



The Year
of Protest

2012

Family: Reconnecting our Hearts to Home

Topic IV

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GLOSSARY

What is freedom?

Freedom is the power to be in total control of yourself without any hindrance.

What is democracy?

Democracy is a system by the people where everyone has an equal say in the decisions they make.

What is NATO?

North American Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on April 4, 1949. The alliance includes 28 members in North America and Europe.

What is EU?

European Union is an economic and political union or political confederation of 27 members which are primarily located in Europe.

What is advocacy?

A process in which a person or organization undertakes activities including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research or poll or the 'filing of friend of the court briefs'.

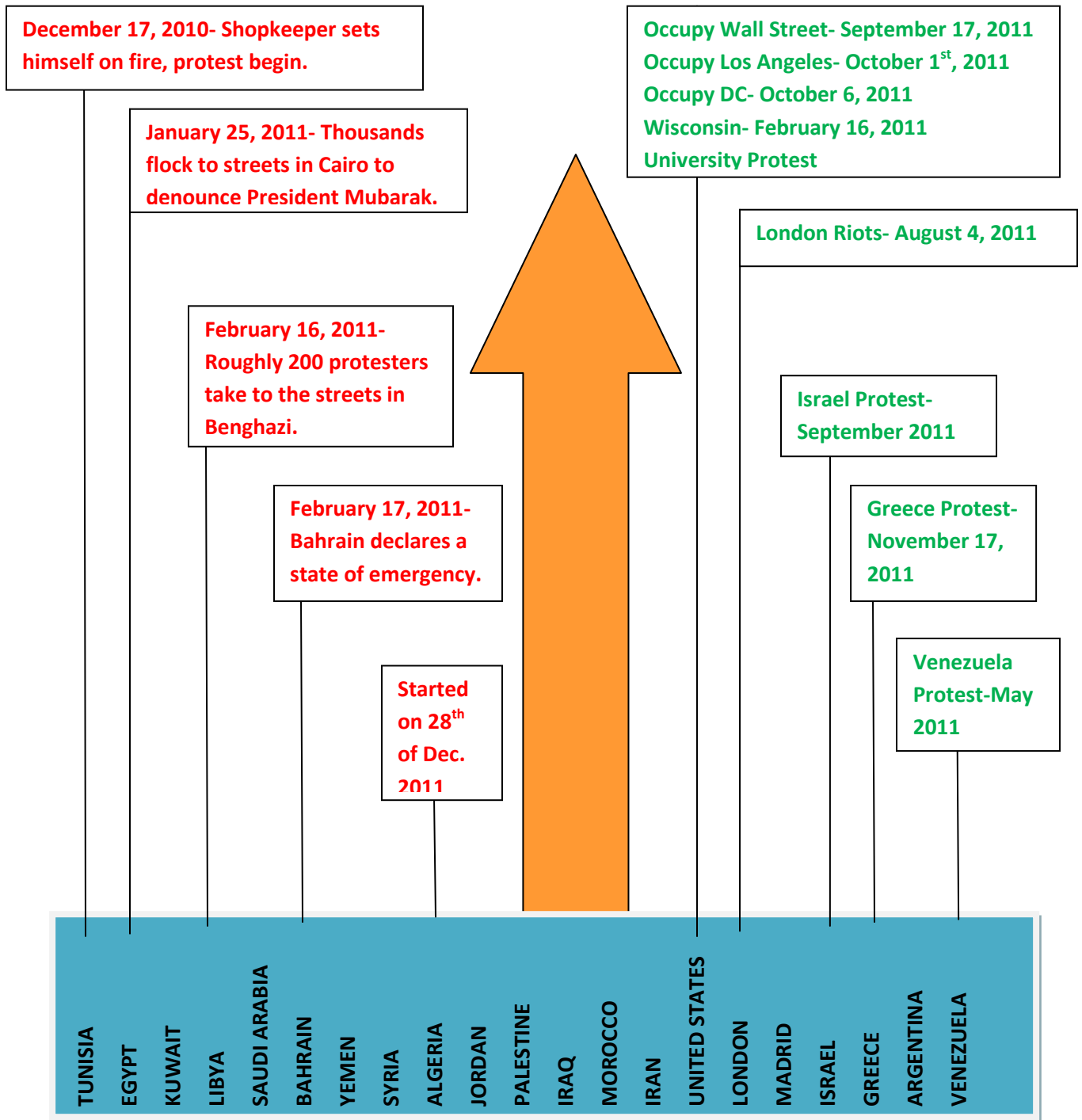
What is lobbying?

Lobbying is a form of advocacy where a direct approach is made to legislators on an issue which plays a significant role in modern politics.

What is social justice?

A view that everyone deserves equal right regardless of race, gender or ethnicity.

TIMELINE: THE YEAR OF PROTEST



INTERACTIVE TIMELINE

For an interactive timeline of the Arab Spring protests, visit:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2011/mar/22/middle-east-protest-interactive-timeline>

You may be tested on content from this interactive timeline

TUNISIA

The Arab Spring was sparked by rallies in Tunisia as a result of a young market worker angered by police harassments. Jobless graduate Mohammed Bouazizi started selling vegetables. When police seized his cart because he did not have a license, he sets fire to himself and later died in the hospital in January 2011. The act provoked young Tunisians to protest. Thousands took the streets in sometimes violence clashes.

Riots are extremely rare for Tunisia, a North African country of about 10 million people which is one of the most prosperous and stable in the region.

Human rights groups say dissent is routinely suppressed, but high unemployment and lack of political reforms are feeding social tensions. The issue of unemployment has been serious for a long time, especially among young graduates. The sectors where there has been development and jobs have been mainly low-skilled.

Since the protests had become more political, with chants calling on Ben Ali not to stand for re-election in 2014. Ben Ali is then forced to flee Tunisia as protesters claim victory. He took refuge in Saudi Arabia after being in power since 1984.

EGYPT

As a result of the situation in Tunisia, protesters soon rose up in other Arab countries.

Grievances of Egyptian protesters were focused on legal and political issues including police brutality, state of emergency laws, lack of free elections and freedom of speech, uncontrollable corruption, and economic issues including high unemployment, food price inflation, and low minimum wages.

The primary demands from protest organizers in Egypt were the end of the Hosni Mubarak regime. During the uprising the capital city of Cairo was described as "a war zone," and the port city of Suez was the scene of frequent violent clashes. The government imposed a curfew that protesters defied and that the police and military did not enforce. In the absence of police, there was looting by gangs. Hundreds of thousands of *Egyptians* filled the centre of Cairo and camped in Tahrir Square to call for *Hosni Mubarak* to step down. After three decades in power, Mr. Mubarak withstood only three weeks of strife. Although frail, he eventually stood trial (due to resume soon) for the deaths that occurred when his security forces tried to quash the protests.

LIBYA

Hundreds of anti-government protesters have clashed with police overnight in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi. The protests were reportedly triggered by anger at the arrest of a human rights campaigner.

Demonstrators had petrol bombs and threw stones. Crowd protested outside a local government office to demand the release of the activist, and then went to the city's Shajara square where demonstrators clashed with police and government supporters. Meanwhile, Libyan state television said rallies were being held across the country in support of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

In *Libya* Muammar Qaddafi caused a civil war after he tried to crush an opposition movement that spread from Benghazi. NATO aircraft enforced a no-fly zone, endorsed by the Arab League, in support of the rebels.

After a summer of conflict, *Qaddafi* was captured by rebels in his home town and swiftly killed. He had ruled Libya since 1969.

BAHRAIN

At least 25 people were injured and one dies during Manama protest. Bahrain's Shia majority has often complained of receiving poor treatment in employment, housing, and infrastructure, while Sunnis have preferential status.

The Bahraini government has reportedly imported Sunnis from Pakistan and Syria in an attempt to increase the Sunni percentage. Shiite Muslims are blocked from serving in important political and military posts.

Bahrain does have the National Assembly of Bahrain, a popularly elected parliament, but it is not powerful. Occasional protests have flared up since the reign of Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and, as of 18 February 2011, twenty-five Shiite activists were on trial for subverting state power.

ALGERIA

Rioting also broke out in Algiers as police were deployed around mosques and football matches were suspended after protests over food prices and unemployment. Riot police armed with teargas and batons maintained a strong presence around the Algerian capital's main mosques. In the popular Belcourt district, rioting resumed after Friday prayers.

Young protesters pelted police with stones and blocked access to the area.

Causes cited by the protestors include unemployment, the lack of housing, food-price inflation, corruption, restrictions on freedom of speech and poor living conditions.

Hundreds of youths clashed with police in several cities and ransacked stores in the capital.

Police used teargas to disperse youths in the Algiers neighborhood of Bab el-Oued, where the most violent protests occurred. Shortly after the first riots broke out on, the trade minister, Mustapha Benbada, said prices of sugar and edible oil would be reduced "in the coming days".

ARGENTINA

Thousands of people have demonstrated in the Argentine capital Buenos Aires in protest at the

murder of a left-wing activist during a labor dispute. Crowds blocked roads and railway lines

and gathered outside the presidential palace to demand justice.

The activist, Mariano Ferreyra, was shot dead during a clash between rival groups of railway

workers.

One of the country's main trade union federations called a general strike.

Left-wing opposition groups have blamed the killing on members of the main railway workers

union, which they say was acting to break up a protest against low pay and job losses in contractors that provide services to the state railway company.

MADRID

At least 20 people have been injured - including seven police officers - in clashes between riot police and protesters in Madrid. Police had stopped the demonstrators, known as "the indignants", from entering a square which has become a focus of anti-government protests. Witnesses said police charged into a crowd outside the interior ministry. This was the most serious incident since the protest movement began in mid-May. The indignants are complaining about the government's handling of the economy and high unemployment. More than 200 police were deployed to close the Puerta del Sol square for the third day running.

PALESTINE

On March 15, 2011, tens of thousands of people have taken part in protests in Gaza and the West Bank, demanding an end to political division and the Israeli occupation. Youth activists hope the demonstrations will herald the start of a sustained popular movement. The largest protests in the Palestinian territories since uprisings began sweeping the region at the start of the year were called by grassroots activists on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In Gaza City, Ramallah and Bethlehem, protesters waved Palestinian flags and placards demanding unity between rival political organizations. Supporters of Fatah and Hamas were present in large numbers along with a substantial number of non-aligned young men and women. Some of the youth activists had slept in the Square of the Unknown Soldier in Gaza City and al-Manara Square in Ramallah overnight in an echo of the Egyptian and Tunisian revolts. In each place, a small group began a hunger strike pledging to forego food until their goal of political unity had been achieved.

YEMEN

Yasir Saeed was the first casualty dragged into the mosque. Blood was still trickling from the gaping bullet wound in the back of the 32-year-old English teacher's head as doctors lowered his mangled body on to a blanket, muttering a short prayer before closing the lids of his eyes.

Gradually, his corpse was joined by others lined up in a row alongside him. One by one, miniature Qur'ans were placed on their chests as their blood soaked through the carpet beneath them.

The scene was desperate and chaotic. It followed the worst day of violence in Yemen since protests against president Ali Abdullah Saleh began in earnest earlier March. At least 45 people were killed and hundreds of others wounded as security forces and plainclothes government loyalists opened fire on protesters trying to march through the capital, Sana'a.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi security forces came out in strength in Riyadh on a "day of rage" organized by pro-democracy campaigners who managed only small demonstrations in the eastern provinces. Expectations that the unrest sweeping the Arab world in the last few weeks would spread to its most conservative kingdom appeared to have been dashed by pre-emptive security measures and stern official warnings against any protests.

The calm in the Saudi capital may have been achieved partly by an incident on Thursday in the eastern city of al-Qatif, where police shot and wounded at least two protesters.

Unconfirmed reports described trouble there again.

SYRIA

Demonstrations in the Syrian capital, Damascus, and elsewhere were met with force earlier March 2011 as security forces struggled to contain unrest that had begun in the southern city of Deraa.

Thousands once again joined funeral processions in Deraa chanting: "Deraa people are hungry, we want freedom."

Hundreds took to the streets in the cities of Homs, Hama, Tel and Latakia and in towns surrounding Deraa, with smaller protests in the major cities of Damascus and Aleppo, which are more firmly under the watch of security forces. Troops reportedly opened fire in some cases.

There were reports that at least 23 people had been killed, some of them in Damascus, hitherto unaffected; the reports could not be independently verified. Amnesty International put the death toll around Deraa in the past week at 55 at least.

Protests in the capital are rare and not tolerated by the Ba'athist regime. A witness told the Guardian that efforts at protests in Damascus were broken up by plain-clothed agents using batons.

JORDAN

A Jordanian man set himself on fire outside the prime minister's office in Amman in the first such act since political unrest hit the country in January 2011.

In Jordan, protests calling for political reform have generally been smaller and more peaceful than in other Arab states, but a demonstration on 25 March turned violent as crowds of government supporters and opponents clashed. One man died and 120 others were wounded.

On Thursday, prosecutors charged 80 people with resisting police intervening to break up those clashes. They will stand trial in Jordan's criminal court, according to a judicial official. He said they included pro- and anti-government activists but declined to give a breakdown. No trial date has been set. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison.

The judicial official and the doctor who gave details of Abdul-Karim's condition spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to make press statements.

IRAQ

On 25 February, 2011, anger over corruption and abysmal basic services erupted in a "day of rage", with the most serious clashes in Mosul and Hawija, in the north, and Basra in the south. At least six people were killed – three in Mosul and three in Hawija – and 75 injured in clashes with security services as protesters tried to attack government buildings.

Thousands of people made their way to the city's Tahrir Square, but soldiers had closed it off with razor wire, using percussion grenades and firing in the air in an attempt to disperse crowds.

Protesters complained of high unemployment, a shortage of drinking water and frequent power cuts. Students were also complaining about the education system and poor health system.

In Basra, the city's governor, Shaltagh Abboud, said he would resign after 18 people were wounded in skirmishes between the 4,000 protesters and state security. A curfew was imposed until 6am tomorrow. There were also clashes in Falluja and Nassiriya.

IRAN

The International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran says troops aged between 14 and 16 have been armed with batons, clubs and air guns and ordered to attack demonstrators who have tried to gather in Tehran.

The UN convention on the rights of the child requires states to take "all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of 15 years do not take a direct part in hostilities".

The allegation comes amid efforts by Iran's opposition Green movement to revive the mass protests that challenged President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's re-election in 2009, which opponents say was rigged. Drawing encouragement from the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, organizers have vowed to stage demonstrations every Tuesday.

MOROCCO

Outbreaks of violence started in February in Fes, with at least three people injured. Protest organizers condemned the rioting and looting that followed the demonstrations, blaming it on thugs and football hooligans returning from matches.

Interior minister Taeib Cherqaoui said 128 people had been injured, mostly police officers.

A further 120 people were detained. As a result, dozens of public buildings, shops and banks were vandalized.

Tangier, Larache, Marrakech, Sefrou, Tetouan and Guelmim suffered the worst violence, with a total of 33 public buildings being attacked or set on fire. Cherqaoui said the demonstrations themselves had been peaceful, calling them an example of "the healthy practice of the freedom of expression".

Moroccan authorities claim the country will prove resistant to the wave of revolution sweeping north Africa and the Middle East because of the greater freedoms enjoyed by Moroccans.

KUWAIT

Dozens of protesters surged past police barricades in November 2011 and briefly entered the parliament chamber to bring the prime minister in for questioning over claims that officials transferred state funds to accounts abroad.

The interior ministry and other security forces had been ordered to take "all necessary measures to combat any actions that might beset the country's security.

Kuwait is also struggling with a wave of strikes that grounded the state airline and have threatened to disrupt oil shipments. However, it has not been hit by major Arab Spring-style protests.

In January, the emir issued 1,000 dinar (£2,260) grants and free food coupons for every Kuwaiti. Those handouts have been since dwarfed by other Gulf rulers trying to use their riches to dampen calls for political reform.

OCCUPY WALL STREET

Occupy Wall Street is a leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions. They are using the revolutionary Arab Spring tactic to achieve ends and encourage the use of nonviolence to maximize the safety of all participants. It is the original protest that began the worldwide movement beginning September 17, 2011 in Zuccotti Park, located in New York City's Wall Street financial district, initiated by the Canadian activist group Adbusters.

The protests are against social and economic inequality, high unemployment, greed, as well as corruption and the undue influence of corporations on government—particularly from the financial services sector. The protesters' slogan *We are the 99%* refers to the growing income and wealth inequality in the U.S. between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of the population. The protests in New York City have sparked similar Occupy protests and movements around the world.

Protesters targeted Wall Street because of the part it played in the economic crisis of 2008 which started the Great Recession. They say that Wall Street's risky lending practices of mortgage-backed securities which ultimately proved to be worthless caused the crisis.

OCCUPY MOSCOW

Some 5,000 people turned out in Moscow for the largest opposition protest in years, wanting Prime-Minister Putin to step down. More than 300 were detained as a result around Triumph Square, where hundreds or even thousands more tried to protest.

Two protest leaders sentenced to 15 days in jail for their roles in the rally appealed.

Opposition groups said they were planning another protest in the same place despite earlier warnings from police and Putin's spokesman that unsanctioned protests would be stopped.

Putin tacitly acknowledged many Russians' desire for change by promising to reshuffle the government after the presidential election.

Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev, the protégé he tapped as successor when term limits barred him from seeking re-election in 2008, revealed that they plan to swap jobs next year, with Medvedev taking over as prime minister.

Putin remains Russia's most popular politician and is likely to win a six-year presidential term, after which he could run again, potentially serving until 2024.

OCCUPY LA

Like the protesters in New York, who have occupied Wall Street since mid-September, or the protesters in San Francisco, who surrounded a Bank of America, Angelenos gathered around the most visible symbol of power they could find -- City Hall.

The crowd, which one protester's sign said represented the "other 99%" of America, was a mix of families with young children, self-described members of the working class, white-collar professionals, the jobless, students and boomers.

The organizers' demands include the "separation of corporations and state" and "a government that actually works for the people," as well as solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street protesters. But despite their stated goal, the action was also made up of groups of disparate causes and organizations, much like the other protests across the country.

People across the City Hall lawn called for everything from the reenactment of the Glass-Steagall Act to Ron Paul for president to the abolishment of the United Nations, a "fascist, one-world government." But despite the variety of pet projects, the crowd seemed absolutely united against the villains of the moment -- those who got richer after the recent worldwide recession

Organizers didn't apply for a permit for a march, but none was needed as long as protesters stuck to the sidewalks and left space for other pedestrians.

OCCUPY DC

The country has reached crisis levels with respect to the economy, jobs, education, health care, the environment, and an Empire that is overextended. The current political climate has demonstrated itself to be too dysfunctional to effectively address these crises. The normal tools of advocacy - elections, lobbying, and grassroots pressure - have become ineffective.

Occupy DC began in Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C. on October 6th. The purpose of the action is to join together to create solidarity among the people and groups who support peace and economic, environmental, and social justice. Protesters wanted to have a great enough affect so that the government will take concrete steps to meet their demands. They also wanted to demonstrate the power of nonviolence and model a society that functions with inclusivity, tolerance, and a process of decisions by consensus of the people.

The action will last until protestors achieve their goals of moving the society onto a path to a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Part of the action will occur during the occupation in Washington, D.C. and part will have to continue on after the occupation to ensure that demands are met.

WISCONSIN

As four game wardens awkwardly stood guard, protesters, scores deep, crushed into a corridor leading to the governor's office on February 16, 2011, their screams echoing through the Capitol: "Come out, come out, wherever you are!"

Behind closed doors, Scott Walker, the Republican who has been governor for about six weeks, calmly described his intent to forge ahead with the plans that had set off the uprising: He wants to require public workers to pay more for their health insurance and pensions, effectively cutting the take-home pay of many by around 7 percent.

He also wants to weaken most public-sector unions by sharply curtailing their collective bargaining rights, limiting talks to the subject of basic wages.

Mr. Walker said he had no other options, since he is facing a deficit in the current state budget and the prospect of a \$3.6 billion hole in the coming two-year budget.

State and local officials around the country have tackled their budget problems by finding trims here and there, apologetically resorting to layoffs, and searching for accounting moves to limp through one more year.

Events in Wisconsin, though, are a sign of something new: No more apologies, no half-measures. Given the dire straits of budgets around the country, other state leaders may take similarly drastic steps with state workers, pensions and unions.

LONDON RIOTS

The first night of rioting took place on 6 August 2011 after a peaceful protest in Tottenham, following the death of Mark Duggan, a local man from the area, who was shot dead by police on 4 August 2011.

Youths from the nearby Broadwater Farm estate arrived at the scene a few hours after, which led to the violence beginning. Several clashes with police, along with the damage of police vehicles, a double-decker bus, homes and businesses, began gaining attention from the media. Overnight, looting took place in Tottenham Hale Retail Park and nearby Wood Green.

Figures reveal that those involved in the August 2011 disturbances of the England rioters were poorer, younger and of lower educational achievement than average.

UNIVERSITY PROTESTS

The Occupy movement on campuses, at least has transformed itself into a student-led crusade against increases in tuition. It all started with a video that showed two University of California, Davis, police officers using pepper spray on seated protesters has gone viral, with hundreds of thousands watching what might have been a relatively small encampment compared with the larger protests across the country. The attack has galvanized protesters on other campuses.

ISRAEL PROTESTS

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis took the streets to demand social justice, lower cost of living and a clear Government response to the concerns of an increasingly squeezed middle class on September 2011.

The movement, which has the support of about 90% of the population according to opinion polls, began when a small group of activists erected tents in Tel Aviv's prosperous Rothschild Boulevard in protest at high rents and house prices.

Tent cities mushroomed across the country and protesters rallied behind the slogan: "The people demand social justice." Among the issues raised were the cost of housing, transport, childcare, food and fuel; the low salaries paid to many professionals, including doctors and teachers; tax reform; and welfare payments. The government established a committee to examine the protesters' demands.

Protest organizers said the tent cities would be dismantled but the movement would continue with other actions. Many tent-dwellers had already left as the Israeli summer holidays ended.

GREEK PROTESTS

The 17 November demonstration traditionally draws huge crowds in Athens every year.

The rally marks the anniversary of a student uprising in 1973 that helped bring down the country's military dictatorship. There was a brief clash outside the parliament when police fired tear gas at youths throwing petrol bombs, but the march has been mainly peaceful.

In 2011, the annual march has taken on extra significance because of anger over tax rises and spending cuts. Thousands of protesters took part in an annual march in the Greek capital, Athens, with numbers swelled by anti-austerity demonstrators.

The crisis led to the resignation last week of the then-Prime Minister George Papandreou.

VENEZUELAN PROTESTS

Following the decline of labor protests and hunger strikes in May, the number of protests rose in May, according to the latest monthly report released by the Observatory of Social Unrest of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (Clacso) on the right to protest in Venezuela. According to the report, most demonstrations were staged by workers, as in the past five months. Payment of labor liabilities, discussion of collective bargaining agreements, wage and salary increases were the reasons that led workers to stage protests. Besides, there was an increase in protests to demand housing. Clacso called the attention of the Venezuelan authorities because there was a 14 percent surge from 105 demonstrations in April to 120 in May.

"Main demonstrations were staged by people hit by heavy rains who are living in shelters since 2010," the report says. Some minutes after the release of the report, dozens of people made homeless by rains who are living in an unfinished mall blocked an avenue downtown Caracas in request of decent housing.

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