



## “Human rights in Algeria, between reality and text”

The collective of lawyers created in support of Mr Nouredine Ahmine organized a press conference on Thursday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the head office of SOS Disparus association to condemn the judicial harassment suffered by him. His trial on appeal was planned for last February 5<sup>th</sup>, to be eventually put off once again to March 6<sup>th</sup>, then again to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. As a reminder, Nouredine Ahmine, lawyer at Laghouat’s Court and human rights activist, appeared in the Court of Appeal of the City of Ghardaia, charged of "contempt of court" and "presentation of false evidence for a crime", following a complaint he had filed during the events that shook the region of Ghardaia. Mr Ahmine may incur up to two years imprisonment and 5,000 AD fine for the only reason of having wanted to practice his profession of lawyer, say his colleagues. "This act is a pure and simple violation of the most basic

rights, including separation of the powers of the judiciary and the executive, but also the freedom of expression and the right to justice and fair trial" deplore his support committee, including Maitre Bouchachi. The CFDA has supported, and still does, Nouredine Ahmine by launching urgent appeals to UN Special Rapporteurs and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.



Mokrane Ait Larbi and Abdelghani Badi, lawyers and human rights activists also spoke at the conference to remind that lawyers have rights, guaranteed by law, and to raise awareness about the protection of human rights defenders.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Like every year, for the International Day for Women's Rights, the mothers of the disappeared gathered at the Martyrs square in Algiers this Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 13:00. Displaying their photos, chanting their slogans "give us our children back", these mothers were able to brave for a while the prohibition to demonstrate under the eyes of the police who apparently were prepared to face them.

At the same time, the film "On the way to Meriem" was screened, and followed by a debate, on SOS-Disparus premises in Oran. This documentary narrates the journey of the caravan "Women, Disabled & Children for Development" and the situation of Algerians in the South (Adrar province) around five main issues: women and rights, women and health, women and employment, children disability and education.

As one day per year is not enough to remind that women have rights, this international day was extended to March 17<sup>th</sup> at the association's head office in Oran with the screening / debate of the film "Wadja" by Haifa Al-Mansour. Wadjda is a rebellious little girl in the age of becoming a woman, in Saudi Arabia. On the way to school,

she is attracted by a bike, girls have no right to ride to preserve their "virtue". She will do everything to buy it, until registering for a Koran reading contest. Wadjda's efforts are shown in this film with humor and irony. The day continued with a participatory debate on the state of women's rights in Algeria.

## CFDA'S WISHES DEFENDED BY THE FFS

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the FFS political party (Front of the Socialist Forces) received at its headquarters, Hacene Ferhati representative of the families of the disappeared. Hacene Ferhati defended both the activities of the Collective of the Families of the disappeared in Algeria and the families expectations. In his presentation, Hacene Ferhati also recalled the importance of granting truth and justice to families.

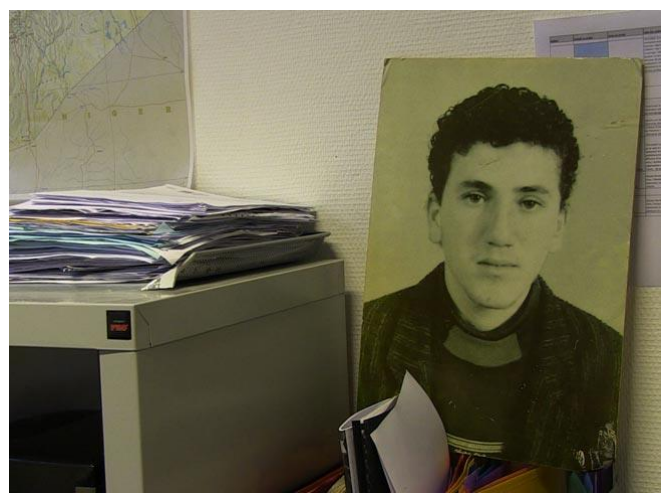
Focus was put on the current issue of 3,300 graves under X, as well as on the final ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 20 December 2006.



## HISTORIANS, DOCUMENTARISTS AND CINEMATOGRAPHY STUDENTS, QUESTIONED THEMSELVES ON FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

The CFDA is increasingly called upon by historians, writers, filmmakers, sociologists, psychologists, journalists, students who want to learn about the events of the 90s in Algeria. Nassera Dutour, CFDA spokeswoman, was interviewed by a historian who wrote a thesis on the independence of Algeria, in order to write an article on enforced disappearances. This article will be included in Karima Dirèche's book entitled "Algeria in the Present". A second article, to deepen the issue of these disappearances, has already been planned jointly CFDA which is making its records available for use.

Ms. Narimène L. who attended a prestigious doctoral school Arts and Media at Varan workshops has chosen to carry out her thesis documentary about the disappeared in Algeria. She was everywhere with Nassera Dutour for more than a month, be it at her office and at her home, or by going to the airport, to make the movie "I'm here". The film traces the story of 21-year-old Amine who disappeared on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 1997 in Algiers, and Nassera his mother who made out of his research a collective fight to which she devoted her last twenty years. The film released in 2017 will be back on April 22 at the International Festival of Oriental Film in Geneva (IFOFG).



Young students were revolted when they find out the truth about the disappeared in Algeria, or those touched by this phenomenon of disappearance in Algeria have decided to deepen their research. CFDA, always ready to encourage youth, welcomed them and allowed them to develop their knowledge and their critical sense of the Algerian situation in a general way, and particularly of enforced disappearances in Algeria.

## **AWARENESS ON THE SITUATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALGERIA**



One of the main actions of the Collective of the Families of the Disappeared in Algeria is to advocate before national and international institutions according to its constitutive charter. These missions are carried out in Algeria with political parties on different occasions, with embassies, United Nations agencies or any other international institution.

This quarter, CFDA met with the ambassadors of the Netherlands prior to the examination of Algeria by the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The delegation of CFDA was received by the highest advisers of these embassies to report on the situation of human rights in Algeria.

Mrs Dutour also presented the association and the demands of the families, namely the right to Truth and Justice before the First Secretary and Political Advisor of the German Embassy in Algeria.

Similarly, on last January 16th, the first secretary of the French Embassy in Algeria, met with SOS Disparus to visit the association and learn about the cause of enforced disappearances.



*We want the truth*

*All the Truth*

*Just the Truth!*

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