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# Perspectives

...At the outset, I sincerely wish to see the word "overthrow" replaced by the word "change" due to many political and logistical reasons. I frequently encounter the word "overthrow" embedded in the literature of various political opposition groups as well as statements of civic societies. Unfortunately, this usage does not appear to be consistent with the capabilities of these groups given their fragile status;

As it is obvious to many, the idea of "overthrowing" regimes has often been associated with changing regimes violently. This is particularly true in unstable countries in the developing world. Although it is perfectly legitimate to act to change undemocratic corrupt regimes in an effort to replace them with a pluralistic democratic ones, most experiences of "overthrowing" regimes have been associated with more militancy and brutality. This in turn leads to more chaos, instability and abuse of human rights, especially when the "overthrowing" agents are military officers with or without foreign backing. For this reason, it is always more productive and useful to seek regime change through non-violence peaceful means; no matter how long it may take. It is understandable for oppressed people to seek immediate relief from an oppressive regime through all available means; however, experience has shown that it is much better to achieve such a goal through a well planned peaceful means....

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