



Duty of remembrance: day to pay tribute to the resistance families of disappeared in Algeria



Twenty years ago, the families of the disappeared in Algeria held their first rally in front of the Human Rights Observatory (hereinafter ONDH), which was replaced by the Commission on Human Rights and which has become today the Human Rights Council. Since the 2nd of August 1998, the families of the disappeared gather.

Indeed, every Wednesday they presented themselves at the ONDH to receive petitions they had filed to find their loved one and inquire about the truth. Families have taken the habit of brandishing photos of their missing loved ones and chanting slogans as they did in Geneva

Thus was born the first rally of families in Algeria. Nowadays and families are still gathering.

That's why, on the 7 of April 2018, the CFDA and SOS Disparu(e)s jointly organized a day to pay tribute to the families of disappeared offering them a day filled with emotion.. This day had a twofold objective which was desired by the CFDA and SOS: to not forget disappeared persons and to recall the fight of justice and truth led by families.

SOS Disparu(e)s has welcomed the mothers of the disappeared persons who fight and who hope that the truth about their loved ones will be revealed one day. During this event, lawyers, journalists, members of opposition parties and human rights activists were present. In order to make this day

emotional and touching, a film about the fight of the families of the disappeared was projected and was intended to raise the awareness of the guests. Mr. Gherzoul, brother of a disappeared person shared two of his songs about the disappearance of his brother named "where are they?". After these moments full of emotion, the civil society and the families had a time to debate. This moment was hopeful. The courage and the determination of the mothers have been put forward.

An effective training : drafting of two alternative reports for the examination of Algeria by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.



The Human Rights Committee (hereinafter the Committee) had examine Algeria in July 2018. A first alternative report to the Algerian Government's report has been drafted by four Algerian associations, including RAJ, CFDA, LADDH, the Réseau des Droits de l'Homme and human rights lawyers. According to the procedure, the Committee sent a series of questions that Algeria answered in March 2018.

To prepare the alternative reports for the Committee's examination of Algeria, the CFDA and EuroMed organized a training session named "implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Algeria: Challenges and Challenges". The aim of this training session

was to acquire legal and written skills in order to write the alternative reports.

This training took place the 19 and 20 April 2018 and provided to participants on the one hand knowledge of procedures and tools for the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Algeria and on the other hand drafting skills which were useful to draft the report based on the Algerian government's responses.

Indeed, this training was beneficial because it later allowed the drafting of an alternative report issuing recommendations on the situation of human rights in Algeria. The reports are based on a work of documentation and research conducted in the field by the organizations.

The integration of the rights protected by the Covenant in Algerian case law, the abrogation of articles of the Charter for peace and reconciliation which sanction impunity, the establishment of a process that would guarantee an effective recourse to the families of the victims of enforced disappearances, the free exercise of peaceful associative activities or the guarantee of the exercise of trade union rights and freedom of the press are all recommendations that have not been applied by Algeria. The organizations have collected numerous testimonies asserting that Algeria has failed to implement the previous recommendations issued by the Committee.

These reports deal not only with enforced disappearances but also with freedom of association, independence of justice, freedom of expression and violations of women's rights.

These different organizations have shown in their reports that Algeria is not respecting its international obligations and is committing numerous violations of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We invite you to read the two reports submitted by our delegation:

- <http://www.algerie-disparus.org/app/uploads/2018/08/Alg%C3%A9rie-1er-rapport-alternatif-juillet-2017.pdf>
- <http://www.algerie-disparus.org/app/uploads/2018/08/Alg%C3%A9rie-2%C3%A8me-rapport-alternatif-juin-2018.pdf>

During the whole semester, the CFDA also worked to prepare the advocacy mission in Geneva around the examination of Algeria by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: conference debate



@nawaat.org

On June 30, 2018, SOS Disparu(e)s organized at the CPMDH in Oran a conference debate dedicated to the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: "*Torture and its impact on the life of the person*". This conference was open to all and aimed sensitizing the civil society on this norm of jus cogens. It is a norm accepted and recognized by the international community of States as a whole to which no derogation is permitted and which can only be modified by a new standard of international law of the same character. To make this conference effective, victims of torture in Algeria brought their testimonies on the question of the inhuman and degrading treatment they suffered and the physical and moral after-effects caused by torture.

To promote the scope of this conference, along with the victims, civil society activists such as sociologists, journalists and lawyers were present to participate in the debate.



@empathy.ge

In addition, Hacene Ferhati's intervention on his traumatic experience of torture has been successful to catch the public intention. His story touched the guests present.

THE BRIEFS

Coordinating meeting of Algerian associations in Brussels

A meeting in Brussels gathered for 3 days, between May the 16th and 18th, members of the Solidarity group with the civil society in Algeria. The purpose of this meeting was to prepare the alternative report of the Algerian solidarity group for the Human Rights Committee. For this purpose, a Google group on Algeria will be created to facilitate communication between these sub-Saharan associations



An advocacy mission around the review of Algeria by the Human Rights Committee in July was decided. During this meeting, the international NGOs discussed the possible lines of cooperation on the activities and priority to come concerning Algeria. This included the 2019 presidential elections in Algeria, arbitrary arrests and mass expulsions of migrants in Algeria.

Journalistic meeting: a fight of truth and justice recalled and put forward by the president of the SOMOUD association, Adnane Bouchaib.

On the 1st of April 2018, SOS Disparus invited *voices of Magharebia's* journalist named *Hamza Atzi* to meet families of disappeared.

He later met the lawyer Adnan Bouchaib, president of the SOMOUD association, in his offices in order to discuss about enforced disappearances and the impact of the Charter for Peace and Reconciliation.

Leading a similar fight, CFDA / SOS Disappeared, SOMOUD and Djazairuna, created the Coalition of Victims Associations of the 90s. The common point of all its associations is the search for truth and justice and the preservation of memory.

Following this interview, an article was written in Arabic. We invite you to read it through the following link:

<https://www.maghreboices.com/a/429867.html>

The lawyer recalled that the Coalition of Victims Associations of the 90s is not against peace but the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation is an amnesty for the perpetrators of serious violations of human rights. The Coalition fights against the impunity of perpetrators who committed crimes.

Along with the Charter, the coalition wants to create a truth commission composed of experts whose mission is to find the truth about the disappeared persons and to find their bodies particularly with the opening of mass graves.

The participation of the CFDA and SOS Disparu(e)s in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The premises of Sos disparu(e)s in Algiers and Oran are often solicited by other associations or university professors for meetings or events. For example, on May 12, 2018, SOS disparu(e)s offered its premises to the Anti-Corruption Association in order to available them to organize their annual general meeting. Sos disparu(e)s also often receives historians, sociologists, law professors who are interested in the issue of forced disappearances in Algeria. They write dissertations, articles and papers. Interviews with families or officials of the association in Algiers, Oran or Paris are also carried.

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