

# FOUR MONTHS IN THE MAKING: TUNISIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT



April 9, 2020

After four months of political wrangling following October's parliamentary elections, Tunisia finally has a new government, led by Prime Minister Elyès Fakhfakh. The cabinet comprises a broad six-party coalition and several independent figures. This new government will face an unprecedented challenge from the COVID-19 pandemic, on top of continuing economic challenges and an ongoing democratic transition that is entering its ninth year (since the 2011 revolution).

## THE CABINET

### HEAD OF GOVERNMENT (PRIME MINISTER)

**ELYÈS FAKHFAKH**



As minister of finance from 2012 to 2014, Elyès Fakhfakh negotiated Tunisia's \$1.7 billion loan program with the International Monetary Fund. As a member of the center-left Ettakatol, Fakhfakh ran for president in 2019, but received just .34% of the vote. When nominated as prime minister, he gave up his party membership to satisfy concerns about his political independence.

### SOVEREIGN MINISTRIES

The sovereign ministries are ministries that serve a security or foreign policy function.



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**NOUREDDINE ERRAY**  
Independent



MINISTER OF JUSTICE

**THOURAYA JERIBI KHÉMIRI**  
Independent



MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR

**HICHEM MECHICHI**  
Independent



MINISTER OF DEFENSE

**IMED HAZGUI**  
Independent

## PARTY DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTRIES



**ENNAHDA**

Health  
Higher Education & Scientific Research  
Housing, Equipment, & Spatial Planning  
Local Affairs  
Transport  
Youth & Sports



**DEMOCRATIC CURRENT**

Education  
Public Service, Governance, & Anti-Corruption  
State Property & Land Affairs



**PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT**

Employment & Vocational Training  
Trade



**TAHYA TOUNES**

Environment  
Investment & International Cooperation



**NIDAA TOUNES**

Government & Parliamentary Relations



**TUNISIAN ALTERNATIVE**

Tourism & Handicrafts



**INDEPENDENTS**

Agriculture, Fisheries, & Water Resources  
Culture  
Energy, Mines, & Renewable Energy  
Finance  
Minister to the Head of Government responsible for Major Projects  
Industry  
Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society, & Human Rights  
Religious Affairs  
Social Affairs  
Technology  
Women, Family, & Children  
Assistant Minister of State for Foreign Affairs  
Assistant Minister of State for Water Resources

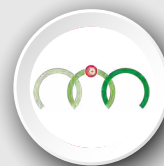
## MAIN OPPOSITION



**QALB TOUNES**



**FREE DESTOURIAN PARTY**



**AL KARAMA COALITION**

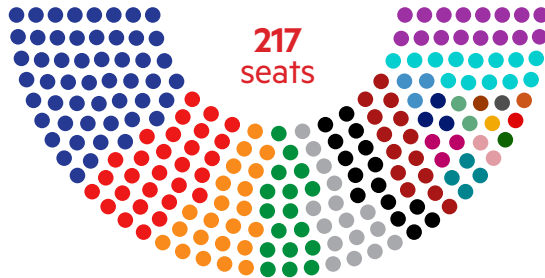
# THE PARLIAMENT

## SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT



**RACHED GHANNOUCHI**  
Ennahda party president

## PARTIES



**ENNAHDA (RENAISSANCE)** 52 seats

Self-described "Muslim democratic" party

**QALB TOUNES (HEART OF TUNISIA)** 29 seats

Populist nationalist party of former presidential candidate & media mogul Nabil Karoui

**ATTAYAR ADDIMOQRATI (DEMOCRATIC CURRENT)** 22 seats

Also referred to as Attayar, a social-democratic, pro-revolution party

**AL KARAMA (THE DIGNITY) COALITION** 17 seats

A far-right coalition of Islamists & conservatives

**FREE DESTOURIAN PARTY** 16 seats

Nationalist party composed mainly of former members of Ben Ali's RCD

**HARAKAT ECHAAB (PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT)** 15 seats

A socialist, secular, & nationalist party

**TAHYA TOUNES (LONG LIVE TUNISIA)** 14 seats

A modernist, centrist party focused on economic reforms

**MACHROU TOUNES (PROJECT TUNISIA)** 4 seats

A center-left secular party

**NIDAA TOUNES (CALL FOR TUNISIA)** 3 seats

A "big tent" party founded as a secular alternative to Ennahda; party of the late president Beji Caid Essebsi

**AL BADIL ETTOUNSI (TUNISIAN ALTERNATIVE)** 3 seats

Anti-establishment party focused on rebuilding trust between citizens & government

**REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S UNION** 3 seats

A populist center-right, protectionist party

**AFEK TOUNES (HORIZON OF TUNISIA)** 2 seats

A pro-business, center-right secular party

**ERRAHMA (THE MERCY PARTY)** 2 seats

Far-right Islamist party

**VOICE OF THE FARMERS** 1 seat

A party focused on agrarianism

**'ICH TOUNSI (LIVE TUNISIAN)** 1 seat

A notionally populist, privately funded "citizen movement" that shuns the "party" label

**CURRENT OF LOVE** 1 seat

A populist, center-right party

**SOCIALIST DESTOURIAN PARTY** 1 seat

A revamped version of the original secular nationalist party created by Habib Bourguiba

**SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION** 1 seat

A small, left-leaning coalition comprising five smaller parties

**POPULAR FRONT PARTY** 1 seat

Leftist, nationalist party that also supports market liberalization

**INDEPENDENT LISTS** 13 seats

**UNAFFILIATED** 16 seats

Elected to a party list but, no longer associated with that list

## VOTING BLOCS

While many parties demonstrate strong intraparty cohesion, some have members who caucus with other blocs. Similarly, while some independent members vote consistently with one party or bloc, others remain unaligned.

**ENNAHDA** [54 SEATS]

**ENNAHDA** [52 seats]  
**INDEPENDENTS** [2 seats]

**DEMOCRATIC BLOC** [40]

**DEMOCRATIC CURRENT** [22]  
**HARAKAT ECHAAB** [15]  
**VOICE OF THE FARMERS** [1]  
**POPULAR FRONT** [1]  
**INDEPENDENT** [1]

**QALB TOUNES** [29]

**AL KARAMA BLOC** [19]

**AL KARAMA COALITION** [17]  
**INDEPENDENT** [1]  
**UNAFFILIATED** [1]

**FREE DESTOURIAN PARTY** [16]

**NATIONAL REFORM BLOC** [16]

**MACHROU TOUNES** [4]  
**NIDAA TOUNES** [3]  
**AL BADIL ETTOUNSI** [3]  
**AFEK TOUNES** [2]  
**'ICH TOUNSI** [1]  
**INDEPENDENTS** [3]

**TAHYA TOUNES** [14]

**AL-MOSTAKBAL BLOC** [8]

**CURRENT OF LOVE** [1]  
**REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S UNION** [3]  
**SOCIALIST DESTOURIAN PARTY** [1]  
**INDEPENDENTS** [3]

**NON-ALIGNED** [21]