

Walking from Bouziane to Tunis

The performance of the bodies on the protest walks in Tunisia's post-revolution.

After a few days from January 14, 2011, seven demonstrators from Bouziane who participated in the days of the revolution discussed among themselves how to make their protests "visible" to the authorities. They decided to walk from Bouziane to the capital Tunis (about 402 km). When they started walking, they noticed some people in the café who laughed about their idea. They continued their walk. Their numbers are increasing in every village and town they pass through. And they were joined by demonstrators from other cities. They would then be the first group of the famous sit-in in the kasbah place in Tunis. And it would be one of the main sit-ins of post-revolution Tunisia.

In this proposal, I suggest revisiting that walk to rethink about it from the narratives of the protesters who participated in the kasbah 1 sit-in. I propose discussing the walk as a body performance in the context of the Tunisian revolution.

I will apply a qualitative approach to understand this way of protesting. I will try to understand that walking from the interviews I conducted with some participants of this walk and such protesters in Kasbah 1. I will also use the phenomenological approach to understand the performance of those bodies and their feelings, dreams, and worldview.

I attempt to understand the connection of these bodies and their intersection with time and space through that walk. We seek to understand the process of this trajectory and how it was constructed.

Improvisation was a significant feature of this walk. Sharing, patience, and enthusiasm were animated by a sense of "ability to do" in that period. For this reason, it would be interesting to consider how the protesters remembered this walk to understand the position of this protest walk in the sit-in of Kasbah 1 (and later Kasbah 2) in the context of post-revolution Tunisia.