

Arab leaders keep a wary eye on Tunisia

Arab leaders are expected to implement a proposed \$2 billion programme to revamp their faltering economies as fears of protests like those in Tunisia add urgency to the need to alleviate poverty across the region



King Mohammed VI (*In power since 1999*).

Has overseen some economic and social liberalisation, but still retains sweeping powers



Pres. Abdelaziz Bouteflika (*1999*).

Parliament seen as rubber-stamp body, with power concentrated in presidency. State of emergency in place since 1992



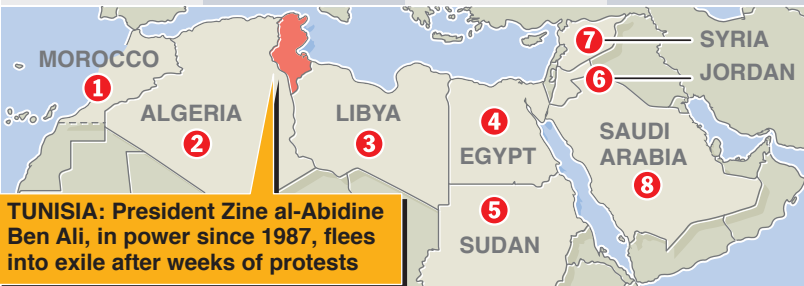
Colonel Muammar Gaddafi (*1969*).

Presides over system of "people's congresses" but in practice he rules unopposed



President Hosni Mubarak (*1981*).

Sole opposition group with broad public support, **Muslim Brotherhood**, tolerated but officially banned



TUNISIA: President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, in power since 1987, flees into exile after weeks of protests



President Omar al-Bashir (*1989*).

Seized power in military coup, rules with iron fist. Wanted on charges of war crimes in Darfur



King Abdullah II (*1999*).

Blueprint for long-term political, economic and social change has yet to be implemented



President Bashar al-Assad (*2000*).

Granting of real political freedoms and shake-up of state-dominated economy have not yet materialised



King Abdullah (*2005*).

Al Saud dynasty holds monopoly of power, political parties are banned and opposition is suppressed