



Weekly update
From 28 April 2014 to 04 May 2014

1) Maroc

* 29.04-02.05.2014 : **Sahara et droits de l'homme**

Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU a adopté à l'unanimité, le mardi 29 avril, une résolution prorogeant le mandat de la Minurso jusqu'au 30 avril 2015. Cette résolution ne renferme aucune disposition relative à la surveillance des droits de l'homme et reconnaît les efforts fournis par le Maroc en la matière.

En parallèle, le même jour, mardi 29 avril, une délégation du Haut-commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH) poursuit sa tournée au Sahara. La Haut-commissaire des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme, Navi Pillay, rend visite au Maroc en ce début du mois de mai pour une visite officielle.

Des manifestations organisées par des indépendantistes ont été dispersées à Laayoune et Dakhla.

<http://www.h24info.ma/maroc/sahara-manifs-dispersees-laayoune-et-dakhla/22653>

2) Libya

*04.05.2014: **Ahmed Maetig Elected Prime Minister**

Businessman Ahmed Maetig was elected to the premiership post following a controversial round of voting at the General National Congress (GNC). Dr. Maetig, who holds a degree in economics from London and reportedly owns a number of businesses in Libya including a hotel in Tripoli, won 67 votes in the first round, last Tuesday, against 34 for Omar Al Hasi, both falling short of the required 120 votes. The second round was violently interrupted when an armed group stormed the GNC building and fired shots, injuring some Congressmen. A third round took place on Sunday where Maetig won 113 votes out of the 152 members who attended. Chaos ensued as the chair of the session left, but his deputy resumed the session, following which Maetig won the 120 necessary votes. PM Maetig has now two weeks to form his government, while some members of the GNC consider his election unconstitutional.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/05/04/congress-appoints-matetig-as-pm-by-121-votes/#axzz30n74Rda5>

*2.05.2014: **Crossing the Rubicon in Benghazi**

Nine Special Force Brigade soldiers were killed following a heavy assault on the Benghazi Police Headquarters reportedly by Ansar Al-Sharia. The government held Ansar Al-Sharia responsible and warned in a televised communique that it "will not allow the existence of terrorist groups or criminal armed groups or groups outside the legitimacy of the state; and that it does not accept the existence of a state within a state." This was the first time the government pointed to Ansar Al-Sharia by name and held it responsible. The event dominated Libyan media shows over the weekend amidst news of a bill filed by a Republican Congressman to discuss, on 7 May, the use of drones against Jihadists in Benghazi. A military source told the Libyan *Alwasat* online news portal that 27 Ansar Al-Sharia fighters were killed during the Friday night assault, including three Algerians, four Syrians and a Yemeni.

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/05/02/heavy-fighting-between-ansar-al-sharia-and-saiqa-special-forces-in-benghazi/#axzz30n74Rda5>

<http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/16171/> (Arabic)

3) Tunisia

***01.05.2014: Constituent Assembly Passes Electoral Law**

The Electoral Law was passed on Labour Day following heated debates at the Constituent Assembly, paving the way for the Independent Electoral Commission to start preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections due before the end of the year. Two issues dominated the final session of debates: the “exclusion” or vetting law and gender parity/youth quota. The rejection of Article 167, concerning the exclusion of figures related to the Ben Ali regime, came as no surprise to observers of Tunisian affairs, having been one of the trade-offs of the national dialogue. However, the opposition to gender parity by some independent members such as Brahim Kassas, linked to Nida Tounes, surprised many and led to a massive media reaction. Adoption of the Electoral Law brought other good news for Tunisians when PM Mehdi Jomaa flew at the weekend to Algiers to sign an agreement of \$500 million in credits and grants.

<http://nawaat.org/portail/2014/05/04/may-1-2014-parliament-passes-electoral-law-citizens-invoke-right-to-work/>

http://www.huffpostmaghreb.com/2014/05/01/tunisie-parite-horizontale_n_5247156.html?utm_hp_ref=maghreb

<http://www.kapitalis.com/economie/22118-le-grand-frere-algerien-tire-son-chequier-500-millions-d-euros-a-la-tunisie.html>

4) Egypt

***29.04.2014 : 683 Sentenced to Death**

Judge Saeed Youssef became notorious when he sentenced 529 Muslim Brotherhood (MB) detainees to death during a hasty trial session last March. On Tuesday, not only did he confirm the death sentences of 37 MB members, but also added another 683 prisoners to the death sentence list, including its supreme leader Mohamed Badie. The whole trial lasted less than one hour, which provoked a wave of condemnation by international human rights groups and figures. *The Economist* commented: “mass death sentences may not be carried out, but horrify all the same.” It estimates that 16,000 MB and anti-coup Egyptians are in prison. The shocking news of the mass death sentences has prompted some prominent American senators to block Obama’s decision to deliver fighter jets to the military regime in Cairo.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/04/egyptian-court-sentences-683-people-death-201442875510336199.html>

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21601577-mass-death-sentences-may-not-be-carried-out-horrify-all-same-hang-them>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sen-leahy-blocks-us-aid-to-egypt-to-protest-nations-appalling-abuse-of-justice-system/2014/04/29/4d5fe0fc-cfe3-11e3-937f-d3026234b51c_story.html

5) Yémen

*** 29.04.2014 : Opérations militaires intenses contre Al-Qaïda**

Depuis une semaine, l’armée yéménite mène des opérations militaires pour déloger les membres d’Al-Qaïda de la province de Chabwa au Sud du Yémen. Au moins 40 membres présumés d’Al-Qaïda ont été tués dans les opérations, sur la base de déclarations de sources officielles yéménites. D’après d’autres sources, le nombre pourrait s’élever à 67, ainsi que 24 soldats.

http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2014/05/04/yemen-40-insurges-d-al-qaïda-tues-lors-d-operations-militaires_4411331_3218.html

6) Sahel

Mali:

***30.04.2014: Algiers Weighs in Heavily on Tuareg Movement Talks**

In an interview with the well-informed Algerian daily *El Watan*, Hama Ag Sid Ahmed, in charge of the

MNLA's external relations, revealed that Tuareg rebel movements in northern Mali are in the process of preparing for meetings in Kidal and Algeria, in order to reach a common platform of demands ahead of negotiations with Bamako. Although Ag Si Ahmed mentioned only the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), it is understood that the Arab Azawad Movement (MAA) and the Coalition for the Azawad People (CPA) are also concerned with this effort. All four groups had already all been convened in Algiers early last April. The pan-African affairs weekly *Jeune Afrique* also decoded a joint communique the movements issued last week as indicating a rapprochement among the Tuareg movement.

http://elwatan.com/international/il-y-a-une-opportunité-pour-trouver-une-solution-a-l-equation-touareg-30-04-2014-255410_112.php

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJAWEB20140429150149/mali-cpa-gouvernement-malien-mnla-mali-mali-le-nouveau-ministre-de-la-reconciliation-nationale-critique-par-les-rebelles-touaregs.html>

Mauritania:

*03.05.2014 : **Opposition to Boycott Presidential Election**

The dialogue process initiated last March between the government and the National Forum for Democracy and Unity (FNDU) hit an impasse over the weekend. The FNDU considered the government's decision to set the first round of presidential election on 21 June a unilateral act that ignored the consensus basis on which the dialogue was launched. The FNDU demand the adoption of a number of measures (revision of electoral register, independent body to organise and oversee election process, etc.) to ensure fair and free elections.

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24462>

<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/DEPAFP20140504173630/mauritanie-mohamed-ould-abdel-aziz-tewassoul-presidentielle-maurotanie-2014-presidentielle-mauritanienne-mauritanie-l-opposition-radicale-boycottera-la-presidentielle.html>

*29.04.2014 : **Thousands March in Anti-Slavery Protest**

"No to Continued Exclusion" was one of the slogans on the banners of a few thousand Mauritians who marched in an anti-slavery protest organised by the Follow-up Committee of the Manifest for the Political, Economic, and Social Rights of the Haratines (descendants of slaves) in Mauritania.

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24420>

Tchad :

* 28.04.2014 : **Tchad demande l'aide internationale pour les réfugiés centrafricains**

Le Tchad a lancé, lundi, un appel à l'aide à la communauté internationale afin de continuer à aider près de 100 000 personnes fuyant les exactions en République centrafricaine (RCA). Cet appel aux donateurs est estimé à plus de 21 milliards de francs CFA.

<http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20140429-refugies-centrafricains-appel-aide-tchad/>

Nigeria

* 01.05.2014 : **Nouvel attentat à Abuja**

Déjà visée par le groupe islamiste Boko Haram il y a trois semaines, Abuja connaît un nouvel attentat à quelques jours du forum économique international dans la capitale du Nigeria. Une voiture piégée a explosé jeudi dans la gare routière de Nyanya, en périphérie d'Abuja, faisant au moins 19 morts et 80 blessés.

http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/au-nigeria-le-nouvel-attentat-d-abuja-inquiete-a-quelques-jours-du-davos-africain-02-05-2014-1818678_24.php

* 29.04.2014 : **Interview avec le chercheur Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos sur Boko Haram :**

http://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/actualites/boko-haram-la-secte-decryptee-29-04-2014-1817274_2031.php