



الجمعية التونسية للنساء الديمقراطيات
Association Tunisienne
des Femmes Démocrates

Tunis, April 15, 2019

Civil and democratic ... neither religious nor military

Following the ousting of A. Bouteflika and O. Al-Bashir, the activists of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD) pay their tribute to the indomitable people will, as they have achieved their first victory in which they stunned the world by their protest movements and peaceful uprisings against the corruption and tyrannical regimes that have long suppressed every free spirit that demanded freedom. We salute the struggles of the women and men who defied the repressive systems and brought forth Freedom, Equality, Justice and Dignity.

ATFD members also express their pride towards the rising of women in the region not only against the oppressive regimes, but also against the patriarchal system, that seeks to marginalize them, exclude them from public affairs and deprive them from their legitimate rights. Today they demand democracy, which means among others to review the retrograde and discriminatory family codes and to adopt civil laws that ensure full and effective equality.

ATFD has supported the courage of women and men in Algeria and Sudan since the beginning and expressed its position during the Parallel Summit organized by civil society organizations in tandem with the Arab League Summit and also through the support delegation to the Algerian uprising in March, composed of the President of ATFD Ms. Yosra Farwes, its former President Mrs. Khadija Cherif, Mr. Jamal Musallam, President of the Tunisian League for Human Rights, the General Secretary of the National Syndicate of Journalists, Ms. Sakina Abdel Samad, and former President of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights Mr. Messaoud Romdhani.

The President of ATFD declared today that: "The victory of the Algerian and Sudanese uprisings is in the fulfillment of their first demands and will inevitably be followed by other victories if the process is completed by repulsing any attempt of deviation by the reactionary and military forces, in order to establish democratic and civilian states that recognize the human dignity, equality and freedom of women and men. These victories will support the Revolution of December 17th - January 14th in Tunisia, inspire it against going back to fear's square and shed light on the Region that suffered from a long-lasting rule of war, occupation, tyranny and corruption. "

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However, in light of the developments in the situation in Sudan and Algeria and before in Libya, Egypt and Syria, the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women warns of the repeated attempts by military forces backed by conservative and retrograde forces in the region to circumvent the will of the people and to abort the peaceful uprisings by turning them into military coups or armed conflicts.

ATFD activists reaffirm their solidarity with the struggles of the protestors and their steadfastness to defend their demands and to distance them from all containment attempts to serve regional and international agendas hostile to the will of the peoples. ATFD activists call the civil forces in Tunisia and the Region for vigilance, solidarity and support to the popular uprisings against the militarization of the Region and the onslaught on people's demands for sovereignty and freedom in democratic civilian Republics, neither religious nor military.

For the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women
The President
Yosra Frawes