



COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS

330 7th Avenue, 11th Fl., New York, NY 10001 USA Phone: (212) 465-1004 Fax: (212) 465-9568 Web: www.cpj.org E-Mail: info@cpj.org

November 17, 2008

Tarek Ben Youssef
Chargé d'Affaires
Embassy of Tunisia
1515 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 2005

Dear Mr. Ben Youssef,

Thank you for your November 10 letter in response to the Committee to Protect Journalists' special report, "The Smiling Oppressor," issued in September.

As noted in our report, we had asked to meet with Tunisian officials so we could hear your point of view during our mission to Tunisia in late June and early July. Regrettably, no one agreed to meet with us.

We appreciate your letter, although we found nothing that would change the findings of our report. The government's decisions in October to ban an issue of the weekly *Mouatinoun* and summon to court two journalists in connection with an article in the newspaper has further raised our concerns about press freedom under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

We remain open to meeting with Tunisian officials to discuss our concerns about press freedom in Tunisia. I am enclosing for your information our recently published magazine *Dangerous Assignments*.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joel Simon
CPJ Executive Director

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