

Mediterranean Review

Comprehensive Information on Complex Crises

18 January 2012



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Economic Development
Governance & Rule of Law
Humanitarian Affairs
Security
Socio-cultural Development

ABOUT THE CFC

The Civil-Military Fusion Centre (CFC) is an information and knowledge management organisation focused on improving civil-military interaction, facilitating information sharing and enhancing situational awareness through the [CimicWeb](http://www.cimicweb.org) portal and our weekly and monthly publications.

CFC products link to and are based on open-source information from a wide variety of organisations, research centres and media sources. However, the CFC does not endorse and cannot necessarily guarantee the accuracy or objectivity of these sources.

CFC publications are independently produced by Knowledge Managers and do not reflect NATO policies or positions of any other organisation.

The CFC is part of NATO Allied Command Operations.



CONTACT THE CFC

For further information, contact:

Med Basin Team Lead
Linda Lavender
Linda.Lavender@cimicweb.org

The Mediterranean Team
mediterranean@cimicweb.org

This document provides an overview of developments *in the Mediterranean Basin and other regions of interest from 04 January–16 January 2012*, with hyperlinks to source material highlighted and underlined in the text. For more information on the topics below or other issues pertaining to the region, please contact the members of the Med Basin Team, or visit our website at www.cimicweb.org.

Economic Development

Melodee M. Baines ► melodee.baines@cimicweb.org

Algeria

Magharebia reports that on 12 January, Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mourad Medelci met with US officials in Washington. The United States is the largest customer of Algeria's foreign trade, which signifies a positive relationship in the economic sector. Medelci also spoke positively on Algeria's relationship with the United States with regard to counter-terrorism efforts.

Egypt

According to the *Associated Press (AP)*, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission is visiting Egypt to discuss possible support in the form of a USD 3.2 billion [financial package](#). The Egyptian economy has been negatively affected by the protests and unrest following former President Hosni Mubarak's resignation.

Libya

According to the Egypt State Information Service (SIS), the Libyan Ministry of Labour is willing to employ foreign [labourers](#), including Egyptians, and has established a two-month deadline for illegal expatriate workers currently residing in Libya to submit applications. Those who are seeking legitimate employment status in Libya may apply to the Libyan Ministries of Labour and Interior to obtain work permits.

Morocco

The European Union (EU) reports that the suspension of the EU/Morocco [fisheries](#) agreement on 14 December has created uncertainty about the future of other international agreements, such as those between the EU and Mauritania. According to the EU, representatives of fishermen, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the fisheries industry raised their concerns at a meeting on 10 January in Brussels.

According to *Recharge*, Morocco has invited

companies to begin the bidding process for five [wind farms](#), which will generate 850 megawatts (MW) of power. The deadline to submit an expression of interest is 02 March. Qualified developers will then bid in an international tender to be held during the second quarter of 2012. The article reports that the projects will be managed under a build, own, operate and transfer ([BOOT](#)) system, whereby, the developers assume almost complete responsibility for installing the wind farms.

Mauritania

According to *Magharebia*, a new [micro-finance](#) co-operative seeks to create jobs for unemployed youth in Mauritania. The initiative, launched by the Lending Association for Young People, will contribute to financing small projects. The *Pan African News Agency (PANA)* reports that Mauritanian Prime Minister Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf praised what he called "[good](#) overall management" of the Mauritanian economy despite the global financial crisis. He stated that, for the second consecutive year, Mauritania has seen "growth and consolidation of macro-economic stability."

Tunisia

According to the German *Local*, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle [visited](#) Algeria, Libya and Tunisia. The article reports that the minister's travels demonstrate Germany's commitment to invest in the efforts of democratic governments in North Africa. Germany has already offered EUR 32 million in aid to Tunisia and has assisted in the rescheduling of EUR 60 million in debt.

Magharebia reports that business leaders from Turkey, Tunisia and Libya met in Tunis on 12 January to discuss new [investment](#) opportunities during a two-day "Turkey-Tunisia-Libya Business Forum" that focused on trilateral partnerships in the agriculture, construction, tourism, energy and manufacturing sectors.

Youssef Amrani [resigned](#) as Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in order to assume the post of Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in the new Moroccan government, according to *ANSAMed*. The UfM is scheduled to meet in Brussels on 09 February. The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) will also [meet](#) in February, according to *Magharebia*. The General Secretariat of the UMA is based in Rabat, Morocco. In the *Magharebia* article, Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci discussed the possibility of normalising relations with Morocco, as well as the political relationship between Algeria and bordering countries Tunisia and Libya. In other regional news, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Cross-Border Cooperation Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2011 is accepting project [proposals](#), according to Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection. The Programme priorities include the promotion of socio-economic development and environmental sustainability in the Mediterranean basin.

Algeria

According to *Reuters*, Algeria's main opposition parties asked President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to [remove](#) the prime minister and appoint an interim cabinet in order to avoid fraud during parliamentary elections scheduled for May 2012. The article reports that President Bouteflika has not yet responded to the request. In other news, *Al Arabiya* reports that Algeria will temporarily [open](#) a border crossing with Morocco to facilitate the passage of Moroccan cyclists who are competing in the 25th anniversary of a cycling tour.

Egypt

On 11 January, US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns [met](#) with Freedom and Justice Party Chief Mohammed Morsi, according to CNN. The Freedom and Justice Party is the political arm of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood. This meeting signifies the highest-level contact between the United States and Egypt's largest Islamic group. Secretary Burns and Chief Morsi discussed US-Egypt relations and how to support a meaningful partnership. According to *Reuters*, the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt [projects](#) that its party, the Freedom and Justice Party, will control 232 seats, or 46%, of the lower house of parliament once elections are completed. Al Nour Party, which is a more conservative Islamist party, will control 113 seats, or 23%. The article reports that Islamists parties will control more than two-thirds of the lower house of parliament, based on the projections of the Muslim Brotherhood.

On 11 February, former US President Jimmy Carter met with the [ruling military](#) authority of Egypt, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), according to *Reuters*. Following this meeting, President Carter expressed doubt that SCAF would submit to a civilian government, and he expressed approval of SCAF retaining "some special status". The article

reports that Carter was in Cairo participating in election monitoring with his non-profit organisation, the [Carter Center](#). According to the article, logistics regarding how SCAF will hand over power to the civilian government or to the constitutional assembly tasked with drafting Egypt's new constitution remains unclear.

Al Arabiya reports that former International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Mohamed ElBaradei [withdrew](#) from the Egyptian presidential election. Egyptian politicians and intellectuals reacted with indignation and disappointment.

Libya

Libya announced a change in election law to include a 10% parliamentary [quota](#) for women, according to the *Atlantic*. On 09 January, the United States formally [opposed](#) Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's visit to Libya, reports the *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*. Bashir is the subject of an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for charges of genocide and war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region. The United States asked Libya to join the international community in cooperating fully with the ICC. In a separate article, the *AFP* reports that the ICC is giving Libya until 23 January to decide whether to [surrender](#) Seif al Islam, who is wanted by the court on charges of crimes against humanity. Seif al Islam, the son of deposed dictator Moammar Gaddafi, is currently in the custody of the military council of Zintan, southwest of Tripoli. *Al Arabiya* reports that Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, head of SCAF, is set to [visit](#) Libya on 16 January. According to the article, this is Tantawi's first state visit abroad since SCAF took over governing Egypt in February 2011.

Mauritania

On 03 January, a Mauritania court [convicted](#) eight Salafists of terrorism, according to *Magharebia*. Prominent Salafist Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine, once the recipient of a presidential pardon, was among those convicted of terrorism. Salafi Islam is considered to be on the conservative end of the spectrum.

Morocco

According to *Magharebia*, King Mohammed VI of Morocco announced the 30 new [cabinet](#) ministers on 03 January. A separate *Magharebia* article reports that the new [government](#) met for the first time on 05 January.

Tunisia

According to *Tunisia Live*, the Tunisian National Committee of Information and Communication Reform (INRIC) [denounced](#) the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) report, "The Final Report of the First Phase of the Evaluation of the Media in Tunisia". The report covers the development of Tunisian Media, and INRIC claims that its style "lacks vigour, objectivity and

SUBMIT AN RFI OR RECOMMEND REPORT TOPICS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN TEAM:

In order to meet the growing demand for information regarding the dynamic, complex events in Libya specifically and North Africa generally, the CFC has begun publishing special reports on the region in addition to our weekly newsletters. Please send your recommendations for future report topics or requests for information (RFIs) to: mediterranean@cimicweb.org.

precision". INRIC also objected to the report's allegations of instances of plagiarism, factual errors and distortion. Sahbi Ben Nablia, who conducted the report, is a development and communications consultant. According to the article, he said he will respond officially to the accusations. According to *AFP*, a Tunisian man protesting unemployment in his region set himself [ablaze](#) on 05 January. This act of protest evoked

memories of Mohamed Bouazizi, whose suicide by self-immolation in December 2010 symbolises the start of the demonstrations that toppled the Ben Ali regime and launched the Arab Spring protests across North Africa. On 14 January, Tunisians [commemorated](#) the first anniversary of the revolution that started the Arab Spring, reports *Reuters*.

Humanitarian Affairs

Angelia Sanders ► Angelia.Sanders@cimicweb.org

Amnesty International ([AI](#)) published a report which cautioned governments in North Africa and the Middle East region that the [protest movements](#) show resilience and will continue unless governments make concrete changes in how they govern. The [report](#), titled "Year of Rebellion: State of Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa", states that North Africa must still cement institutional reforms in order to prevent abuses from occurring again under new leadership.

operations. In other news, an investigation into human rights abuses committed during NATO's [bombing campaign](#) in Libya is being called for by incoming UN Security Council President Baso Sangqu, reports the *Washington Post*. Sangqu believes NATO overstepped its mandate in enforcing a no-fly zone.

Egypt

The *Washington Post* reports that, in an effort to reduce the flood of African migrants [seeking sanctuary](#) in Israel, Israel's parliament passed a bill that allows imprisonment of illegal migrants for an unlimited time without trial. African migrants, primarily from Sudan and Eritrea, are crossing into Israel through the porous borders of Egypt. *Egypt Independent* reported that 71 Egyptian migrants were rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard when their [boat sank](#) in the Mediterranean Sea. The migrants were traveling to Italy and were returned to Egypt.

Reuters reports that the Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's visit to Libya [drew criticism](#) from human rights groups. Sudan assisted Libya's former rebels in overthrowing Gaddafi by providing weapons and ammunition; however, Bashir is wanted by the ICC on genocide charges in his own country.

Food Crisis

The looming [food crisis](#) in the Sahel has received significant media attention, reports the *Guardian*. Compared to past crises, regional governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been quicker to take preventive measures to address shortages. Meanwhile, as a result of an increasing frequency of droughts in the Sahel, communities have little opportunity to get ahead of each crisis before the next begins.

While visiting a Central Security Forces camp on 07 January, Egypt's Prime Minister Kamal El-Ganzouri called on [security forces](#) and soldiers to respect human rights and practice restraint when dealing with protestors, reports *Ahram*. Despite protesting on the frontlines with men during the revolution, many Egyptian women feel they are [still vulnerable](#) and that little has been done to increase and protect their rights, reports the BBC.

According to *Al Jazeera*, the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs told reporters that there are [reports of malnutrition](#) in the two Sudanese border states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan. The UN has urged the Sudanese government to lift a ban on international UN staff traveling to the states. In rural South Sudan, the UN and aid groups are mounting a "major [emergency operation](#)" in response to tribal violence (see 'Security' below), reports *Al Jazeera*. Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, said that "this emergency operation is going to be one of the most complex and expensive in South Sudan since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005".

Libya

According to the *Guardian*, secret MI6 [rendition operations](#) to Libya will be investigated by Scotland Yard. The MI6 operations resulted in prominent Libyan dissidents being abducted and flown to Tripoli where they were handed over to Libyan authorities and subsequently tortured. It is still unclear which ministers may have authorised the Libyan rendition

Security

Angelia Sanders ► angelia.sanders@cimicweb.org

AQIM Mauritania has set up three [security zones](#) covering the entire country in an attempt to counter Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), organised crime groups and smugglers, reports *Magharebia*. Mohamed Lamine Ould Ibrahim, a specialist in Mauritania's eastern region affairs, believes that it will be difficult for the security forces to control the vast areas along the Mali and Mauritania border due to the lack of natural barriers. *Magharebia* reports that

Algerian and Mauritanian security agencies were able to cut off [AQIM's supply](#) of four-wheel-drive vehicles. These vehicles and the unregulated trade in spare parts are thought to be possibly aiding extremist groups in the Sahel-Saharan region.

AQIM is believed to be holding nine [western hostages](#), reports *Reuters*. The group has threatened to kill the hostages if France and its allies attack its bases in northern Mali. AQIM is believed to have brought in millions of dollars in ransoms and there is concern the group has been strengthened by an influx

of weapons from Libya. The [Atlantic Council](#), a Washington think-tank, has also reported that [AQIM has benefited](#) from the fall of Moammar Gaddafi by receiving weapons and fighters and has also increased its linkages with the Polisario Front, a group based in Morocco which is responsible for the kidnapping of three aid workers in October 2011. However, *Magharebia* reported that AQIM is facing a [major internal rift](#), particularly among the Saharan brigades, due to rivalries between commanders, conflicts over leadership, growth in crime and drug trafficking networks, and attempts by leaders to co-opt ransom money.

Mali has deployed [extra troops](#), equipment and 200 vehicles to the north in order to provide additional security for an annual desert music festival which is being held on the outskirts of Timbuktu – an area where AQIM sometimes operates, reports *Middle East Online*. The popular Desert Festival, which began in 2001, has drawn over 1,000 people this year, including foreign tourists and singer Bono from the musical group U2.

Libya

Over the weekend of 14 January, rival [armed groups](#) fought in the town of Gharyan, located about 80km south of Tripoli, reports BBC. The clashes left two dead and more than 40 injured. Local officials told the BBC that militia groups in the area remain loyal to the former Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi and stated that the groups should be disarmed. The *Associated Press (AP)* reports that the Libyan government has said that it will allocate USD 8 billion to [reintegrate rebel fighters](#) into civilian life. Funds for micro-credit loans, job placement assistance and academic scholarships will be managed by the government's new "Warriors Affairs Committee". It was expected that approximately 200,000 fighters will sign up for the programme. However, according to *Reuters*, 24 hours after the [police force](#) began accepting militia members into its ranks, only 100 had signed up, signalling that efforts for disarmament and reintegration of fighters will take time.

Yussef al-Mangush, a former colonel in Moammar Gaddafi's military, has been appointed as the new [chief of staff](#) of the Libyan army, reports the *Telegraph*. Al-Mangush had taken

early retirement from Gaddafi's military and had participated in the rebellion against Gaddafi. *Magharebia* reports that [Libyans are divided](#) over al-Mangush's appointment.

Sudan and South Sudan

Human Rights Watch ([HRW](#)) has reported that Sudanese security forces have arrested more than 250 students, [opposition figures](#) and activists between the period of September and December 2011. HRW further stated that "since mid-December 2011, security forces have used unnecessary or excessive force to break up protests at universities across Sudan". Since the secession of South Sudan in July 2011, there has been increased discontent over deteriorating economic conditions and political uncertainty in Sudan.

The United States has declared South Sudan eligible to receive weapons and [defence assistance](#) from the US, reports *Voice of America (VOA)*. There has been recent tribal violence in parts of South Sudan, with officials reporting more than 3,000 deaths. Additionally, the [UN](#) reported that more than 360,000 people have fled from Sudan to South Sudan in recent months. The *New York Times* reported that in a recent clash between the Murle and Nuer tribes in which hundreds, possibly thousands, died, UN peacekeepers tracked [advancing fighters](#) from helicopters for days before the massacre occurred. Four hundred UN soldiers were rushed in but none fired their weapons. The *New York Times* also reported that the South Sudan government is reluctant to involve itself in the tribal feuds, since the Nuer tribe is a crucial part of the coalition government and supplies thousands of soldiers to South Sudan's army.

Tunisia

As Tunisia approached the anniversary of the country's revolution on 14 January, citizens had a certain [degree of anxiety](#), reports *VOA*. Over the last year, there have been strikes and protests in response to political and economic grievances. High poverty and unemployment, which were contributing factors to protests last year, continue in the country.

Socio-cultural Development

Linda Lavender ► Linda.Lavender@cimicweb.org

An article by *Altmuslimah* explores the crucial role [women](#) played in the Arab Spring that swept the region a year ago. According to the article, while women are largely assigned a secondary role in the region's society, international media have overlooked a "radical change in the face of revolutionary politics in the Middle East."

Algeria

Agence France Presse (AFP) reports that a young Algerian set himself on fire after a police officer dismissed his attempt to register a complaint regarding his [stolen bike](#). He returned later that day to set himself on fire in protest of his mistreatment. AFP reports that there have been dozens of self-immolation cases in Algeria over the past year, but the number of fatalities has not been reported by government officials or the media.

Egypt

According to *al Masry al Youm*, the number of [caesarean section](#) deliveries in Egypt has increased significantly over the past few decades. Although the exact rate cannot be confirmed, some medical professionals are concerned about the growing trend, which they believe could place the health of babies and their mothers at risk. Health professionals were quick to note, however, that there are instances when caesarean section deliveries are necessary for medical reasons.

Morocco

Morocco is holding a 10-day [festival](#) which seeks to foster student innovation, reports *Magharebia*. During the festival, which runs through 20 January, Moroccan students are showcasing their talents in the arts, video, dance, theatre and music.

Tunisia

The New York Times (NYT) reports that the head of Tunisia's

moderate Islamist party [condemned](#) anti-Semitic slogans that were chanted by ultraconservative Muslims during the visit of a top Hamas official to the country. Some members of the crowd that greeted Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya at the Tunis airport chanted “Kill the Jews” and “Crush the Jews”. In response, reports the *NYT*, Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the Ennahda party reiterated his party’s policy that Tunisia’s Jews are “full citizens with equal rights and duties.” Additionally, Ghannouchi condemned the language and asserted that those sentiments did not embody the teachings and spirit of Islam.

In the wake of the Arab Spring in Tunisia, approximately

40,000 Tunisians [left](#) the country in search of better opportunity, reports *Magharebia*. A significant number of those leaving Tunisia attempted to enter other countries illegally. Civil society groups within the country are currently attempting to account for the location of these illegal immigrants, who successfully reached Europe.

According to *ANSAMed*, the EU-funded Euromed Heritage IV [programme](#) organised a [workshop](#) from 12 to 14 January in Tunis to identify cultural landscapes of outstanding value and to preserve and develop them. The programme includes a discussion of the legal instruments necessary to facilitate that identification, preservation and development.

SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

CimicWeb account holders can submit RFIs to the CFC. These may concern the sectors addressed in this newsletter or other topics relevant to the Mediterranean Basin, including Libya, or our other focus areas. To submit an RFI, fill out the request form by [clicking here](#).

Have a colleague who is interested in submitting an RFI? Tell him/her to request a CimicWeb account by [clicking here](#).

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN NOTICE BOARD

5th Annual International Conference on Mediterranean Studies

- Who?** Athens Institute for Education and Research ([ATINER](#))
- What?** A forum for discussion, plenary sessions, oral sessions and poster presentations (See [2011 Agenda](#))
- For whom?** Academics, industry professionals, researchers & practitioners around the world interested in the Mediterranean region
- When & Where?** 04-07 April 2012, Metropolitan Hotel, Athens, Greece
- Contact Details:** info@atiner.gr and www.atiner.gr/info/2012INFO-MDT.htm

If you are a CFC account-holder and would like your notice to appear here, please send all relevant details to Mediterranean@cimicweb.org. The CFC is not obliged to print any notice that it receives, and the CFC retains the right to revise notices for clarity and appropriateness. Any notices submitted for publication in the “Mediterranean Review” newsletter should be relevant to the Mediterranean Basin & North Africa and to the CFC’s mission as a knowledge management and information sharing institution.

ENGAGE WITH US



Civil-Military Fusion Centre (CFC)



mediterranean@cimicweb.org



www.cimicweb.org