

## Marwa Wasfy

### **NATO Heading South: Re-examination of The Transatlantic Security Community After the Arab Spring**

In this thesis, I aim to examine how the Transatlantic alliance through the NATO has responded to the Arab spring, particularly to the security threats that emanated from it, as well as what this response is telling us about the future of the Transatlantic security community in the face of this chaos.

#### **Abstract**

Some analysts perceived the uprisings as good opportunity to heal the rift between the Transatlantic partners, finding a new common ground for cooperation. Nevertheless, other analysts found a limited window for the US-EU to influence the events, considering the complexity of the surrounding issues of the region, such as the Palestinian-Israel conflict, the Iranian nuclear program, and moreover the unexpected end of the uprisings.

This research pertains the debate on the future of the transatlantic security community through some research objectives that contribute to this debate.

We don't seek to measure the success of the Arab revolutions or the likelihood of a democratic transition in the respected countries, this is beyond the scope of this research. We rather aim to interrogate and understand the security implications of the chaos that no one denies.

The main target is to understand how the NATO response to the Arab spring is telling us about the divergence and convergence between the Transatlantic allies and consequently how this is informed about the future of the community. **As we argue** that the way the NATO responded so far to the Arab spring, such as the case on Libya, is sending important messages regarding the way the Transatlantic allies define their interests, how they perceive the threat and how they perceive the way to respond to the threat.