

# 10 STEPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS MANIFESTO FOR TUNISIA

As Tunisia prepares for legislative and presidential elections, Amnesty International is calling on candidates to fulfil the hopes of Tunisians and deliver real human rights reforms. All Tunisians should enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without any discrimination and without further delays.

Since thousands of Tunisians took to the streets in the uprising that ousted former president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011, the Tunisian authorities have initiated a series of reforms, which culminated in the adoption of a new constitution upholding many human rights. Nevertheless, many of the abuses that fuelled the uprising have yet to be tackled.

If the goals and aspirations of the uprising are to be fulfilled, the incoming Tunisian authorities must commit to human rights and put an end to repressive human rights practices.

Here, Amnesty International sets out the 10 steps every candidate should take to show their commitment to human rights.

### AHEAD OF THE ELECTIONS, I PLEDGE TO:

**1. END DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:** Laws discriminating on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status must be abolished, in line with provisions in the constitution which enshrine non-discrimination. The adoption of a comprehensive law to address violence against women must be expedited. Existing laws, policies, customs and practices that discriminate against women and girls must be amended, including provisions in the Penal Code that allow men accused of rape or kidnapping to escape prosecution by marrying their victims (Articles 227bis and 239). Marital rape must be explicitly criminalized. Police, judges, lawyers and healthcare workers must also be trained to respond to survivors of sexual violence in a sensitive, confidential, non-discriminatory manner.

**2. FIGHT TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT:** The National Authority for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment must be promptly established. Any allegation of torture or ill-treatment must be promptly, independently and impartially investigated, including by ensuring prompt medical examinations of persons alleging torture and ill-treatment by independent medical doctors. Investigations into suspicious deaths at the hands of security forces must be carried out according to international standards and the capacity and expertise to do so, including in forensics, must be strengthened.

**3. MAKE SECURITY FORCES ACCOUNTABLE:** There must be a comprehensive overhaul of the security apparatus. A clear structure of the security forces, including the chain of command, must be made public. A system for vetting all members of the security forces must be established in order to ensure that those reasonably suspected of serious human rights violations do not remain in -- or are not

placed in -- positions where they could repeat such violations. Authorities must also establish an oversight body and independent complaints mechanism that will hold security forces to account for human rights violations.

**4. END IMPUNITY:** All complaints of human rights violations must be promptly, effectively, independently and impartially investigated. Perpetrators of serious violations must be brought to justice in fair trials, without recourse to the death penalty. Victims, relatives, lawyers and witnesses be protected from harassment and intimidation. Victims of human rights violations must be promptly provided with full reparations, including restitution, rehabilitation (including medical and psychological treatment), compensation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

**5. GUARANTEE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:** Guarantee and uphold the independence of the judiciary, including the security of tenure of judges. A High Judicial Council which can act fully independently from the authorities and whose members are selected transparently must be established, in accordance with the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary. Everyone deprived of their liberty or facing a possible criminal charge has the right to a lawyer without delay, in accordance with article 29 of the constitution. Civilians must no longer be tried before military courts.

**6. UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION:** No one must be imprisoned or subjected to other criminal sanctions solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Laws or provisions that criminalize the exercise of the right to freedom of expression must be repealed and brought in line with international law and standards, including provisions in the Penal Code and the Code of Military Justice which allow imprisonment on charges of defamation, and provisions in the Penal Code and the Telecommunication Code which allow imprisonment for undermining public order and public morals or violating sacred values.

**7. UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION:** The freedom to establish political parties, unions and associations, which is enshrined in the constitution, must be upheld. Regulation of associations must be in accordance with decree law no. 2011-88 on associations; including matters of alleged infractions. Counter-terrorism measures must not be used as a pretext to criminalize the peaceful exercise of human rights, including freedom of association.

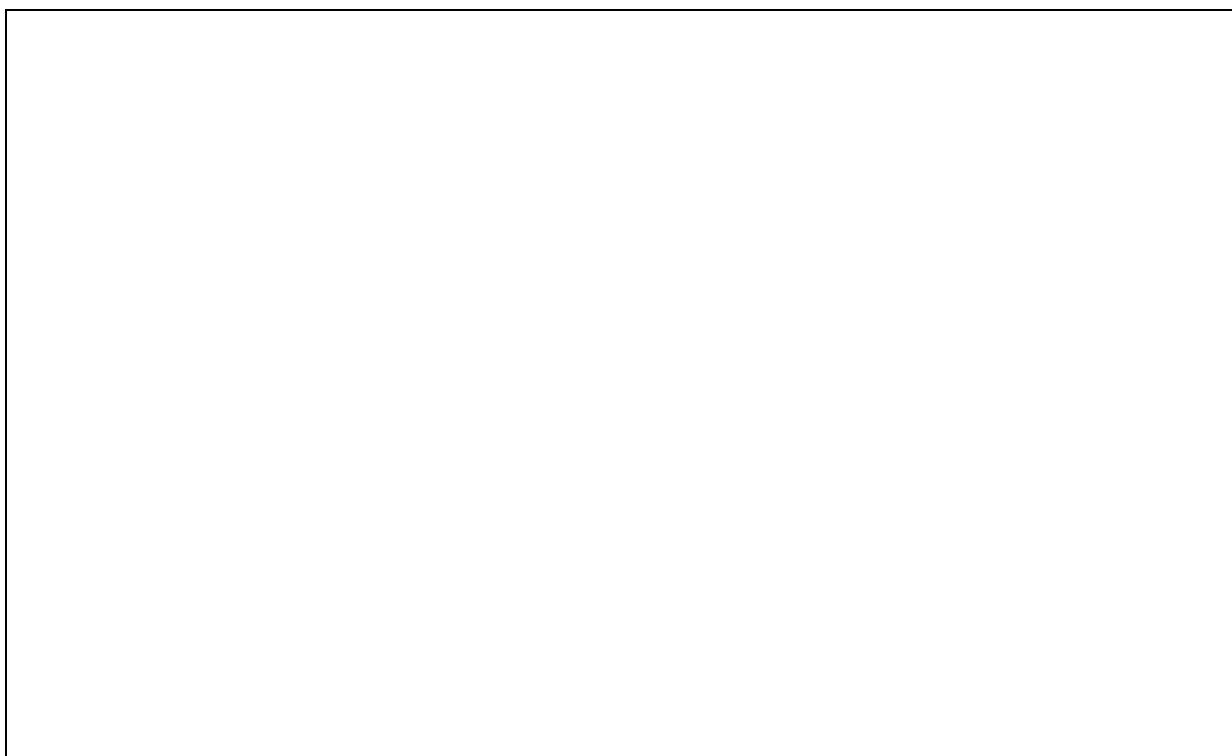
**8. PROTECT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS:** All individuals must be protected from transfer in any form, direct or indirect, to a country where they would be at risk of persecution. This protection must extend to those who may not qualify for refugee status but who need international protection due to being at risk of human rights violations such as torture or the death penalty, whether in the country of transfer or a third country to which they may subsequently be transferred. Refugee protection should also be afforded to those fleeing conflicts, in accordance with the OAU Refugee Convention.

**9. REALIZE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS:** Specific measures must be put in place to achieve progressively the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights to the maximum of the country's available resources. In accordance with the constitution, effective remedies to all victims of violations of economic, social and cultural rights must also be provided.

**10. ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY:** The right to life, enshrined in the constitution, must be upheld by taking steps to abolish the death penalty. Tunisia should support regional and international initiatives aimed at its abolition.

## **SIGN HERE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**SIGN BELOW TO SIGNAL YOUR COMMITMENT TO FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TUNISIA.**



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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.