

Greater Maghreb, May the 17th, 2016

Condemnation and denunciation statement

Stop the attack on Human Dignity

In the context of **the International day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**, and as Human Rights activists generally and LGBTQ (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender and Queer) rights activists specifically in the Region of North Africa, we address our speech to all Governments concerned and to International Organizations following the last decisions issued by the German Parliament concerning the “**Safe Country**” report regarding **Asylum Seekers from the Greater Maghreb** Countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria) without consideration of International Covenants and what they stipulate as to guaranteeing the **right to seek protection and Freedom of movement** that are clearly enshrined in **the Article 13 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights** which includes the principle of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

The German Parliament adopted on Friday, the 13th of May, 2016 a bill that sets out Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria as **Safe Countries of origin** and this would escalate the situation and complicate it furthermore for Asylum seekers. It also coincides with **granting the German Government the right to deport these Asylum seekers back to their countries** without giving them the right to appeal, especially that the rate of the recently accepted applications for Asylum is no more than 0.07% in the Greater Maghreb Countries, which is a matter that falls under a general policy that only focuses on complicating the procedures of visa applications.

Under this resolution, it is necessary to note that our countries know a lot of **violations of Human Rights and especially physical and sexual rights** and are thusly making a step backwards in respecting individual liberties and the freedom of speech.

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders and Queers are persecuted and are subjected to incriminatory laws based on sexual orientations and gender identities in the Greater Maghreb, and that is revealed in each of:

- **Articles 483 and 489 of the Moroccan Penal Code**
- **Articles 333 and 338 of the Algerian Penal Code**
- **Articles 226, 226 bis and 230 of the Tunisian Criminal Code**
- **Articles 407 and 408 of the Libyan Penal Code**

The existence of such laws contradicts the principle that our Greater Maghreb is safe, nay it perpetuates discrimination against this group and denies them the legal protection and the right to psychological and physical safety.

We also recall that the situation of Gay Libyan refugees in Tunisia is as bad as the situation of Gay Tunisians. And in case the criteria that were set out by the German authorities that stipulate that the deportation of Gay Asylum seekers to Tunisian soil is considered safe have been adopted, it would actually present a clear danger to their lives and that based on the aforementioned legal texts.

We there by **strongly denounce**, as activists defending Human Rights and Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Travesties and gender expression rights from **North African countries** (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Morocco), the Bill recently adopted by the German Parliament that **violates** the Human dignity by denying threatened individuals in their countries the right to seek Asylum and we demand that all authorities concerned retract it in order to preserve Dignity, Rights and Liberties.



Signing Associations:

Mawjoudin (We Exist) – Tunisia

Aswat (Voices) – Morocco

Alouen (Colors) – Algeria

Qazah (Rainbow) – Lybia