

Country: Republic of Tunisia

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Committee: SOCHUM

Agenda Items: Tackling Refugee Trafficking, Protecting the rights and freedoms of refugees in wars

The Republic of Tunisia is located in the Maghreb region of Africa, in the northernmost point of the continent. Tunisia used to be home to Berbers in the ancient past, later being colonized by Phoenicians in 12th century BC, of which Carthage emerged the most dominant by 7th century BC. Later on the Romans took control of Tunisia who occupied Tunisia for 800 years after. In 697 Tunisia was taken by Muslims until the Ottoman Empire established control of the country for 300 years. Tunisia later on became a colony of the French, which gained independence on March 20, 1956 and formed the Republic of Tunisia. Currently, Tunisia is a member of the UN (1956), La Francophonie (1970) and is a major non-NATO ally of the USA. Tunisia went through a turmoil named the Jasmine Revolution (happened between 2010 and 2011) which was caused by high unemployment, food inflation, corruption, poor living conditions and lack of political freedoms. Tunisia is a unitary semi-presidential representative democratic republic. Currently, Tunisia is divided into 24 governorates and its capital and largest city is Tunis. Its currency is Tunisian dinar which equals to 0,32 United States dollars. Tunisia has a population of 11 million, of which there are around 15,000 refugees and asylum seekers. The population of Tunisia is mostly of Berber origin (larger than 60%) and the official language of the country is Arabic.

The issue of human trafficking and protection of refugee rights is a big problem in the current state of the world and humans are being traded, sold and bought just like objects. The victims are mostly people who are forced to flee their homes and leave their environments. Victims of human trafficking suffer violence, abuse and exploitation; ending up in armed recruitment, work and forced marriages. Reasons like poverty, lack of education and absences of birth registrations lead to this international problem. Additionally, refugees experience lack of food, water, housing, education, employment, health care; also undergoing loss of communities and homes. It is estimated that there are 26.6 million refugees in the world and 68% of them originate from just five countries: Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar; with there being about 84 million forcibly displaced people in the world.

Refugees or asylum-seekers in Tunisia have rights not to be investigated for their irregular entry to the country, getting legal assistance and education, having protection against gender-based violence and a birth registration and they have the right not to be expelled to the country they came from. In 2020, the recorded number of refugees in the country was 2620, which is the highest recorded number of refugees after 2011 (the Jasmine Revolution).