

10 STEPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS MANIFESTO FOR TUNISIA



As October elections for a Constituent Assembly approach, Tunisians are still waiting for the authorities to deliver on their promises of change.

While there have been some steps on the road to reform, many of the abuses that fuelled the December/January uprising have yet to be addressed.

Tunisians have endured many broken promises and have lost trust in the country's institutions. The uprisings demonstrated that people will not be satisfied with piecemeal, cosmetic reforms but expect bold and far-reaching change to the institutions that have failed them.

Tunisians want candidates in October's election to deliver human rights and incorporate key human rights principles in the new Constitution and other legislation. However, breaking with the legacy of abuse under the rule of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will require vision, determination and effective measures.

Here, Amnesty International sets out 10 pledges for every candidate to signal that they are serious about meaningful human rights reform.

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AHEAD OF THE ELECTIONS, I PLEDGE TO:



1. REIN IN THE SECURITY FORCES

There must be a fundamental overhaul of all police forces and other law enforcement bodies. Their structure and chain of command must be made public and an oversight body established to independently and impartially investigate reports of abuse.



2. COMBAT TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

All officers involved in arrest, detention and interrogation must know that torture and other ill-treatment will not be tolerated. There must be regular, unannounced, unrestricted and independent inspections of all places of detention.



3. CALL FOR AN END TO INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION

Detainees must have access in law and practice to the outside world, regularly and without delay, including to their families, lawyers of their own choosing and independent medical care.



4. UPHOLD THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND EXPRESSION

Laws criminalizing the peaceful exercise of these rights – including provisions of the 1969 Law on Public Meetings, the 1959 Law on Associations, the Penal Code, the Press Code, and the 2003 Anti-terrorism Law – must be repealed or brought in line with international law and standards.



5. REFORM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The independence of the judiciary must be upheld in law and practice. Everyone charged with an offence must have a fair trial

by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law, where the rights of defence are fully respected. Civilians must not be tried before military courts.



6. INVESTIGATE PAST ABUSES

There must be an independent, thorough and impartial inquiry into human rights violations under the rule of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. It must make recommendations to prevent future abuses and to provide truth, justice and reparation to the victims.



7. REALIZE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

There must be no discrimination in people's access to essential public services, including water, sanitation and health care. Workers' rights and trade union freedoms must be upheld.



8. END DISCRIMINATION

Legal provisions discriminating against individuals on the basis of race, colour, religion, ethnicity, birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or other status, must be brought in line with international law and standards or abolished.



9. STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

There must be a law on violence against women, including on domestic violence and marital rape. Provisions for dropping proceedings or penalties where an assaulted spouse withdraws her complaint, or where the assailant marries the victim in rape or kidnapping cases, must be repealed (Penal Code Articles 218, 227bis and 239).



10. ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

The moratorium on executions must be upheld pending abolition of the death penalty.

SIGN HERE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SIGN BELOW TO PLEDGE YOUR COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TUNISIA'S NEXT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PLEASE RETURN THIS TO:

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Cover: Protesters in Tunis demonstrate against the then President, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, January 2011.
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ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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