

## **Maghreb at risk**

Social dynamics of Maghreb SF, meeting in Tunisia on occasion of 3rd Maghreb / Mashreq migration Forum, showed concern on political, economic and social situation in the Maghreb.

One is led to note that governments coming out of elections after uprising movements that shook the region unevenly have not been up to the aspirations of the peoples, on the contrary.

1/ The social and economic situation worsened, due to neoliberal choices that have not been questioned;

2/ Unemployment and especially that of young graduates has worsened further

3/ Repressive and securitarian option has strengthened against the young Maghrebians who initiated and carried the hopes for the end of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes;

4/ Arms race and the flow of arms in Libya and the Sahel do not bode well for détente, peace process and stability in the region;

5/ The boundaries, particularly the Algerian-Moroccan border are more closed than ever and move towards a greater obstacle to freedom of movement and mobility of people and goods and undermine the aspirations of peoples to a united and solidary Maghreb

6/ Presidential elections in Algeria, control by force of an electoral process that could give new opening perspectives were again, through the violent repression of emerging forces, the reaffirmation of a choice to keep in place a military regime at odds with democracy;

7/ Repression affects emerging social and political movements, even in refugee camps in Tindouf, stifling any voice dissenting with undemocratic option;

8/ Libyan chaos does not bode good for the building of a democratic state in Libya and even less for a Maghreb integration process. The emergence of identity-based forces (tribal) and Islamist movements advocating and practicing violence, the emergence of new military actors in the race for power, the stockpiling of weapons in the country, the absence of a strong and legitimate state capable of ensuring citizens safety, all these are vectors of instability in the region and of armed violence exacerbation, reinforced by connections with terrorist groups in the Sahel;

9/ Situation of sub-Saharan migrants has become an inescapable fact in the region, despite the certainly courageous measures, unprecedented in the region, taken by the Moroccan government to regularize some undocumented, with limitations due to the conditions imposed by the Moroccan state, and to the will of a strong majority of sub-Saharans to travel to Europe, fatal destination where the tragedy of Lampedusa is just one episode in a long march in hell. This situation is all the more critical as it gives rise to racist and xenophobic attitudes and behavior, not only within the securitarian entities, but also within populations;

10/ The refugee situation is not better than that of sub-Saharans. Armed violence in Syria, Libya, Palestine, Iraq, sub-Saharan fleeing armed conflicts, have a definite impact on the Maghreb through the flow of refugees hoping to settle there or to make Maghreb a transit place, but remain blocked because of fortresses erected by the sophisticated security system put in place by Europe;

11. In this situation, groups armed or not, facing weak states, or with the connivance of governments in place, are trying to impose a new moral and political order, murdering democratic political leaders, calling for murder, invading social media, raping and terrorizing women;

12. Despite this offensive against the revolutionary spirit that inspired the Tunisian revolution, the February 20th movement in Morocco, democrats protests in Algeria, protest movements, demonstrations, sit-ins, hunger strikes, venue occupations, cultural creations (music, street theater ...) are becoming more numerous and reflect the commitment from the social movements and peoples of the region to establish real democracies in the region and remain fully committed to achieving the goals triggered by the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions - freedom, dignity and social justice;

Based on these observations, social movements call:

1 To strengthen the synergies of democratic social and political movements to address the conservative and undemocratic offensive.;

2/ to increase the pressure on states to advance the process of unification of the Maghreb by the establishment of mechanisms and platforms of unions, women, economic actors, advocates of human rights, with Maghrebian dimension;

3/ to further pressure for open borders and against all measures restricting freedom of movement.;

4/ to strengthen the dynamics started in 2006 towards Western Sahara conflict resolution giving substance, consistency and concreteness on the ground to IPSO, adopted in 2008 in El Jadida in Morocco;

5/ to launch campaigns against the use of violence as a means of conflict resolution and to fight for the removal of impunity for perpetrators of violent acts;

6/ to launch campaigns against the arming of the region and for the reinvestment of the military spending in development projects;

7. to launch campaigns for the improvement and broadening of Moroccan migrant regularization policy, and for the acceptance of the improved Moroccan example by other States of the Maghreb. This must be accompanied by awareness campaign but also legislative measures against racism and xenophobia;

It is in this climate and these political conditions that we call for a strong mobilization towards making the next World Social Forum in Tunisia a highlight:

- for consolidating the gains of the revolution;
- for a convergence of struggles to advance the integration of the Maghreb;
- for expansion of our work for peace, democracy and social justice in the Maghreb and Mashreq;
- To face the global neoliberal offensive and give together a new momentum to all movements that have exploded across the world;
- To consider and implement mechanisms for consultation, consensus and coordination in the autonomy and independence of social movements, to make concrete our aspirations for a united and democratic Maghreb, for another Mashreq of peace and shared prosperity, for another Mediterranean sea being source of life and solidarity and not a huge cemetery, for another world, and it is up to us to make it possible, despite strong resistances.