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USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supported training for prominent Tunisian bloggers following the assassination of an opposition leader.



USAID/Tunisia

Bloggers from Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, and Gafsa meet to share experiences and create a network of bloggers in the interior of Tunisia.

"This was an important event to create links between those of us who want to write about events in our country in a responsible way and convince people to consume media from responsible sources."

-- Sidi Bouzid,
Youth Blogger

Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
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Bloggers Train Bloggers in Tunisia

February 2013 – Bloggers in Tunisia played a critical role in spreading news, ideas, information and accounts of human rights violations preceding the Tunisian Revolution and continued to be active with information dissemination following the revolution. USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) partnered with a Kasserine based civil society organization, Andalous Institution for Tolerance and Anti-violence, to support a meeting for the most prominent bloggers from the interior of Tunisia. Twenty-four bloggers, including five women, from Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa, and Kasserine participated in a two day workshop designed to help bloggers share experiences about blogging in their respective communities and learn how to be constructive players in the media and information landscape in Tunisia. The bloggers received technical and editorial training from nationally renowned bloggers based in Tunis and Sfax.

The timing of the meeting was critical as it occurred immediately following the assassination of a prominent opposition leader. The participants spoke at length about the ethics and responsibilities associated with social media and created a charter designed to hold the social bloggers accountable to one another for ethically sound and properly sourced material on their respective blogs. Additionally, the bloggers created a Facebook group to develop a network of bloggers reporting on social and political issues in the Interior of Tunisia.

Hussein, a blogger from Sfax said, "I really cannot find words to describe my feelings when I look at the brilliant bloggers around the same table. This has motivated me to develop a code of ethics and draft a book with these ethics to share for free online."

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