

# TUNISIA

## Party Portrait

Tunisia is currently governed by a coalition government of the Islamist party, Ennahda, and Nidaa Tounes, a diverse grouping of secularists, leftists, former regime members, traditional elites and oligarchs. Though working in a coalition, these parties, disagree on many issues, particularly in the lower bureaucratic levels. Outside of politics, the Tunisia General Labor Union (UGTT) is a powerful force with a large and diffuse membership.

### Key Interests

- Ennahda: Remain a central player in Tunisian politics. Do not allow itself to be isolated.
- Niddaa Tounes: Maintain its position as a counterbalance to Ennahda in influencing national reforms and important political decisions.
- UGTT: Continue to push for political reforms that benefit its members and do not allow the national government to be delegitimized or to become deadlocked.

### Sources of Leverage

**Political** - Capitalize on Tunisia’s status as the success story of the Arabic Spring to convince donor countries to invest in its development and faltering economy. This status also makes it a desirable partner and recipient of Western security and economic assistance.

## Regional Strategy

Tunisia’s primary regional strategy is to build security and economic development partnerships to stave off insecurity and extremism next door in Libya. Additionally, Tunisia seeks to stem the flow of young Tunisians joining ISIS, as Tunisia is its largest contributor of foreign fighters.

### Powerful Individuals

Rachid Ghannouchi (leader of Ennahda), Beji Caid Essebsi (leader of Nidaa Tounes), Houcine Abbassi (leader of the UGTT)

### Potential Negotiation Moves

**Restart Western Sahara peace talks** – Mediate peace talks between Morocco and Polisario Front/Algeria on the subject of Western Sahara. Direct attention and assistance from Western powers to the conflict using Tunisia’s status as the success story of the Arab Spring.

### Internal Conflicts

Tunisia’s internal political structure is still in many ways transitioning out of authoritarian rule. The main struggles exist between the Islamist and secular parties, and between progress in coastal and regional development. Corruption and police abuse are also still major concerns.

### Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, AU, IAEA, MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE, OIC, UN

### Allies

EUROPEAN UNION, FRANCE, TURKEY, UNITED STATES

### Partners

ALGERIA, IRAN, LEBANON Government, MOROCCO Government, NATO, PALESTINE Fatah, SAUDI ARABIA

### Rivals

LIBYA Government of National Accord

### Adversaries

N/A

### Active Armed Opponents

AQAP, ISIS

### Proxy

N/A

### External Sponsor

N/A

### Aid Recipient

N/A

### Aid Donor

EUROPEAN UNION, KUWAIT, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, UNITED STATES