



Weekly Update
From 2 June to 8 June 2014

Maghreb

***5.6.2014: League of Arab Maghreb Scholars Formed**

Fifteen North African scholars of Sharia announced in Istanbul over the weekend the creation of the League of Arab Maghreb Scholars. The new group includes known Salafi figures who have been involved in political participation or founders of new faith-based political parties. These include Mohamed Mahfoud ben Idoumou from Mauritania, Sami Saadi from Libya, Mohamed Rafiqi (Abou Hafs) from Morocco, and other figures from Algeria and Tunisia. The League's founding statement said the group is "a continuation of the reform movements in the region," such as Al Snoussi's in Libya, Ben Ashour's in Tunisia, Ben Badis's in Algeria, Abdelkarim Alkhatabi's in Morocco, and Amine Al Chenghuiti's in Mauritania. The League aims to "address the causes of extremism and radicalisation and spread the values of tolerance and moderation" according to "the doctrine of Sunna and the Maghreb Islamic identity."

<http://islammemo.cc/akhbar/arab/2014/06/07/200669.html>

1) Morocco

*** 08.06.2014: Double investissement dans le contrôle des frontières Maroc-Algériennes.**

Le Maroc a décidé d'installer une ligne de barbelé à la frontière avec l'Algérie. Cette dernière a déjà commencé la réalisation des tranchées. Un surinvestissement expliqué plus par la concurrence que la coopération entre ces deux pays voisins.

<http://www.yabiladi.com/articles/details/26618/maroc-algerie-rabat-commence-construction.html>

2) Libya

***4-9.06.2014: No Military Solution to Libya's Crisis**

Despite the intensification of the bombing strikes on what the pro "Dignity Operation" claim to be terrorist targets, retired General Hafter, who survived an attempt on his life last Wednesday, seems unable to achieve his campaign's goal. A dialogue backchannel has been opened through a delegation of tribal wise men and the Benghazi Crisis Management Committee to talk with Ansar Al-Sharia and the 17 February brigades who still control Benghazi. Politically, the decision of the Supreme Court ruling, on Sunday, that Ahemd Maetig's election as prime minister by the General National Congress was unconstitutional is not entirely good news for General Hafter and the anti-GNC camp. The opposition backed by General Hafter were hoping to stall the political process, topple the GNC, and prevent the next parliamentary elections (25 June) from taking place. Ahemd Maetig's acceptance of the Supreme Court's ruling has de-escalated the crisis. The pro-Maetig camp in the GNC could now re-nominate him or present another candidate.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/06/09/maetig-accepts-supreme-court-ruling/#axzz34BtzoYIS>

3) Tunisia

***06.06.2014: Ennahdha Celebrates its 33th Anniversary**

Ennahdha celebrated its 33th anniversary at a popular rally in Gabes, last Saturday, where its leader Rached Ghannouchi seized the opportunity to restate the movement's vision and policy guidelines. Ghannouchi said that there is no need for a vetting law to ban remnants of the former regime from politics and that Tunisians know best to whom to entrust their future. This was aimed at reducing unease among the Ennahdha's support base for the movement's compromise on the issue. It also coincided with President Mouncef Merzouki's inauguration of the kick-off meeting of the Truth and Dignity Commission tasked with investigating all abuses since the independence of Tunisia. Ghannouchi said that Ennahdha's position was to hold parliamentary elections before the presidential ones, in order to avoid the polarization experienced last year. This was a message to Beji Caid Essebsi's Nida Tounes that insists on presidential elections first. Nevertheless, Ghannouchi explained that Ennahdha believes that consensus is the way forward because "no

party is capable of ruling Tunisia alone.”

<http://www.kapitalis.com/politique/22783-tunisie-la-commission-verite-et-dignite-commencera-ses-travaux-dans-une-semaine.html>

4) Egypt

***08.06.2014: El-Sissi sworn in as Egypt next president**

Former army chief takes oath of office, promising to "care for the interests of the people", build a strong Egypt and pledged no reconciliation with those who had "committed violence".

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/sisi-be-sworn-as-egypt-president-20146843619902534.html>

***09.06.2014: Widespread Condemnation of Sexual Assaults during celebrations in Tahrir Square**

Sunday was declared a national holiday and tight security was enforced by the police and military throughout Cairo, yet, according to the "I Saw Harassment" campaign which documents sexual violence against women in Egypt, at least five mob sexual assaults took place in Cairo's Tahrir Square on Sunday, as people flocked to Egypt's iconic square to celebrate the inauguration of the president. The attacks against the women were so ferocious that several officers deployed to rescue the women were themselves wounded by the crowd. A video documenting one case of sexual assault in Tahrir Square went viral on Sunday night.

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/06/09/sexual-assault-reported-tahrir-square-al-sisis-inauguration-anti-harassment-group/>

***06.06.2014: Criminalisation of Sexual Harassment in Egypt**

These criminal acts contradict the early peaceful images of Tahrir Square, during the 25 January revolution, and affect the promise of a secure Egypt as the new president vows tough line to bring security. The mass attacks come just days after [Egypt passed the first law criminalizing sexual harassment](#), making it punishable by up to five years in prison and a maximum fine of 50,000 Egyptian pounds.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/sexual-harassment-made-crime-egypt-201465172339220160.html>

5) Mauritania

***08.06.2014: Ripple Effects of Blasphemy Case Hit Civil Society**

The presidential election campaign could not overshadow the controversy over the ripple effects of the blasphemy case triggered by Mohamed Ould M'khaitir's criticism of the Prophet Mohamed, last January. Calls by Mrs Aminettou Mint El Moctar, president of the Association des femmes chefs de famille (AFCF), to free M'khaitir were considered by Yehdih Ould Dahi, leader of the Ahbab Errassoul (Disciples of the Prophet) as an act of apostasy, and he called for her killing. The Mauritanian Association for Human Rights (AMDH) expressed solidarity with Mrs Mint El Moctar and condemned the acts of Ould Dahi, in a communique issued last Sunday. Meanwhile, there are reports that an arrest warrant was issued for Yehdih Ould Dahi.

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24863>

6) Mali

***3-8.06.2014: Intra-Tuareg Movements' Power Struggle Threatens Fragile Ceasefire**

A few days before the arrival of Laurent Fabius, French minister of foreign affairs, in Algiers to discuss security in the Sahel and business opportunities, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) released a video, through a Dubai-based TV channel, showing French hostage Serge Lazarevic appealing to François Hollande to negotiate his release. Meanwhile, the leadership of three Tuareg rebel movements are believed to be in Algiers in order to agree a common platform for negotiations with Bamako. However, A source close to President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) told Reuters that Lieutenant Mohamed Ouattara, a member of the elite red beret army unit considered close to deposed President Amadou Toumani Toure, was arrested last week for plotting against the IBK regime.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZYVzbqV6j4>

http://elwatan.com/actualite/alger-accueil-les-mouvements-du-nord-du-mali-06-06-2014-260101_109.php

7) Chad

* 03.06.2014: **Polémique entre Tchad et ONU sur présumé soutien de N'Djamena aux rebelles Séléka.**

N'Djamena a démenti la commission d'enquête internationale de l'ONU, qui a déclaré que des soldats tchadiens ont été vus à Bangui aux côtés de la rébellion Séléka, en mars 2013. Les enquêtes déclarent qu'« il existe assez de preuves pour penser que Djotodia et la Séléka ont reçu un soutien financier et militaire du gouvernement du Tchad » pour renverser le président François Bozizé.

<http://www.tchadactuel.com/?p=10810>

8) Niger

* 03.06.2014 : **Crise politique au Niger**

L'affaire des arrestations politiques des membres du MODEN Lumana (parti de l'opposition) vient de prendre une nouvelle tournure. A la suite des différentes auditions une vingtaine de personnes ont été libérées et des mis en cause ont été poursuivis pour différents chefs d'accusation notamment attaque de siège et de domicile, réunion secrète ou incitation à la révolte. Six personnes proches du président du parti ont été déférées dans les prisons de Niamey et de Kollo pour « atteinte à la sureté de l'Etat ».

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20140603-niger-liberation-vingt-six-militants-opposition/>

The views and perspectives contained in the Weekly Update are from individual contributors and external sources, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or position of the Cordoba Foundation of Geneva. The links are neither intended as an endorsement of particular publications nor the only source for the updates, but to connect to information in the public domain, for those interested in background or further details.