



Freedom Online

6 & 7 September 2012, Nairobi

Joint Action for Free Expression on the Internet

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thinking about the past, The 23 years of Ben Ali dictatorship, The 15 years of the worst kind of net censorship and surveillance and all what Tunisian cyber dissidents have been advocating, it's with great emotion and honor, that I am standing here today, on behalf of the Tunisian Minister of Information and Communication Technologies, defending what millions of our netizens and I have believed in, that The Internet is freedom, a freedom that Tunisian, especially our youth, have pulled, sometimes, at a very high price!

We fought against the net censorship, we have objected to any backtracking, and tried to make the difference for our future democratic country, that is why we are proud that our efforts have resulted important achievements. Even if a lot of work and efforts are still required, Ammar404 is dead and today is a rebirth of the Internet in Tunisia.

Tunisia have come a long way since its first Arab spring revolution, making commitments regarding the revolution goals and initiated with 5 other countries the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution upholding the principle of freedom of speech and information on the Internet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this historic day I am especially thinking to all those who have defended the principle of Online Freedom, it's thanks to them that the change has happened.

Our dream of Internet freedom for Tunisia has now become a reality as I have the honor to announce that Tunisia has adopted The Online Freedom Declaration and consequently becomes the first country in the MENA region and third in Africa to integrate the Coalition, We are actually 18 countries defending netfreedom and we seek to have next year more members from Africa joining our efforts to make change.

This is truly important, but working on ensuring the net freedom is far from over, we must not stop here, we need to ensure safeguards in the new legislations and the upcoming challenge is to make sure that every Tunisian understands this commitment. That's why, on behalf of The Tunisian government, I am very pleased to invite you to hold the third edition of the Freedom Online Conference in Tunisia.

Thank you all for your attention, I am looking forward to welcoming you next year!

Moez Chakchouk

Nairobi, Sept 7th 2012