

## IN SOLIDARITY IN DEFIANCE

We stand in solidarity with the people of the Middle East and North Africa who are peacefully demanding their human rights. We stand in defiance against all those who try to suppress them.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

# A HUMAN RIGHTS REVOLUTION



Across the Middle East and North Africa millions of people are standing up for their rights, defying teargas, tanks and gunfire to demand an end to poverty, corruption, and unaccountable state power and brutality. They are calling for a future where human rights are respected and protected. That is what we at Amnesty International have campaigned for, in this region and elsewhere, over the past five decades.

Amnesty International

## AMNESTY UK'S CAMPAIGN

Solidarity with people peacefully demanding change – defiance against those trying to stop them

Amnesty UK is working across the region but will prioritise work on Syria, Egypt and Libya.

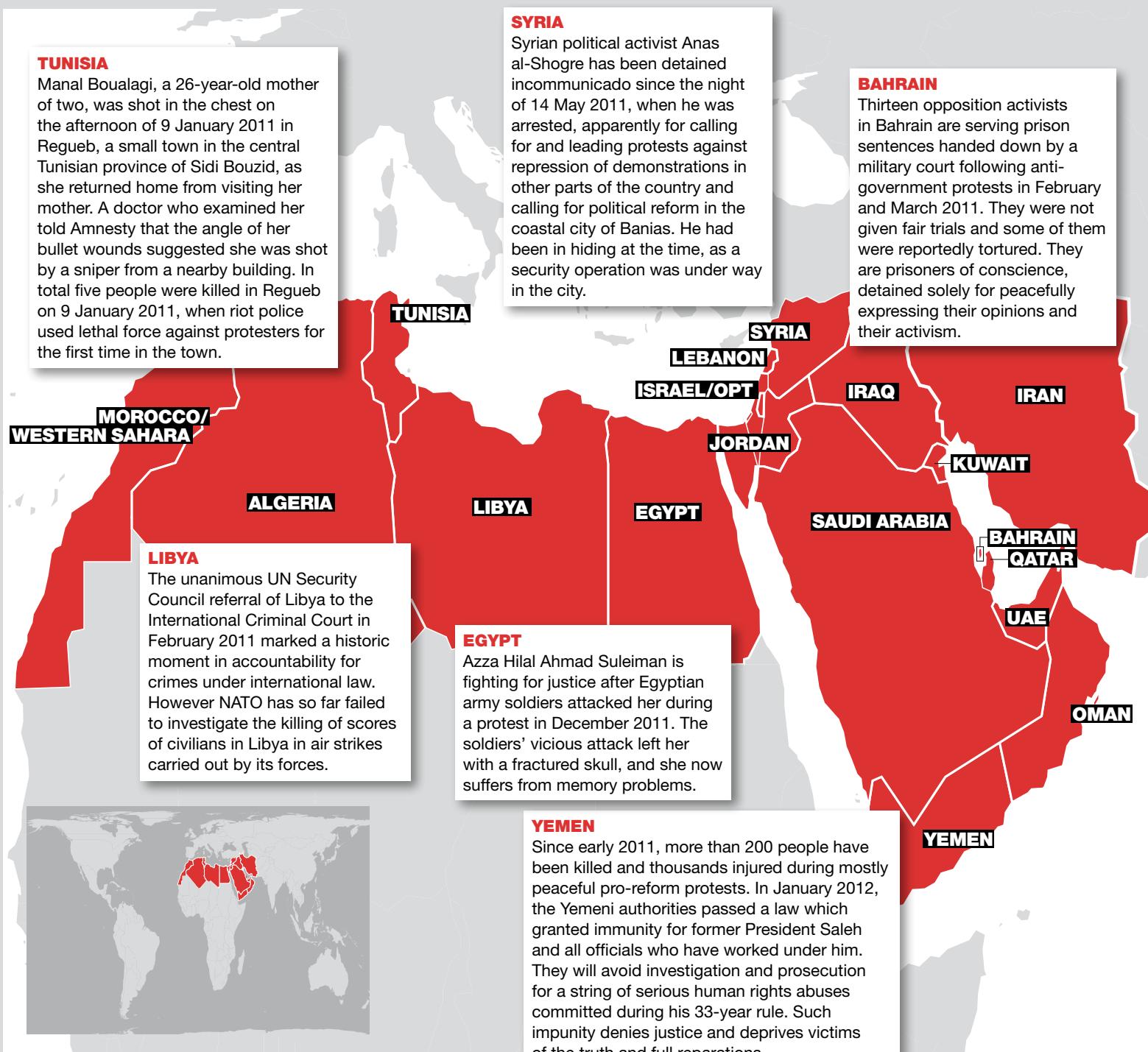
We want human rights defenders, peaceful protesters, governments and opposition groups to know that Amnesty UK stands in solidarity with people in and from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) who are peacefully demanding change. In particular, we support those calling for basic human rights, immediate reforms, and an end to poverty, corruption, discrimination and repression.

Amnesty UK stands in defiance against anyone, in the MENA region or the UK, who tries to suppress the growing movement of people attempting to bring about a human rights revolution. Our campaigning will seek to be forward looking, focusing on a vision for the new region in transition, as enshrined in our Agenda for Change programme.

Amnesty UK will continue to work with activists from the region, providing training, campaign support and guidance to ensure that human rights are at the heart of the transition in law, policy and practice.

### RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Women have been at the heart of demonstrations and activism during the uprisings. They have not been exempt from some of the worst violence. It is disappointing that women have been systematically excluded from decision-making. Women must be fully involved and on equal footing with men in political and human rights reform in all transitional countries.



# AMNESTY'S AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Amnesty International believes that specific reforms are essential to ensure human rights for the people of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). We are calling on governments in the region to:

- **Rein in the security forces:** No more violence against peaceful demonstrators. Across the region security forces need to be radically overhauled, to provide a clear structure and accountable chain of command. Policing of demonstrations must adhere to international human rights law and standards.
- **End arbitrary arrest and detention, and enforced disappearances.** The security forces should not be allowed to arrest people without a warrant. Any person arrested or detained must be registered, and families and lawyers should be notified of their whereabouts. Detainees should be charged with a recognisable offence or released. The practice of detaining people incommunicado must be abolished.
- **Stop torture.** The authorities should condemn the use of torture and quickly eradicate it. Any allegations of torture should be investigated thoroughly and impartially and the officials responsible brought to justice. The victims of torture should be given reparations.
- **End impunity: soldiers, police and officials who abuse their power must be brought to justice.** No member of the security forces should be allowed to act above the law. Independent oversight bodies should be created to hold security forces to account. All citizens should be able to complain through this oversight body and have their cases investigated.
- **Guarantee women's rights and their political participation.** Women must be able to participate fully and meaningfully in all political processes and women's human rights must be promoted and protected. Women should be able to vote in all elections without harassment and be protected from violence. Political organisations must not be allowed to discriminate against women.
- **Uphold the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.** Everyone must be allowed to peacefully exercise their right to demonstrate freely without fear of attack. Any laws that infringe on freedom of expression must be changed and brought into line with international law.
- **Ensure the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.** People across the region should be able to live in dignity. The authorities must ensure that all citizens have equal access to food, water, sanitation, health care and housing. Workers must be allowed to organise freely and form independent trade unions.
- **End discrimination based on gender, religion, colour, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and social status.** All people must be treated equally regardless of their background or beliefs. Laws and practices that discriminate against minorities must be abolished.
- **End violence against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.** Anyone fleeing persecution should be given international protection. The authorities must ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are not further endangered by the use of force by security officers. Inside and beyond the region, asylum seekers should have access to fair asylum procedures and to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
- **Abolish the death penalty.** An immediate moratorium on all executions must be put in place.
- **Co-operate with UN mechanisms.** States in the region must cooperate with UN treaty mechanisms and bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. UN experts should be allowed to examine allegations of human rights violations.

## WHAT HAS AMNESTY BEEN DOING?

Amnesty International has for decades documented human rights violations and campaigned for reform in the Middle East and North Africa. Since the popular uprisings began, we have intensified efforts to document violations by armed forces, security forces and non-state actors throughout the region. Amnesty reports are available at [www.amnesty.org/mena](http://www.amnesty.org/mena)

## OUR LONGER TERM WORK

Crisis and transition in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will continue as one of our top priorities in 2012-13.

- We will maintain our crisis response work where the situation remains most precarious, for example in Syria.
- We will work for key reforms in countries where opportunities have opened up.
- We will further develop strategies and initiatives, focusing on transition and reform (see our Agenda for Change list inside).
- In agreement with local partners and supporters, we will work to expand Amnesty International's influence, activism and mobilisation in key countries through capacity building and skills training, partnerships and other initiatives.
- We will continue to mobilise and empower activists from the MENA region to meet our shared campaigning objectives, take our human rights messages out to a wider audience, and better enable them to defend their own and others rights.

## WHAT GOVERNMENTS CAN DO

We are calling on governments around the world to:

- Control the arms trade. Deadly weapons must not be delivered to those who would use them to suppress peaceful protest or where there is a risk they will be used for war crimes or other human rights abuses. A global Arms Trade Treaty is needed.
- Condemn violent crackdowns against peaceful protesters. The international community must support credible investigations into abuses and ensure those responsible are held to account.

We are calling on the UK government to:

- Take a consistent approach to ensure human rights are respected and protected across the region.
- Ensure UK engagement in the region involves civil society, and not only governments and businesses.
- Not overlook human rights reforms where arms sales, trade, or national security cooperation are involved.
- Prioritise women's rights, equality, and meaningful political participation.

## ■ WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take action and find out more about our campaigns for human rights change, women's rights and the arms trade at [www.amnesty.org.uk/protest](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/protest)

Find out more about human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. See our latest reports at [www.amnesty.org/mena](http://www.amnesty.org/mena)

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