of a voice in government — some want the power to elect their prime minister and Cabinet officials. King Abdullah II fired his Cabinet in February and appointed a new prime minister tasked with carrying out reforms. In early March, hundreds of Salafis — an ultraconservative Muslim group banned in Jordan — staged protests in Amman to demand the release of prisoners. Journalists have also demonstrated against government censorship. On March 15, the king set a three-month deadline for agreement on reforms by a committee of government officials and opposition leaders. They will draft new laws for parliamentary elections and political parties.

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| Kuwait | 11-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | Riot police used tear gas to disperse protesters. |

Overview: More than 1,000 protesters turned out in Kuwait City on March 8 to call for political changes — including a new prime minister. No violence was reported, but police had blocked off a central square and forced protesters into a parking lot across from a government building.

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| Lebanon | 16-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | Relatively peaceful with few injuries. |

Overview: No injuries reported in latest protest.



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| Libya | Ongoing | Ongoing | Anti-government | 1,000's Deaths reported. |

Overview: Protests challenging leader Moammar Gadaffi led to a bloody crackdown in February. Amid clashes between opposition forces and troops loyal to Gadaffi, thousands fled Libya, with many crossing borders into Egypt and Tunisia. Rebels quickly took control of much of eastern Libya, with their base in the city of Benghazi, where the anti-Gadaffi uprising began Feb 15. Rebels have pressed for international help through a no-fly zone, as Gadaffi's forces attempt to beat back the revolutionaries using air power. The regime has largely consolidated control in the western part of the country, with one opposition-held city under blockade, and is advancing on the east. **UPDATE: UN Security Council has voted to permit "all necessary measures" to impose a no-fly zone, protect civilian areas and impose a ceasefire.**

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| Mauritania | 06-Mar | Ongoing | Social reforms | Relatively peaceful with few injuries. |

Overview: Police used teargas to disperse latest protest.

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|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---|
| Morocco | 07-Mar | 20-Mar | Anti-government | 5 Deaths to date and many more injured. |

Overview: On Feb. 20, demonstrations were called by a coalition of youth groups, labour unions and human rights organizations demanding greater democracy in the North African kingdom. Several thousand people marched through the capital, Rabat — one of several cities across the country where protests were held. Five people were killed in violence linked to the demonstrations. King Mohammed VI announced a plan March 9 to revise the country's constitution and said the project would be put to voters in a referendum. Police broke up an unauthorized protest in Casablanca and arrested about 50 protesters on March 13. Many of the hundreds of demonstrators were supporters of a banned Islamist movement.

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| Oman | 15-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 6 Deaths to date. |

Overview: Protests began in the seaside town of Sohar in late February, resulting in deadly clashes with police. Groups of protesters around the country have since pressed for economic and political reforms. Oman's ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, has ordered 50,000 new jobs and a monthly stipend for the unemployed, and has reshuffled his Cabinet. On March 13, he granted law-making powers to officials outside the royal family. Security forces and oil workers have been staging wage protests over the last few days.



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| Saudi Arabia | 13-Mar | Ongoing | Political prisoners/democracy | 4 Injured. |

Overview: Police opened fire to disperse a protest March 10 in the eastern city of Qatif. Three protesters and one officer were wounded. Hundreds had gathered to demand the release of political prisoners in a second day of protests in the east, home to the country's Shiite minority. Protests are officially banned in the mainly Sunni kingdom. Several hundred again turned out in the east on March 11, but wider protests called for in the capital, Riyadh, failed to materialize amid a massive show of police force. Two days later, about 200 protesters rallied outside the Interior Ministry in the capital, demanding the release of detainees.

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| Sudan | 17-Mar | 21-Mar | Election fraud/anti-government | 2 Deaths to date. |

Overview: Police using batons and tear gas to disperse protestors.

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|---------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Syria | 16-Mar | 18-Mar | Human rights/police brutality | 1 Death to date. |

Overview: Arrests made at last protest.

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| Tunisia | 27-Feb | Ongoing | Anti-government | 238 Deaths to date. |

Overview: The unrest in this North African nation began in December, apparently after a 26-year-old man committed suicide when police confiscated the fruits and vegetables he was selling. Anger at a lack of employment and at a leadership viewed as corrupt exploded into demonstrations and clashes with police. A United Nations mission says at least 219 were killed in the weeks of protests. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia on Jan. 14. In late February, Mohamed Ghannouchi, who served as prime minister for 11 years, bowed to protesters' demands and resigned after clashes between demonstrators and riot police. Two people were killed March 11 in clashes between police and protesters in the mining town of Metlaoui. The interim president, Fouad Mebazaa, has called for elections July 24 to pick representatives to write a new constitution.



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| Turkey | 19-Feb | Ongoing | Anti-government | Peaceful so far with no injuries. |
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| Country | Last Protest | Next Protest | Reason | Summary |
| Yemen | 16-Mar | Ongoing | Anti-government | 21 Deaths to date – 100's injured. |

Overview: Yemen first saw protests in January, with more sustained demonstrations beginning in February. Demonstrators are calling for the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who insists he will not step down before the end of his term in 2013. Saleh has called for a national dialogue, but an opposition leader said there would be no dialogue unless Saleh agreed to step down by year's end. Saleh's proposal for a new constitution was also rejected, and he fired the government minister in charge of trying to start a dialogue with his opponents. The government has intensified its crackdown, with police firing on demonstrators and government supporters clashing with crowds. Hundreds were injured March 16 when government supporters armed with sticks, knives and guns attacked protesters in the southern port of al-Hudaydah, witnesses said.

