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SOS Disappeared denounces and condemns the police repression

The gathering organised in Algiers by SOS Disappeared for International Children's Day has been repressed. Families of the missing who had come to commemorate the memory of the hundreds of teenagers who were under 18 at the time of their disappearance in the 1990s and **remind Algeria of its commitments as a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child** were brutally dispersed by the police. Freedom of expression and the right to peacefully gather have once again been violated in Algiers this 1 June 2015, despite [the resolution adopted by the European Parliament](#) just a month ago calling **the Algerian authorities to "ensure the safety and security of the civil society activists and of the human rights defenders as well as their right to pursue their peaceful and legitimate activities"**.

Whilst the families of the missing gathered at the Place du 1er Mai at 10 am on this Monday 1 June 2015, there was already a large police presence in place to monitor the gathering. The protestors brandished their banners and began to chant their slogans. Everything was proceeding peacefully when two police vans and a police car carrying a dozen police officers intervened. The police abruptly dispersed the protestors mainly made up of elderly people, not hesitating from mishandling them to rip their banners from their grasp. Khalif Yekhlef, brother of a missing person, on the other hand, was forcibly taken by the police and taken to the police station in the 8th district.

A police officer justified the police repression with the fact that the ban on gathering, even peacefully, is still in force in the Algiers province. SOS Disappeared takes this opportunity of this new violation of freedom of expression and of protest in Algiers to remind the European Parliament that, just a month ago, they adopted a resolution on the incarceration of human rights activists and workers in Algeria in which they **"remind the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression recommended that the Algerian government revoke the decree of 18 June 2001 prohibiting peaceful demonstrations and all forms of public protests in Algiers and to implement a simple system of notification instead of prior authorisation for public protests"**.

Algiers, 2 June 2015
Fatima Yous
President

SOS Disappeared
Address: 21 rue Mustapha Benboulaïd. Alger Centre
Tel / fax: 021.71.03.16 Mob: 0665.63.21.78
sosdisparusdz@gmail.com www.algerie-disparus.org