

The wind of change in Africa (case of Tunisia)

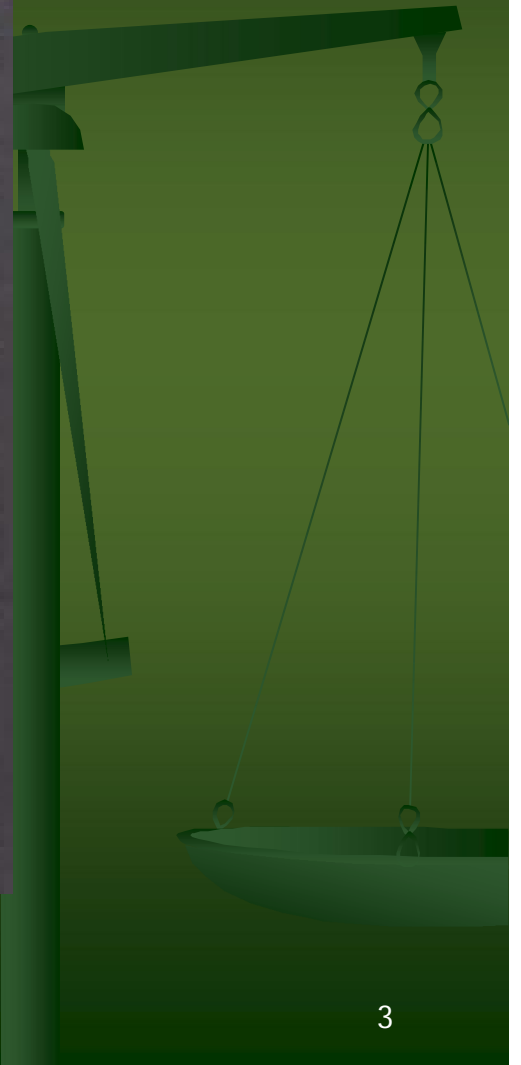


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Background

- The events began in December 2010 and led to the ousting of longtime President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January 2011.
- self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi on 17 December.
- 27 December with about 1,000 citizens expressing solidarity
- 300 lawyers held a rally near the government's palace in Tunis on the 29 December.
- 31 December demonstrations and public gatherings by lawyers in Tunis.
- 3 January 2011, protests in Thala over unemployment
- On 6 January, 95% of Tunisia's 8,000 lawyers went on strike.
- 14 January to call for re-establishing the Islamic caliphate.

The last Caliph, Abdülmecid II



REASONS FOR THE UPRISING

- High unemployment,
- Food inflation, corruption,
- Lack of freedom of speech and other political freedoms
- Poor living conditions.
- The arrest of Hama Hammami, spokesperson for the banned Tunisian Workers' Communist party (Parti Communist des Ouvriers Tunisiens, PCOT)
- Repeated taxation.



Who was involved

- Lawyers.
- Legal Trade unions.
- Civil society.
- The youths.



How it started

- The UGTT trade union confederation called for a general strike.
- Peaceful protest was held.
- The ubiquitous presidential portraits that adorn many buildings was ripped down and burned.
- chant colorful insults aimed at Mr Ben Ali and his acquisitive wife.
- Friday. Around 8,000 people rallied outside the interior ministry in central Tunis, chanting "Ben Ali, leave!" and "Ben Ali, assassin!".



Measures taken to stop the protest

- Ben Ali's promise to quit and cut essential food prices.
- Hundreds of police with shields and riot gear blocked.
- A state of emergency has been declared in the country.
- Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, fired his government and called early elections in six months' time.
- military surrounding Tunis airport.
- Police firing tear gas and beating up protesters.

How the demonstration was carried out

- The demonstrators were marching through Tunis.
- Many shouted "Ben Ali, out!" and "Ben Ali, assassin!"
- Poster read "We won't forget," a reference to the rioters killed, many by police bullets.



External influence

- France



- United States of America.



- African Union.



He fell can he be next



Questions for reflection

- Did the crises in Tunisia provoked that of Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Libya etc
- Does foreign powers play any useful role in African crises?
- Are the problems of Tunisia similar to that of Cameroon?
- Uprisings had been noticed in Arab states why is it difficult in sub Saharan Africa?
- Will the new leaders be different from their predecessors?