

Protest



28 DEC 13:13 UTC Tunisia Tactical: Protest in solidarity with detained FSN leader slated in front of Tunis' Court of Appeal at 09:00 on December 29; maintain heightened vigilance

Current Situation:

- The National Salvation Front (FSN) announced that the "National Committee for the Support of Political Prisoner Ahmed Nejib Chebbi" has called for a gathering outside of the Court of Appeal on Tunis' Bab Bnet Street at 09:00 (local time) on December 29.
- The protest is being held to show solidarity with Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, the head of the National Salvation Front (FSN), to coincide with a hearing of his appeal against his prison sentence.



Source: National Salvation Front

Assessments & Forecast:

- 1. Ahmed Nejib Chebbi's <u>December 4</u> arrest and sentencing to 12 years in prison on charges of "conspiring against state security" has emerged as a key trigger for mobilization of the opposition in recent weeks. Given his prominence, Chebbi's detention is likely perceived as emblematic of the government's perceived clampdown on opposition.
- **2. FORECAST:** Based on precedent and Chebbi's influence, the slated demonstration is expected to draw a turnout in the high dozens to low hundreds. The gathering is expected to transpire peacefully, though a bolstered security presence is likely in the vicinity of the Court of Appeal. The heightened sentiment over the issue also increases the risk of unrest, including localized scuffles between protesters and security forces. Disruptions to travel can be anticipated along Bab Bnet Street and in the vicinity of the Court of Appeal during the morning hours on December 29.

Recommendations:

Those operating or residing in Tunis during the morning hours on December 29 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance and allot for travel disruptions near the Court of Appeal due to the slated demonstration and associated risk of localized unrest.