

Newsletter n°55

April, May, June 2015



CFDA loses a friend and activist

It is with our deepest sorrow that we learnt the death of Gérard Dutour on 18 June 2015. Gérard worked for 20 years together with the CFDA and the families to fight against enforced disappearances. He was someone with an everlasting joy in life, generous and open-minded, and a human rights defender fully committed in this fight.

In his memory, we want to pay him tribute.

CFDA releases a report on freedom of association

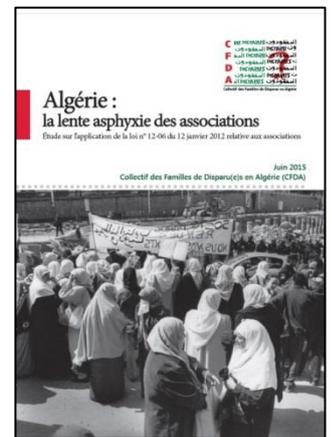
CFDA carried out a research on the implementation of the Algerian law number 12-06 of 12 January 2012 on associations. Approximately 50 associations created before and after the enforcement of the law on freedom of association participated in the research.

Presidents of associations and sponsors were given a detailed questionnaire that pointed out difficulties met by the associations since the enforcement of the law (creation, adaptation to the rules, financing).

The report displays also recommendations for the Algerian authorities to comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and for the associations and sponsors to build a common strategy to overcome the difficulties.

CFDA invited some presidents of Algerian associations to Geneva in order to promote its research. The aim was to present the report to the Human Rights bodies of the United Nations, and inform them on freedom of association in Algeria. The delegation met with 11 people, notably the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights defenders.

The mission was fruitful for both the members of the delegation (first time in Geneva for some of them) and the people met who understood the concerns and confirmed their support.



The Research Centre for the Conservation of Memory and Human Rights Studies



The Research Centre for the Conservation of Memory and Human Rights Studies was lively these past months, as many activities contributed to enhance its visibility and presence in western Algeria.

First, some twenty persons, mostly students, participated in a formation in presentation method. Thanks to the teacher, people learned how to present themselves when looking for a job. A reading workshop also helped them understand the importance of pronunciation and articulation.

For Mother's Day, the documentary of the Lebanese association "Act for the disappeared" was projected. It deals with a mother of a disappeared trying to gather other families and to ask for justice and truth. After watching the movie, some mothers read their poems. All mothers received a diploma and flowers, and had a snack altogether.

For the International Children's Day, the Centre organized workshops for children: cooking cakes, games and songs, and one on "knowing my rights". Kids were very pleased with the activities and very lively.

Last but not least, every week is selected the "weekly book" that the team presents on the CFDA's Facebook. Hence, users know the available documentation of the Centre.

New lawyers participating in a course on International Law on Human Rights



CFDA launched new courses on International Law on Human Rights. After a call for application and the selection, the new layers selected went to the first course in Alger on 29 and 30 May 2015.

They first started by thinking about the "Human Rights" concept, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The participants then read Algerian legislative texts and the Constitution to find where were mentioned the rights recognised by the UDHR.

On day two, participants studied the main international texts on Human rights protection and their bodies, like the Human Rights Committee that monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In the end, lawyers shared their experience by presenting a Human Rights case study, using the relevant international text law that could have been used in the defence strategy.

Algerian activists learn how to create a web-radio



The new formation in communication and advices for the defence speech focused on the creation and organisation of an associative web-radio. On 17 and 18 April in Alger, around 20 people in charge of communication in their association participated in the formation.

After the tutor presented the advantages and possibilities of creating easily a web-radio (using the platform www.radionomy.com), he helped the participants in creating their own one. Then they chose a topic for a short broadcast, following the example of the tutor's work for the programme "Le Grand Discours" broadcasted on the Tunisian Radio RTCI (among the topics chosen: harassment of Human Rights defenders, selling alcoholic drinks...).

On the second day, every participant presented his/her programme, commented by the teacher. The "documentary" model was not studied as it implied an outdoor activity.

In the end, the tutor gave advices on how to draw an effective defence strategy. The participants' work was based on their own programmes so that they could understand how they could have improved them.

News in brief

Repression of families of disappeared during the International Children's Day

SOS Disappeared called for a pacific meeting on June the 1st for the International Children's Day, to remind that minors were arrested in the 1990s by the authorities and are still missing. Families and activists met on 1st June-Place at 10:00 am.

Though the meeting was peaceful, the police, already there, violently disbanded the demonstration group. Two lorries and a police car came, and approximately 20 police officers removed the banners. A police officer said the intervention was legal according to the decree of the 18 June 2001 prohibiting demonstrations in Alger. Around ten parents of disappeared has been arrested and remained in custody until 4:00 pm.

Mothers of the disappeared celebrated

On 30 May 2015, Mother's Day, many activists came to congratulate the mothers of the disappeared for their fight. Families watched the documentary "Où sont-ils?" ("Where are they?") by Hacène Ferhati and Othmane Aoumeur, and then discussed about it. Then the mothers read the poems they had write for this special day. A diploma and flowers were given to all of them, and they finally had a snack altogether.

TV5 Monde in Alger to meet with the families of the disappeared

By the end of May, a team from TV5 Monde made a documentary on the memory question after the violent events in Algeria in the 1990s. The journalists interviewed Nassera Dutour in the office in Alger. She then took them to meet with the mother and daughters of the Bendjael family for an interview.

Press releases

31 May 2015

Meeting on the occasion of the International Children's Day

<http://bit.ly/1jbav1C>

2 June 2015

SOS Disappeared denounces and condemns police repression

<http://bit.ly/1jbadbf>

Press reviews

April 2015

<http://bit.ly/1hog8rz>

May 2015

<http://bit.ly/1FRKFda>

June 2015

<http://bit.ly/1Z7i21I>

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