

TUNISIA'S 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: NEITHER FREE NOR FAIR



MEDC
Middle East
Democracy Center

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President Kais Saied secured a second term in Tunisia's October 6, 2024 election through a process marked by **numerous violations** of **democratic norms** and against the **backdrop** of widespread repression. MEDC monitored and **documented** these violations from the time the election date was announced at the beginning of July through the end of the election cycle in October, tracking how Saied—who has dismantled Tunisia's democracy since July 2021—further entrenched his power.

The Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) rejected the candidacies of **14 presidential hopefuls**, approving only **3 candidates**:

- **Kais Saied** (incumbant)
- **Zouhair Maghzaoui** (former parliamentarian)
- **Ayachi Zammel** (jailed on election-related charges)



39 violations against **70 individuals running for office or associated with campaigns**, including judicial harassment, arrests, and administrative stonewalling.



139 violations such as arbitrary arrests, denial of ballot access, and judicial harassment against **422 individuals**, including political opponents and public officials.

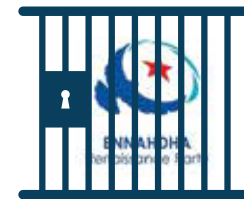


At least **11 presidential hopefuls** have faced criminal investigation, prosecution, arrest, and/or sentencing.



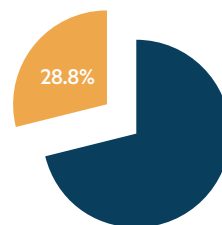
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152 members of Tunisia's largest opposition party, Ennahda, were arrested and interrogated by the antiterrorism unit just weeks ahead of the election.



37 violations of press freedom and freedom of expression were reported, including against journalists, media workers, and organizations.

There was **28.8% voter turnout**, the lowest turnout for a presidential election since the 2011 revolution.



After failing to implement the administrative **court's order** to reinstate 3 presidential candidates, ISIE declared that Saied won **90.7%** of the vote.

