

## NORTH AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for North Africa, temporarily based in Beirut, Lebanon Operation established in 2012
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### Countries of engagement

Algeria, Egypt and Morocco (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Mauritania and Tunisia and the Human Rights Component of the United Nations Peace Mission in Libya)

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council and the Security Council

Human Rights Council resolution on "Technical assistance for Libya in the field of human rights"

In connection with the annual renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation in Western Sahara

In 2011, mass demonstrations engulfed several countries in North Africa as protesters voiced their grievances against the rising cost of living, social inequalities and injustice and demanded better governance systems. Although uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya led to regime changes, the new leaders are struggling to different extents to enact solid constitutional, legislative and institutional reforms. In Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco, some laws have been passed and announcements have been made regarding legislative and institutional reforms.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Algeria in September 2012. The Government expressed interest in ratifying two human rights treaties, namely the OP-CAT and the ICPEP. This was followed-up by OHCHR in 2013 through an awareness-raising workshop for government officials, the judiciary and civil society actors.

In Egypt, the events that began on 30 June led to a military intervention and the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi, the suspension of the 2012 Constitution, the nomination of an interim

government and the launch of a transitional road map. The road map includes a constitutional revision process, legislative and institutional reforms as well as a timetable for elections. Several national investigations have been launched regarding actions that were taken which resulted in nationwide killings, arrests and attacks on public properties and churches. The state of emergency and the curfew, which were declared on 14 August 2013, were lifted on 11 November 2013. On 24 November 2013, the Interim President of the Republic of Egypt issued a Law regulating the Right to Public Meetings and Peaceful Assemblies and Demonstrations. The High Commissioner expressed her concerns in relation to the Law noting its vague restrictive definitions and excessive punishments. The referendum related to the new draft constitution is scheduled to take place on 14 January 2014.

In Morocco, advances continued in the field of human rights, including an initiative to elaborate a comprehensive policy on migration in accordance with international human rights law. Key civil society organizations called for reforms to bring national legislation and institutions in line with the 2011 Constitution to ensure non-repetition of violations. Wide-ranging consultations led by the Government on issues such as civil society, the judiciary and the press continued into 2013.

Most North African countries have made efforts to implement recommendations emanating from the UPR. Transitions in the region have generally led to increased openness for human rights engagement in North Africa and the establishment of new field presences in Tunisia and Libya. OHCHR is currently working closely with the United Nations Development Programme in Egypt and Morocco on UPR-related activities, the post-2015 development agenda and capacity-building projects for the League of Arab States and human rights institutions.

On 5 September 2013, the Interim Government of Egypt confirmed its willingness to host the Regional Office for North Africa. The workplan of the Regional Office focuses on, inter alia, transitional justice initiatives, including legal and institutional reforms. Pending the outcome of the discussions on the host country agreement with Egypt, the latter was temporarily established in Tunisia in 2012, and moved to Lebanon in 2013.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and increased engagement by civil society organizations (CSOs) with human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation in conformity with non-discrimination standards.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: constitutional provisions and legislation on “public freedoms” and national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus areas on: transitional justice and protection mechanisms to prevent and investigate torture.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: increasing the preparedness and response of the international community, including the United Nations.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NORTH AFRICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased use of human rights international protection mechanisms by CSOs.	<b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies increasingly respect, protect and guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, including prohibition of incitement to hatred, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. ▶ National human rights institutions established and/or working in increased compliance with international standards (Paris Principles) in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.
	<b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased ratification of international human rights treaties.
	<b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Protection systems and accountability mechanisms to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty are established and functioning in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. ▶ A Transitional justice mechanism is established in Egypt.
	<b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.
<b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Increased responsiveness and integration of human rights concerns into the international community’s response to potential, emerging or existing situations of conflict, violence and insecurity.	
<b>[EA11]</b> ▶ United Nations agencies increasingly apply a rights-based approach and implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising as described in the first part of this document. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers’ compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders’ ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in North Africa.