



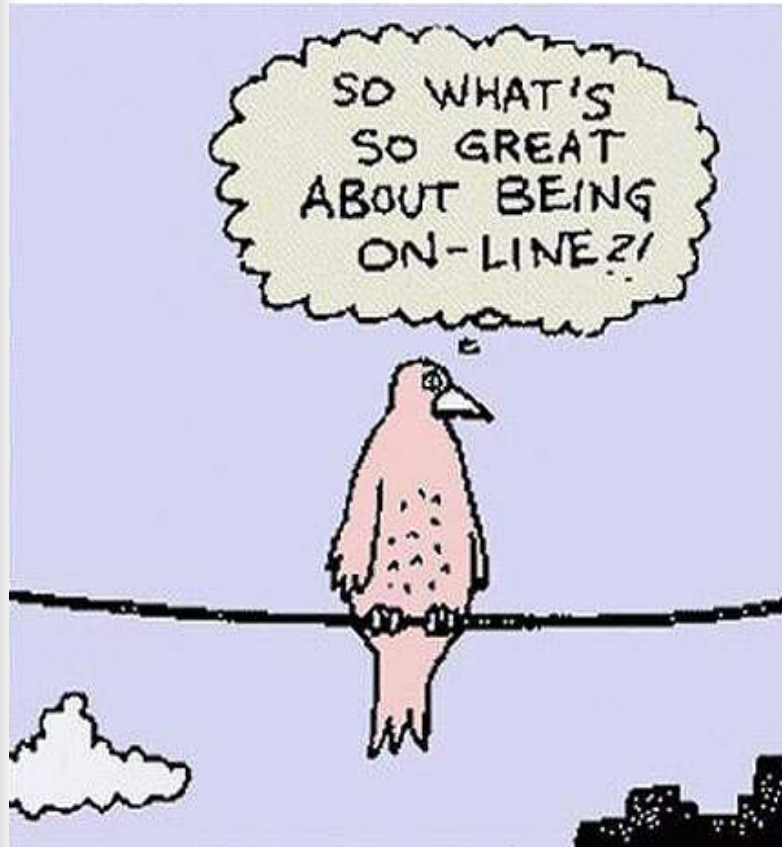
# New Media and “Revolutions” in the Arab World

# Anonymity

- The major flaw of social networking websites is allowing anonymity



# Young population



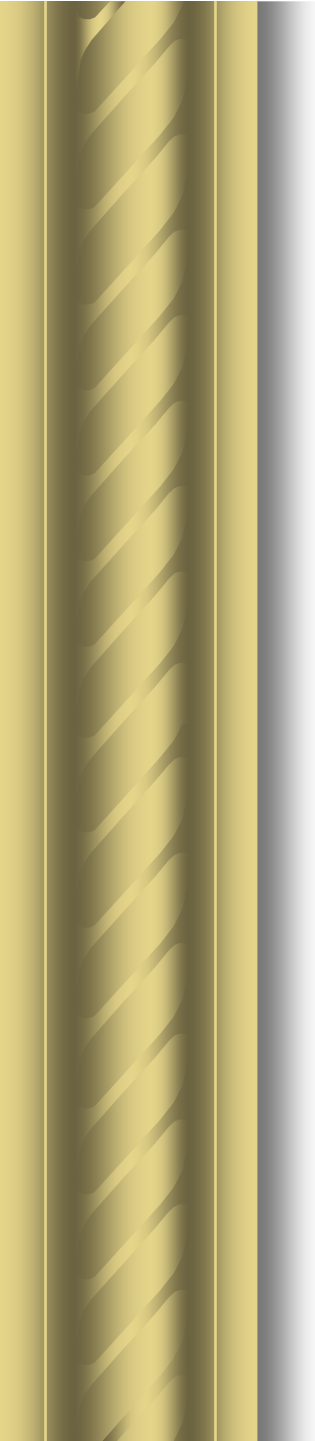
- **Youth under 25 years represent:**
  - 59.3% in Mauritania
  - 47.7% in Morocco
  - 47.5% in Algeria
  - 47.4% in Libya
  - 42.1% in Tunisia


- It should also be clear that most of arab youth live in a universal virtual world, where all civilizations, cultures and ethics interact, and where people hear the voices of the oppressed, disadvantaged and marginalized wherever they are

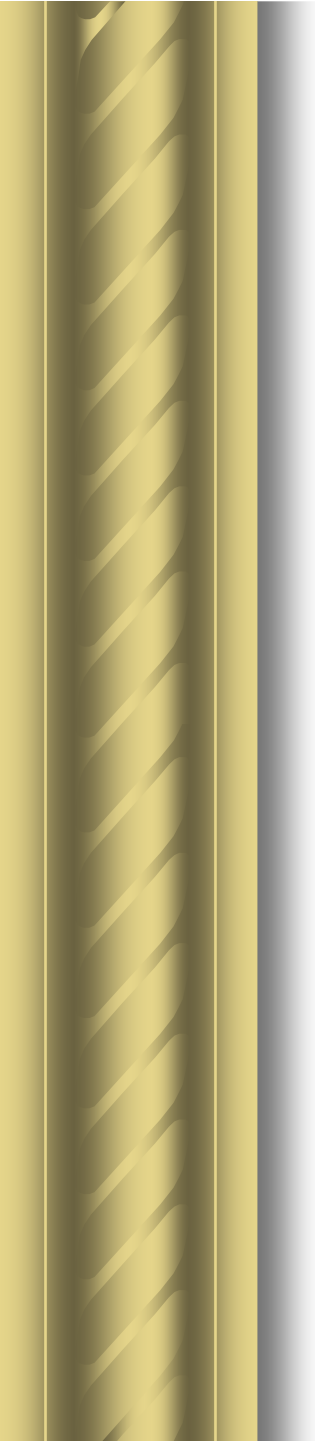


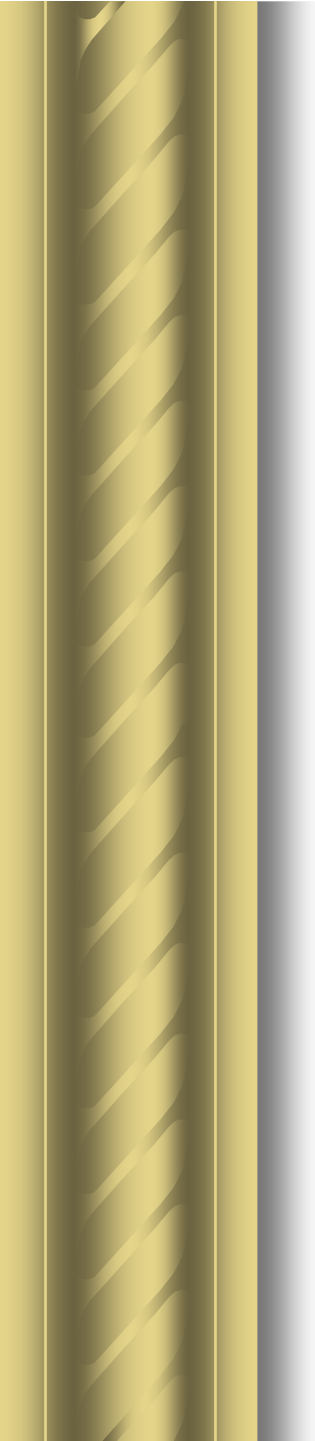


6/3/2011

- 
- Until recently, many people would say that the political options in the Arab world, were restricted to the corrupt autocracies (originated by military coups, or royal dynasties); „Islamic fundamentalisms“; or „al-Qaeda's terrorism“
  - Social media offer a universal space, free from repression, to express one's ideas and opposition
  - The opposition shifted from being silent to being loud at least in the virtual world; and ideological opposition became a mediological one, yielding a new awareness movement

- 
- Youth have a lot of tools at their disposal which earlier crusaders did not possess
  - internet has become a conduit for disseminating the idea of democracy
  - social networks helped some Arab countries to achieve what they could not for decades in just a few days or weeks

- 
- Social networking websites, (especially Facebook) replaced political parties, opinion leaders and social organizations, in terms of mobilizing people, organizing activities, and even designing slogans
  - Twitter was often the only channel for quick exchange of messages and ideas

- 
- Security officials demand that dissidents turn over their Facebook passwords and switch off the 3G mobile network at times, sharply limiting the ability of dissidents to upload videos of protests to YouTube
  - There are about 580,000 Facebook users in Syria, a 105 percent increase since the government lifted its four-year ban on Feb. 9



## Succession In Tunisia: Finding A Successor Or Feet First? February 2nd, 2011

ID: 06TUNIS55

Created: 2006-01-09 15:03

Classification: SECRET

Origin: Embassy Tunis

S E C R E T TUNIS 000055

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG - LAWRENCE AND INR PARIS FOR ZEYALONDON FOR ISOUE.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2016

TAGS: PGOV PREL TS

SUBJECT: SUCCESSION IN TUNISIA: FINDING A SUCCESSOR OR FEET FIRST?

REF: A. 05 TUNIS 2265 B. 05 TUNIS 2148

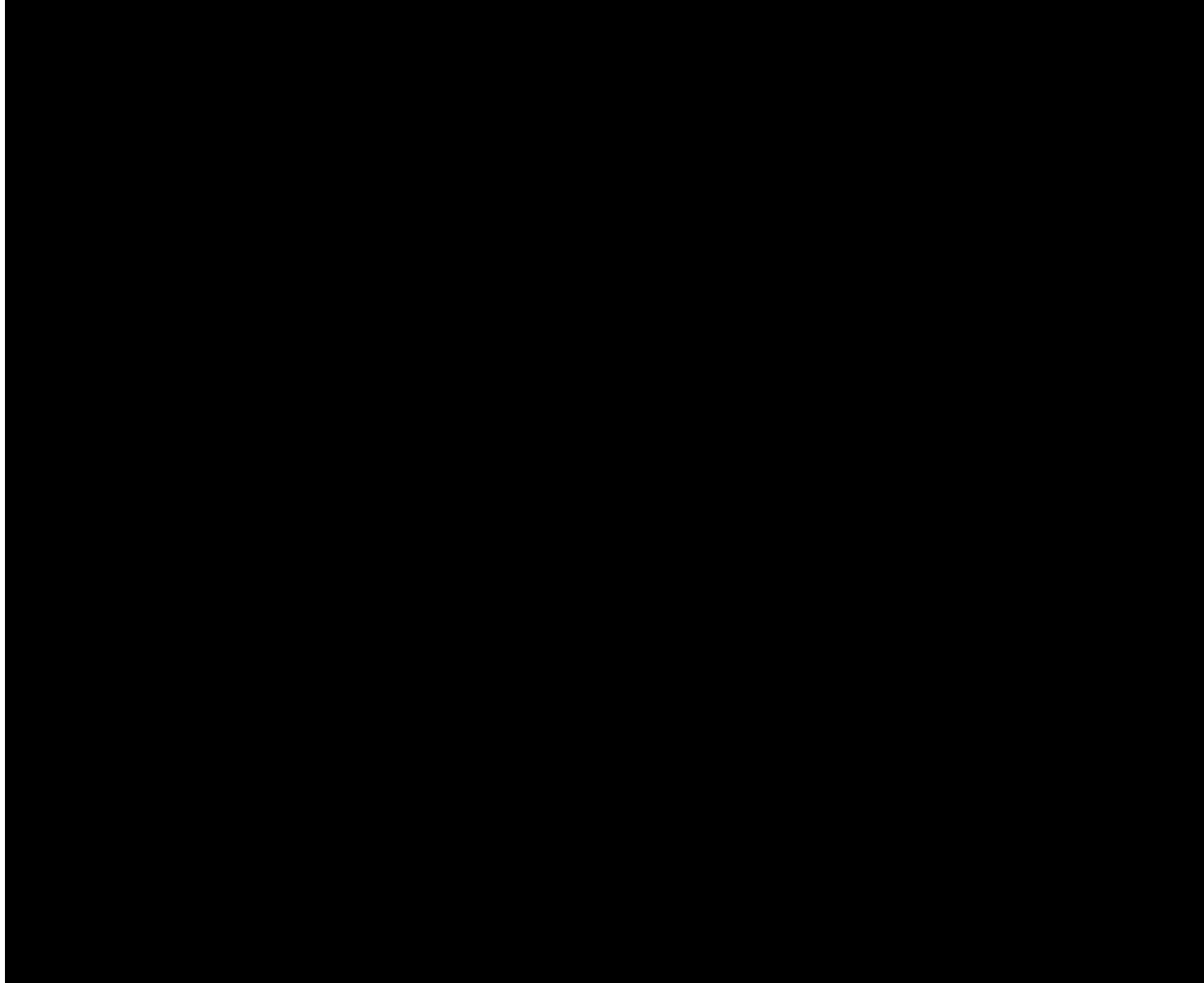
Classified By: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM HUDSON FOR REASONS 1.5 (b) AND (d)

1. (S) SUMMARY: In a country that has had only one president for over eighteen years, suddenly and unusually, talk of the post-Ben Ali era is growing. Several senior and well-connected individuals have recently raised Ben Ali's intentions for the future with Ambassador and other embassy officials. On the heels of Ben Ali's recent illness (Ref A) and a new law providing for "former presidents" (Ref B), these discussions seem, on the surface, to be more relevant



### Recent Posts

- Succession In Tunisia: Finding A Successor Or Feet First?(541)
- Tunisian Criticizes Regime In Forthcoming Book; Shares Anecdote Of Ben Ali Corruption(1148)
- The Png'ing Of Suha Arafat: Many Rumors, Few Facts(984)
- Suha Arafat Acquires Tunisian Nationality(880)
- Corruption In Tunisia: WILLIAM HUDSON FOR REASONS 1.5 (b) AND (d)



6/3/2011

# Crime and Punishment

- Last Saturday Hosni Mubarak and two other officials were fined with 540 mil. Egyptian pounds (~100 mil. \$) for closing of mobile telephony and Internet connections in January.
- The court estimates this amount as the damage to business in Egypt (during demonstrations)