**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**ISSUE:** Measures to Secure the Freedom of Expression, Association, and Peaceful Assembly in the Middle Eastern Nations

**SUBMITTED BY**: Republic of Chad

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Human Rights Council,

*Acknowledging* the role of international instruments and agreements, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and UNHRC Resolution 15/21, in promoting and protecting these rights in the Middle East,

*Affirming* the fundamental importance of the right to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly as enshrined in international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

*Deeply concerned* about the conflict between Israel and Palestine that has led to the death of 7000 civilians and has caused millions of people to turn homeless,

*Emphasizing* that Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person,

*Emphasizing* the need for collective action and cooperation to address the issues of threatened free presses, discrimination against Christians, and arbitrary punitive measures aimed at suppressing freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly in the Middle Eastern nations,

*Recognizing* the commitment to raising awareness of the importance of human rights and the vital roles played by legislative bodies, judicial authorities, educators, civil society organizations, and individuals in advocating for these rights,

*Underlining* the role of vigilant supervision in monitoring and ensuring adherence to international human rights standards and commitments, as well as promoting accountability,

1. Appeals Punishment on Local Government Branches that Use Force to Violently Suppress Freedom of Expression and Ideas, such as but not limited to:
	1. Adopting international norms and guidelines that constitute excessive use of force when local government branches attempt to violently suppress the expression of ideas or peaceful assembly,
	2. Developing a framework for holding local government branches accountable for excessive use of force is essential through institutions such as the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to establish effective mechanisms that investigate and impose accountability measures when excessive force is employed,
	3. Collaborating with International Tribunals to let the member states actively engage with international judicial institutions and tribunals, including the International Criminal Court (ICC), to ensure that individuals responsible for using excessive force to suppress freedom of expression and peaceful assembly face legal consequences by:
2. becoming parties to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the ICC, thus allowing the Court’s officials and investigators to operate within their territories without hindrance,
3. emphasizing the importance of unimpeded access and support initiatives that assist Middle Eastern Nations in ratifying the agreement;
4. Urges Middle Eastern nations to revise existing legislation pertaining to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly in accordance with international human rights standards through ways such as but not limited to:
5. Initiating inclusive consultation processes on the existing legislation to gather diverse perspectives with civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and marginalized communities,
6. Conducting a thorough assessment of the penalties and restrictions outlined in current legislation to ensure they are proportionate and do not unduly restrict an individual’s fundamental rights including laws such as but not limited to:
7. disproportionate fines,
8. prison sentences,
9. restrictions on assembly,
10. creating independent oversight mechanisms, such as human rights commissions or parliamentary committees, to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the revised legislation;
11. Calls upon all member states to adopt and enforce laws and policies that ensure equal access to quality education, free from discrimination, for all citizens, regardless of gender, race, religion, or socio-economic background:
	1. Realizing Global Citizenship:
		1. draw insights from Canada, where the curriculum successfully incorporates global citizenship, environmental sustainability, and critical thinking, as an example of culturally relevant education,
		2. follow the United States’ practice of regularly updating its curriculum to reflect evolving societal needs and changing global perspectives to keep education relevant,
	2. Budget Allocation for Education:
		1. emulate countries like Norway by allocating a significant portion of the national budget for education, with a focus on prioritizing regions and communities with limited access to quality education,
		2. take lessons from Brazil’s experience with public-private partnerships as a funding model for education,
	3. Investment in Education Infrastructure by establishing teacher training centers following India’s successful Teacher Training Programs to enhance the quality of education,
	4. Barrier-Free Education:
		1. model policies on eliminating child labor after Bangladesh’s comprehensive measures that have made significant progress in this regard,
		2. prevent early marriages by taking inspiration from Nigeria’s initiatives, including awareness campaigns and legal reforms,
	5. Support from UN and Specialized Agencies by collaborating with the United Nations and specialized agencies for technical support, inspired by the successes of various UN programs;
12. Demands every Middle Eastern nation to take concrete actions in strengthening public awareness with the primary objective of enhancing human rights and cultivating a positive atmosphere, both within their borders and on the international stage. These actions may include, but are not limited to:
	1. Utilizing Varied Platforms for Awareness:
		1. leveraging Social Network Services: Middle Eastern nations should consider the use of Social Network Services that have established credibility, whether through their ownership or endorsement by reputable organizations or the United Nations. These platforms can be valuable tools for disseminating information and engaging with the public on human rights matters,
		2. establishing official accounts to ensure accessible and transparent communication, nations should establish official accounts on widely used and easily approachable social media platforms. These accounts can serve as hubs for sharing information and updates, and engaging in dialogue with the public,
	2. Collaboration with Civil Society:
		1. partnerships with Civil Society Organizations: Engaging with civil society organizations is paramount. Middle Eastern nations should actively collaborate with these organizations, fostering partnerships that can lead to more effective promotion and protection of human rights. Civil society often plays a critical role in advocacy, awareness campaigns, and monitoring of human rights,
		2. financial Support for Civil Society Initiatives: Middle Eastern nations should consider providing financial support to civil society initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting human rights. Such support can enable these organizations to conduct more extensive awareness campaigns and undertake projects for the betterment of human rights,
	3. Promotion of Educational Programs:
		1. Comprehensive School Curriculum: initiating and promoting educational programs that focus on human rights protection is essential. These programs should be integrated into the national school curriculum, covering various aspects of human rights and responsibilities,
		2. Community Workshops and Training: in addition to schools and universities, Middle Eastern Nations should organize community workshops and training sessions aimed at raising awareness and educating individuals about their rights and responsibilities. These workshops can be conducted in collaboration with civil society organizations;
13. Calls upon all nations to establish "Middle Eastern Nations Aiding Funds” (MENAF) in order to raise funds under the supervision of IMF to the Middle Eastern Nations to implement the freedom of expression in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. Raising funds through the following methods:
		1. member countries of HRC that are not part of Middle Eastern Nations should provide financial support according to their Gross Domestic Product (GDP),
		2. donations from countries,
		3. donations from individuals and private charity funds organizations through websites or direct transactions to the found organization,
	2. The funds will be supervised in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. the funds organization will be required to publish an annual report that includes but is not limited to the money sources, money flow, and money usage, etc.,
		2. establish a window on the funds’ website to accept reports from the public on misuse of money containing a section that receives feedback,
	3. The funds will be used in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. building necessary infrastructures including but not limited to radio stations, television towers, and Signal towers,
		2. help to cover the educational program by supporting elements including but not limited to teachers' wages, transportation, and the infrastructures of schools;
14. Calls upon the UN to establish “Middle Eastern Nations Behavior Supervision Organization” (MENBSO) that is empowered with the right to enter the Middle Eastern Nations to investigate behaviors that restrict and against freedom of peaceful expression, association, and assembly, the organization is supervised under ICC (International Criminal Court) will be structured in the following ways:
	1. MENBSO will be activated with the following methods:
		1. create a website and set up local stations for people to report the government's behaviors,
		2. once the MENBSO has received reports on the same issue, the MENBSO will be sending investigators,
	2. Duties and objectives of the organization:
		1. the MENBSO is not empowered with enforcement rights; it only has the investigation rights,
		2. checking on legislation progress,
		3. checking on the judicial system,
		4. checking on forums,
	3. The MENBSO will report to ICC about the misbehaviors for ICC to take further action.