

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (United Kingdom)

Case ID:

ARW-204

Jurisdiction of Origin of Public Official or Entity Allegedly Involved:

Tunisia

Position of Public Official(s) (yrs in office):

President (1987-2011)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery:

United Kingdom

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery ? Description:

Undertaking Recovery Effort, Location of Recovery Effort, Asset Location / Alleged Asset Location

Asset Recovery Start:

2011

Asset Recovery End:

Ongoing

UNCAC Offenses Implicated:

Art.17

Art.23

Money laundering Implicated:

Yes

Legal Basis for Asset Recovery:

Case in Investigatory/Asset Restraint Stage

Intl.Cooperation: MLAT/Letter of Request?:

Other

Basis for Intl Cooperation:

European Union sanctions

Contributing Factors in Asset Recovery:

Ongoing Case

Status of Asset Recovery :

Ongoing

Stage in Asset Recovery Chain:

Investigation/Asset Tracing/Asset Restraint

Agreement for Returned Assets:

Ongoing

Agreement for Returned Assets - Description:

N/A

Case Summary:

According to the United Kingdom's Parliamentary website (<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20111003/writtenanswe...>), On October 3, 2011, the following written response was given to "Question Asked by Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they, or international institutions of which they are a member, are holding frozen Tunisian funds; if so, whether they are taking action to release them in order to aid the Tunisian economy.[HL11926] The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): An EU-wide asset freeze was imposed

against 48 Tunisian individuals on 4 February. The Treasury subsequently introduced criminal penalties for breaches of the asset freeze and notified the financial sector of the measures. The Treasury also added the list of Tunisia targets to its consolidated list of financial sanctions which is checked by the sector against client and customer databases. A small amount of assets have been frozen within the UK. We cannot disclose further details at this stage but are working with the Tunisian Government to ensure they understand the legal processes involved in releasing and repatriating these assets. Assets have been frozen in other jurisdictions across Europe."

Disposition of Criminal Case(s):

According to a January 26, 2011 media release by INTERPOL, Mr. Ben Ali's arrest was sought by Tunisia on charges of alleged property theft and illegal transfer of foreign currency. (Source: INTERPOL media release, "Tunisia seeks ousted President and family via INTERPOL," January 26, 2011, accessed at <http://www.interpol.int/public/ICPO/PressReleases/PR2011/PR007.asp>.) According to secondary sources, Mr. Ben Ali was convicted in absentia in June 2011 on theft and unlawful possession of cash and jewelry; in July 2011, he was convicted of property related charges. (Source: BBC News, "Tunisia's Ben Ali guilty on drugs and gun charges," July 4, 2011 and "Tunisia's Ben Ali guilty of corrupt property deals," July 29, 2011) and in June 2012, he was sentenced by a Tunisian military court to life imprisonment for his complicity in the murder and attempted murder of demonstrators; Human Rights Watch noted that Mr. Ben Ali has been tried and convicted in absentia and if he returned to Tunisia, he would be entitled to a new trial. (Source: Clive Baldwin, "After Ben-Ali's Conviction: The State of Tunisian Justice," Human Rights Watch, June 16, 2012.)

Jurisdiction of Origin: Investigative Agency:

Commission for the Investigation of Corruption and Embezzlement; Attorney Enrico Monfrini (civil asset recovery)

Jurisdiction of Asset Recovery: Investigative Agency:


Treasury

Documents:

[Ben_Ali_UK_Parliament_Written_Answer_Tunisia_Oct_3_2011](#)

[Ben_Ali_Sentence_BBC_News_Jul_4_2011](#)

Documents:

Attachment	Size
 Ben_Ali_UK_Parliament_Written_Answers_Oct_3_2011.pdf	619.33 KB

Documents Links:

[Ben_Ali_UK_Parliament_Written_Answer_Tunisia_Oct_3_2011](#)

[Ben_Ali_Sentence_BBC_News_Jul_4_2011](#)

Other Sources:

UK Parliament, Written Answer 3 October 2011 on Tunisia, submitted by The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, accessed at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/111003w0...>