THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARAB SPRING RIOTS

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The protesters' actions during the Arab Spring have benefited the consistent support of the information technologies and communications. Although this element is not unique in the landscape of the popular protest movement of the last decade, the way it influenced the Arab riots drew the attention of both political analysts and security and internal security services of all states. The development and widespread of the information technologies and communications in countries where Islamic religious conservatism raises significant barriers to communication between people allowed the streamlined movement of information between many users and an unexpected propagation environment for the popular dissatisfactions and claims. Furthermore, the information technologies and communications have played an important role in the structuring and preparation of the contesting movements during the Arab Spring.

***Keywords:** Information technologies and communications; Arab Spring; Twitter Revolution; Facebook Revolution.*

Introduction

December 2010 marked the outbreak of a protest movement in Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, following the very gesture of self-immolation of a young Tunisian named Mohamed Bouazizi, in the Sidi Bouzid town, after the police confiscated the fruits and vegetables which he sold on the street. The gesture of "Basboosa" as he was called after he became a "Hero in Tunisia",

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