

Comment by Michael C H Jones

Occupations and protests against the Syrian government simultaneously in Canberra, Berlin, London, Athens, Cairo and other capital cities may not at first seem different but they are.

Firstly the alleged reason - both a reported killing of more than 260 people in the city of Homs, and the Russian and Chinese veto of a UN Security Council resolution of condemnation. The Obligation to Protect global norm born in Libya is being 'killed off' in Syria. The backlash from the Peoples of the world will be savage.

Secondly the small number of protestors - citizens of different nations taking direct action immediately, a phenomenon arguably started 44 years ago with the reforms of the Prague Spring beginning in January 1968 where international protests crossed ideological lines into questions of humanity - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague\\_Spring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prague_Spring)

This is another step in the human rights globalisation of social protest, the Arab Spring on a worldwide scale. It will be the first shots in this particular transnational movement with ramifications for Russian and Chinese domestic politics - there are Presidential elections in Russia next month, March 4th, and in China for the Communist Party during October. Increasingly all national elections no matter what the structures will have significant international issues and of course global monitoring.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian\\_presidential\\_election,\\_2012](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_presidential_election,_2012)

<http://factsanddetails.com/china.php?itemid=308&catid=8&subcatid=49>

The key challenge is not to try to stop these protests but to try to make sure the participants better understand global issues and the matrixes that face world leaders. It is what former Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang called the peoples 'right to know' or the access to information whether its WikiLeaks or the Occupy Movement.