
Terms of Reference: Additional Research – The Right to Protest in Tunisia

Background

Protest plays an essential role in all societies, enabling individuals and groups to express dissent and grievances, to share views and opinions, to expose flaws in governance and to publicly demand accountability and change. Across the world, people are protesting in increasing numbers, on the streets and online, even throughout the global pandemic. But this rise has been met by an increase in crackdowns on protests, from brutal repression to legal and policy measures that criminalise protest and seek to deter, prevent or obstruct protestors. These violations are frequently compounded by a culture of impunity for those who violate the protesters' human rights. In some countries, as well as governments and law enforcement agencies stigmatising protesters, mainstream media have also portrayed protests and protesters as inconveniences to be controlled or threats to be extinguished, instead of sensitising societies about not only the issues raised but also how their rights to freedoms of expression and association are being infringed.

ARTICLE 19 works to empowering individuals and communities to demand their rights to participate in civic space and demand accountability, and to shift narratives on protests in a positive direction. As part of this ongoing work, ARTICLE 19 is developing a dynamic global campaign on the right to protest. This campaign will build on the learnings from our previous campaigns on the right to protest in [Brazil](#) and [Kenya](#), and look further into the issue of stigmatisation of protests and protestors. This will be done by examining the impact discrimination and exclusion of certain groups have on the way that authorities respond to protests, the way the media covers protest and the way public respond and support protest. The campaign seeks to make these impacts visible and support the voices of those most targeted, at risk and excluded.

To inform our global campaign, ARTICLE 19 has carried out research on stigma and discrimination of protesters - both online and offline - in a number of countries. We currently require some addition and updated research to be carried out to supplement our research on the right to protest, stigma and discrimination in Tunisia. For this reason, we are seeking a consultant researcher to support this task.

Scope of work

In 2021, research was conducted on behalf of ARTICLE 19 on violations of the right to protest in Tunisia, and in particular the impact of this on the LGBTQ+ community and their ability to exercise the right to protest. ARTICLE 19 now needs a consultant to conduct research to supplement and update the information already collected.

ARTICLE 19 is looking for an experienced human rights researcher, preferably with particular experience in the field of freedom of association, who is Tunisian or based in Tunisia to conduct a short assignment of additional research and to update a draft report based on the findings.

Research will seek to examine and document examples of stigmatising language used by politicians and in the media in relation to protests and/or the LGBTQ+ community; violations of the right to protest by law enforcement agencies and the judiciary; how these impact on the LGBTQ+ community and their ability to exercise their right to protest; what media ethics initiatives (if any) currently exist in Tunisia.

The work will mostly consist of desk research, review of existing interview transcripts, and possibly some supplementary interviews with key informants to obtain further details.

An existing draft research report will be adapted according to the researcher's updated findings and reshaped into a briefing of around 10-15-pages.

Specifically, this document should cover, in brief:

- Legislative environment impacting protestors
- Stigmatising narratives use in relation to protestors by authorities/media
- Discriminatory practices by police of LGBTQ+ groups
- The experiences of LGBTQ+ groups in seeking to exercise their right to protest
- What, if any, initiatives/commitments currently exist on media coverage of protests

A lump sum of £3000 is available for the work. It is anticipated it would cover a period of 2.5-3 weeks of work.

ARTICLE 19's regional office in Tunis will provide any necessary support to the researcher.

Audience /use

- Communities in Tunisia who experience stigma when protesting
- Communities in Tunisia who avoid protests because of stigma and discrimination around protests in the media, by politicians and by law enforcement
- Government, law enforcement agencies, judiciary, and any other relevant State institutions in Tunisia
- Local and mainstream media in Tunisia
- Civil society organisations that promote the right to protest or defend those that are protesting

Deliverables: Final draft of a research briefing based on an adapted version of the current draft incorporating review of existing testimonies, extracts of existing report draft, and additional research findings.

Timetable:

30 July	Deadline for expression of interest
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5 August	Shortlisted candidates invited to interview
10 Aug	Contract signed and work commences
7 September	Draft report delivered
14 September	Feedback from ARTICLE 19
22 Septemeber	Final report delivered

Competencies:

We are seeking a candidate who is/has:

- Minimum of 5 years' experience in conducting human rights research and investigations, and can provide written examples of previous research conducted or reports solely or co-authored
- Good knowledge and understanding of freedom of expression and assembly rights, preferably with demonstrable examples of previous work in these areas
- Experience conducting interviews with survivors of human rights violations
- Excellent writing skills
- Based in Tunisia and/or with recent experience in the country
- Excellent oral and written communications in French
- Good oral and written communications in English

Tender methodology:

Please submit your CV, a short cover letter briefly explaining how you meet the above competencies, and 2-3 relevant examples of previous work (e.g. research reports that you have solely or co-authored) to email address: **dockalova@article19.org**.

NOTE: ARTICLE 19 reserves the right to amend or change or cancel these terms at any time, if there are compelling reasons to do so.