

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A REFLECTION ON ARAB REVOLUTIONARY UPRISINGS  
AND RESPONSES FROM 2010 - 2020**

*As Arab revolutionary movements enter their second decade, a new report looks at the factors contributing to the most dramatic transformation in the past century and the future of citizen-driven, national self-determination in the region.*

**[LINK TO REPORT](#)**

**(New York, NY – May 25, 2021)** A new paper, [The Decade of Defiance and Resistance: Reflections on Arab Revolutionary Uprisings and Responses from 2010 – 2020](#), by Rami Khouri with The Soufan Center, looks at the most dramatic transformation in the past century of Arab statehood in the decade beginning 2010. Across the Arab region, diverse movements voiced the same demand: the desire for citizen-driven, national self-determination and the end of militarized states and societies.

“The 2010 - 2020 decade of protests should not be seen as a one-off “Arab Spring” by citizens who feel degraded, but rather as a new iteration in a century-long quest for dignity and political representation across the entire region,” says Rami G. Khouri, who authored the paper, drawing on five decades of journalism, research and travel in the Arab region and his role as the Director of Global Engagement and Adjunct Professor of Journalism at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

The report looks at the history, evolution, and demands of the Arab uprisings over the last decade; as well as presenting four case studies from Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Sudan. “The uprisings have provided the first signs of genuine, common, national identities that are forged by the citizens themselves to replace the sectarian, tribal, ethnic, class, ideological, or regional identities that have long defined modern Arab states,” notes Khouri. The paper is part of a new series of *Global Perspectives* through which The Soufan Center aims to highlight the reflections of experts, academics and practitioners on unique aspects of the dynamics which shape our global security landscape.

**A look at how the region sees itself**

“Western narratives and media depictions of the Middle East and North Africa region overly focus on armed conflict, transnational terrorism, and violence,” says Ali Soufan, founder of The Soufan Center. “This report brings to the forefront the real picture of the hopes and aspirations of millions of women and men in the region: the demand for equal rights for citizens from all identities, regions, and income groups.” Moreover, the report highlights a new dimension of these protests, the convergence of different communities and objectives into a more consolidated movement that shapes the relationship between citizens, the state and security,” added Naureen Chowdhury Fink, Executive Director of The Soufan Center.

## **ABOUT THE SOUFAN CENTER (TSC)**

Based in New York, [The Soufan Center](#) is an independent non-profit center offering research, analysis, and strategic dialogue on global security challenges and foreign policy issues. Please contact **Stephanie Foggett** with any media inquiries or interview requests: [stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org](mailto:stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org).

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