

King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

Ascension to the throne: 1999



(Born August 21st 1963) King Mohammed VI is the oldest son of late King Hassan II. After the death of his father, on July 1999, he was crowned King of Morocco. King Mohammed VI belongs to the Alaouite dynasty- founded by Moulay Ali Cherif in 1631. King Mohammed VI received a multi-disciplinary education in the Royal College, in Rabat, then in Belgium and France where he completed a PhD in Law. Shortly after his ascension to the throne, King Mohammed VI launched several reforms such as the *Moudawana* one, that is to say the Family Law Code, by granting women more power. During the first years of his reign, King Mohammed VI also created the “Instance d’Equite et de Reconciliation”, being an ad hoc temporary judiciary institution with the task of researching human rights violations during the reign of Hassan II and compensating the victims of those violations. In 2011, along with the so-called Arab Spring, King Mohammed VI faced the “20 February movement” all over the country. This movement was a protest for rights and democracy. Following these protests, King Mohammed VI decided to call for the formation of an assembly whose objective was to create a new Constitution. In July 2011, a new Constitution was adopted. This new constitution changed the political system of Morocco by reducing the powers of the King and transferring them to the Chief of Government, now Abdelilah Benkirane.

Sources:

<http://www.maroc.ma/en/content/biography-hm-king-mohammed-vi>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14121438>

<http://www.usa-morocco.org/alaoui.htm>

Abdelilah Benkirane, *Chief of Government*

In office since 2011



Abdelilah Benkirane is the Chief of Government of the Kingdom of Morocco. In 2011, his party, Justice and Development (PJD), gained the majority of the seats in the Moroccan Parliament. After a coalition with 3 parties, he was nominated by the King Mohammed VI to the position of Chief of Government. Abdelilah Benkirane, starting from the 1970s, is a political activist whose ideology is based on moderate Islamism. For a long period of time, he represented the city of Sale in the House of Representatives of Morocco before being elected in 2008 as the new leader of the Justice and Development Party. The party distinguishes itself by its ambition to launch social reforms aiming at alleviating the level of poverty and increase the quality of education, essentially in the public schools. The Chief of Government affirmed on several occasions his ambition to tighten the ties between Morocco and the European Union as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Sources:

<http://www.maroc.ma/en/content/list-government>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14121440>

Omar Hilale, Ambassador of Morocco at the United-Nations

In office since 2014



Omar Hilale is the current Permanent Representative of Morocco at the United-Nations, in New-York. He was appointed to this position in April 2014, after serving several years as the Permanent Representative of Morocco in the United-Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to his service at the United-Nations, Omar Hilale was Ambassador in Singapore, New-Zealand, Australia and Indonesia. Omar Hilale was also the General-Secretary of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, between 2005 and 2008. Recently, Omar Hilale was appointed Chair of the Third Committee of the United-Nations for the duration of its 70th General Assembly.

Sources:

<http://www.morocoworldnews.com/2014/04/128509/biography-of-mr-hilal-morocco-new-ambassador-to-the-united-nations-in-new-york/>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/bio4762.doc.htm>

Abdellatif Hammouchi, *Head of DGST*

In office since 2005



Abdellatif Hammouchi is the director of DGST (Direction Generale de la Surveillance du Territoire), the Moroccan Secret Services, and the adviser of King Mohammed VI on matters related to terrorism and security. He graduated from Fez University. After the Casablanca terrorist attacks, the former director of DGST, Hamidou Laanigri, resigned. King Mohammed VI then nominated Abdellatif Hammouchi. Hammouchi was faced with torture allegations against Sahrawis dissidents. The case was later rejected due to lack of evidence.

Sources:

<http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/22182/france-decorates-a-moroccan-facing-justice-on-bast>

Bouchaib Arroub, *Inspector General of the Armed Forces and commander of the southern zone*

Assumed office in 2014



Bouchaib Arroub is the head of the Moroccan army and the Commander of the Military Intelligence Service. He replaced Abdelaziz Bennani at the head of the Moroccan Army. Claims have been made that he might have participated to the 1971 coup d'état against King Hassan II. After the failure of the coup, King Hassan II called for the suspension of Bouchaib Arroub from any civil duty. However, in 1988, the late King appointed him as Chief of the Third Bureau.

Source:

<http://sahara-question.com/en/news/king-mohammed-vi-appoints-general-bouchaib-arroub-inspector-moroccan-army>

<http://www.maroc.ma/en/royal-activities/hm-king-appoints-general-de-corps-darmee-bouchaib-arroub-far-general-inspector>

Hosni Benslimane, Commander of Royal Gendarmerie

In office since 1974



Hosni Benslimane is the Commander of the Royal Gendarmerie since 1974. Benslimane belongs to the list of high-ranked military officials along with Bouchaib Arroub (Commander of the Moroccan Army) and the General Abdelhak Kadiri. Before enrolling in the army service, Hosni Benslimane was a soccer player in the FAR (Royal Army Soccer Club). In 1994, Hosni Benslimane is designated as President of the Moroccan Commission for Soccer Management before joining the Moroccan Royal Federation of Soccer. Hosni Benslimane also participated to the Ifni conflict. The French authorities believe he played a part in the disappearing in Paris in 1965, of Mehdi Ben Barka – the former leader of the National Union of Popular Forces (UNFP) who was known for his revolutionary ideas based on non-alignment.

Sources:

<http://telquel.ma/2014/06/13/enquete-general-bennani-larmee-cestlui> 2808

<http://telquel.ma/2015/08/04/quest-ce-se-passe-gendarmerie-royale> 1458403

Salaheddine Mezouar, *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco*

In office since 2013



Salaheddine Mezouar is the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco since 2013. In 2004, he was appointed Minister of Industry, Trade and Restructuring of the Economy. Salaheddine Mezouar is the President of the National Rally of Independents party, which gained the 3rd position in the latest municipal elections. Salaheddine Mezouar has been preceded by Saad-Eddine El Othmani in the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs. Salaheddine Mezouar has affirmed its ambition to tighten the diplomatic relation between Morocco and the rest of the African countries. He played a significant role during the inter-Libyan dialogue that took place in Skhirat, Morocco, and that led to an agreement between the two Libyan parliaments. Salaheddine Mezouar is also active in the organization of the Conference COP 22, which will take place in Marrakesh in November 2016.

Sources:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/a-look-at-moroccan-political-parties-competing-in-elections/2011/11/24/gIQAcmi9qN_story.html

<http://www.bloomberg.com/Research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=49643938&privcapId=5476844&previousCapId=36180921&previousTitle=Saham%20Group%20SA>

Mustapha El Khalfi, Minister of Communications; Spokesperson of the government

In office since 2012



Mustapha El Khalfi is the Minister of Communications and Spokesperson of the government. Mustapha El Khalfi's party is Justice and Development. Before his service as Minister of Communications, he was the director of Justice and Development newspaper called "Attajdid". He was at the head of numerous reforms aiming at reinforcing the Arabic language in the national television and radio, instead of the use of French. Mustapha El Khalfi was at the center of diverse polemics such as the censorship of the infamous movie Nabil Ayouch's "Much loved". His incessant and firm positions have drawn unpopularity among the Moroccan opinions.

Sources:

<http://www.mincom.gov.ma/fr.html>