

KEY MOMENTS IN THE ARAB SPRING



1998

The electronic mailing list Takriz is created, with an initial focus on issues like freedom of speech and affordable Internet access in Tunisia. It will eventually be censored by the government.

JANUARY 2008

Six months of protests begin near Gafsa, Tunisia, over corruption and bad working conditions.

APRIL 6, 2008

Protests begin in an Egyptian industrial city, El-Mahalla el-Kobra.

OCTOBER 25, 2009

Tunisia's President Ben Ali is reelected, with a suspiciously high 89 percent of the vote.

JUNE 6, 2010

A young computer programmer, Khaled Said, is beaten to death by police after being arrested at a cybercafé. He will become Egypt's revolutionary icon after ghastly post-mortem photos



taken on his brother's phone are posted to Facebook.

NOVEMBER 28, 2010

Wikileaks releases a trove of U.S. diplomatic documents. Tunisian dissidents set up a website to publicize the cables that document repression by their government.



DECEMBER 17, 2010

Mohamed Bouazizi, a poor vegetable seller, sets himself on fire, triggering the Tunisian revolution.

DECEMBER 31, 2010

Lawyers assemble to protest in cities throughout Tunisia. They are attacked and beaten by security forces.

JANUARY 2, 2011

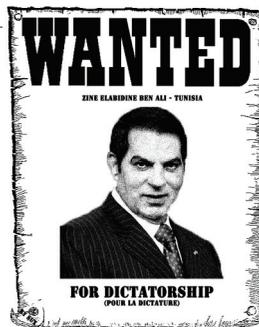
The hacking group Anonymous announces Operation Tunisia and begins targeting government websites with denial-of-service attacks.

JANUARY 6, 2011

Two weeks after attempting to hack into dissidents' accounts on social networks, Tunisian authorities arrest several prominent activists.

JANUARY 8, 2011

The regime intensifies its crackdown; over the next five days, dozens of people are killed in protests.



JANUARY 13, 2011

Ben Ali addresses the nation, expressing "very, very deep and massive regret" about the deaths. He offers to stand down in 2014.

JANUARY 14, 2011

A massive crowd in Tunis protests the government, forcing Ben Ali to flee to Saudi Arabia.

JANUARY 21, 2011

Inspired by the toppling of Tunisia's president, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan leads thousands of demonstrators in a march on Amman, demanding economic and political reforms from King Abdullah II.



JANUARY 25, 2011

Thousands take to the streets in Egypt to call for an end to the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. Over the following weeks, hundreds of thousands of protesters occupy Cairo's Tahrir Square, making it a symbol of revolution in Arab countries.

JANUARY 27, 2011

Over 10,000 protesters in impoverished Yemen march against the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Mubarak resigns after 18 days of protests against his regime.

FEBRUARY 12, 2011

Pro-democracy activists assemble in the Algerian capital to demand reforms from the government of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Demonstrations begin in Bahrain, calling for an end to the monarchy of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Large-scale protests against Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi begin. They quickly spread and intensify until the country plunges into civil war.

FEBRUARY 20, 2011

Using Facebook to organize, Moroccan activists stage protests demanding constitutional reforms to break the autocracy of King Mohammed.

MARCH 15, 2011

Simmering discontent with the Baathist regime of Bashar Assad boils over when Syrians hold a "day of rage" in Damascus and Aleppo.