Parliamentary Assembly
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Safeguarding the rule of law in Tunisia

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Mr Didier MARIE and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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On 10 November 2021, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a new Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia for the period 2022-2025, aimed at continuing to support Tunisia in the process of democratic transition by helping it to meet the challenges linked to human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

Unfortunately, we are obliged to note the deterioration of the democratic situation and the ever-increasing attacks on human rights and the rule of law in Tunisia.

Several candidates have been prevented from standing in the presidential election scheduled for 6 October 2024 or have been imprisoned. The result of this election is already known: Mr Kaïs Saïed will be re-elected.

The repression has hit civil society as a whole. The case of lawyer and columnist Sonia Dhamani is particularly emblematic of the authoritarian drift of the Tunisian authorities. She was brutally arrested on 11 May 2024 while giving an interview to the France 24 television channel from the Maison de l'avocat in Tunis. She is being prosecuted under Decree-Law 54, promulgated in September 2022, for disseminating “false information with the aim of undermining public safety” and “inciting hate speech”.

Sonia Dhamani has since been imprisoned in appalling conditions and subjected to daily harassment. Like her, more than 80 people are imprisoned for political reasons, because of their opposition to President Saïed.

The Parliamentary Assembly should call for the release of Sonia Dhamani and those imprisoned for political reasons, and carry out an in-depth assessment of the implementation of the neighbourhood partnership with Tunisia.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

MARIE Didier, France, SOC
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BOUYX Bertrand, France, ALDE
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DE BATTISTA Randolph, Malta, SOC
FASSINO Piero, Italy, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
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MADEIRA Jamila, Portugal, SOC
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
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PILLER CARRARD Valérie, Switzerland, SOC
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, NR
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
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STAMBACH-TERRENOIR Anne, France, UEL

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group