

# Tunisia

## 2015 Country Summary

### Country Recommendations

Tunisia's GI ranking in Band D places it top of the league for the MENA region, but it is still classified as vulnerable to a "high risk" of corruption in the defence and security sector. Tunisia's highest risk area is Procurement (Band E), followed by Operations (Band E) and then Personnel, Political and Financial risks (Band D), though Tunisia still ranked joint top in the MENA region for these three indicators.

To reduce corruption risk and reduce state fragility, security sector reforms are urgently needed across the following areas:

#### **Further transparency and scrutiny in procurement and budgeting**

- While Tunisia is one of only two countries in the MENA region to actually publish a defence budget, the level of detail varies, with only general information on military acquisitions provided. The government could build on this transparency by including more detailed information on expenditure in the next published budget, to allow for effective civilian and parliamentary oversight and to help ensure that the budget is spent on arms and equipment that meet Tunisia's strategic needs. Formal provisions and two dedicated defence committees are a huge potential assets for ensuring independent scrutiny, but Tunisia's parliament must be guaranteed access to the information they require in order to be effective.

#### **Increase institutional oversight and accountability**

- Defence committees need adequate financial and human resources to carry out and coordinate their missions effectively. They should have the authority to scrutinise budgets and spending before and after it occurs, and the necessary powers to influence defence policy and strategic decisions.
- Weak institutional oversight combined with a lack of anti-corruption enforcement can enable those in positions of power to manipulate systems for personal benefit. All defence procurement requirements should be derived from an open, well-audited national defence and security strategy. To ensure public funds are appropriately spent, in addition to Parliament, Tunisia has three entities tasked with external auditing of expenditure: the Public Services General Control (presidency of Government), Finances General Control (Ministry of Finance) and the Court of Audit. However, only the Court of Audit publishes its findings, and these have not included defence in recent years. The publication of regular independent external audits, combined with clear evidence that issues are acted upon by the appropriate state

bodies, is essential for maintaining and increasing public confidence in these institutions.

### Engagement with the Public

- The Tunisian government completed a government review of the 2015 GI research, demonstrating a willingness to open dialogue with an international NGO on defence corruption issues. Tunisia has also shown good practice in the MENA region by protecting NGOs by law, publishing details of its activities on its website and holding media briefings. The government should build on these positive developments by holding regular media briefings to increase debate, and by encouraging further civil society interaction; this might include an official policy of engagement on the defence budget, policies and anti-corruption strategies. This would send a strong signal that the defence sector is there to serve the needs of the general population.

## Scorecard

Political	Defence & Security Policy	Legislative Scrutiny	2
		Defence Committee	2
		Defence Policy Debated	2
		CSO Engagement	2
		International AC Instruments	3
		Public Debate	2
		AC Policy	2
		AC Institutions	1
		Public Trust	3
		Risk Assessments	0
	Defence budgets	Acquisition Planning	1
		Budget Transparency & Detail	2
		Budget Scrutiny	1
		Budget Publicly Available	2
		Defence Income	1
		Internal Audit	1
		External Audit	1
	Other Political Areas	Natural Resources	4
		Organised Crime Links	2
		Organised Crime Policing	1
Intelligence Services Oversight		1	
Intelligence Services Recruitment		1	
Export Controls		0	
Finance	Asset Disposals	Asset Disposal Controls	1
		Asset Disposal Scrutiny	1
	Secret Budgets	Percentage Secret Spending	0
		Legislative Access to Information	1
		Secret Program Auditing	0
		Off-budget Spending in Law	4
		Off-budget Spending in Practice	
Information Classification	2		

	<b>Links to Business</b>	Mil. Owned Businesses Exist	4
		Mil. Owned Business Scrutiny	
		Unauthorised Private Enterprise	4
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	Public Commitment	1
		Measures for Corrupt Personnel	2
		Whistleblowing	0
		Special Attention to Sensitive Personnel	1
	<b>Payroll and Recruitment</b>	Numbers of Personnel Known	2
		Pay Rates Openly Published	2
		Well-established Payment System	3
		Objective Appointments	2
		Objective Promotions	1
	<b>Conscription</b>	Bribery to Avoid Compulsory Conscription	1
		Bribery for Preferred Postings	1
	<b>Salary Chain</b>	Ghost Soldiers	3
		Chains of Command and Payment	4
	<b>Values, Standards, Other</b>	Code of Conduct Coverage	2
Code of Conduct Breaches Addressed		1	
AC Training		1	
Prosecution Outcomes Transparent		1	
Facilitation Payments		2	
<b>Operations</b>	<b>Controls in the Field</b>	Military Doctrine	0
		Operational Training	0
		AC Monitoring	1
		Controls on Contracting	0
		Private Military Contractors	4
<b>Procurement</b>	<b>Government Policy</b>	Legislation	1
		Transparent Procurement Cycle	1
		Oversight Mechanisms	2
		Purchases Disclosed	1
		Standards Expected of Companies	1
	<b>Capability Gap</b>	Strategy Drives Requirements	1
		Requirements Quantified	0
	<b>Tendering</b>	Open Competition v. Single-Sourcing	1
		Tender Board Controls	1
		Anti-Collusion Controls	1
	<b>Contract Delivery / Support</b>	Procurement Staff Training	1
		Complaint Mechanisms for Firms	2
		Sanctions for Corruption	1
	<b>Offsets</b>	Due Diligence	0
		Transparency	0
		Competition Regulation	0
	<b>Other</b>	Controls of Agents	0
Transparency of Financing Packages		0	
Subsidiaries / Sub-Contractors		0	
Political Influence		2	