

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

SUBMISSION to AUSTRALIAN parliament: **Australia's multi-billion dollar trade with Middle Eastern countries**

Australia is a wonderful country; I do adore its landscape and people. I am fascinated by its democracy and political culture and I am inspired by the commitment of its government to improve its status within the international community. My submission is based on creating a bridge between the Commonwealth of Australia and MENA (Morocco).

- 1) A new era has started in MENA, the central –traditional authority of state agencies is compromised
 - a. by an emerging urban youth;
 - b. Nearly 60 per cent of the population is under 35 years of age.
 - c. Local bureaucrats and authority figures are not fit to face the challenges of an awakening civic consciousness in MENA societies.
- 2) Officials are unable to contain the situation without
 - a. Adopting angry, rude and violent attitudes if ever challenged.
- 3) This is because they lack:
 - a. vision,
 - b. Communication skills,
 - c. leadership skills
 - d. Reasoning skills to challenge an up-coming genteelly globalised youth.
- 4) Nevertheless due to US led western (democracy implementation) efforts ,MENA citizens are allowed :
 - a. to publicly talk,

- b. to criticize the state officials
 - c. to even discredit politicians about their modest or mediocre performances-
- 5) Australian policy makers are only aware of few essentials of regional geo-political factors
- a. I think that intelligence is mostly gathered through reports of EU, US and NATO structures.
- 6) The new political context in the MENA region post Arab-spring requires:
- a. vigilance from relevant departments of the federal government
 - b. Successful implementations of programs.
- 7) MENA is a place of opportunities, however it is considered by most western agencies as
- a. politically unstable
 - b. Region of gender issues
 - c. Development issues
 - d. Autocratic political culture
 - e. Relatively moving towards anarchy.
- 8) The fall of specific regimes in the region generated
- a. a power vacuum in Egypt
 - b. Conflict of interests between several domestic and regional elements and potential up-rising (Gulf countries, Algeria).
 - c. Violent transition (Libya, Tunisia)
 - d. Non violent democratic transition only Morocco
 - e. War (Syria,Iraq)
- 9) The political situation is not established in most MENA countries;
- a. The political map is not defined yet.
 - b. Political power is not exclusively divided along religious and sectarian lines
 - c. But along economic interests and street control too.
- 10) Australia must keep its distance from domestic issues in order to advance its strategic interests despite its nature and the extent of international consensus.
- a. By playing its leadership role at the UN security council

Morocco strategic partnership:

1. Morocco:
 - a. is a prime destination (Not for tourism purposes) for several profile MENA, Mediterranean and Sahel citizens.
 - b. has an extensive knowledge of regional affairs (security, economic and political),
 - c. is viable flow of accurate information
 - d. is relatively stable after the Arab spring
 - e. is gateway to access MENA communities (MENA who is who)
2. Australian presence in Morocco remain
 - a. limited,
 - b. Slightly better than when I first left the country in 2003.
3. Federal government should consider opening a
 - a. Consulate or establishing a consular position (even Honorary in Casablanca)
 - b. liaison office or
 - c. a full diplomatic mission in the North African Kingdom.
4. However, the territorial dispute over the Western Sahara Province will restrain
 - a. the decision making process within DFAT
 - b. the immense mining opportunities in Morocco
5. ASIO and AFP must build new and innovative mechanisms with Moroccan agencies:
 - a. to access intelligence in regards to threats coming from
 1. Mediterranean,
 2. Sahel

3. MENA region.
 - b. To get information about regional criminal networks(money laundering, human trafficking etc)
 - c. To assess vulnerability levels of Australian interests and investments.

Potential FTA (utopian endeavors)

- 1) **Australian-US-Moroccan** policy makers could discuss the main geo-strategic trade advantages of establishing OZMOUS (Australian Moroccan American free trade agreement).
- 2) A triangular trade between the three nations will link
 - a. America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.
 - i. Existence of US –OZ FTA
 - ii. Existence of MO-US FTA
 - b. The North African Kingdom is
 - i. well located,
 - ii. Sustainably developed
 - iii. Regulated to be home of Australian–US companies
- 3) The newly appointed US Ambassador to Rabat, **His Excellency Dwight Bush**, has
 - a. the academic capacity to establish a guideline for such endeavors
 - b. Business experience to lobby and
 - c. Integrity and capacity to achieve the goals of such inspiring initiative.
- 4) Advantages of Morocco are explored through :
 - a. the geographic proximity to major regional markets
 - b. Modern trading regulations.
 - c. Products made or stored in Morocco are cheaply delivered to any European city;
 - i. By plane between 3 to 6 hours and by sea between 36 to 72 hours.

- 5) ADII (customs administration of Morocco) allow investors
 - a. to conduct triangular trade
 - b. Importing goods (admission temporaire) with the possibility to store or transform them with a suspension of paying the customs fees.

Australia export of medium products (excluding commodities):

1. It is hard to export Australian products to MENA;
 - a. Australia suppliers are unable
 - i. to export small amounts of goods.
 - ii. To find local importers
 - iii. To understand the regulations
2. AUSTRADE must establish a:
 - a. sustainable approach
 - b. Cost-effective mechanisms of market access
 - c. To understand the highly regulated markets.
3. The concept of "Australia House":
 - a. Could take the form of a Moroccan registered entity
 - i. Corporate mission is to display Australian products and services.
 - b. It will serve as a marketing mechanism of Australia made products
 - c. To assess the market opportunities
4. "Australia House" could be also a wholesale structure
 - a. Exclusive to Australian made products
 - b. facilitate the due- process when opportunities are identified
5. The entity will also provide:
 - a. Legal consulting related to matters of Australian opportunities

Sectors of opportunity

- home decors
- sporting items,
- construction,
- wine,
- essential oils
- dietary supplements
- baby products
- medical products
- aboriginal arts
- Kangaro leather
- Rail, aviation,
- Infrastructure development.
- Recycling and water.
- Construction of Bays
- Attractions parks and tourism
- International Casino and entertainment
- Farming,
- Food processing
- live exports
- Renewable energy,
- mining
- Solar energy,

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