

Newsletter n°62

January, February, March 2017



The families of disappeared answer to Sellal



On January 19, Algerian Prime Minister, M. Abdelmalek Sellal, stated in a written answer to a Member of Parliament, that “all measures have been taken by the authorities to deal with the case

of the disappeared, which is one of the consequences of the 1990’s national tragedy”.

Those remarks published in the newspapers have raised the indignation of the families of disappeared. Therefore, SOS Disparus organized a gathering of the families on Sunday January 29 in Algiers. In the press release calling for the gathering, SOS Disparus reminded that “to date there has been no political will to satisfactorily deal with the issue of enforced disappearances”. Regarding the Charter for peace and national reconciliation, SOS Disparus stated that “it does not provide any answer to the questions from the families simply buying their silence”. Many families of disappeared came to protest against the Prime Minister’s remarks and to remind their fight will not stop until they obtain Truth and Justice.

Gathering place de la République in Paris on the World Day of Social Justice



Since 2007, the World Day of Social Justice has been celebrated on February 20. This year, the Collective Paris Ayotzinapa and Libera-France, an Italian anti-mafia NGO, celebrated this day in organizing a gathering Place de la République in Paris to denounce enforced disappearances in Mexico and around the world. Several people were invited to speak: members of the Collective Paris-Ayotzinapa and members of Libera-France, Nassera Dutour on behalf of FEMED and CFDA, and Geneviève Garrigos for Amnesty International. Mexican artist Alfredo Lopez presented the work he has been doing for years with the shoes of Mexican disappeared.



After these speeches, the participants paid tribute to the 43 Mexican students of the Ayotzinapa rural normal school abducted on September 26, 2016 in Iguala, State of Guerrero (southern Mexico). The

participants gave for each student his or her name and a short presentation, and then waved their portraits.

International Women's Rights Day



In Algeria, women play a major role in the fight for Truth and Justice and against impunity. For more than 20 years mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of disappeared have got together to know the fate of their relative. Although these women have been severely affected by enforced disappearances and have often found themselves in a situation of great psychological and economic insecurity, between the sorrow of the absence, the impossibility of mourning and the loss of income generated by the disappearance of the family economic support, they do not give up!

Thus, each year on March 8, on the occasion of the International Women's Rights Day, they meet at Place of May 1st in Algiers to remind that women are not only victims but also Human rights defenders, the struggle against oblivion and the establishment of Truth and Justice.

Hakikat Adalat Hafiza Merkezi maps enforced disappearances



Truth, Justice and Memory Center (Hakikat Adalet Hafiza Merkezi) invited SOS Disparus to join in the thinking on the theme “Mapping Enforced Disappearances and the Missing” at a workshop organized in Istanbul on January 27 and 28, 2017.

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss an action plan for the draft of a regional map on enforced disappearances in Caucasus, Middle East and North Africa. This map would constitute an important tool to shed light on the immense extent of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in these regions.

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the presentations of the participant organizations, and to two experts’ interventions on UN mechanisms on enforced disappearances and on the use of international and national procedures to fight more effectively against enforced disappearances. The participants then worked in small groups to think about method for the drafting of the maps, its content and its structure.

Advocacy with foreign embassies in Algeria

Algeria will be examined by Human Rights Council on May 8. The CFDA represented by Nassera Dutour executive director and spokesperson, Hocine Bouda representing the SNAPAP and Zakaria Benlahrech for the Algeria League for the defense of Human Rights led an advocacy campaign with the foreign embassies in Algeria on March 6 and 7, 2017. For this mission they used the alternative report on the situation of human rights in Algeria written by these associations. The delegation met with the Belgian and Swedish ambassadors, the 2nd political secretary of United Kingdom embassy, the political adviser of the embassy of Germany and the head of the European Union delegation in Algeria.

In brief

Journalists interested in the disappeared cause

Ahmed Benchemsi, communication and advocacy manager for Middle East and North Africa at Human Rights Watch made an interview with families of disappeared.

Two members of SOS Disparus were also interviewed by David Isaksson, a journalist from New Zealand working for the news website Globe Reporting. He is writing a paper on enforced disappearances in Algeria during the 1990’s.

The FFS in the Algiers office

As part of the parliamentary elections which will take place on May 4, a delegation of the FFS party came to the Algiers office on February 16. FFS wanted to meet members of our association to talk about the issue of enforced disappearances that it wants to include in its political program.

The ACAT review focuses on enforced disappearances

The ACAT Courier, the review of ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture) is preparing a dossier on enforced disappearances in the world for its May issue. The journalist Anna Demontis made an interview with Nassera Dutour in which she explains her fight to obtain Truth and Justice since her son disappeared and presents the actions of CFDA.

A student in political science meets with the families of disappeared

The disappeared cause also interests the students. Fela Hadj Kaddour, a student in political science is working on a research project on enforced disappearances, with a special focus on the fight of SOS Disparus. She talked to families of disappeared about their experience and their fight to obtain from the authorities the Truth on the fate of their relative and the prosecution and judgment of the authors.

Press releases

Families of disappeared answer to Sellal

January 28 2017

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

International Women's Rights Day

March 8 2017

<http://bit.ly/2o78Wbs>

Press reviews

Janvier

<http://bit.ly/2ovC0sm>

Février

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

Mars

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

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