New jersey, same old game

King Mohammed Ben Al-Hassan has successfully taken the wind out of the sails of the protest movement during the Arab spring. The people expected constitutional reform and early elections to lead to greater independence of the judiciary and a more important role for the parliament. Essentially, however, these measures have not changed the distribution of power in Morocco's authoritarian monarchy. Freedom of the press continues to be severely restricted and police offences remain unpunished. At the same time, dissatisfaction with the political and economic situation is mounting within the population. The situation in the poorer regions of Morocco is therefore getting worse, with 17 people killed in a mass panic just last year when aid was delivered to the south of the country. At least 38 people were injured during food distribution. In the north of the country, political disappointment in 2017 led to the biggest protests since the Arab spring. Foreign countries are looking the other way. Morocco's presumed political stability is valued and should continue to shield the regime from external criticism of its human rights violations.

**Elections**

Elections take place and are relatively transparent, but they are not intended to create independent democratic institutions in the sense of a constitutional monarchy. The royal house controls everything, there is no separation of powers. Most Moroccans do not vote because they are aware of Parliament's powerlessness.

- **poor playmaking**

**Civil rights protection**

Human rights violations by the security forces are not prosecuted, and complaints about police violence can result in arrests. Almost half of all detainees are still waiting for charges in overcrowded prisons. Confessions obtained under torture are accepted in court.

- **flawed defense**

**Corruption prevention**

The existing monitoring agencies do not have the necessary competences to prosecute corruption. Corruption is widespread in government circles as well as in public administration. About half of Moroccans claim to regularly pay bribes to courts, hospitals or the police.

- **poor fair play**

**Freedom of speech**

Freedom of expression in Morocco is severely restricted. State media is fully dependent on the regime. Critical reports on the monarchy or the conflict in Western Sahara are not allowed, many journalists practice self-censorship or go into exile. The Minister of the Interior can close the media if they undermine "Islam" or "public order".

- **poor fan culture**

**Social inclusion**

The level of education is low, poverty widespread and the standard of living is well below the Arab average, especially in rural areas. Urbanisation has weakened traditional family networks and social security nets are weak. Women are disadvantaged in all aspects of life.

- **poor team spirit**

Look up the detailed BTI 2018 country report on Morocco here:

www.bti-project.org/mar