

# المنتدى التونسي للحقوق الاقتصادية و الاجتماعية

The Tunisian Forum for the Economic and Social Rights

## Press release

**December 18<sup>th</sup> 2011**



For the first time, the Tunisian civil society commemorates the International Day of Immigrants, which coincides with the day of publication of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families, ratified on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1990, and commemorated ever since 2000. Such Tunisian commemoration would not be possible without the event of our glorious revolution.

We sadly notice, however, that the situation of immigrants is worsening owing to the discriminatory policies which violate the basic rights of immigrants all over the world. Meanwhile, hundreds of Tunisian families are still awaiting a dim of hope to meet their offsprings.

Also, thousands of Tunisian immigrants are scattered all over European countries, besieged , harassed and working in very precarious conditions, living in such conditions where their minimum human rights are not guaranteed.

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Besides, many refugees fleeing the war in Libya have been hosted in our country, but living in horrible conditions, conditions that do not comply with the international standards of a decent life.

While commemorating this important event, **The Tunisian Social Forum for Economic and Social Rights** calls on the Transition Government to:

- Ratify the United Nations Conventions concerning immigrants.
- Follow a minimum of transparency concerning the process of negotiations with hosting countries.
- Amend the laws concerning immigration especially that of 3 February 2004, such law that does not guarantee the rights of immigrants.
- Demand that the National Constituency Assembly promulgate laws that protect immigrants 'rights, regardless of their legal conditions, nationalities or ethnic origins.
- Make sure that the forthcoming Tunisian Constitution guarantees the rights of refugees and complies with the International Conventions.

As for illegal immigrants who have landed in Europe in such catastrophic and inhuman conditions, the Forum calls on the Tunisian authorities to assume their full responsibilities and deal with them as Tunisian citizens who have rights that should be guaranteed and protected by their own government first.

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In fact, the forum suggests that an independent fact-finding committee be set up to find out about missing illegal immigrants. And, meanwhile we demand that the Tunisian government take full support of their families.

**Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux**

17, Avenue Habib Thameur, 1 er étage, 1001, Tunis.

Tél : 71 257 664 / Fax : 71 257 665 / Mail : [forum.tdes@gmail.com](mailto:forum.tdes@gmail.com)