

Newsletter n°64

July, August, September 2017

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie



International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances

▪ In Algiers

On the occasion of the International day of the victims of enforced disappearances on August 30, and like every year, CFDA and SOS Disparus organized a gathering in Algiers.



▪ In Paris

The Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) organized on September 01 a conference in partnership with the CFDA, Amnesty International France, the association of parents and friends of disappeared in Morocco (APADM), the Moroccan Forum for Truth and Justice (FMVJ), the Argentinian Collective for Memory and the Collective Paris Avotzonappa. The theme of the conference was “*Truth and Justice for the Families of the Disappeared*”.

A hundred people came to listen to each of the personalities and victims who took turns on the podium. The statements made by H. E. François Croquette (Ambassador for Human Rights), Mr Emmanuel Decaux (Former President of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances) and Ms Geneviève Garrigou (Former President of Amnesty

International) and the testimonies were fascinating. These speeches were followed by discussions with the public, allowing some people to share their own experiences, both as direct victims of enforced disappearances and as relatives of the disappeared. An excerpt from the Mexican film *Buscadores* by Mario Vergaraa and clips from the United Nations campaign for the ratification of the Convention were also screened.



On Saturday, September 2, the FEMED and the CFDA held a sit-in at Place de la République. The associations presented portraits of disappeared, stands of documentations, projections, expositions and music.

The Collective Paris-Ayotzinapa, the Argentinian Collective for Memory, the CFDA and the FEMED each set up documentation with books, magazines and prospectus. They also presented petitions to inform general public about the reality of enforced disappearances. Each association has also posted dozens of photos of victims of enforced disappearances and their activities, allowing the public to see in a playful way the complexity of the disappearance and the hard fight of relatives for truth and justice throughout the world.

After mid-afternoon, Sofia and Estéban from the Collective Paris-Ayotzinapa, sang militant melodies in Spanish. This was followed by a speech by several representatives of associations.

The president of the CFDA explained the activities of the association and the reality of the fight for disappeared and their families in Algeria.

This gathering was a real success, attracting dozens of people at all times of the day.



The Universal Periodic Review on Algeria



On September 22, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted the conclusions of the Universal Periodic Review on Algeria (UPR).

This UPR began on May 8, at the 36th session of UN Council of Human rights and ended on September 22.

A collective declaration of the civil society, including the CFDA, the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH), the Youth Actions Gathering (RAJ), the National Autonomous National Union of Public Administration Staff (SNAPAP), EuroMed Rights and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights, has been elaborated. Nassera Dutour, spokesperson of the CFDA, spoke for them and presented the oral declaration in which she called for the Algerian government to ensure the total respect of the right to truth and justice for the families of the disappeared and the protection of human rights.

Launch of the French platform of international human rights NGOs

On September 26, between 1pm and 5pm, the French platform of international human rights NGOs was launched on the following theme: “Repression of human rights in the world, what lies ahead for the French NGOs?” It took place in the Auditorium of the Maison du Barreau in Paris. This launch was an undeniable success: a hundred of people were present that day.

The CFDA has actively participated on the creation of this platform, since its first meeting, on April 16. This platform aspires to provide space for exchanges and joint work, for the benefit of the different French international human rights NGOs.

It aims to facilitate the circulation and sharing of information, the pooling of skills and the creation of a collective dynamic of French NGOs, allowing more visibility within debate forums and international networks.



All of the NGOs working on the international level and respecting the Charter are invited to join our platform.

Preparation of the days against oblivion

On September 29, Algeria celebrated the 12th birthday of the Charter for Peace and national reconciliation. This birthday was an occasion to remember the violations committed against victims in the 1990s. The CFDA and SOS Disparus scheduled several days against oblivion, in order to continue the fight against this Charter which preaches for oblivion and impunity. Associations decided that the days between October 4

and 7 will be devoted to this theme. Activities under preparation consist in photo exhibition, film screening with debates following, and a seminar.

Since mid-September, all of the members of SOS Disparus and CFDA were mobilized to organize these dedicated days.



Organizing a gathering against the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation

On the 12th birthday of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, the CFDA published a press release against the adoption of this national Charter which is a denial of justice for the victims and their relatives.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus also organized on September 30 a gathering against the Charter. About thirty people were present at this gathering, in front of the Great Post office of Algiers. Three persons, members of SOS Disparus, were arrested and taken to the police station of Cavignac. They were released three hours later.

Press Releases

The Charter "for peace and national reconciliation": a persistent denial of justice

29 September 2017

<http://bit.ly/2i0Mijd>

Launch of the French platform of international human rights NGOs

27 September 2017

<http://bit.ly/2fY95rA>

Speech by Nassera Dutour at the Universal Periodic Review of Algeria at the UN Human Rights Council

22 September 2017

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

Denunciation of the arrest of activist Belkacem Khencha

27 juillet 2017

<http://bit.ly/2y8S5Hj>

Revue de Presse

September

<http://bit.ly/2yiqky2>

August

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

July

<http://bit.ly/2fXNnE5>

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