

I. The 2007 Arab Peace Initiative: Moving Forward

The Kingdom of Morocco has consistently presented itself as a mediator between the Arab states and Israel. Morocco believes that international measures need to be taken immediately in order to end the lasting conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Palestine and is prepared to work for the adoption of such a policy. Morocco advocates that Israel adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242¹, requiring that Israel withdraw their armed forces from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, along with Resolution 194², which allows free access of Palestinians to Jerusalem and the Holy Places, as well as the refugee's right to return or receive just compensation in the event that they do not wish to return. Morocco thinks a conclusive decision should be made based upon a mutual understanding of the rights of the Palestinian people and respective Palestinian governing authority, as well as that of the state of Israel. Morocco advocates that both parties work together and independently to ensure the success of a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict³. Morocco believes the Roadmap and the Arab Peace Initiative are viable options in successfully mediating the end of the conflict and calls upon the League of Arab States to stand in agreement in order to be "in conformity with international legality,"⁴ as well as halt the illegal practices of Israel in order to ensure safety for all.

Morocco promotes mediation between the Israeli government, the Palestinian Authority, and the citizens of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Morocco's willingness to mediate and help come to a resolution is in hopes that the rest of the Arab World, along with Israel, will recognize the global importance of solving this ongoing conflict. In the hopes that human rights will be preserved for both parties, as well as the continuation of economic, political, cultural, and social growth, Morocco feels that a resolution to the conflict will only promote greater stability to the region as a whole as well as for other countries interested in trade and business opportunities. Morocco calls upon the League of Arab States to commit itself to end the occupation of Palestinian territories, create an independent Palestinian State with the ability to suppress extremist activities in order to ensure the safety of Israelis and Palestinians, as well as work willfully and peacefully alongside the Arab Peace Initiative to secure human rights, stop settlement building, and create viable local and regional stability.

II. Evaluating the Political and Economic Impacts of Hawala

The Kingdom of Morocco recognizes the political and economic importance of the system of Hawala. Morocco desires to continue the system of Hawala because it is extremely beneficial to the people of Morocco along with other member states in the League of Arab States (LAS). Morocco also recognizes the problems faced by supporting the practice of Hawala as it pertains to other states in the LAS as well as the rest of the World. Hawala is a financial practice that provides assistance to those seeking to transfer funds, usually foreign, while adhering to shariah law, without the use of promissory instruments or records of the transactions. Hawala as a trust-based system lacks legitimate documentation which poses problems for the state, as it cannot track money flow in and out of the country. To the Western world, Hawala also poses a global problem in that it allows extremist organizations to transfer funds unnoticed by institutions in place to stop extremist acts⁵. Morocco proposes the continued use of Hawala with restrictions proposed by the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism⁶. Morocco proposes that restrictions regulating Hawala should not overly restrict Hawaladers because it is

¹ 22 November 1967 – Resolution 242 - <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/240/94/IMG/NR024094.pdf?OpenElement>

² 11 December 1948 – Resolution 194 - <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/C758572B78D1CD0085256BCF0077E51A>

³ http://www.morocconewsline.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=386&Itemid=26

⁴ GA 6th session general debate - <http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/F79D8761CBA8E6A4852576460052E7B5>

⁵ CRS Reports for Congress Islamic Finance: Overview and Policy Concerns, pg 6.

⁶ International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism - <http://www.un.org/law/cod/finterr.htm>

a cost effective and legitimate business⁷. Morocco advocates that Hawaladers in countries with legitimate banking institutions be registered and required to record their transactions without restricting the beneficial aspects of Hawala. Morocco thinks that these regulations should not restrict Hawala use and should caution institutions that weaken the Hawala system⁸.

In relation to the League of Arab States, Morocco advocates the adoption of 40 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering⁹ and the 8 Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing in order to counter any use of Hawala as a tool for international and/or domestic terrorism. Morocco proposes the creation of an advisory board in order to monitor Hawala in a close but not overly restrictive manner, directives for said board should be constructed by the committee on mutually agreeable terms that only serve to strengthen Hawala as a viable system of money transfer. Morocco feels that such an advisory board should exist to help stabilize currency fluctuations as well as to monitor improper usage of funds, in order to secure the use of Hawala. Morocco thinks that it is in the best interest of the League of Arab States to adopt a similar structure in order to ensure the safety of each member's economy as well as the safety of the global economy. Morocco is dedicated to working with other member states in order to arrive at a mutually acceptable economic and political approach to Hawala and its implications on the League as a whole. Morocco believes that a joint effort in keeping Hawala safe and active will be the most instrumental in combating terrorism while continuing the process of economic growth in the League of Arab States.

III. Political Participation by Non-traditional Actors

The Kingdom of Morocco feels strongly that the political participation of non-traditional actors is crucial not only to Morocco or the rest of the Maghreb, but to the members of the Arab League as well. Morocco understands that non-traditional actors play an important role as a vehicle to monitor and ensure that human rights violations are brought to a stop as well as serve as a tool to draw in monetary aid in order to increase the standard of living in all Arab countries. Morocco also recognizes that the role of extra-regional forces is helpful in resolving larger issues that plague areas of the Arab world such as illiteracy, the education of women, and other factors such as health.

Morocco has consistently explored ways to increase the political participation of non-traditional actors. Morocco's implementation of the National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD) has been beneficial in building bridges between formalized governmental assistance and non-governmental organizations. Through NIHD, Morocco has effectively given non-state actors the ability to not only participate in building a better society economically and socially, but in allowing them to take part in the political process as well¹⁰. Morocco believes that implementing initiatives like NIHD will ensure a safer and more politically stable society for the citizens of Morocco. If expanded to the greater arena of the Arab League, initiatives such as the ones being taken by Morocco would greatly increase the Arab world's ability to continue the steps taken to ensure human rights are not being violated, mobilize actual organizations to participate actively in Moroccan politics so that their voices may be heard in order to benefit Morocco and Morocco's fellow member states.

As Morocco has witnessed, allowing non-traditional actors into regional politics does not signify weak statehood or a disregard for state sovereignty, but exactly the opposite¹¹. Allowing non-traditional actors, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)¹² and Global Rights' organization for the Education of Illiterate and Semi-illiterate Women¹³, sets up a precedence of dedication to human rights that only enhances Morocco's ability to move onto and deal with other issues that face other Arab states alike. Morocco believes that doing this will strengthen regional sovereignty of all the Arab League members, as well as ensure the interest of extra-regional

⁷ Abu Dhabi Conference on Hawala - <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/programs/Hawala-conf.pdf>

⁸ El Qorchi, Maimbo, Wilson. Informal Funds Transfer Systems: An Analysis of the Informal Hawala System. International Monetary Fund, Washington DC 2003.

⁹ http://www.fatf-gafi.org/document/28/0,3343,en_32250379_32236930_33658140_1_1_1_1,00.html

¹⁰ Non-state actors' participation to development as a source of stateness in Morocco - http://www.sfb-governance.de/en/termine_media/2009_ECPR/S12_P145_1887_bono/BonoECPRstateness.pdf

¹¹ Ibid

¹² UNDP - <http://arabstates.undp.org/subpage.php?spid=10>

¹³ Global Rights Source Library: Morocco - http://www.globalrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ResourceLibrary_Morocco

powers in the development of the Arab world. Morocco's continued support for non-traditional actors' involvement in specific state affairs is essential to solving the issues that spur extremist thought and action, prevent further regional cultural, economic, and social development, and allows continued growth and development for the members of the League of Arab State.