

## **JULY: Steve Niva and “The Arab World’s Democracy Movement”**

In this month’s TV program, Steve Niva examines the growing movement for democracy in northern Africa, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf states, and throughout much of the Arab world. The movement really took off in early 2011 and is continuing up through our taping date in June 2011, so it has been referred to as the “Arab Spring.”

As usual, the mainstream news media and mainstream politicians have failed to understand or talk about some of the most important aspects of this, and they have described some aspects inaccurately, especially reflecting U.S. government bias, rather than understand the authenticity of the people themselves in those countries. Steve Niva offers clear information and insightful analysis about the underlying issues that are common to the democracy movements throughout the Arab world. We specifically address Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain. We examine US foreign policy in the context of oil, geopolitics, the U.S.’s lip service to “democracy,” and implications for Israeli-Palestinian relations and the so-called “war on terror.” Finally, our guest, Steve offers his recommendations.

Our guest is Steve Niva, who teaches International Politics and Middle East Studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. He has written about U.S. Foreign Policy and the Middle East for *Middle East Report* magazine ([www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org)) and Foreign Policy in Focus ([www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org)). His writings also have appeared in many other respected periodicals. He writes especially about unconventional and asymmetrical warfare, and he is currently writing a book on Israeli military violence and Palestinian suicide bombings. He recently spent almost 1½ months in Turkey and a few weeks in Lebanon, where he lectured at American University in Beirut.

I have hosted Steve Niva as a guest on this program a number of times because he is so knowledgeable about the issues, so insightful in analyzing them, and so clear in explaining them so our viewers will understand. **Be sure to watch this fascinating and informative program!**