



Embassy of India
Tunis, Tunisia

PRESS RELEASE



'An evening of Tunisian culture' hosted by NGO Art and Democracy

Art and Democracy, a Tunisian NGO, organised an evening of Tunisian culture in a traditional Tunisian house in the Medina of Tunis on 24th February, 2014. Ambassador Mrs. Nagma M. Mallick was the Chief Guest at the ceremony at which were also present HE Mrs. Mehrzia Laabidi, Deputy Speaker of the National Constituent Assembly (NCA), HE Mr. Abdelkarim Harouni, former Minister for Transport, HE Mr. Habib Khedher, Rapporteur General of the NCA, several legislators of the NCA, some entrepreneurs and representatives of many other civil society organisations. Art and Democracy is an organisation devoted to promoting a better understanding of Tunisian culture and a greater awareness of democratic norms and traditions among the people of Tunisia.

The President of the association, Mr. Abderahmen Boukhari, began the proceedings with a short presentation on his NGO and of the projects that it had successfully implemented over the last 3 years. HE Mrs. Laabidi introduced many of the civil society organisations present there and explained their work in the context of grassroots democracy in the country. Many of the associations, drawn from diverse regions of Tunisia, made presentation about their own work, in different sectors such as promoting sports for disadvantaged children, promoting education in remote areas and fostering awareness of Tunisian culture. HE Mr. Harouni made a brief presentation on the democratic traditions practiced and developed since 2011 in Tunisia. Ambassador Nagma Mallick began her speech by congratulating the people of Tunisia and the NCA for their extraordinary achievement in adopting the Constitution; she expressed her admiration for the

work of civil society organisations and grass-roots organisations in Tunisia and concluded by presenting a brief overview of India-Tunisia bilateral relations.

Several well-known Tunisian songs, both traditional and revolutionary, were sung by a Tunisian musical troupe *Usool*, with the members of the audience joining in the singing. A delicious Tunisian meal was also served at the event, a confluence between culture, civil society and belief in democracy.

24th February, 2014

Tunis