

Newsletter n°60

July, August, September 2016



Commemoration of the International day of the victims of enforced disappearances



On the occasion of the International day of the victims of enforced disappearances on August 30, CFDA and SOS Disparus organized a gathering in front of the National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection of

Human Rights (CNCPPDH). This gathering assembled families of the disappeared and civil society actors and wanted to be commemorative and claiming. However the important number of police recalled that the fight was far from being finished. Indeed police repression once more prevailed by using on extreme violence with regard to the participants. The arrests were numerous whereas families and militants simply claimed the right to Truth and Justice.

In an official statement made public the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) denounced “the prevention of a gathering of the families of disappeared” and required “immediate and unconditional release of the militants”. The Algerian League for Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) reminded that “such violence is contrary to the Constitution and international commitments of Algeria”. The LADDH affirms that “Algerian State has the moral obligation of ratifying the International

Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006". In a statement SOS Disparus and CFDA called on "the national solidarity to face the Authorities crackdown" and asked for "the setting up of a Commission for the establishment of the Truth on a case by case basis for all the victims of the 1990's".

Week of awareness of enforced disappearances

Histoire d'un disparu

REDJIMI kaddour Tipaza

Redjimi Kaddour a disparu depuis 7755 jours

Kaddour Redjimi, né le 1er février 1954, était commerçant. Il vendait des fruits et légumes sur les marchés. Il est disparu depuis le 7 juin 1995. Ce jour-là, Kaddour est sorti avec son camion rempli de marchandises, vers 14h, en direction de Kolea. Un témoin a vu qu'il avait été arrêté dans la localité voisine de Khemisti, par 4 personnes : deux gardes communaux et deux gendarmes en tenue officielle et qui circulaient dans Renault 4. L'un des gendarmes a été reconnu comme étant le chef de brigade de Berbissa, Salah et le garde communal, Mustapha Chamâa.



Le camion a été retrouvé à la caserne des gardes communaux de Khemisti. Le véhicule a été restitué à la famille 5 mois après. En 1998, la police judiciaire de la wilaya de Tipaza a ouvert une enquête sur la disparition de Kaddour après moults plaintes de la famille. Puis l'affaire a été classée et il a été dit à la femme du disparu que son mari avait probablement rejoint les groupes armés.

MÉMORIAL DES
DISPARUS
EN ALGERIE

Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

journée du 3 aout

CFDA started during a week an awareness campaign of enforced disappearances on social networks. Throughout that week the public could discover the faces and stories of the disappeared through videos, poems and testimonies. In the same time, the "Radio des Sans Voix" broadcasted shows on the same subject in August and September. The radio broadcasts gave moving testimonies of families of disappeared from different countries including Algeria, Syria, Morocco and Argentina.

Following this campaign, the supports were numerous. Internet users shared too and sent the released publications to their contacts. They also wrote encouragement messages on the different Facebook groups. The families of disappeared

received this support with a lot of emotion and hope.

Training in interview techniques and sampling DNA on September 23 and 24



CFDA had organized a meeting on November 13 2013 in Algiers with representatives of EPAF and EAAF to set up a program with trainings in interview techniques and sampling DNA and on the use of a database. Following this meeting, a group including about twenty participants was established to benefit from those trainings and commit to CFDA on a long term basis. This training is the third of this cycle.

The training started with an introduction to the forensic anthropology. The anthropologist explained the proceedings of a preliminary investigation and the process to follow to collect information and more specifically in the case of enforced disappearances where physical details are very important in addition to the disappearance circumstances.

After a few exercises and role play, participants were invited to adapt the EAAF standard questionnaire to the Algerian context. This form must contain very accurate information in particular about the identification of the missing person, the circumstances of disappearance, the missing dentition, clothes and personal items that they wore the day of the disappearance, etc...

Once the questionnaire was ready, the participants interviewed the families of disappeared present at the training simulating an ante-mortem interview.

As human memory is not infallible, the trainer insisted on the importance of collecting other testimonies of the family or friends of the disappeared to obtain consistent and precise data.

11th anniversary of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation: police violence and mass arrests

Every year on September 29, upon the anniversary of the so-called Charter for “peace and national reconciliation” families of disappeared and activists met for a pacific gathering. This event aims to underline the families of disappeared opposition to this text which advocates the forgetfulness, sanctions the impunity of the perpetrators of those violations and deprives the families of their rights to Truth and Justice. This year, the gathering took place before the National People’s Assembly (NPA). Well before 10 AM, an important number of police was deployed all around the city. The numerous law enforcement forces made use of great violence quickly after participants’ arrival. More than half of persons who attended the gathering –as well families than activists- were taken by force to different police stations.



SOS Disparus and CFDA condemned in a statement the recurrent use of violence with regard to the families and Human Rights Activists. They also reminded that Algeria ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In Oran, screening-debate on the theme of ante-mortem investigations



ANTIGONE, the name of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team’s documentary, is above all else a symbol, the symbol of the fight against oppression and injustice. In the Greek Tragedy written by Sophocle 2500 years ago, Antigone was denied by the king of Thebes the right of burying her brother according to the religious rituals. In spite of everything, Antigone braved the prohibition and was arrested.

This documentary was projected on September 24 in Oran at the Research Centre for the Preservation of Memory and Study of Human Rights (CPMDH) on the occasion of the anniversary of the so-called Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation.

The documentary underlines the application of forensic sciences to the investigations to shed lights on the fate of victims of disappearance. The sequences were recorded during the past 18 years by team members in Argentina but also in Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti and Timor and show the entire investigation process.

Families of disappeared, Human Rights Activists, academics and students came out to Oran Office to attend the screening-debate. The debate was held by Anahi Ginarte, expert in forensic anthropology and member of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, and by Nassera Dutour spokesperson for the CFDA.

New in brief

The Youth Action Movement (RAJ) organizes its Summer University

Every year, the Youth Action Movement organizes conferences on Human Rights issues. Summer University took place on September 1, 2 and 3 in Tichy (Béjaïa) on the theme “Civil Society: inescapable development stakeholder”.

Two members of SOS Disparus and volunteers of the “Radio des Sans Voix” were invited at the RAJ conference to debate during the workshop “the autonomous Civil Society confronted with current challenges”. The debate brought out the firm will to deepen and increase the inter-voluntary and trade-union dialogue as well as collectively and more effectively answer to the challenges for a democratic and social Algeria.

At the end of this summer university, the activists decided to participate to the gathering of the families of disappeared on September 29 along with meeting at the SOS Disparus Office in Algiers to held a meeting of the Algerian civil society.

Program for the association agreement

As a part of the program for the association agreement with Algeria, the CFDA spokesperson Nassera Dutour took part to a meeting on September 26 at the headquarters of the association Djazairouna. This association which helps the victims of terrorism is the project holder. The meeting aimed to define the activities and prepare the five workshops which should be setting up soon.

Meeting following the RAJ Summer University

On September 30, as agreed during the Summer University in Bejaia, SOS Disparus and civil society stakeholders gathered at SOS Disparus office in Algiers. The meeting was about the effective creation of a group on participative democracy whose contours are still to be defined.

Articles

Demonstrations of the families of disappeared: LADDH and FFS condemn the crackdown

<http://huff.to/2gTZxMa>

LADDH condemns the crackdown of the families of disappeared demonstration

<http://bit.ly/2i7lwjK>

Press releases

July 21 2016

Censorship of “Radio des Sans Voix”

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

August 30 2016

So that no one forgets

<http://bit.ly/2h2z2HI>

August 30 2016

Mothers of disappeared are beaten up on the day of August 10

<http://bit.ly/2e1be4O>

September 29 2016

The families of disappeared demand the abrogation of this scandalous charter !

<http://bit.ly/2gK39pq>

September 29 2016

Police violence and mass arrests

<http://bit.ly/2fQvpB8>

Press review

September 2016

<http://bit.ly/2iI0KeC>