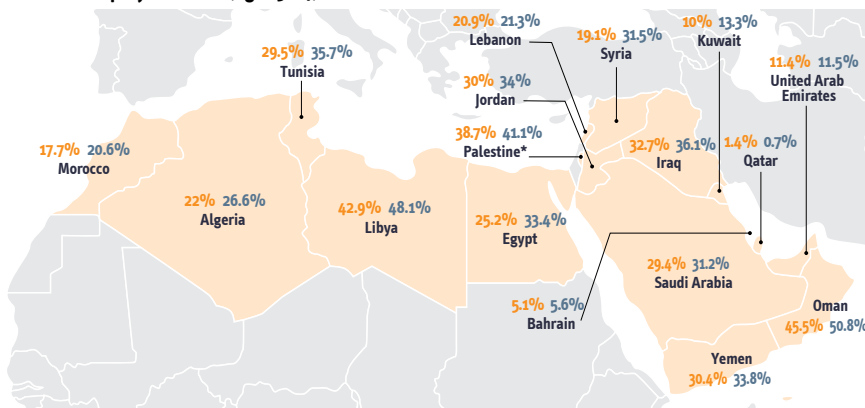


After the Arab Spring: what's changed?

When the Arab Spring occurred in 2011, many observers both in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe, saw the popular uprisings as a chance to enact region-wide reforms and advance towards more accountable, democratic and economically sustainable societies. However, today the overall picture in the region looks bleak: most of the main factors contributing to popular dissatisfaction – including repressive political landscapes, and high levels of violence and unemployment – are worsening to varying degrees.

How did the Arab Spring affect the MENA and its population?

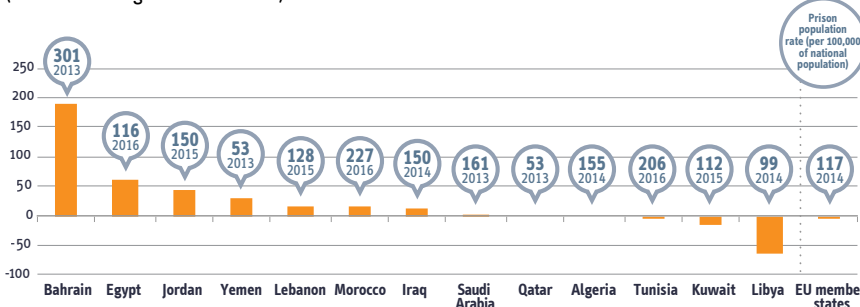
Youth unemployment rate (age 15-24) 2010 vs 2016



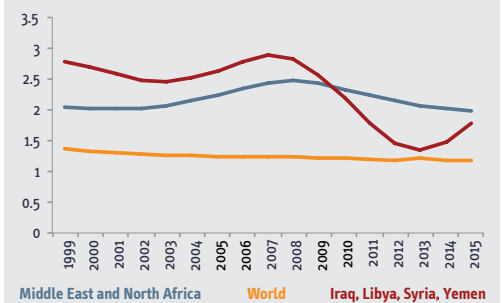
1/3 of the MENA's population (87 million people) live in four countries directly affected by war: Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Compared to 2010, youth unemployment in the MENA has risen by 7 percentage points, and remains the highest rate globally at 32%

At over 44%, female youth unemployment in the MENA is 18 percentage points higher than for male youths

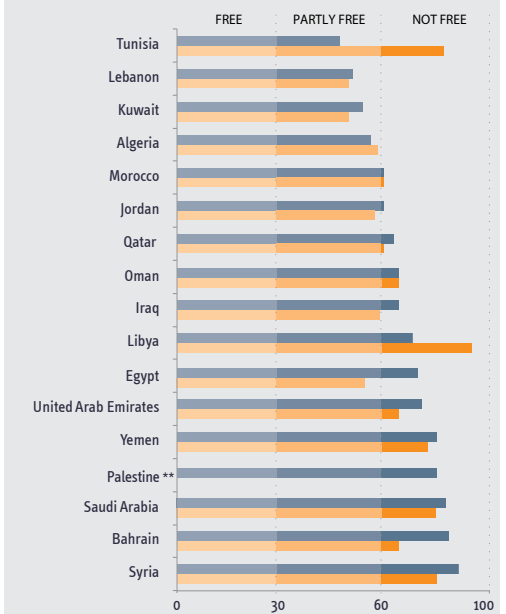
Prison population trends - change (%) in number of prisoners before and after the Arab Spring (based on average accessible data)



Population growth in the MENA (%)



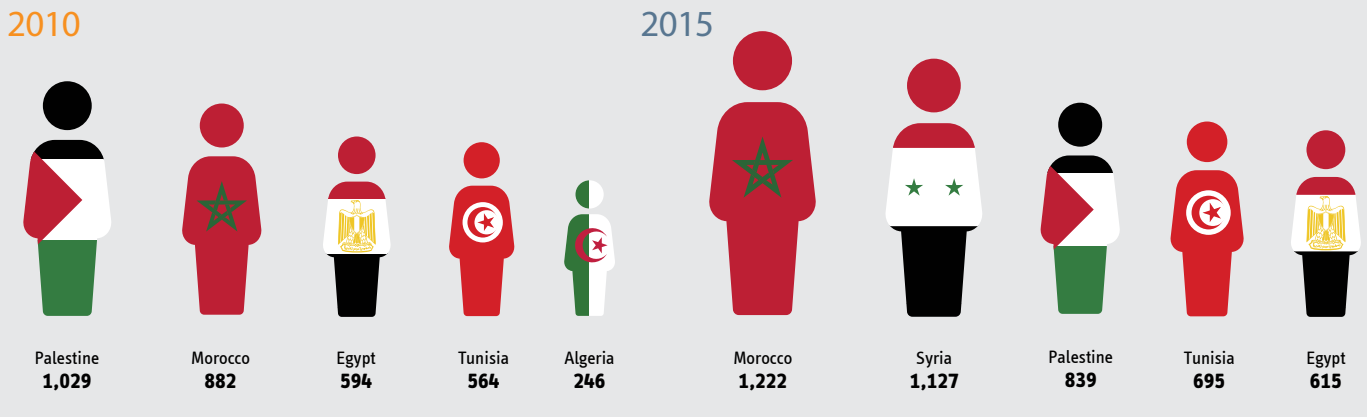
Freedom of press in the MENA 2010 vs 2016 (Freedom House score)



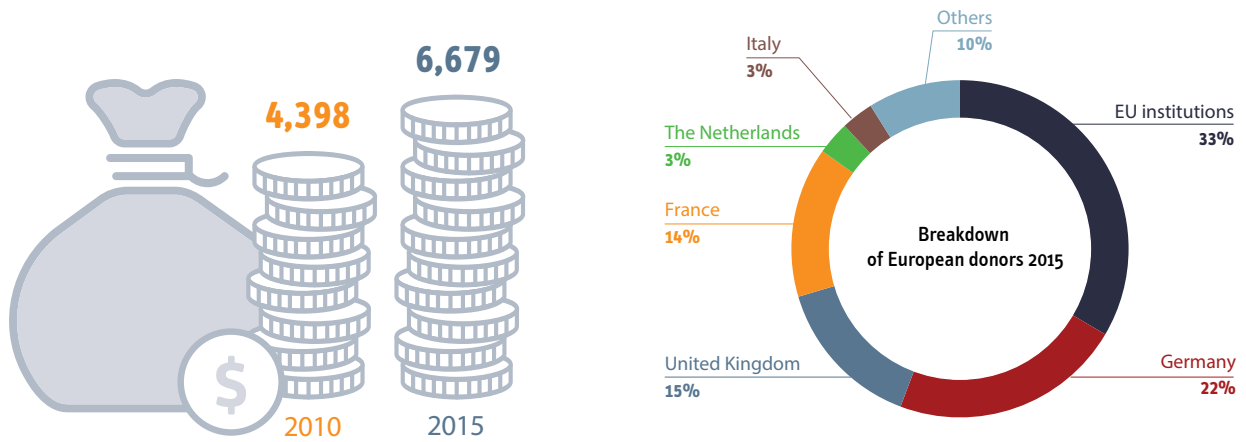
*This designation, found here and thereafter in this publication, shall not be construed as recognition of a state of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the member states on this issue. **No data available for 2010.

How did the Arab Spring impact European Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the MENA?

Five biggest recipients of European ODA in the MENA 2010 vs 2015 (current \$ millions)

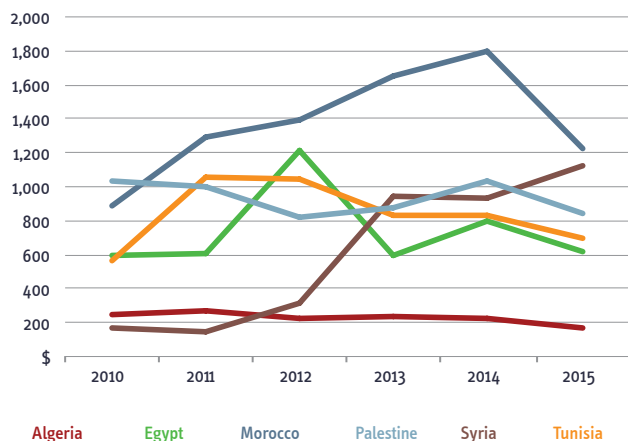


European Official Development Assistance to the MENA 2010 vs 2015 (current \$ millions)

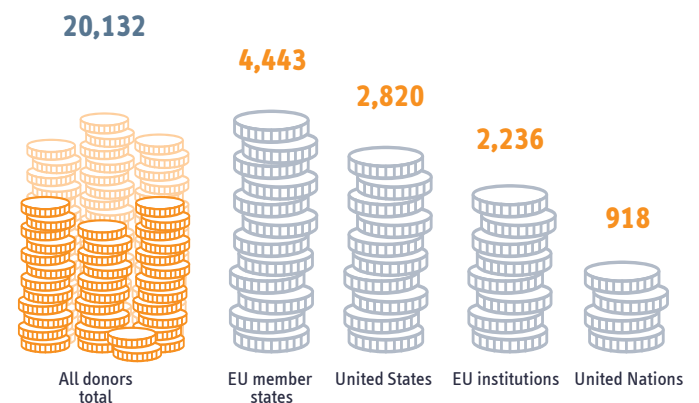


In the light of the Arab Spring, the European Union and its member states re-defined their priorities with regard to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the MENA. Combined, aid flows from the EU institutions and the member states have increased by 52%. European funding focused on addressing the most pressing humanitarian crisis (Syria), while continuing the extensive support provided to the countries neighbouring the EU. The Union and its member states collectively remain the biggest donor in the MENA, and account for one-third of all aid sent to the region.

Main recipients of European Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the MENA 2010 - 2015 (current \$ millions)



Breakdown of global ODA to the MENA in 2015 (current \$ millions)



1 The EU is the world's number one donor to the MENA

5 EU donors account for 86% of total EU member states' aid in the MENA

67% of European ODA to the MENA goes to five main recipients

Data sources: International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank, World Prison Brief of the International Centre for Prison Studies, Freedom House, Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD).

Compiled by: Julia Lisiecka, Junior Analyst at the EUISS.