

President of the Republic Tunisia, Kais Saied
Route de la Goulette
Site archéologique de Carthage, Tunisia

Groningen, 2023

Your Excellency,

I write to you to ask you to release ex-Justice Minister and leader of the Ennahdha opposition party Nouredine Bhiri, and to drop all charges against him. Bhiri is being investigated for peacefully exercising his human rights including to freedom of expression and assembly. Bhiri is accused of among others "trying to change the form of the government" which is punishable by the death penalty in Tunisia. The charges are in relation to a January 2023 post on Facebook as well as public remarks captured on video that the authorities attribute to him.

Criticism of the authorities is protected speech under both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to which Tunisia is a state party.

During his arrest on 13 February 2023, security forces hit Bhiri leading to injuries. He needs medical assistance for his injuries and requires regular medicine for his diabetes and high blood pressure.

I urge you to immediately release Bhiri, drop all bogus charges against him and ensure that he receives any medical treatment he may require.

Yours sincerely,