

# Four years after the Arab Spring uprising



**ISIA**  
Self-immolation of fruit vendor **Mohamed Bouazizi** on Dec 17, 2010 ignited successful revolt against **Zine El Abidine Ben Ali** that in turn launched Arab Spring. Tunisia has since held two parliamentary elections and approved new constitution called most progressive in Arab world



*The hope for democratic change that swept the Arab world four years ago is today mainly confined to Tunisia*

**EGYPT**  
Has seen rocky transition after ousting of longtime dictator **Hosni Mubarak** in 2011. Military coup led by **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** deposed president **Mohammed Morsi** in 2013. Critics say el-Sisi's rule is more oppressive than that of Mubarak, who could soon be freed from prison

**LIBYA**  
Protests rapidly escalated into NATO-backed revolt that led to ousting and death of **Muammar Gaddafi** in 2011, but country has been left in chaos. Today, Islamist-led authorities convene in capital, Tripoli, while internationally-recognised government is confined to far east of country

**BAHRAIN**  
More than 60 people believed to have died since Feb 2011 in Shiite protests against Sunni minority rule. Up to 3,000 people remain in jail. National dialogue talks have so far failed

**YEMEN**  
2011 revolt against rule of **Ali Abdullah Saleh** has resulted in chaos – Shiite rebels have overrun capital, Saleh remains strong, and al-Qaeda's local affiliate has stepped up attacks

**IRAQ**  
2011 protests caused Prime Minister **Nouri al-Maliki** to pledge that he would not seek third term in 2014. He later reneged on promise, but was forced out in Aug 2014 after capture of much of northern and western Iraq by Islamic State group

**SYRIA**  
Crackdown by government of **Bashar al-Assad** on Arab Spring protests in Mar 2011 drove opposition to take up arms. Over 200,000 people have been killed in resulting civil war, and one-third of country is controlled by Islamic State

**MOROCCO**  
Little progress has been achieved in implementing constitutional changes aimed at expanding democracy, and human rights groups have even reported reversal of some freedoms gained following mass protests in 2011

**GULF STATES:** Collectively pledged more than \$160bn in 2011 to appease public while cracking down on activists. Billions of dollars given in aid to Libyan and Syrian rebel groups, and to Egypt's military-backed government. Qatar spent billions of dollars propping up Islamists across region