

StuyMSA 2010-2011
Meeting No.5, 12/02/11

Current Events

Led by Nasrin Akter

Tags: Palestinian statehood, war crimes trials, Egypt, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, British Embassy

Sources: New York Times, The Economist

Start

'Auzubillahi min ashaitan irajeem, Bismillah irrahman irraheem.

Alhamdullillahi rabil 'alameen. Wasalaatu was salaamu 'ala ashrafil anbiya i wal mursaleen, wa la 'alihi wa sahbihi ajmaeen. Amma' baad.

Announcements

- If you need to pray, get into the habit of praying Asr before the meeting and Maghrib after to avoid missing either (and if you can, Zuhr earlier on)
- December 9: Last day to sign up for MIST Basketball. Also last day to fill out the form to indicate your preferences for hoodie/ t-shirt
- Next meeting (December 9): First gender-separated meeting (explain what a gender separated meeting is)
- December 16: Prayer meeting. Also last day to sign up/ make changes to MIST competitions.
- December 18: Last day to sign up for Pre-MIST tournament (remind them what it is, that they should let us know their team before registering)
- A movie day coming up! Last week of school, we'll watch Mooz-lum. Stay tuned for date and place.

Bag of Worries

Palestinian bid for statehood:

Palestine's applied to to the UN Security Council for full statehood on Sept. 23rd, where it is surely going to be vetoed. They also applied to the UN General Assembly for "observer" status (like the Vatican), but European countries were also worried about Palestine because half of the region is in the hands of Hamas. So, there issue stalled. However, on Nov. 1, Palestine became a member of UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which meant that UNESCO lost all of its funding from America (which makes up about 1/4 of its funds). The US's stance is that Palestinian statehood should come from Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, not an arbitrary third-party.

Hassan's article

War Crimes Trials

Libya: Ghaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, and Abdullah al Senoussi (former Libyan spymaster) were caught and are waiting to be placed on trial for their crimes by the International Criminal court. Libyans want to try the two in their own courts, but fear that Libyan courts may be harsh and biased. However, the ICC cannot try the two men for misdeed committed before 2002. For

example, ICC cannot investigate downing of an American passenger plane over Scotland in 1988 or the killing of 1200 inmates in a Libyan jail in 1996. Legitimacy for ICC.

Bangladesh is holding war-crimes trial for the 1971 war. (Pakistanis, local accomplices killed a hundred thousand or more civilians); first defendant is Delawar Hossain Sayadee, who is the leader of the Jamaat e Islam party, an opposition party. The International War Crimes Tribunal is criticized for biases against opposition parties that may help Sheikh Hasina in the upcoming elections.

Crisis in Egypt - content from NY Times

- Protests erupted in Egypt against the rule of President Hosni Mubarak back in January. After 18 days of angry protests and after losing the support of the military and the United States, Mr. Mubarak resigned on Feb. 11, ending 30 years of autocratic rule, as the military stepped forward and pushed him from office. The rapid fall of Mubarak that united young liberal demonstrators and the Muslim Brotherhood was the capstone event of the so-called Arab Spring, inspiring demonstrators in Libya, Syria and elsewhere.
- Nine months later, as Egypt began voting in the first parliamentary elections since Mubarak’s fall, the Muslim Brotherhood won the first round, and appeared poised to create a coalition with more conservative Islamic parties and threatened to speed the confrontation between the Muslim Brotherhood and the military that rid Mubarak.
- Growing numbers of secular Egyptians wondered if they had traded one military regime for another. In November, thousands of protesters returned to Tahrir Square in Cairo, the epicenter of the revolution, leading to numerous battles with the military that left at least 40 people dead.

Freedom and Justice Party (Muslim Brotherhood)	Nour Party (Salafis)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pledged to respect basic individual freedoms while using the influence of the state to nudge the culture in a more traditional direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Often talk openly of laws mandating a shift to Islamic banking, restricting the sale of alcohol, providing special curricula for boys and girls in public schools, and censoring the content of the arts and entertainment ● Many male Salafi candidates refuse to shake hands with women and in interviews require female journalists to wear a veil. ● Egyptian law requires all parties to nominate at least one woman on each roster of candidates, but because many Salafis oppose putting women in leadership roles, they put their female candidates’ names last on each list. Often, the women’s campaign posters displayed flowers instead of their faces.

- Scholars credited the Salafis' success in part to their organizational advantages. The term Salafi is used for Muslims who seek to emulate the companions of the Prophet Muhammad, in their understanding and practice of Islam. Salafis had flourished for years in Egypt, but under Mr. Mubarak most had turned away from politics because they believed that law should come from God and not man.
- But after the president was overthrown in February, opening the possibility of democratic change, some Salafis began to argue that by seeking office they could carry out God's law through Parliament. And when they did turn to politics, they were able to rally an existing and organized network of as many as two million to four million Egyptians, said Shadi Hamid, a researcher at the Brookings Institution in Doha, Qatar. Many had already gravitated to the leadership of a local sheik. The Muslim Brotherhood, in contrast, is believed to have about one million members, including 600,000 men and about 400,000 women, Mr. Hamid said.

Iran Storms British Embassy

Iranian Students stormed the British Embassy in Tehran on Nov. 29 as protests against Britain's tough new economic sanctions (like breaking all ties with the Iranian Central Bank).

Question: What are sanctions?

Iran's Foreign ministry release an apology. At first the police had supported the rioters, than tried to control them. Tear gas eventually dispersed the protesters.

Justice In Afghanistan:

An Afghan woman who reported that she was raped was imprisoned for adultery, but on Dec.1, the government announced that it would pardon her, with the condition that she would marry the man who raped her. This underscores that cultural practices die hard; the solution is bad for the woman because she can be killed by the rapist or further abused. The case only came to President Hamid Karzai's attention because of a film that was made "In-Justice: the Story of Afghan Women in Jail" (whose release was banned because the publicity can harm the women in the film). The woman even gave birth to a child as a result of the rape; movies can backfire: backlash against the shelters and organizations that protect the women; Bibi Aisha; woman said she would marry rapist if one of rapists' sisters marry her brother; *mention Bibi Aisha (2010)*

Discussion: How do you feel about this?

Why would a woman every marry her rapist?

Do you think the film should be released?

"You who believe! Show integrity for the sake of Allah, bearing witness with justice. Do not let hatred for a people incite you into not being just. Be just. That is closer to taqwa. Have taqwa of Allah. Allah is aware of what you do." (Surat al-Ma'ida, 8)

Bag of worries

End

Subhanakallahumma wa bihamdik. Ash hadu Allah ilaha illa annt. Astaghfiruka wa atubu ilaik Rabbana atina fid dunya hasanatan- wa fil akhirati hasantan- wa qina 'adhabannar.Rabbana zalamna anfusuna wa illan taghfirlana wa tarhamna lana kunanna minal khasireen.Rabbana

*la tuzigh kulubana wa idh hadaytana wa habblana milla dunka rahmatan innaka antal wahhab.
Ameen*