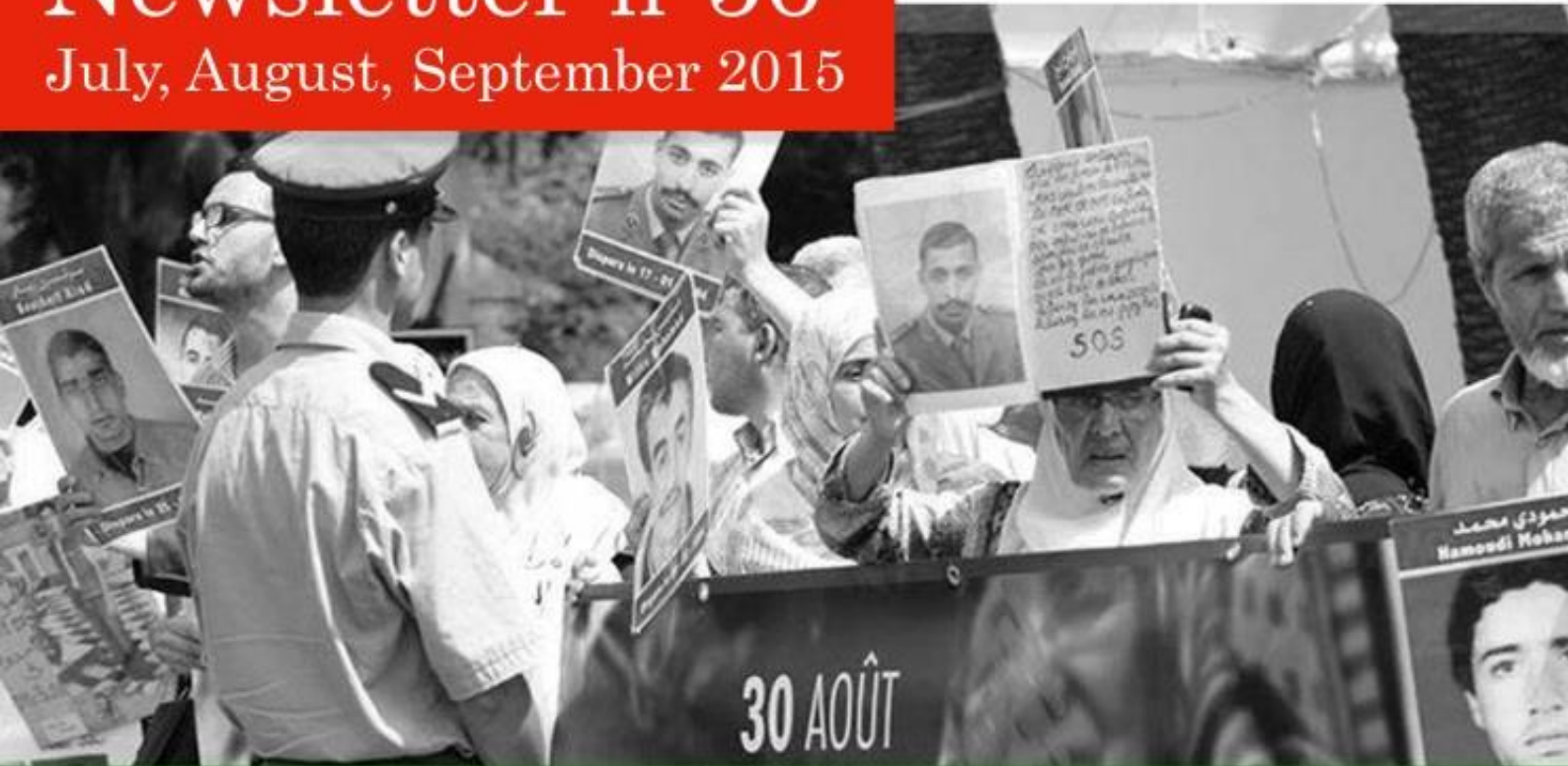


Newsletter n°56

July, August, September 2015



CFDA and SOS Disappeared organised demonstrations for the International Day of the Disappeared

30 August marks the International Day of the Disappeared, announced by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2010.

To commemorate this day and remember what enforced disappearances are, an awareness campaign was launched on Facebook. Over the period of a week, web users were invited to follow a series of texts telling the story of the missing and they were able to read a selection of highly emotional poems written by their families.

As part of this campaign, personal accounts of activists of civil society working alongside families of the missing were also published on our page. Chérifa Keddar, President of the association Djazaïrouna, recalled in a video her support in the missing persons' families' fight for Truth, Memory and Justice which, according to her, constitutes a real fight for the establishment of a constitutional state in Algeria.

In the second video, the President of association Youth Action Movement (RAJ), Abdelouahab Fersaoui, spoke about the families' struggles and launched an appeal to citizens, political parties, associations and to the State to take the issue of missing persons seriously. "As long as we do not know the truth on what really happened in the '90s, as long as justice has not been served, we will not be

able to build a stable and democratic Algeria," he declared.

The public responded incredibly well and many took part in all of the protests and left comments on the page.

In Algiers, around thirty people helped in the showing of Christopher Hampton's film *"Imagining Argentine"* (2003) on Saturday 29 August 2015 in the offices of SOS Disappeared. This showing was followed by a discussion and witness accounts from mothers of the missing. In Oran, the film shown was *"Song for Amine"* by Italian director Alberto Bougeux.



On Sunday 30 August 2015, a press release by the CFDA's spokesperson Nassera Dutour recalled that, contrary to the authorities' claims, the missing persons' files have not been closed. In this press release, she questions the so-called national reconciliation policy of President Bouteflika and advocates the *"Alternative Charter for Truth, Peace and Justice"* written by the Coalition of Associations of Victims of the Conflict of the 1990s as the most fair and just solution for resolving the issue.



On this same day, many parents of the missing marched down the street to protest peacefully – despite there being a strong police presence – in front of the National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CNCPPDH) in Algiers. Many organisations of Algerian civil society took part, such as the National Coordination for Families of the Disappeared (CNFD), LADDH, RAJ and Amnesty International.

Enforced Disappearances in Algeria: A Crime Against Humanity?

29 September 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the so-called Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation which was followed by the adoption of ordinance no. 06-01 on 27 February 2006 whose Article 45 forbids all legal proceedings against State officials and prevents families of the victims from accessing justice.



For the tenth birthday of this text, a press conference was organised in Algiers for 28 September to present the synthesis of CFDA's and SOS Disappeared's new report called "Enforced Disappearances in Algeria: A Crime Against Humanity?". This report suggests that the enforced disappearances committed in Algeria in the '90s were not solely the work of isolated persons, as the authorities claim, but the result of a thought-out and organised policy aiming to sow the seeds of terror among the civil population.

Before dozens of print (El Watan, El Khabar, La Nation, Le Temps, l'APS, Reporteurs, Tribune de lecteurs, El Houriya) and TV journalists (KBC- El Khabar, Dzair TV), Nassera Dutour, spokesperson for CFDA, described the elements implying that enforced disappearances were committed by State officials against the civil population in a generalised and systematic way through the application of a deliberate policy.

Fatma Zohra Boucherf, Vice-President of SOS Disappeared and mother of a missing person, then took the stage to present the fight of mothers of missing persons since the association's creation and recounted the case of her son, Riad Boucherf. Then Nadia Bendjael presented the case of her missing brother, Mourad Bendjael, buried in a grave marked with an X in the El Alia cemetery in Algiers even though his name is listed in the cemetery's register under X.

Very sought after by journalists, the representatives of CFDA and SOS Disappeared adjudicated the consequences of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation in their fight for establishing the fate of the disappeared and for putting an end to the impunity of the State officials who committed crimes in the 1990s.

They then took this opportunity to refute the claims made by Farouk Ksentini, President of the National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and by Merouane Azzi, Head of the Legal Aid Cell for the Implementation of the Charter, regarding the positive results from the Charter's application and the cell's activities since its creation in June 2006.

Many press articles were published in the days following this meeting, each mentioning the work done by SOS Disappeared over the past few years. These can be viewed by downloading September's press release from the CFDA website.

Activists trained in producing radio broadcasts



Led by a journalist, the aim of this training in the techniques and production of radio broadcasts, organised in Algiers for 20 until 24 July 2015, was to train seven young activists in producing radio broadcasts on the violation of human rights.

The training took place over four days. On the first day, the participants learnt the theoretical basics necessary for producing radio broadcasts. They familiarised themselves with the world of radio, the associated technical vocabulary (signature tunes, jingle, news bed etc.) and radio writing.

Once the basic knowledge on radio acquired, the second day of training was dedicated entirely to the topic of reporting. Participants listened to extracts of several radio shows to understand how to orally broadcast a story and how to conduct an interview. They then worked in pairs to learn how to use the equipment (microphone, headphones, digital recorder) and practice recording sound.

For the last two days, the participants were divided into two groups: the first group met with people from Algiers to interview them on the exploitation of shale gas in the southern parts of the country whilst the second group interviewed two associations on child labour in Algeria. The groups then produced their own audio edit by selecting the most important recordings for the report.

At the end of the training, the participants gained the necessary knowledge and skills to produce short radio broadcasts, from the preparation through to the editing stages.

From 27 till 31 July, some participants also helped the trainer on the job with the production of a report on children of missing persons.

Second round of training in international human rights law



After a first meeting dedicated to the study of international human rights in May 2015, Algerian lawyers met for a second time in Algiers on 18 and 19 September for a new session of training organised by the CFDA, this time to both deliberate the use of international law in the fight against enforced disappearances and familiarise themselves with language and communication techniques to make successful arguments.

This session was divided into two parts. The first day was completely dedicated to enforced disappearances. The training began with the showing of the film "Il n'y a plus d'Amine" [Amine is no more] to immerse the participants into the hard universe of the victims' families.

After the film, the trainer recounted the origins and history of enforced disappearances. The participants were then asked to think about all of the elements of

a disappearance: who is the victim? Who are the perpetrators? What rights have been violated? What are the consequences? By asking these kinds of questions, they slowly began to grasp the breadth and depth of this concept.

The participants spent the afternoon studying different international texts on the protection against enforced disappearances, especially in the "United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance" and the "International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance". They also looked at the role and function of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

The second day was dedicated to communication techniques with two experts of new concepts of communication who came from Zurich, Switzerland.

The two trainers first asked all participants to divide into groups of three or four to consider difficulties in communication. Many issues were raised, such as speaking in public, knowing how to say no, replying to a disruptive public prosecutor or judge. Following this exercise, the trainers taught them techniques to help remedy these kinds of issues.

Participants were then asked to choose a specific topic they have faced and prepare, in writing, a brief discourse to then argue in front of a camera. These recordings were played back and the trainers gave tips on the structure of the discourse, gestures and language used.

In Oran, a round table on “The transmission of memory and the involvement of young generations in the search for the Truth on the fate of the missing and Justice”



Realising that children of the missing are hardly involved in protests to pursue the search for their parents, the Research Centre for the Preservation of Memory and Study of Human Rights (CPMDH) has launched a discussion on young generations rallying for truth and justice.

Led by two clinical psychologists and a sociologist, the round table brought together mothers and children of the missing of all ages. Thanks to an atmosphere very conducive to dialogue, these latter dared, for the first time, to speak out and talk about their missing loved ones in public. Overcome with emotion, a few of them could not even finish recounting their experiences.

At the end of the meeting, these young people were invited to become closer to the association.

The CPMDH in Oran, aware of the importance of the comments raised on this day, plan to follow up on this initiative.

News in brief

CFDA presents its alternative report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Prior to Algeria's periodical exam during the 57th ordinary session of the African Commission in November 2015, CFDA, together with Djazaïrouna and maître Kouceila Zerguine of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, wrote an alternative report regarding Algeria's respect of human rights over the period of 2010 until 2015 and their obligations resulting from the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

This report obviously deals with enforced disappearances but also with freedom of association, the violations of women's rights and even the health of stonecutters. Already available for download on the CFDA website, the report will be widely distributed during the CFDA's advocacy mission planned in Banjul (Gambia) at the beginning of November.

⇒ You can read the report here:
http://www.algerie-disparus.org/images/rapport_cadhp2015.pdf

Gathering as part of the 53rd anniversary celebrations of Algeria's independence

As part of the 53rd anniversary celebrations of Algeria's independence, CFDA and SOS Disappeared held a peaceful demonstration on 5 July in front of the CNPPDH in Algiers to denounce the many violations of human rights still being committed in Algeria.

Meeting with representatives of the European Union

For the visit of the European Union's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and

Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, to Algiers, a meeting with civil society was held on 17 September at the European Union Delegation, to which Nassera Dutour, spokesperson for CFDA, was invited.

During the discussion with members of the civil society, Nassera Dutour took the stage to reveal the difficulties being faced by families of the missing since the implementation in 2006 of the implementing provisions of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which contain provisions which violate the families' right to know the fate of their loved ones. Furthermore, she addressed the difficulties faced by associations since the adoption of Law No. 12-06, putting forward the conclusions of the latest report on the freedom of association published by CFDA, which was distributed to the delegation from Brussels at the end of the meeting.

Gathering against the Charter of Peace and National Reconciliation repressed in Algiers

On 29 September 2015, SOS Disappeared organised a gathering in front of the National People's Assembly (NPA) where the parliamentary session to draw up the 10 year review of the adoption of the

Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation was being held.

Whilst families and activists were protesting peacefully, armed with photos of the missing, police officers pushed and beat them, but not before arresting several people, including elderly men and women. These loved ones of the disappeared, who had come from all over the capital and from inland, were prevented from protesting against a text which they believe consecrates impunity and advocates oblivion.

CFDA and SOS Disappeared in the media

CFDA and SOS Disappeared have had a high media profile in both French and Algerian media over these last few months. Nassera Dutour, spokesperson for the CFDA, has granted interviews mainly to reporters at Radio France Internationale (RFI) and online newspaper Maghreb Emergent. For 30 August, France 24 made a report with Fatma Zohra Boucherf, Vice-President of SOS Disappeared.

- ⇒ To read the interview with Nassera Dutour on RFI: <http://rfi.my/1MHHMNe>
- ⇒ To watch the report with Fatma Boucherf on France 24: <http://on.fb.me/1jsCvy4>

Press releases

29 September 2015

Relizane affair: The scandalous about-face of the Public Prosecutor, who opposes holding a speedy trial in France
Press release together with FIDH and Human Rights League
<http://bit.ly/1Ng2rXk>

30 August 2015

International Day of the Disappeared: victims want an alternative charter for Truth, Peace and Justice
<http://bit.ly/1Ng2rXk>

Press reviews

July

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

August

<http://bit.ly/1OV0XFf>

September

<http://bit.ly/1k742Vo>

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