





A model to follow

Conference paper by Oula Ben Nejma

Civil society is composed of associations, organizations, syndicates and various clubs, different unions as well as leagues and forums (among them scientific, political, humanitarian, economic, philanthropic, cultural, artistic, religious, commercial, hygiene, environmental...). The latters enable their members to execute their ideas, visions, projects, views and goals. These include an effective contribution in the process of promoting their own country, as well as directing society, supervising decisions-makers, spreading the notion of human rights, preventing armed conflicts to solve problems and spreading the culture of dialogue. And eventually contributing to the welfare of nation's peace, which provide a convenient ground for investment. Thus its economy will grow and unemployment decline and social equality spread.

In order to accomplish its goals, civil society requires logistical and financial support from funders such as donor nations, international organizations or businessmen. Those donors are the very persons or institutions that enable civil society to activate and continue the process of motivating and giving.

The major value of civil society lies mainly in the social and ethic value, which derives from its activities, and as such from its effective participation in the cultural, social as well as political life. We shall not forget defending democracy and human rights and spreading the culture of citizenship and the supremacy of law with its several meanings of equality, freedom, justice and cooperation.

The financial support of civil society enables to achieve economic effectiveness within and between the countries – especially as we are witnessing the era of globalization, multi-national companies and regional unions - to eliminate the differences between nations and promote investment and welfare to the degree that people may call it the third economic sector (Apart from the private and public sector). That is for the added value, which is achieved in an economy, for instance recruiting many people and saving them from unemployment and potential delinquency or intellectual extremism or migration.

- Founding promotional projects, which would provide a living for those people.
- Creating devices for different counties to solve their financial problems.
- Enabling needy people to get some gifts that ensure a respectable life standard

Yet investigation should be done to ensure that this support is directed in the right path and not to be used in illegitimate goals like supporting terrorism or supporting one political party against other.

Concerning the example of the »Dignity and Truth Commission« of which I am member, it is indeed an institution different from others. It has a moral identity and administrative and financial independence. It is in charge of the process of transitional justice in Tunisia which deals with the comprehension of the human rights violations of the past (from the beginning of July 1955 to 31 December 2013) to reveal the truth and counsel on accountability and punishment of the responsible people, as well as addressing the victims' needs, restoring their dignity and self-esteem. Thus national reconciliation and collective memory ensure that those abuses will never be repeated in order to move from the stage of tyranny to a democratic system contributing to the process of establishing human rights.

This national mission requires a lot of financial and moral support to achieve the success of democratic transition and social peace in Tunisia. It is therefore a model to follow by Arabic nations or another countries witnessing huge political changes.

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