Tunisia's political parties Islamic In the first elections of the Arab spring, An-Nahda Tunisia goes to the polls on 23 October Once outlawed and brutally repressed, with to choose an assembly that will rewrite imprisoned members tortured during the the country's constitution. After dictatorship of Ben Ali in the 1990s, the Islamist decades of despotism and one-party party is now tipped to take the largest share of the rule, around 110 political parties have vote. Well-funded, with strong grass roots in the poorest areas, it is the best organised political force. sprung up and scores of independents Its founder, Rachid Ghannouchi, who was exiled in **Islamist** are running. Nearly 11,000 candidates London for decades, describes the party as moderate, are to contest 218 seats parties tolerant, pro-democracy and keen to protect women's rights. Secular critics say it is an unknown Party alignment quantity and fear that once elected, hardliners could Islamist seek to enforce a more fundamentalist Islam on Tunisia's secular, civil society Environmentalist Centre Communist Liberal Centre-left Nationalist The Renaissance party Circle size indicates estimateed support for party (%) Small dots indicate minor parties (An-Nahda) 25% Two parties have been set up by former ministers from the regime and key figures from Ben Ali's now Ettakatol dissolved RCD party The centre-left Democratic Forum for Labour and Independent Liberties, known as Ettakatol, is a direct challenger El Watan, the Homeland was founded by Mohamed to the PDP and is vying for second place. Social **Democratic** Jegham, one-time interior minister and defence democrat, it existed as an opposition party under **Environmentalist** Alliance minister alongside Ahmed Friaa, Ben Ali's last Ben Ali but was marginalised. Its founder, Mustapha 3% interior minister in charge of police and security in parties Ben Jaafar, 70, a doctor, was barred from running for president in 2009. He briefly served as health the final days of the revolution minister in the post-revolution caretaker Centre The party L'Intiative was founded by Kamel government formed in January but swiftly stood parties Moriane, a former defence and foreign minister down in protest at elements of the old regime still under Ben Ali Homeland party (El Watan) The Party fo Initiative party (Al Moubadara) Free **Patriotic Union** (UPL) (MDS) **Ettakatol or** 3% Liberal **Democratic Forum for** parties **Socialist Afek Tounes Labour and Liberties** parties (FDTL) Centre-right Centre-left 14% parties parties The Progressive Democratic party **Congress For the Republic** Founded in 1983, the secular, centre-right party was part of the legal, but Legalised after the revolution, the CPR is oppressed, opposition during the Ben Ali regime. It is one of four main non-Islamist **Progressive** led by Moncef Marzouki, a well-known Congress parties modelled on European Social Democrats. The party is well-funded and has Tunisian human rights activist who was **Democratic party** the backing of the business community. The PDP is competing to take second place. for the previously exiled to Paris. The centrist CPR Its founder, Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, 67, was banned from running for president in (PDP) Republic is one of the main parties running 2009. After the revolution, he was quick to announce he wanted to run to lead the candidates in every district. Marzouki 16% (CPR) country and has served in Tunisia's post-revolution caretaker governments failed in a bid to run for the presidency under the regime, but announced on his return to Tunisia that he would like to run for president Modernist Democratic Pole (PDM) **Nationalist Communist** Regeneration 2% Non-aligned party (Al Baath) parties parties Socialist parties **Modernist Democratic Pole Patriotic** Led by Ettajdid, the old Communist party that has reinvented itself as centre-left, the Pole is a coalition of parties and independents running a secular, feminist campaign to counter An-Nahda and Islamism. They **Tunisian Workers** believe there is a place for Islam in Tunisia Communist party but it belongs in the private sphere. Initially (PCOT) the coalition had wanted to unite all other major centrist opposition parties against the Secular Islamists but the larger parties preferred to