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## **'Arab Spring' Comes With Violence, Destruction And Sacrifice**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) - The mass uprising in certain countries in the Middle East or often referred to as 'Arab Spring' has been accompanied by an unprecedented degree of violence, destruction of life, property and personal sacrifice by its people.

Director-General of Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs (IDFR), Datuk Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari said these violence and bloodshed are still continuing, with the most pressing case being Syria.

"The Arab Spring has caught the world by surprise as nobody predicted the speed and manner in which the peoples' revolution would spread through this region.

"It led to the downfall of the long established dictatorial regimes in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen and has brought about new awareness and varying degrees of political change in other countries in the region," he said.

Ku Jaafar said this in his welcoming speech at the forum entitled Middle East Revisited: Geo-Strategic Implications, Democratic Transformation Challenge and Economic Development Potential (Case of Egypt) at IDFR here, Thursday.

The forum was organised by IDFR and also attended by Melaka Governor, Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

Ku Jaafar later said, it was heartening to see countries affected by the incident, especially Egypt now was moving towards greater personal freedom and political stability.

"The peaceful transition to a democratically elected government after a people's revolution had toppled the previous dictatorial regime is a cause for some degree of optimism for the region when looking towards the future," he said.

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