

Deaf Tunisian in Tunisia



Public Domain - Representative photo



"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

People Name	Deaf Tunisian
Country	Tunisia
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	109,966
Language	Tunisian Sign Language
Religion	Various
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	N/A
Jesus Film	No
Gospel Recordings	N/A
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	2
Workers Reported	0

BACKGROUND

There may be about 32,000,000 deaf people living in the world today, depending on how the term is defined. There are 60,000 deaf people living in the country of Tunisia.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED?

Deaf people live in all provinces in Tunisia. They are not grouped in any particular region or city.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The deaf in Tunisia can be divided into three groups, the slightly deaf, moderately deaf, and severely deaf. Those who are slightly and moderately deaf can use devices that help them hear and speak. As for the severely deaf, they can only communicate with sign language. Sign language is not common to those outside Tunisia's deaf society.

Associations are emerging in many cities throughout the country that teach sign language. The deaf can find community in these places, though transport can be challenging for those who live very far from the nearest association. The deaf have virtually no career options and it very difficult to find anyone willing to hire them. Most deaf people have no options for marriage.

There is a village in the region of Nabeul (northern Tunisia) that is entirely deaf. About 500 people call this place home. The village became entirely deaf through generations of intermarriage. The former dictator, Ben Ali, took advantage of these people by putting wind turbines on their land and gave them no financial reimbursement for it. As a result, the only way these people have found to survive is through fishing.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many hearing people tend to think the deaf are not very intelligent because of the communication barriers, as well as the speech patterns deaf exhibit.

Many deaf people feel hearing people oppress them and purposely withhold information from them. There is very little "mixing" of the core deaf community with the hearing community.

The difficulty with being deaf is not the inability to hear, but the great barrier to communicating with the surrounding culture, especially for acquiring information. The communication barrier is also the barrier for the Deaf in Tunisia to gain access to the Gospel. This population especially needs Gospel resources in Tunisian Sign Language.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)