

Call for Proposals

Advancing Freedom of Assembly in Tunisia

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) is pleased to invite proposals for new initiatives to protect the right to peaceful assembly in Tunisia. ICNL seeks to provide up to three grants to Tunisian civil society organizations to advance protections for the right to peaceful assembly at the national, governorate, or local level.

The ceiling for each subgrant is USD \$20,000. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and are due by April 1, 2023. All activities should be completed by January 31, 2024. For details and application instructions, please see below.

Background

ICNL works with governments, civil society organizations, and the international community in more than 100 countries to improve the legal environment for civic space, including the freedom of peaceful assembly. We believe that when people have the space to come together, positive, lasting change can be made. Learn more about our work and browse our research at www.icnl.org.

Protests have become a routine feature of Tunisia's fledgling democracy and an important venue for individuals to collectively voice concerns about pressing social, political, and economic issues. Yet recent months have seen growing threats to the right to peaceful assembly. Tunisian authorities have responded to protests with violence, dispersing protesters with batons, tear gas, and riot gear. Protesters have been arbitrarily detained. Activists who have merely written about protests have been arrested. Authorities have used curfews and protest bans to repress public gatherings under Tunisia's State of Emergency law, which has been continually renewed since 2015. In contravention of international standards, the 1969 law that governs public meetings, demonstrations, and other gatherings gives authorities broad discretion to ban an assembly, and individuals who participate in an unauthorized assembly may face significant time in prison.

ICNL is inviting proposals for activities to respond to these threats and advance the right to peaceful assembly in Tunisia. Illustrative activities could include:

- Advocacy campaigns for new or improved laws, regulations, policies and practices to protect the right to peaceful assembly in Tunisia;
- Development of new draft laws, regulations, or policies, or draft amendments to existing laws or policies to better enable individuals to exercise the right to assemble.
- Activities to improve implementation of existing laws, regulations, or policies affecting assembly rights;
- Trainings or other activities to build the capacity of civil society or government officials on the scope of the right to peaceful assembly;
- Dialogues and policy debates at the local, regional, or national level on priority topics related to assembly rights;
- Trainings for journalists on applicable standards regarding the right to peaceful assembly and best practices for members of the media to protect assembly rights; and
- Formation of civil society coalitions dedicated to supporting assembly rights.

Application Instructions

To apply for a grant, applicants must submit the following items in English or Arabic:

- Application Coversheet (see below);
- Proposal (see below);
- Resumes/CVs of leading project staff;
- Background of organizational expertise;
- Line-item budget between \$5,000-\$20,000 (please use the attached template)

Content of Proposal

In **five pages or less**, please describe your proposed activities. The proposal should include the following:

- Context;
- Goals and anticipated results;
- A description of your proposed project, including a description of proposed activities, outputs, and impact;
- Organizational capacity, including applicant's experience in working on legal reform, the right to peaceful assembly, other human rights or civic space related issues, and existing initiatives by the applicant.
- Where applicable, a plan for ensuring complementarity between the proposed project and existing initiatives;
- The proposed activity plan and timeline for the project; and
- Reasonable indicators to monitor the project's success.

Please also attach a line-item budget and budget narrative (which does not count toward the 5-page limit for the proposal).

Eligibility Requirements

This call for proposals is open to any non-profit or civil society organization based in Tunisia.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
 - Likelihood that the proposed project will help advance assembly rights in Tunisia;
 - Experience working on the freedom of assembly and expertise on the topic;
 - Quality of proposed project, including the innovativeness of the proposal, the proposed methodology/design, feasibility of the project (e.g. activities are targeted to achieve stated results, and anticipated results are realistic and attainable);
 - Sustainability of the proposed project beyond the grant period;
 - Proposed budget and apparent value for money; and
 - Inclusion of reasonable indicators to measure project success.
- Note: We cannot fund lobbying activities.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it, along with all required documents by email to mena@icnlalliance.org. Please ensure that the subject of your email is “Protecting Assembly Rights in Tunisia.”

Terms of Reference

All grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports during the grant period and a final report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements.

Deadline

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all grant funds are awarded. Applicants should submit their applications no later than April 1, 2023. Only shortlisted or selected candidates will be contacted.