



High Commissioner for Human Rights  
UNOG-OHCHR  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

19 November 2007

**Written Submission by International PEN, the International Publisher's Association and World Press Freedom Committee to the Universal Periodic Review session to be held 7-18 April 2008**

**Tunisia – Adherence to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights**

International PEN, the International Publishers' Association and World Press Freedom Committee, all organisations with consultative status at ECOSOC, wish to contribute their opinions and those of the Tunisia Monitoring Group (TMG), a coalition of 16 organisations concerned for the promotion of freedom of expression, and of which both are members, to the consultation process regarding the adherence of the state of Tunisia to its human rights obligations and commitments that are central to its membership of the Human Rights Council.

In April 2007, the TMG issued a report, entitled *Freedom of Expression in Tunisia: The Siege Holds* which refers to serious breaches of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Tunisia, notably Article 19, during and following the World Summit on Information Society, hosted in Tunis in November 2005. These breaches include:

- detention of prisoners of opinion
- internet and book censorship
- restrictions on freedom of association
- reports of torture and police brutality
- interference in the judiciary

International PEN, the International Publishers' Association and World Press Freedom Committee wish to submit the report attached to this message, for consideration under the Universal Period Review.

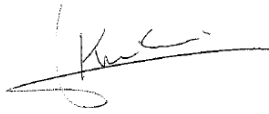
The TMG is happy to report that since publication, there has been positive news of the release of one of the persons referred to in the report, journalist and lawyer, Mohamed Abbou, although he remains under restriction. For details see further alerts attached. However, little else has changed and the concerns raised in this report remain as acute as ever.

Should there be any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Sara Whyatt  
Programme Director  
International PEN, Writers in Prison Committee



Alexis Krikorian  
Director, Freedom to Publish  
International Publisher's Association



E. Markham Bench  
Executive Director  
World Press Freedom Committee

**Members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange – Tunisia Monitoring Group**

Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRINFO), Egypt  
ARTICLE 19, United Kingdom  
Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE), Canada  
Cartoonists Rights Network (CRN), United States  
Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR), Egypt  
Index on Censorship, United Kingdom  
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Belgium  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Netherlands  
International Press Institute (IPI), Austria  
International Publishers' Association (IPA), Switzerland  
Journaliste en danger (JED), Democratic Republic of Congo  
Maharat Foundation, Lebanon  
Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Namibia  
Norwegian PEN, Norway  
World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), Canada  
World Association of Newspapers (WAN), France  
World Press Freedom Committee (WPFC), United States  
Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN (WiPC), United Kingdom