



Caravan of Mothers of Missing Migrants

The Global Summit of Mothers of Missing Migrants took place in Mexico City 2-4 November 2018 as part of the 8th World Social Forum on Migration. For the first time, the Mothers' Caravan was joined in Mexico City by mothers from other continents, with the aim of building a transnational Movement. Indeed, were present among them mothers from Maghreb countries such as Senegal, Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania.

This Summit brought together organizations of mothers of missing persons fighting against the phenomenon of enforced disappearance and forced displacement. The Summit focused on the thousands of migrants who have disappeared in the various territories of the world through omission, complicity and participation of States. Although the CFDA is fighting a different fight, the

Collective was able to share its fight for the truth and justice concerning the fate of their loved ones disappeared during the black decade of the 1990s. The claims of the Summit are very similar to that of our Collective. The right to truth and justice and the non-repetition of crimes are the main claims of the Summit.



The CFDA was happy to participate in the Mexican Mothers' caravan which crossed Mexican territory (migratory route) in search of clue of their children who went missing trying to reach the United States. The caravan arrived in Mexico City, the last leg of the trip, to participate in the gathering of mothers of missing migrants.

Focus Group Algeria project: raise the voice of the Algerian civil society

Following the last Focus Group that took place in Brussels in May 2018, a new meeting was held on the 6 and 7 December 2018 to continue the work accomplished concerning the restriction on associations.

During this Focus Group, it was mentioned the importance of protecting human rights defenders working in Algeria.

The Focus Group will focus its work on the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee issued in July 2018 and the universal Periodic Review (UPR). Indeed, Algeria reviewed in 2017 by the UPR, accepted very few recommendations. It is necessary to plan actions to involve Algerian civil society members in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the recommendations made to Algeria.



The Focus Group is committed to carry out advocacy missions to Algerian MPs, political personalities and in particular to the civil society in order to inform them and to raise awareness on Human Rights violations. This campaign will take place upstream the Algerian presidential elections of April 2019.

Other topics discussed included freedom of association and assembly, freedom of association, establishment of truth and justice, women's rights and the rights of migrants and refugees.

The alternative law on associations

For several months a collective of Algerian associations affected by the law on associations of 2012 met to reflect on how to get rid of this law.

Indeed, it is very complicated in Algeria to obtain a receipt allowing an association to be declared.

The aim of this conference was to present to the authorities, politicians and civil society an alternative law proposal on associations guaranteeing freedom of association, assembly and expression. This alternative law would repeal the law 12/06 on associations described as a law restricted liberties and freedoms by the Collective of associations. The main points of this alternative law composed of 64 articles aim a flexible procedure for registration and functioning, the respect of the freedoms of action and organization, the consecration of a declarative regime in the law and the practice.

The Collective of associations is composed of:

- Collectif des familles des disparus CFDA et Sos Disparus
- Djazairouna
- Femmes Algériennes Revendiquant leurs Droits FARD

- Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme LADH
- Ligue Algérienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme LADDH
- Ligue des arts cinématographiques et dramatiques de Tizi-Ouzou
- Rassemblement-Action- Jeunesse RAJ
- Tharwa Fadhma N'soumer

Round table: Duty of memory, an instrument to guarantee the non-repetition of crimes

On 1 December 2018 in Algiers, the Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie (CFDA) and the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) organized a round table "Memory, an instrument to guarantee the non-repetition of crimes ". During the event, several associations, lawyers and families of the disappeared, were invited to attend the round table.



Memory is an important dimension for states, individuals, or groups of people who have been harmed. It engenders reconciliation when it is complete and real, compensation when it is recognized.

For the CFDA and FEMED, the duty to memory is one of the most important elements in the fight against enforced disappearances. It is essential

for the truth, the fight against impunity and the guarantee of the non-repetition of crimes. In order that history does not repeat itself, it was important to understand the issues around the duty of memory.

70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The International day for Human rights is celebrated on the 10th of December on the same date of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of human rights, the 10th of December 1948. This year was the 70th anniversary of this declaration.



IN ALGIERS

On the 8 of December 2018, families gathered near the National Human Rights Commission, in order to recall to the authorities their responsibility regarding their work on cases of enforced disappearances in Algeria and to express their determination.



Indeed, families of disappeared persons want to get the truth and be ensured that justice will be done. This fight begins by turning down the

Charter for peace and national reconciliation which established a national amnesty on the events of the conflict of the 90ies.

The peaceful rally was quickly disrupted by the police who immediately started to arrest people and mainly, relatives of disappeared persons as well as members of the “Rassemblement Action Jeunesse” (RAJ).

SOS Disparus has recalled with the upcoming presidential elections of April 2019, that the families of the disappeared have never yielded before the threats of the authorities and that the fight will continue before national and international bodies.



On this occasion and in order to pay tribute to Hocin eAit Ahmed, the former president of the Socialist forces front (FFS), the party organized a press conference which focused on human rights. SOS Disparus has assisted to this conference entitled “The reality of human rights in Algeria” and to another one led by Jil Djadid, at Zeralda, which was retracing the 70 years of the universal declaration

IN ORAN

For the International day for Human Rights SOS Disparus Oran and the Center for the preservation of the Memory and the Study of Human rights, organized a screening of a film followed by a debate. The film was a documentary of Christine Seghezzi “Stephane Hessel, a life of commitment”.



This event aimed at gathering students, trade union and citizens, started with a short introduction and explanation of what are human rights and the universal declaration of human rights followed by a presentation of the center, of SOS Disparus and of its work.

The screening of the film was then followed by a debate on the subject of human rights between the different participants of this meeting.

This event allowed the organization to show and explain the work of the center and of SOS Disparus as well as raising the awareness of a larger audience on human rights and on the protection of the rights of people.

Referral to international bodies

The Algerian government is increasingly hostile towards independent journalists. Indeed, the Algerian press is affected by a wave of arrests. The freedom of expression which is preserved at the international level is affected.

The last few months, the editor-in-chief of the online news site "Algeria Part", Abdou Semmar, his collaborator Merouane Boudiab and the journalist Said Chitour have been the subject of lawsuits.

On October 30, 2018, the CFDA issued an urgent appeal for the arbitrary detention of Said Chitour, a journalist and international media contributor, for his immediate release. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and members of United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary procedure had been seized.

In addition, special procedures of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights were also seized, such as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa and the special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa. This urgent appeal was a success because the journalist was released.

A Christmas for victims of enforced disappearances

The “Collectif de Familles de Diparus en Algérie” (CFDA) in partnership with the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) and the “association de parents et amis de disparus au Maroc” (APADM) organized at the Rev 'Café in Montreuil (France), an event in memory of victims of enforced disappearances. This evening gathered for Christmas people working on this theme and families of victims of enforced disappearances.



During this evening, a play was presented by the actress Khadija El Mahdi. This play named “Mama Khan: le chant de la terre Lakota” is about a travel story and Amerindian tales from the Lakota tradition. The play was a great success and guests were able to continue the evening with homemade couscous, mint tea and oriental pastries. Throughout the evening a photo exhibition was also proposed as well as some testimonies about enforced disappearances.



This evening was a friendly moment to gather people working on enforced disappearances in Algeria and in other countries.

BREVES

MAJALAT Brussels

MAJALAT is the first forum led by the Euro-Mediterranean civil society. This project intended to strengthen regional exchanges between civil societies and exchanges at European level, particularly with the European institutions

The 20th and 21th November 2018, the CFDA took part in the second forum of MAJALAT in Brussels.

During these two days, the forum gathered representatives of different regional organizations. In fact, over 150 representatives gathered to discuss four key themes:

- good governance,
- security and fight against violence,
- migration
- economic development and social dialogue

The objective of the forum was that the representatives of regional organizations become familiar with the four themes identified as priorities at a previous seminar in Amman. As a first step, the various representatives discussed about the themes which will be discussed the next day with the EU representatives. Secondly, the participants had time to discuss the future EU policies and instruments that could lead to successful actions between them.

Algérie : Matoub Lounes award

This year, on October 9, 2018, the 11th edition of the prize "Matoub Lounes against oblivion" was organized by the Association for the Promotion of Cultural Activities and Leisure "AMGUS". The prize was awarded to the lawyer and human rights activist Ali Yahia Abdenmour, the great Kabyle singer Nouara and posthumously to the Kabyle singer named Slimane Azem. Nassera Dutour, spokesperson of SOS Disparus, and Hacène Ferhati, a member SOS Disparus, were invited to attend this edition.



Activities around the Research Center for the Preservation of Memory and the Study of Human Rights

The Research Center for the Preservation of Memory and the Study of Human Rights (CPMDH) attracts many students and professors who come to listen to interviews or give lectures. Currently a group of students in sociology and physiology working on enforced disappearances in Algeria works a lot with the documentary fund. The documentary fund is very rich in terms of books and materials concerning international instruments for the protection of human rights. This group of students plans to volunteer for the CPMDH by organizing awareness days on the phenomenon of enforced disappearances. The Centre is also a place for the CFDA's daily work because families are interviewed. These interviews are broadcasted on Radio des Sans Voix programs.

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