



AOI LECTURE

# Alive and Kicking

## The Revolutionary Process in the Middle East and North Africa

**Prof. Dr. Gilbert Achcar (SOAS London)**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 18:15–20:00**

**University of Zurich, Room RAA G-15, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zurich**

Less than two years after the first wave of uprisings in 2011, the euphoria of the “Arab Spring” gave way to the gloom of backlash and descent into mayhem and war. The revolution was overwhelmed by clashes between rival counter-revolutionary forces: resilient old regimes on the one hand and Islamic fundamentalist contenders on the other. Understood as an ephemeral bid for democracy, the “Arab Spring” seemed over. However, grasping its deep socio-economic roots informed a different view: that of a long-term revolutionary process that will be going through successive phases of upsurge and backlash in a region that will remain in turmoil as long as its development potential is not freed from its shackles.

**Gilbert Achcar** grew up in Lebanon, researched and taught in Beirut, Paris and Berlin, and is currently, since 2007, Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at SOAS, University of London. His many books include *The Clash of Barbarisms: September 11 and the Making of the New World Disorder* (2002, 2006), published in 15 languages; the critically acclaimed *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab–Israeli War of Narratives* (2010); *The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising* (2013); and *Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising* (2016).