

Newsletter n°61

October, November, December 2016



Commemoration of the 62nd anniversary of the starting point of the Algerian Revolution



Many families of the disappeared have participated to the struggle for the independence of Algeria. They were full of hope for a better life to build a society where freedom, justice and equity for all prevail. That is why every year for the anniversary of the starting point of the Algerian Revolution on November 1st 1954, SOS

Disparus and the CFDA call for a gathering in front of the National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CNCPPDH). With this gathering the families want to remind that the majority of them are Mujahedeen and Mujahedin. They claim today the right to know what happened to their missing relatives and the right to Truth and Justice through requests for investigation, but in vain.

Finally the gathering could not take place in front of the CNCPPDH as planned. Early in the morning, the police had surrounded the entire area. The policemen immediately recognized the mothers or relatives of the disappeared who arrived for the gathering and pursued them. The demonstrators were forced to gather on the location of Wednesday weekly gathering.

“Radio des sans Voix”



“Radio des sans Voix”, CFDA online radio, started in June 2016. It was very well received by the audience. Its audience rating continues to increase, despite the obstacles. Shortly after its launching the radio was forbidden in Algeria. Therefore it can be listened from all the countries in the world except Algeria. Contacted by the online information site TSA, the communication officer in the Ministry of Communication stated that “Everything which is clandestine and unauthorized cannot be allowed in Algeria”.

The CFDA team then looked for alternative ways to broadcast the radio. The programs are now available on Youtube which allows circumventing the prohibition and listening the radio from Algeria. 15% of the audiences come from Algeria. The obvious interest of Algerians for our radio is a great victory, despite the difficulties



5 programs a week and a monthly press review are broadcasted. The team has made several reports on striking themes of Algerian history such as the commemoration of October 5 1988 events, the roundup of October 17 1961, the outbreak of the National Liberation War on November 1st 1954.

Some reports on international have been made and and families of disappeared testimonies and portrait of prominent figures in the struggle for human rights have also been broadcasted. The most listened program is “Do not forget” focusing on the testimonies of the victims of the 90’s.

Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: police violence during the gathering of families in front of the CNCPPDH



On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, CFDA and SOS Disparus organized a gathering in front of the CNCPPDH. The gathering was violently dispersed by the police. An important number of police officers had already been deployed around the CNCPPDH long before the families of disappeared had arrived. Many participants were arrested, families of disappeared as well as human rights activists who came to support them.

SOS Disparus and the CFDA issued a statement in which they condemn “this use of violence” and regret that “on this **international human rights day** elderly and sick people are abused by the police and find themselves at the police station when their only claim is **Truth and Justice**”.

SOS Disparus and CFDA also remind that Algeria has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Articles 19 and 21 of the Covenant provide protect freedom of speech and the right of peaceful assembly. Algeria has the obligation to respect those articles.

Advocacy mission for the presentation of the Algerian civil society Report for the Universal Periodic Review of Algeria

With the support of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), 5 Algerian associations wrote an alternative report for Algeria Universal Periodic Review scheduled for May 2017. The report has not been published but sent to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council.

Advocacy missions on the situation of human rights in Algeria were organized by EMHRN to present the report. The first advocacy mission took place in Paris, Brussels and Tunis in October and in Oslo in December. Five representatives of Algerian associations who participated to the writing of the report took part to this mission.

In Tunis, the mission was more a small training seminar gathering representatives of associations from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Following the presentation of their respective reports, the participants took also part to workshops on gender mainstream in the work of human rights organizations and to an advocacy training. During the advocacy workshop, the participants of the Algeria group agreed organizing meetings with embassies of different countries (France, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, Norway), planning another advocacy mission in Oslo (this mission took place in December), and a press conference to present the report.

The other advocacy missions consisted in meetings with various officials, politicians, members of parliament etc. During these meetings, the participants presented their organization and one of the topics of the alternative report. In Brussels, members of the delegation met with members of European institutions and a representative of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Paris, they met with the person in charge of Algeria at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Oslo, the delegation met with representatives of students and academics for international solidarity organization and representatives of the Norwegian students union, the executive director of

Norwegian Human Rights Fund and the Counselor for of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were all very interested in CFDA's work, particularly on the issue of combating impunity.

In brief

World Day against the Death Penalty

The World Day against the Death Penalty takes place every year on October 10. On this occasion, the Algerian League for Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) organized a conference-debate on October 8 in the presence of lawyers and human rights activists. During the conference, LADDH reminded its position in favor of the total abolition of the death penalty in Algeria. Amnesty International Algeria also organized a conference-debate in its office in Algiers. Many people attended both events, including representatives of SOS Disparus.

The debate on the removal of the moratorium on the death penalty and the application of the death penalty for crimes against children has been very actual in the Algerian society because of the increasing number of kidnappings followed by murders. Moreover those crimes have had important media coverage.

Meeting in Algiers with European Union representatives

On November 2nd a meeting with 20 associations and representatives of the Maghreb delegation of the European Union was held in Algiers. The participants presented the problems they encountered but the debate focused mainly on the new law on associations and its consequences. CFDA was represented by Nassera Dutour, spokesperson of the association.

Participation in conferences debates organized by the association Djazairouna

On the occasion of Remembrance Days, the association of the victims of the 1990's organized screenings debates on November 1st in Algiers and a conference debate on November 2nd in Blida.

The films projected were “The heroine” by Cherif Agoune, “Memory of scenes” by Abd Arahim Laaloui and “El Manara” by Belkacem Hadjad. Each movie was followed by a debate with the

film director. Representatives of SOS Disparus participated to those events, covered by Radio des sans Voix.

Press releases

Gathering of the families of disappeared repressed on the International Human Rights Day on December 10

December 10 2016

<http://bit.ly/2l0n81E>

Press Reviews

October 2016

<http://bit.ly/2lGVA07>

November 2016

<http://bit.ly/2l01Kt8>

Décember2016

<http://bit.ly/2l7rGFW>

Contacts

Email : cfda@disparus-algerie.org

Site : www.algerie-disparus.org

Phone : 0033 (0)1 43 44 87 82



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