The Institut Français, the Department of History and the School of Public Policy and International Affairs cordially invite you to a discussion in the framework of the series

The Arab Spring - Reflections from the Arab World

The Tunisian Revolution – and After

A brief presentation by and open discussion with Lina Ben Mhenni, Tunisian blog activist

Chair: Nadia Al-Bagdadi, Head, History Department

Time & Venue: Friday, February 24, 4.30 p.m., Gellner room (CEU, Nador 9)

Lina Ben Mhenni (born May 22, 1983) is a Tunisian Internet activist, blogger and university linguistics teacher. In 2011, Mhenni was reported to have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions and activism during the Tunisian Revolution.

Mhenni has been awarded the Deutsche Welle International Blog Award and El Mundo’s International Journalism Prize. Mhenni’s blog, A Tunisian Girl, is written in Arabic, English and French. During the rule of former Tunisian President Ben Ali, Mhenni was one of the few bloggers to blog using her real name rather than adopting a pseudonym to protect her identity. Her blog, as well as her Facebook and Twitter accounts, were censored under the Ben Ali regime. Mhenni began posting photos and video of protests of those injured throughout Tunisia. In an effort to make the government responsible for its actions and to the people who were harmed in these uprisings, she visited local hospitals and took pictures of those harmed by police.

In January 2011, she covered the early weeks of the Tunisian Revolution from Sidi Bouzid Governorate in the interior of the country. Mhenni was the only blogger present in the interior cities of Kasserine and Regueb when government forces massacred and suppressed protesters in the region. Her reports and posts provided uncensored information to other Tunisian activists and the international media.

Since the Tunisian Revolution began, Mhenni has continued to play a prominent role amongst Tunisia's bloggers and democracy activists, speaking out against continuing corruption in the Tunisian regime, against the "double discourse" of Ennahda, and demanding the release of Alaa Abdel-Fatah upon his arrest in October 2011.