



Biographies of the participants ***(Ligue des Electriciennes Tunisiennes LET)***

The only female Presidential candidate in Tunisia

KALTHOUM KANNOU



Kalthoum Kannou is the only female candidate declared fit to compete in the presidential elections of November 2014. She is a judge and a former president of the Tunisian Association of Magistrates. Kalthoum, 55 year old, was known for her perseverance and insubordination about the repressive the regime of Ben Ali.

The activism of Kalthoum Kannou began in 1981 when she was 22 years old. She entered the law school and joined the General Union of Tunisian Students (UGET). In a media statement, Kannou said her candidacy is "a strong message to all Tunisians to demonstrate that Tunisian women can compete with men in positions of political decisions."

Biography highlights:

1959: Born in Tunis

1981: Entered the Law School

1989: Began her career in the judiciary

1999: Joined the Tunisian Association of Magistrates

2001: Appointed as Judge of the Court of Appeal of Tunis

2005: Becomes Secretary General of the Tunisian Association of Magistrates, mutated as judge in Kairouan after the "coup" against the association

2010: Mutation as judge in Tozeur

2011: Becomes president of the Tunisian Association of Magistrates

2012: Appointed as Judge of the Court of Cassation in Tunis

2013: Leaves the presidency of the Tunisian Association of Magistrates

2014: Presents herself to presidential elections

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Potential candidates for the municipal elections



Selima Ben Khedher

A Tunisian woman Lawyer. Selima holds a Master's degree in Legal Sciences from the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis.

Selima is also an auditor for the International Academy of Constitutional Law. She is board member of of the national board of the political party Nidaa Tunes in the constituency of Menzah 1. Selima is an active member in the League of Tunisian Women voters since August 2011.

She is a potential candidate for the coming municipality elections.

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Nejma Ben Khedher

She holds a Degree in Management in depth with honors since 2002.

Nejma is young Tunisian activist. She was the first accredited independent National Elections observer following the revolution. She an active member in several civil society associations including the League of Tunisian Women Voters. Nejma coordinates the implementation of several civil society projects such as conducting awareness campaign on political participation for women and youth. She is member of the National Tunisian Workers 'Union.

Nejma is a potential candidate for the coming municipality elections.

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Olfa Abdelmoula

Olfa holds a Master's degree in Accounting obtained. She's been working for 10 years in a leasing company where she held several positions such as: Head of Audit Department, head of organization and quality department, head of the finance department.

She is registered with the National Chamber of the union of entrepreneurs UTICA.

She is an active member of Ligue des Electriciennes Tunisiennes (LET). She acted as a National Observer in the legislative elections observing the electoral process from a gender point of view after being trained by LET and she is going to observe in the presidential elections as well. She is a potential candidate for the coming municipal elections.

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Sara Tardi

Sara is the founder and president of the association Hopes, Support and Solidarity. She is member of the executive board in charge of youth within the political party Nidaa Tunis in Menzel

She is an active member of Ligue des Electriciennes Tunisiennes

She is a potential candidate for the coming municipal elections.

She has been mentored by LET on Leadership and Effective political activism.

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Hela Boulares

Hela Boulares is a research office manager in charge of financial management studies. She joined the political party Nidaa Tounes upon its formation and is currently the coordinator of its local office in Carthage Birs, northern suburb of the capital Tunis.

She has been mentored by LET in effective political participation and is planning to run for municipal elections in her region.

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LET coordinators and representatives



Basma Soudani, a Tunisian woman activist, holds an MA degree in Linguistics and Women Studies, High Institute of Languages, Tunis.

She served in Euro- Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHERN) as Tunis Program Officer. She worked for three years in Tunis Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Regional Office, Tunisia as a Grant Manager Specialist. Basma was also was a linguistics Professor for twenty four years and she taught in several international and national institutes. Basma has a relevant volunteer civil society experience since 1997. In 2011 she founded the NGO, the League of Tunisian Women Voters “Ligue des Electrices Tunisiennes” (LET) and is acting as its president. The league aims to Political and public Women Employment under the prism of gender equality and especially, to strengthen women participation of in the electoral process as a candidate, a observer and a voter in order to make them more active in their community on a regional, national and international level. As a founder and president of the association, Basma drafts project proposals, and sets short and long-term objectives for the NGO. She has built and maintained local, national and international networks with human rights NGO’s; distributing information on training and development opportunities for Tunisian activists. In 2011 Basma Co-Founded “Third Voice” Tunisian Civil Society Salon where she helped organize a post revolution open forum for exchanging views on the “new Tunisia”; weekly meetings where political parties, government officials, human rights organizations, and media figures discuss their political vision with interested members of civil society. She participated in several national and international Conferences as a guest speaker, lecturer and/or participant.

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Najla Abbes, Project coordinator (LET)

Najla Abbes has a Master's degree in English Literature from The Higher Institute of Languages in Tunisia. She was a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant at Pfeiffer University, North Carolina from 2007 to 2008.

Najla is the co-founder and program coordinator of the League of Tunisian Women Voters (LET). The league aims to improve Tunisian women's ability to participate effectively in public affairs, especially in politics and electoral practices, as voters and candidates based on the principles of human rights and social gender. As a program coordinator, Najla developed project proposals on women empowerment strategies and helped to implement an exchange program between Tunisian female potential candidates for the elections and Danish female MPs. Following the revolution, Najla was invited to deliver presentations and present papers on women's activism and political participation in different international conferences, workshops and seminars. She was recently elected the Chairwoman of Mediterranean Civil Society and Women in Leadership Conference in Sarajevo.

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