

# Rachid Ghannouchi



■ **Jun 22, 1941:** Born in El Hamma, Qabis province, Tunisia

■ **Education:** Philosophy degree from university of Damascus. Spends a year at Sorbonne, Paris

■ **Politics:** Joins European Socialist Party at university – later adopts more religious viewpoint

■ **1981, Apr:** Establishes *Ennahda* (Renaissance) party

■ **Jul:** Sentenced to 11 years in jail. Released in 1984

■ **1987:** Rearrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. Released 1988, moves to Europe as political exile

■ **1989:** President Ben Ali allows Ennahda to take part in elections. They come second to ruling party. Shocked by Ennahda's popularity, Ben Ali bans movement

■ **1991/98:** Ghannouchi sentenced in his absence to two life sentences

■ **2011, Jan:** Returns to Tunisia after Ben Ali is ousted from office

■ **Oct:** Ennahda claims victory in first free elections of "Arab Spring"