

Tunisia votes in first election of Arab Spring

Tunisians head to the polls to vote in the first elections since the January revolution that sparked protests across the

Arab world. Around 110 parties are contesting 218 seats in an assembly that will draft a new constitution ahead of parliamentary and presidential elections



Ennahdha

(The Renaissance)

Islamist party banned under **President Ben Ali**. Well funded, with strong support in poorest areas. Best-organised

political force and expected to win largest number of seats

▲ **Rached Ghannouchi**: Recently returned from 20 years in exile in UK, promises to respect democracy and to protect Tunisian women's rights



Ettakatol

Social democratic party is direct challenger to PDP. Legal but oppressed under Ben Ali. Willing to form coalitions with other democratic parties

▲ **Mustafa Ben Jaafar**: Served as health minister in post-revolution caretaker government but stood down in protest over elements of old regime remaining in power



Progressive Democratic Party

Legal but oppressed during Ben Ali's regime. Best established secular party. Social democratic PDP is well funded

and has support of business community

▲ **Naguib Chebbi**: Tunisia's regional development minister since January. Banned from running for president in 2009, could stand in future elections

Congress for the Republic

Centrist party led by human rights activist **Moncef Marzouki** ▶



Modernist Democratic Pole

Coalition led by **Ettajdid** – centre-left party headed by **Ahmed Brahim** ▶



El Watan and L'Intiative

Parties led by former key figures from old regime