

Rawia Altaweel (UNICEF・エマージェンシースペシャリスト)

Syrian Muslim Brotherhood after the Arab Spring

Academic Presentation

My presentation was part of a panel titled: “Synchronicity of the conflicts in different levels of relations in the Arab world after the Arab Uprisings: Cases of Egypt, Sudan, Syria and Palestine”

I presented on the “Syrian Muslim Brotherhood after the Arab Spring” as part of a my PhD research on the role of Islamic movements in the current crisis in Syria and their future role. My presentation focused on the evolvement of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood (SMB) and their political role in Syria after the Arab spring where I tried to map their presence and contributions to the political and social aspect of the Syrian communities.

The SMB is a unique to examine because it is one of the oldest continuous Syrian Islamic movement in the modern history of Syrian state. Moreover, that SMB is the only Muslim Brotherhood branch that has a history of using armed violence against the state. And yet it also plays a major role on the recent conflict in Syria which may induce the possibility of an active participation in the post-conflict era.

My presentation introduced a review of the SMB engagement strategies with the Syrian region since 2000 until a turning point took place in 2010-11 within the dynamics of the Arab spring events and the onset of the Syrian uprising in March 2011. The analysis utilized the narrative of the SMB official statements, publications and interviews with their leaders to reflect on their political activities that expanded massively after 2011 with the establishment of western supported opposition bodies in exile. It also covered their military involvement along the past seven years as the uprising turned to a civil ware and later to an international proxy war.

Academic feedback:

I have received various questions from the audiences that encouraged me to consider certain reviews to my current research, such as following:

(a) One researcher asked about the military aspect of the SMB activities in Syria and suggested a comparative scale in terms of military capacity in term of arms, fighters and areas of control. (b) A professor suggested to explore current factors that may enable a future state system in Syria that is inclusive or the opposite, it might hinder such a future state formation.

I am currently finalizing a paper on the same subject by trying to address the comments

received in WOCMES. This paper will form a chapter of my PhD thesis.