Top Stories

- US resumes aid to Pakistan, a positive sign in the rocky relationship between the two: [http://goo.gl/rvuGOW](http://goo.gl/rvuGOW)
- Arab League announces international conference to end Syrian conflict, but Syrian opposition shows little support: [http://goo.gl/ybYodQ](http://goo.gl/ybYodQ)
- Hours before reaching the debt ceiling, Congress passes a bill to reopen the government and push the debt ceiling back into February: [http://goo.gl/NeFvJq](http://goo.gl/NeFvJq)

In Focus: Democracy Under Siege?

With the Arab Spring in decline and authoritarian regimes around the world buckling down, democracy finds itself increasingly threatened. Here are a few troubling examples from around the world.

- In Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro seeks the power to rule by decree, much to the concern of opposition activists. Many look to the December elections as Venezuela’s next big test for democracy. [http://goo.gl/8C8TJA](http://goo.gl/8C8TJA)
- A Russian court upholds Alexei Navalny’s theft conviction, a charge most believe to be politically motivated. Many consider Navalny, a vocal opponent of corruption in Russia, to be Putin’s greatest enemy. [http://goo.gl/d0bY7v](http://goo.gl/d0bY7v)
- In the latest crackdown by Egypt’s military regime, 55 students protesters were arrested outside Al Azhar University after a clash broke out between security forces and students. [http://goo.gl/5iKem8](http://goo.gl/5iKem8)

What do you think? Write to us at siasnewsteam@gmail.com and we’ll post your opinion on the SIAS website!

Around Campus This Week

- **A Focus on Egypt and Turkey** on 10/21, 6:30-8:00pm @ Encina Hall, Bechtel Conference Center [http://goo.gl/KQWVsC](http://goo.gl/KQWVsC)
- **Ivan Jablonka, History: the Historian and his Lost People. Studying the Holocaust: family, history, memory** on 10/21, 7:00pm @ Levinthal Hall, Humanities Center [http://goo.gl/S09idv](http://goo.gl/S09idv)
- **Water and Health in South Asian: Water, Disease, and Pollutants** on 10/22, 12:00-1:30pm @ Philippines Room, Encina Hall Central [http://goo.gl/clcPzz](http://goo.gl/clcPzz)
- **African History Film Series: Camp Thiaroye** on 10/22, 7:00pm @ Encina Hall West, 208
- **Reforming the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Post-Revolutionary Egypt and Tunisia** on 10/23, 12:00-1:00pm @ Encina Hall Central, CISAC Conference Room [http://goo.gl/2th1ER](http://goo.gl/2th1ER)
- **“Threatening Miniskirts”: Returnee South Sudanese Adolescent Girls and Social Change** on 10/23, 12:00pm @ Encina Hall West, 202 [http://goo.gl/h7BVlQ](http://goo.gl/h7BVlQ)
- **Prospects for Cybersecurity Cooperation After Snowden** on 10/24, 3:30-5:00pm @ CISAC Conference Room, Encina Hall Central [http://goo.gl/tcybpN](http://goo.gl/tcybpN)
- **Government of the People, by the People, That Works in the 21st Century** on 10/24, 4:30-6:00pm, Wallenberg Theater, Building 160 [http://goo.gl/J03ay9](http://goo.gl/J03ay9)

Thank you for reading! Please feel free to send any suggestions, comments, criticisms, important stories or questions to siasnewsteam@gmail.com. We’d love to hear from you!