

# U.S. GOVERNMENT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA



*For a Better Future*

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## Inside this issue:

- Donation of equipment to the Ministry of Interior* **2**
- New Scholarships and Educational Exchange Programs* **2**
- Security Governance Initiative between U.S. and 6 African Partners* **2**
- Tunisian MEPI-funded Elections Grants* **3**
- U.S. Government Economic Partners Meeting* **3**
- The Middle East Partnership Initiative supports Rural Women in the South of Tunisia* **3**
- Announcements* **4**

## Donation of Patrol Boats to the Tunisian Navy

U.S. Ambassador Jake Wallis, the Minister of Defense Ghazi Jeribi, and Vice Admiral Mohamed Khamassi, attended a ceremony to present two new 44-foot patrol boats, valued at over two million dollars, as a donation to the Tunisian Navy to boost the country's maritime security and ability to combat terrorism.

These two vessels will enable Tunisia to better secure its exclusive economic zone and guarantee the efficiency of maritime traffic.

The U.S. government subsequently provided seven additional 25-foot patrol boats to Tunisia.

The U.S. and Tunisia share the common goal of improving the Tunisian armed forces' capacity to combat terrorism, and the

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) is developing a number of methods to help the Tunisian military achieve this end by sharing information, ex-

hance the Tunisian military's capacity to provide security to its citizens and safeguard the country for the upcoming elections. The U.S. govern-



Ambassador Jake Wallis presenting the new vessels donation to the Tunisian Navy

panding training opportunities, and providing innovative equipment.

U.S. support for the Tunisian Navy, Army, and Air Force is designed to en-

ment is pleased to support Tunisia on its pathway toward a safe, democratic, and prosperous future.

## Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Taoufik Jelassi, and U.S. Ambassador, Jake Wallis, signed on August 15, 2014, an Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

This Agreement provides a mechanism for critical research and development efforts that simplify scientific data and results exchange, protect intellectual property rights, and establish partnerships between official U.S. technical

agencies and their counterpart institutions internationally, as well as U.S. educational and research institutions.

## Donation of equipment to the Ministry of Interior

On August 14, 2014, at a ceremony gathering the U.S. Ambassador, Jake Walles, the Tunisian Minister of Interior, Lotfi Ben Jeddou, the Tunisian Minister for National Security, Ridha Sfar, and officials from the National Police and National Guard, the United States government donated over ten tons of personnel protective gear requested by the Tunisian Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa for the Ministry of Interior forces on the front line of the fight against terrorism.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Jake Walles said that *“The donation of this equipment demonstrates our strong commitment to support Tunisia’s fight against terrorism and our determination to help Tunisia succeed in its transi-*

*tion to democracy”*. He added that *“The body armor and personnel protective gear will help save the lives of Tunisia’s security officers and allow them to be even more effective in their efforts to dismantle the groups that are terrorizing*

*the Tunisian public...”*

The next step in the partnership between the two governments will support the Ministry of Interior *“modernize and professionalize its core functions including management and oversight of its human, material, and financial resources”* affirms the Ambassador Jake Walles.



Ambassador Jake Walles hands over new equipment for the security forces

## New Scholarships and Educational Exchange Programs

To support further exchange in the domain of science and technology pursuant to the new agreement on Science and Technology signed on August 15, 2014, Ambassador Walles also announced two new programs. The first is the new \$4.75 million Fulbright Tunisia Tech+ Scholars program that will send approximately 40 Tunisian graduate students to the U.S. to obtain master’s degrees in science,

technology and business fields. The second will make available \$800,000 to establish three new linkages between U.S. and Tunisian educational institutions in the fields of technological innovation and business devel-

opment. The \$5.5 million in funding for the two new educational programs has been approved by the Department of State and both programs will be officially launched following final approval from the U.S. Congress.

*\$4.75 million Fulbright Tunisia Tech+ Scholars program and \$800,000 to establish three new linkages between U.S. and Tunisian educational institutions in the fields of technological innovation and business development.*

## Security Governance Initiative between U.S. and 6 African Partners

On August 6, 2014 the U.S. President announced the Security Governance Initiative (SGI), a new endeavor between the United States and six African partners: Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia, that offers a comprehensive approach to improving security sector governance and capacity to address

threats. Each of the six countries has demonstrated partnership with the United States, expressed a desire to strengthen its security sector, and committed to the core elements of the initiative.

To execute the initiative and ensure maximum effectiveness of U.S. assistance, the United States

will form a dedicated SGI team to be housed at the Department of State with support from the Department of Defense, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security.

## Tunisian MEPI-funded Elections Grants

To support Tunisia's democratic transition, the United States provided grants to five Civil Society Organizations to conduct voter outreach and voter education activities during the upcoming elections, to fill the international community assistance gap.

On July 24, 2014, all five implementers attended a grants kick-off meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. MEPI Director Stephen Ibelli discussed the terms and conditions of the grant and all implementers left with a better understanding of the MEPI grant process and proper financial and management prior to the official grant start date.

On August 5, 2014, an Election Implementers meeting was held

in the U.S. Embassy in Tunis gathering Embassy Guests, Civil Society organizations, and MEPI partnering associations, to congratulate the five election implementers on the signing of their grants, and to thank them for

their efforts and collaboration throughout the grants negotiation process. As of August 1, 2014, the five projects are under implementation, and the Assistance Unit team is planning on regular monitoring and evaluation visits.



MEPI Director presenting the Terms and Conditions of the Grant to the five selected implementers

## U.S. Government Economic Partners Meeting

Political and Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy, Richard Michaels, together with the USAID Tunisia desk officer, John Crawford, NEA Tunisia Assistance Coordinator, Vanessa Brown, and the Assistance Unit team from the Political and Economic Section met with all the U.S. Government implementing partners in the Economic sector. The meeting

was an opportunity for them to update the embassy team about the work they are doing as well as sharing their respective success stories and challenges.

The meeting covered various aspects related to the economic situation in Tunisia, all partners agreed that the economic sector in Tunisia needs to be reformed, mainly the financial law.

One of the major remarks was about the importance of creating synergies and cooperation between all partners.



Group discussion

## The Middle East Partnership Initiative Supports Rural Women in the South of Tunisia

Through the MEPI funded "Investment Focused on Rural Women in Disadvantaged Areas" project, Women's Voice Association is developing and strengthening the capacity of 100 unemployed women to earn an income, as well as developing their knowledge of citizenship, leadership, entrepreneurship, women rights and democracy, by means of trainings

and workshops. During the Assistance Unit team's visit to the Governorate of Kebili, on August 27, 2014, rural women were very grateful to MEPI for having such an opportunity to gain new professional skills, and for supporting them to improve themselves socially and intellectually.



One of the women beneficiaries applying the techniques learned

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We'll be on the Web soon!

<http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/>

*Since the January 2011 revolution, the United States has provided approximately \$500 million to support Tunisia's transition, focusing on technical and financial assistance to Tunisia's economic growth, support for peace and stability, and support for civil society and democratic practices. The U.S. Government plans to allocate more than \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2014 funding, building on assistance programs initiated after the revolution.*

