







# Tunisia's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting Relating to the Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

La Coalition Tunisienne Contre La Peine de Mort (CTCPM)

and

Ensemble Contre La Peine de Mort (ECPM)

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a volunteer-based non-government organization committed to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The Tunisian Coalition Against the Death Penalty (CTCPM) is an independent non-governmental organization, whose objectives are the abolition of the death penalty in Tunisia through the constitution and development of a citizens' movement in favor of the abolition and arrest of the Tunisian authorities.

ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) is a French non-governmental organisation that fights against the death penalty worldwide and in all circumstances by uniting and rallying abolitionist forces across the world. The organisation advocates with international bodies and encourages universal abolition through education, information, local partnerships and public awareness campaigns. ECPM is the organiser of the World Congresses Against the Death Penalty

and a founding member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. In 2016, ECPM was granted consultative status with ECOSOC.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1. Tunisia carried out its last execution in 1991, over 30 years ago. Despite this de facto moratorium on executions, Tunisian courts continue to sentence people to death. Courts sentence people to death every year for a variety of crimes, especially terrorism. The current administration is undoing many of the positive changes to the Tunisian judicial system brought about by the 2011 revolution, and public opinion is divided over whether to move forward with abolition, maintain the status quo, or even resume executions, a course of action that some politicians and officials within the government support. Tunisia continues to support the UN resolutions aiming to establish a global moratorium on executions but has refused to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 2. This report recommends that Tunisia maintain its commitment to the UN moratorium and move to ratify the Second Optional Protocol, while also working to restore the independence of its judiciary and reducing the total number of crimes punishable by death in the short term. In the long-term Tunisia should completely and unconditionally abolish the death penalty.

# Tunisia fails to uphold its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

### I. Death penalty

- 3. In 2016, the Committee Against Torture ("Committee") recommended Tunisia pursue ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, which Tunisia has not done. During the last Universal Periodic Review, Tunisia received 18 recommendations relating to the death penalty, and supported four, noting the remaining 14.
- 4. In its State Party Report, the government of Tunisia stated "accession to the [Second Protocol], under which the states commit to abolishing the death penalty, requires a broad societal dialogue, particularly inasmuch as under the current Constitution, article 22, 'The right to life shall be sacred and shall not be prejudiced except in extreme cases regulated by law." While Tunisia did not provide specific goals or a plan of action to achieve this dialogue, it also commented that "it should be noted that the issue of the death penalty has been discussed in the National Constituent Assembly and among political parties and other components of civil society." Tunisia has maintained a *de facto* moratorium on executions since 1991 and has supported General Assembly resolutions calling for a global moratorium on executions in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020.
- 5. Tunisian courts continue to sentence people to death; in 2019, "95 to 110 people [were] known [to be under sentence of death]including 3 women." By the end of 2021, this number had risen

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN//CO/3, ¶ 46.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Committee against Torture, *List of issues in relation to the third periodic report of Tunisia, Addendum—Replies of Tunisia to the List of Issues* (Feb. 16, 2016), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/O/3/Add.1, ¶ 37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Human Rights Council, *National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21—Tunisia* (Feb. 20, 2017), A/HRC/WG.6/27/TUN/1, ¶ 61.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, "The Abolition of the Death Penalty in Tunisia, a Fight Against Torture," June 18, 2020, https://worldcoalition.org/2020/06/18/the-abolition-of-the-death-penalty-in-tunisia-a-fight-against-

- to a total of "about 136 including three women and two suffering from psychological and mental disorders." Early 2022 saw an increase in the rate of sentencing, with "11 death sentences [issued] in less than 15 days," reaching 44 death sentence in May 2022.<sup>6</sup>
- 6. Political will to maintain the moratorium may be weakening. After the murder of a woman in Tunis in 2020, President Kais Saied "announced his position in favor of resuming executions . . . saying 'murder deserves the death penalty," and in response to rising crime rates, popular opinion supporting the death penalty is increasingly vocal.8
- 7. Tunisia has made some progress toward abolition. The 2018 Commission for Individual Freedom and Equality put forward a proposal which "provides that 'the death penalty is abolished' and that 'everyone sentenced to the death penalty shall have his sentence commuted to a prison sentence [of] life imprisonment." In late 2019, activists and anti-death penalty organizations from the Maghreb states of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia held a conference in Tunis to address "strategies toward the abolition of the death penalty."
- 8. The Tunisian Penal Code allows the death penalty for an expansive list of crimes, many of which do not rise to the level of "most serious" under international human rights standards. Capital crimes include treason and espionage, attempts to assassinate the head of state, attempts to overthrow the government, gang violence, arson committed against government or military property, threatening or using violence against a judge during a hearing, premeditated murder, and voluntary homicide committed during the commission of another crime. Crimes listed under the Military Code and Organic Act No. 2015-26 bring the total number of crimes subject to the death penalty to 54. 12
- 9. In 2016, the Committee expressed concern that the definition of terrorism was unduly vague.<sup>13</sup> Tunisia's Organic Law 2015-26 changed the crime of terrorism to a capital offence; the previous terrorism law, from 2003, did not authorize the death penalty.<sup>14</sup> In 2019, Organic Law

 $torture/\#:\sim: text = As\%20 such\%2C\%20 the\%20 moratorium\%20 observed, death\%20 row\%2C\%20 including\%203\%20 women.$ 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Coalition against the criminalization of poverty and minor crimes and NGOs partners, *Joint contribution for the universal periodic review (UPR) of Tunisia, 41st UPR working group session November 2022*, Apr. 21, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Tunisia: courts issue 11 death sentences in 15 days, Middle East Monitor, Jan. 18, 2022,

https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220118-tunisia-courts-issue-11-death-sentences-in-15-days/.; Written information from Tunisian human rights defender, 9 June 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Amnesty International, "Tunisia: Presidential statement in favor of death penalty is shocking," September 29, 2020, https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/09/tunisia-presidential-statement-in-favour-of-death-penalty-is-shocking/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Simon Speakman Cordall, *Tunisia president calls for return of death penalty following brutal killing,* The Guardian, Oct. 1, 2020, https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/oct/01/tunisia-president-calls-for-return-of-death-penalty-following-brutal-killing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> ECPM, "Tunisia: The Commission for Individual Freedoms and Equality proposes to abolish the death penalty," June 14, 2020, https://www.ecpm.org/tunisie-la-commission-des-libertes-individuelles-et-de-legalite-propose-dabolir-la-peine-de-mort/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> ECPM, "Tunisia: a national conference breathes new life into the work towards the abolition of the death penalty," Jan. 10, 2020, https://www.ecpm.org/tunisie-une-conference-nationale-donne-un-nouveau-souffle-autravail-vers-labolition-de-la-peine-de-mort/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> PENAL CODE art. 60, 63, 72, 74, 76, 126, 201, 204 (Tunisia)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> ECPM, Rapport Alternatif en vue de l'Examen du Rapport Périodique—Peine de Mort, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Organic Law No. 2015-26 of 7 August 2015, art. 28

- 2019-9 helped to clarify the definition of terrorism, but it remains vague and does not meet international standards.<sup>15</sup>
- 10. Many of the death sentences that have been handed down in recent years have been for various acts of terrorism, including "16 people [sentenced] to death in the first judgements against fighters involved in 2016 attacks near the Libyan border," "the terrorist who stabbed Commander Faouzi Houimli to death on September 23, 2019," "nine terrorists, who killed soldier Saïd Ghozlani in November 2016," [a] terrorist who attacked with a knife, on November 1, 2017, in Bardo, two police officers," "a terrorist, who had planned in 2019, an attack on Djerba," and "41 terrorists . . . over an attack that killed 15 people on the border with Algeria in 2014." <sup>21</sup>
- 11. Other crimes that have recently resulted in death sentences include a man "who killed his mother and 3 sisters at the end of December 2018,"<sup>22</sup> and a person who killed a woman in a cemetery in April 2017.<sup>23</sup>

### II. Allegations of torture and ill-treatment

12. In 2016, the Committee expressed concern "about consistent reports that torture and ill-treatment continue to be practiced in the security sector." These reports point to many cases in which authorities allegedly used torture, "especially against terrorism suspects." In a 2017 follow-up response, the Tunisian government reminded the Committee it "has introduced legislative and administrative measures to prevent impunity among law-enforcement and anti-terrorism officials suspected of committing acts of torture or ill-treatment," and asserted that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Organic Law No. 2019-9 of 23 January 2019

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> *Tunisia sentences 16 to death over attacks in 2016 by Islamic State affiliate,* Middle East Eye, Mar. 6, 2022, https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/tunisia-death-sentences-attacks-islamic-state-affiliate-ben-guerdane

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Tunisie: Peine capitale pour le terroriste qui a tué le commandant Houimli à Bizerrte, Kapitalis, Jan. 22, 2022, https://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2022/01/22/tunisie-peine-capitale-pour-le-terroriste-qui-a-tue-le-commandant-houimli-a-bizerte/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Tunisie: Peine capitale pour les 9 terroristes qui ont tué le Soldat Saïd Ghozlani, Kapitalis, Jan. 14, 2022, https://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2022/01/14/tunisie-peine-capitale-pour-les-9-terroristes-qui-ont-tue-le-soldat-said-ghozlani/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Tunisie: Peine capitale pour le terroriste qui a tué le commandant Riadh Barrouta, Kapitalis, June 8, 2021, https://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2021/06/08/tunisie-peine-capitale-pour-le-terroriste-qui-a-tue-le-commandant-riadh-barrouta/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Tunisie: Peine capitale pour un terroriste qui avait planifié une attaque à Djerba, Kapitalis, May 22, 2021, https://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2021/05/22/tunisie-peine-capitale-pour-un-terroriste-qui-avait-planifie-une-attaque-adjerba/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Tunisia sentences 41 to death over 2014 attack on army, The National, Jan. 12, 2019, https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/mena/tunisia-sentences-41-to-death-over-2014-attack-on-army-1.812443 <sup>22</sup> Oued Ellil: Peine capitale pour Aymen, qui a tué sa mère et ses 3 soeurs en décembre 2018, Kapitalis, Oct. 10, 2020, https://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2020/10/10/oued-ellil-peine-capitale-pour-aymen-qui-a-tue-sa-mere-et-ses-3-soeurs-en-decembre-2018/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Kairouan: Confirmation de la peine capitale pour le serial violeur qui a tué la mère de famille au cimetière, Kapitalis, Nov. 22, 2019, http://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2019/11/22/kairouan-confirmation-de-la-peine-capitale-pour-le-serial-violeur-qui-a-tue-la-mere-de-famille-au-cimetiere-qoraich/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶15

- "the Ministry of the Interior, through its control mechanisms, takes all appropriate disciplinary measures in response to cases of torture or ill-treatment." <sup>26</sup>
- 13. After conducting a fact-finding mission, representatives of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture welcomed the "good work carried out by the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture," although the visit also prompted unease about the persistence of police violence "because of the impunity of its perpetrators." Since the 2011 revolution, reports of torture have decreased, but the ongoing crisis that began in 2015 "has given wide privileges to the security organization." <sup>28</sup>
- 14. Members of security forces often harass people suspected of terrorism or their relatives.<sup>29</sup> This harassment can include "repeated summons to the police department . . . deprivation of official documents . . . administrative searches . . . [or] house arrests."<sup>30</sup> During interrogation people may face "electric shocks . . . while some were slapped, deprived of sleep, forced to undress or threatened with a female family member being raped or otherwise harmed."<sup>31</sup>

#### III. Conditions of detention

- 15. In 2016, the Committee recommended Tunisia take steps to "reduce overcrowding in prisons by making more use of alternatives to incarceration and of alternatives to pretrial detention."<sup>32</sup>
- 16. People sentenced to death or at risk of being sentenced to death face the same detention conditions as other people deprived of liberty; suspects are often enclosed in centers which "are overcrowded and lacking basic amenities." People are "housed in dormitories. . . equipped with a bunk bed on two (or even three) levels," leading to an overcrowded environment. In "Mornaguia prison, the most modern and best-equipped facility in the country, [it] is divided into sections . . . . Each dormitory has about 60 bunk beds lined up on either side, less than a metre apart." These cramped conditions, with prison occupancy well

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia—Addendum: Information received from Tunisia on follow-up to concluding observations (June 9, 2017) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3/Add.1, ¶¶10-11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Press Release, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Tunisia: Progress made but concerns remain, says UN torture prevention body (April 6, 2022), https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/04/tunisia-progress-made-concerns-remain-says-un-torture-prevention-body

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ahmed Nadhif, *Torture is still rampant in Tunisia*, Al-Monitor, Dec. 26, 2017, https://www.almonitor.com/originals/2017/12/tunisia-torture-security-ben-ali-regime.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> We Want an End to the Fear: Abuses Under Tunisia's State of Emergency, Amnesty International, 2017, https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MDE3049112017ENGLISH.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> To Be S: Arbitrary Administrative Control Measures in Tunisia, OMCT, 2020, https://omct-tunisie.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Rapport-SANAD-%C3%8Atre-S-VEN.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> We Want an End to the Fear: Abuses Under Tunisia's State of Emergency, Amnesty International, 2017, https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MDE3049112017ENGLISH.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶38

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> We Want an End to the Fear: Abuses Under Tunisia's State of Emergency, Amnesty International, 2017, https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MDE3049112017ENGLISH.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Prison Insider, "Tunisia," accessed June 1, 2022, https://www.prison-insider.com/en/countryprofile/tunisie-2021?s=conditions-materielles

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Prison Insider, "Tunisia," accessed June 1, 2022, https://www.prison-insider.com/en/countryprofile/tunisie-2021?s=conditions-materielles

over 100%, have only been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the height of the pandemic prison officials did not allow people in detention to see family members or lawyers.<sup>36</sup>

#### IV. Independence of the judiciary

- 17. In 2016, the Committee recommended that Tunisia "expedite the adoption of draft laws and the establishment of the new judicial bodies and ensure they are in conformity with the Constitution and international standards on the independence of the judiciary."<sup>37</sup> The Committee also recommended a change to Act No. 82-70 of 1982, "to preclude the possibility that military courts could have jurisdiction over cases involving human rights violations or offences allegedly committed against civilians by military personnel or members of the internal security forces."<sup>38</sup>
- 18. In 2016, Tunisia "adopted the landmark law on the right of those taken into police custody to see a lawyer." While Tunisia has in the past provided people charged with capital crimes with increased safeguards, political developments over the past year provide cause for concern about respect for due process and the rights of the accused, and changes may be undermining progress that had been made over the past several decades. After disbanding parliament in 2021, President Saied confirmed his emergency powers. In this action prompted a response from opposition in parliament that the President likened to failed coup attempt, saising allegations of terrorism and prompting Tunisian security forces to begin questioning MPs. Such crimes have the potential to be capital offenses, and therefore this process has raised concerns that the President is taking actions to further strengthen his own position and harass members of the opposition.
- 19. This centralization process has also targeted the independence of the judiciary. In February, the President dissolved the Conseil Supérieure de la Magistrature, which is an independent constitutional body whose mandate is to guarantee the proper administration of justice and the independence of the judiciary. .<sup>44</sup> In its place, President Saied decreed the creation of a new council with a different composition and has taken on "a lot more authority over courts and

<sup>36</sup> ECPM, Rapport Alternatif en vue de l'Examen du Rapport Périodique—Peine de Mort, 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia* (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Committee against Torture, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Tunisia (June 10, 2016) U.N. Doc. CAT/C/TUN/CO/3, ¶26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> You Say You Want a Lawyer? Tunisia's New Law on Detention, on Paper and in Practice, HRW, June 1, 2018, https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/06/01/you-say-you-want-lawyer/tunisias-new-law-detention-paper-and-practice.

<sup>40</sup> You Say You Want a Lawyer? Tunisia's New Law on Detention, on Paper and in Practice, HRW, June 1, 2018, https://www.hrw.org/report/2018/06/01/you-say-you-want-lawyer/tunisias-new-law-detention-paper-and-practice.

<sup>41</sup> Richard Perez-Pena, President Dissolves Tunisia's Parliament, Deepening Political Crisis, The New York Times, March 30, 2022, https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/30/world/africa/tunisia-president-dissolve-parliament.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Tunisia: MPs questioned over involvement in 'coup attempt', Middle East Monitor, April 9, 2022, https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220409-tunisia-mps-questioned-over-involvement-in-coup-attempt/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> *Tunisia: MPs questioned over involvement in 'coup attempt'*, Middle East Monitor, April 9, 2022, https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220409-tunisia-mps-questioned-over-involvement-in-coup-attempt/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> *Tunisia: Dissolution of judicial independence body a 'big step in the wrong direction'*, UN News, Feb. 8, 2022, https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1111502.; Written information from Tunisian human rights defender, 9 June 2022.

judges, including disciplinary proceedings against them."<sup>45</sup> Accompanying this change is the "significant increase of the number of civilians facing military courts."<sup>46</sup> A number of civilians, including current and former members of parliament, have been tried in military courts since the President declared a state of exception in July 2021.<sup>47</sup>

20. Similarly, human rights defenders and activists have increasingly been harassed or jailed for opposing the government or participating in protests. Rania Al-Amdouni, a "feminist and LGBTQI human rights activist, actor and cinematographer," was imprisoned "on the charge of insulting a public employee." Hamza Nasri, "a queer activist and human rights defender," was sentenced "to 3 months in prison in absentia" in July 2021.<sup>49</sup>

## V. Suggested questions for the Government of Tunisia

- 21. The coauthors suggest the following questions for the Government of Tunisia:
  - What steps, if any, has Tunisia taken to bring about a national dialogue on the death penalty, with the aim of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR?
  - What steps, if any, is Tunisia considering to reduce the scope of the death penalty to the most serious crimes?
  - Please describe how specific needs of women sentenced to death are taken into consideration.
  - Please describe what specific measures are taken to ensure the protection of people with mental health problems during their trial and detention.
  - What is the status of the 2018 proposal of the Commission for Individual Freedom and Equality to abolish the death penalty?
  - What measures has the Tunisian Government taken to clarify the definition of torture as seen in Organic Act No. 2015-26 and 2019-9 and align the definition with the Convention?
  - What measures has the State Party taken to better align the definition of terrorism as a criminal offence with international standards?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Alessandra Bajec, *Does new degree mark the end of judicial independence in Tunisia?*, Al Jazeera, Feb. 17, 2022, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/17/does-decree-11-mark-the-end-of-judicial-independence-in-tunisia <sup>46</sup> International Commission of Jurists, *Tunisia: Upholding the Recommendations of the Truth and Dignity on Judicial Reform* (Geneva: International Commission of Jurists, 2021), 5–6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> International Commission of Jurists, *Tunisia: Upholding the Recommendations of the Truth and Dignity on Judicial Reform* (Geneva: International Commission of Jurists, 2021), 5–6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Article 19, "Tunisia: Activist who reported online abuse by security forces must be released," Mar. 8, 2021, https://www.article19.org/resources/tunisia-authorities-must-release-activist-rania-al-amdouni-imprisoned-after-bringing-complaints-of-online-abuse-by-security-

forces/#:~:text=Tunisia%3A%20Activist%20who%20reported%20online%20abuse%20by%20security%20forces%20must%20be%20released.-

Posted%20on%20March&text=The%20undersigned%20associations%20and%20human,force%20unions%20for%20online%20threats.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Minority Rights Group International, "Hamza Nasri: A new chapter in the intimidation of human rights defenders," Feb. 2, 2022, https://minorityrights.org/2022/02/hamza-nasri-en/

- Please provide data on all persons currently under sentence of death, disaggregated by sex, age, race, nationality, crime of conviction, entity issuing the death sentence, and current location.
- How have anti-terrorism efforts since 2015 affected measures to enhance accountability for torture and other forms of ill-treatment committed by members of the police and security forces?
- What steps has the Ministry of Justice or other concerned governmental bodies taken to address impunity for public officials accused of torture or other forms of ill-treatment?
- What role do military courts have in the criminal legal system, and how many civilians are tried before military courts each year? In what circumstances do military courts have jurisdiction over cases alleging human rights violations or other offenses allegedly committed against civilians by military personnel or security forces?
- What actions has the Tunisian government taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary and respect for the rights of all accused persons to a fair trial and due process in criminal legal proceedings?
- What measures has Tunisia implemented to reduce overcrowding in detention facilities and to ensure that all persons in detention have adequate access to visits from family members and lawyers?
- What protections are in place to ensure that human rights defenders and civil society organizations advocating for abolition of the death penalty do not face harassment or imprisonment for expressing their views?