

PRESS RELEASE

21 February 2011 : The Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) informs the public that the amounts found in Sidi Dhrif Residence on Saturday 19 February 2011 and totalling more than 41 million dinars (41,225,881,535 millimes) are broken down into 22,640,167,790 Tunisian millimes and the exchange value of 18,585,713,745* millimes in foreign currency distributed as follows :

- 8,062,670 euros : the exchange value of 15,575,465,906 millimes**
- 2,099,324 US dollars : the exchange value of 2,990,906,903 millimes**
- 3,400 Canadian dollars: the exchange value of 4,868,460 millimes**
- 60 Swiss francs : the exchange value of 88,704 millimes**
- 325 sterling pound: the exchange value of 738,660 millimes**
- 300 Egyptian sterling : the exchange value of 72,701 millimes**
- 46 Saudi ryals : the exchange value of 17,284 millimes**
- 14,900 Turkish sterling : the exchange value of 13,439,290 millimes**
- 122,000 Lebanese lira : the exchange value of 115,837 millimes**

Check up by relevant departments of the Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) of foreign currency banknotes' authentication, that was carried in presence of two representatives from the national commission of inquiry on corruption and misappropriation of funds has shown that a bundle of 100 US dollar banknotes included a 100 dollar forged banknote and two 10 dollars banknotes instead of 100 dollars.

-
- These figures are determined by reference to interbank average exchange rate of foreign currency against the Tunisian dinar on 17 February 2011.**

Thus, the total amount of US dollar banknotes came to 2,099,324 dollars. Worth of note in this respect that most of foreign banknotes are derived from foreign banks (set up abroad) as shown through the bank seal on the bundle of these banknotes.

As for Tunisian dinar banknotes, check up of their authenticity and their number is taking place currently.

Worth of note also that most of these banknotes include the mention « Banque Centrale de Tunisie » on the strip packing them, as per usually applied procedures to any amount coming from BCT cash desks.

Banknotes collected from Sidi Dhrif Residence are derived from four sources:

- Withdrawals directly from the BCT, on presentation of order for withdrawal from the general Treasury of the Tunisian Republic for the presidency of the Republic,**
- Exchange of used banknotes in the form of 10, 20 or 30 dinars denominations for new banknotes of 50 dinars,**
- Operations of foreign currency banknotes exchange against Tunisian dinars presented by the departments of the presidency,**
- Withdrawal from local banks. Worth of note that banks are provided with banknotes either directly from the BCT where the bundles bear the mention « Banque Centrale de Tunisie », or indirectly through « Inter Bank Services (IBS) », a company specialized in transport of funds, where bundles bear the mention « IBS».**

Finally the BCT points out that any operation carried directly within it as per one of the above-mentioned modality will be figured out in the next coming period and will be subdued to detailed report to be communicated to the national commission of inquiry on corruption and misappropriation of funds.