

# The First Jasmine Face book Youth Revolution

## In the UN Year of Youth

I wished the New-York Times, of which I was an assiduous reader during my student days at Columbia University, were here to witness the First Jasmine Face book Youth Revolution!

We are all safe and prudently happy and optimistic like most Tunisians!

Order is being gradually reestablished and I hope in a sustainable manner! Tunisians are full of hope and bursting with pride!

Tunisian Youth contributed in the best possible way to the celebrations of the Year of Youth decided by a resolution of the UN, on a proposition by their own country Tunisia, and in the most spectacularly modern way using the technologies and the possibilities of the face book and the technologies of information and communication, and in a way reminding of the use of the internet in Barak Obama's electoral campaign in the USA!

Tunisia is the country which has proposed to the UN, which adopted the proposal, to declare this year as the Year of Youth. It is also the country which proposed and hosted the WSIS, the World Summit on Information Society, five years ago in 2005.

Tunisian Youth, in an incredibly civilized, massive and orderly show of leadership, national solidarity, unity, will, and know-how used these modern technologies to impulse, coordinate and realize the first Face book revolution to force out of office their former President, him and the gang of profiteers from his entourage, his own family, from his wife's family, and from his in-laws.

They were angry at him for having ordered the police to shoot with live bullets on demonstrators, but also for the corruption and abuses from these people surrounding him.

They marched until for about a whole month against increasing violence from the police, against tear gases and live bullets, until they forced Ben Ali to abandon and escape in his private plane, after making all sorts of promises and trying desperately and unsuccessfully to win over the army on his side and to shoot on the demonstrators.

They did it while chanting verses from their national anthem by their beloved poet, Aboul Kacem Chebbi,

«When the People Wills to Live, Destiny Must Obey! »

"Oppression Must Clear and Chains Must Break! »

Most remarkable is the speed with which things went back to order. Ben Ali left the country Friday afternoon. The Constitutional Council met Saturday morning; the Speaker of the House was sworn in immediately as required by article 57 of the Constitution. The President of the Republic, immediately reappointed Mr. Ghannouchi as Prime Minister and tasked him to form a government of National Union. Monday morning, order and security were essentially reestablished, public transportation resumed and people went back to work. Monday afternoon, Prime Minister announced the formation of a new Government.

Another remarkable thing is the awakening and contribution, along with the National Army, together with the national guards and part of the Police force, of citizens to the defense of their own security, their neighborhoods and their properties against armed gangs, said to be loyal to the former President and his family which, left high and dry, and desperate by the sudden and precipitate flight of the former President, engaged in rampage and violence to terrorize people and neighborhoods all over the country.

January 14 in Tunis, in front of the Ministry of the Interior on Main Avenue Bourguiba, is different from the revolution against the communist party in Poland led by Lech Walensa and Solidarnosk, different from the Perestroika led by Gorbachev, and different from the revolution in Iran against the Shah led Khomeini!

Like the July 14 Bastille Day of the French Revolution two hundred years ago, the Jasmine-Face book Revolution in Tunisia was led by thousands of people and hundreds of Gavroche s. It was a movement of collective leadership in which there was not a single individual leader inspiring, impulsing or coordinating the movement. Rather men, women, students, street vendors, lawyers, doctors, accountants, university professors, artists, that is people from both sexes, all age groups, all classes, all professions, all segments of society, all regions of the country, fully participated.

But Youth was the principal hero, the modern Gavroche of the Jasmine Face book Revolution, and young Tunisians were the leading characters in this national drama of truly epic dimension!

Modern Tunisia is harvesting the fruit of its investment in its youth and has finally, as a return on investment, its own Bastille Day and its own epic legend of Unknown Heroes and Leaders!

Tunisia's soccer team's spectacular performance against the Mexican team, in 1978 in the Argentine World Cup, sent an incredible surge of admiration for Tunisia and a lasting enthusiasm for soccer throughout the entire Arab world. Tunisia's Jasmine Face book Revolution might create a similar lasting enthusiasm for Democracy of the People, by the People for the People.

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