

After the Arab Spring: will leaders lead leaders?



intervention by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Libya, to which Canada, Italy and Turkey contributed.

The Gaddafi regime fell, but the country is now dominated by regional militias that threaten to undermine attempts to hold elections this year.

Many of the G8 and G20 leaders have condemned the violence in Syria as Bashar Assad unleashed the armed forces against protestors and civilian populations. The recent mission of United Nations special envoy (and former UN secretary-general) Kofi Annan had wide support among the G20 members, but made little progress.

A healthy and open civil society
For a gathering of the world's largest economies, the denouement of the Arab Spring may seem to be a strange concern. After all, the combined economies of Libya, Egypt and Syria amounted to just three-tenths of one per cent of the global economy in 2010, according to World Bank figures.

Yet this is precisely why, at last year's meetings, G8 and G20 leaders took such an interest in the Arab Spring: decades of authoritarian misrule has stunted economic growth and development in these once-rich countries. The hope of 2011 was that, with better governments that respected human rights and freedoms, economic reform and

Many of those who suffered during dictatorships in the Arab world are still suffering



