

Newsletter n°59

April, May, June 2016

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie



Working on the missing persons' files



The United Nations' Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances met up in Rabat in Morocco for its 108th session. During the press conference which brought the session to a close, the WGEID recognised that more than 3000 cases of enforced disappearance in Algeria were still pending.

A delegation of the CFDA was present to meet the WGEID experts and to submit 25 files.

During the session, the WGEID examined different files which CFDA had previously submitted to them and informed CFDA of having passed on 10 cases to the Algerian government so that they can: *"carry out appropriate investigations into the fate and location of the disappeared and to protect the rights of the latter"*.

The CFDA then filed two new communications to the Human Rights Committee on the enforced disappearance of Mourad Bendjael and Abdelhakim Houari.

Open days in Algeria



A series of open days took place in the association's offices in Algeria (Algiers, Oran, Constantine). These days had multiple aims:

- To make the association known and increase its visibility among the target population;
- To raise awareness among the public of the practice of enforced disappearance;
- To promote the CFDA's latest report *"Enforced disappearances in Algeria: a crime against humanity"*;
- To present the association's new website and new online radio station "Radio des sans voix".

Refreshments were served to visitors and goodies offered to the public throughout the day. A video on the CFDA's and SOS Disappeared's work and the film "Le voir avant de mourir" [*To see him before I die*] by Khadidja Markemal and Khalif Yekhlef were shown on a projector and then followed by a discussion. A blank book was also made available to the public for any messages for the association and for families of the missing.

Advocacy mission in Geneva : presentation of CFDA's latest report



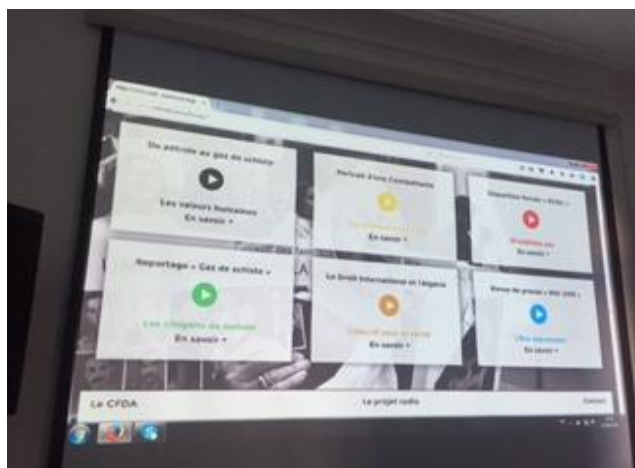
A joint advocacy mission by CFDA and FEMED was organised in Geneva from 16 until 18 May 2016 for the United Nations bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights. Witnesses from Syria, Libya and Iraq were also present to tell their stories and stress the severity of the situation in their countries.

During the meeting, the delegation informed experts of the surge in crime of enforced disappearance in many countries and the failure to resolve the cases in Algeria. CFDA also presented their latest report entitled *"Enforced disappearances in Algeria: a crime against humanity"*. In this report of more than 100 pages, the CFDA explains the political context of the period of time which led to the escalation of violence, the profile of the perpetrators of enforced disappearances and the situation of the families of the missing. CFDA also gave a series of recommendations to the United Nations' Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Algerian government.

Moreover, new files were filed with the United Nations' Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

The experts with whom they met seemed greatly interested in the problems raised and the testimonies allowed them to better understand the situation in Syria and Libya, for instance.

The launch of the CFDA's online radio « Radio des Sans Voix »



Prior to the radio's launch, many workshops were led by journalists for young Algerian volunteers so they could learn how to conduct an interview and produce a radio show.

After many months of work, the CFDA launched its online radio "Radio des sans voix" [*Radio of the Voiceless*] in Algiers on 15 June. Its programme includes presenting the radio and its purpose, as well as a panel discussion on two bills for the creation of a national council for human rights and on the status of reserve officers. Several radio shows on the topic of enforced disappearances and human rights, together with testimonies from families of the missing, victims and experts etc., will be broadcast every Wednesday. For the latest news on the radio, go to our website www.radiodessansvoix.org.

News in brief

CFDA writes to the French Prime Minister

For the visit of French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, in Algeria on 9 and 10 April, EuroMed Rights, the French Human Rights League, CFDA, SOS Disappeared, the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights and the National Syndicate of Independent Users of Public Administration addressed a letter to him to draw his attention to the declining human rights situation in Algeria. The associations reminded him that France, being an EU Member State, must abide by the European Parliament's recommendations of 30 April 2015 for Algeria and to ensure that the latter respects international conventions in its economic relationship with France.

Nassera Dutour's participation in Djazairouna's seminar

The association Djazairouna, member of the Coalition of Associations of Victims of the Conflict of the 1990s, organised a seminar in Blida on "Women's rights and the different mechanisms for protecting and promoting them".

Nassera Dutour gave a talk on the mechanism of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Maputo protocol in order to explain how, despite the advances made, women's rights are still being violated by some African States.

Mother's Day

For Mother's Day on 30 May, mothers of the missing were invited to celebrate the day with a brunch and were also given flowers. SOS Disappeared had called for the peaceful gathering in front of the National People's Assembly the day before, but, having barely arrived, the families of the missing were pushed around and assaulted by the police officers present. The demonstration therefore had to be quickly cut short and a press release was released to once again denounce the violence towards and arrests of these families.

International Children's Day in Oran

A day with the children of the families of the missing was organised by the Oran office to celebrate International Children's Day. Many children's activities were on offer throughout the day and snacks were shared among the children, parents and the team at the Oran office. Gifts were handed out to the children, who were happy to have taken part in this event, which had allowed them to briefly forget the sadness caused by the disappearance of their loved one(s), at least for a day.

Press releases

April 5th, 2016 – Open letter to the French Prime Minister

Collaboration between Euromed Rights, the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, the CFDA, SOS Disparus, the Ligue Algérienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme and the Syndicat National des Personnels de l'Administration Publique

<http://bit.ly/2dv1hd4>

May 29th, 2016

For Mother's Day : Families of missing persons are assaulted !

<http://bit.ly/2ePV24D>

Press releases

April 2016

<http://bit.ly/2flwzUL>

May 2016

<http://bit.ly/2fnxKGu>

June 2016

<http://bit.ly/2gidbKu>

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