



Algeria : faced with a national fight for freedom and justice since February the 22nd

Algeria is facing since February the 22nd a great turmoil and an important uprising of the people, the Algerian population, regardless of its age, loudly asking for the end of the current system and the dawn of the second Republic, a people's republic really democratic. For the first time in decades, the nation is walking towards an authentic liberation from those who are currently in power.

In Algiers, Oran, Constantine or Bordj Bou Arreridj, tens of thousands of Algerians have been marching the streets to protest first against the candidacy of Abdelaziz Bouteflika to a 5th mandate, then against the whole system. In the streets, only one key expression : “ Système degage” [System buzz off].

This people's uprising forced Bouteflika to renounce running for a 5th election, then stopped him from extending his 4th and finally to resign on April the 2nd, 2019. It did shake the Algerian political scene up, but the nation has to continue

the fight in order to secure the implementation of a true democratic transition and the nomination of a consensus government. Essentially, what the Algerian population wants is more democracy, more freedoms and a society less corrupted and with more respect for human rights.

But since these events, the people in power have been refusing to answer any more of the nation's claims for a change in the system. Despite a strong disapproval from the people, who think it would be dangerous for the country as there is no political alternative than those already in power, they are decided to maintain for the 4th of July the next election.



The Algerian nation is however aware that the movement has to stand the test of time and that it has to be maintained in a pacific manner on every day of the week, in order to face in the best possible way this system which is always searching for loopholes.

SOS Disappeared and the families of disappeared, at the center of the protests

The disappeared's families have the habit to gather every Wednesday in Algiers for a pacific procession. However, since the beginning of the movement, they are also part of the Friday parade where they then carry portraits of their disappeared loved ones and join their voices to the ones of the Algerian nation, shouting "Justice and Truth". This active and courageous mobilization by the families of disappeared has given more visibility to their fight for truth and justice and has resulted in the welcoming of new families of disappeared in the premises of SOS Disappeared.



Moreover, SOS Disappeared is a support of the Hirak and the association is strongly taking part in the movement. SOS Disappeared's premises in Algiers are thus used to organize many events such as debates on démocratic transition or the change of the system and meetings of the Collective of Civil Society for Democratic Change.

More than 20 years after the beginning of their fight, the families are still fighting impunity and protesting against human rights violations in Algeria. They are a striking example of hope, courage and strength for a whole nation. Through this transition process Algeria is currently living, they are hoping for the birth of a true state of law which will lead to the inception of Truth and Justice.

The birth of the Algerian Civil Society Collective for a pacific crisis recovery

The CFDA has, with other Algerian organizations fighting for human rights, founded on February the 27th 2019 – so a few days after the first demonstration of February the 22nd, - a collective of associations called the Civil Society Collective for a pacific crisis recovery. This collective aims a project of national transition conference. It has met very often since its creation and continues to publish press releases that inform Algerians about the events that are gradually being created in Algerian society and according to the policies of the moment.

After many meetings, the Collective, aware of the important part it can play as a mediator, has worked on 6 proposals, consisting of 6 different steps, for crisis recovery.

These 6 steps are seen as essential for a democratic transition, and answer the claims of the Nation:

- Firstly: to avoid entering a period characterized by lawless, the outgoing President of the Republic should obey the desire of the people and retire before April the 27th. Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigned on April the 22nd 2019.
- Secondly: implementing a High Committee on Transition (HCT), a collegial body constituted of persons with moral authority and heavily supported by the Nation. This body will have to embody the Algerian State.
- Thirdly: Establishing through the HCT a National Government of transition (GNT) constituted of consensual and credible personalities who will be in charge of dealing with the transition process in reasonable delays which still have to be defined.
- Fourthly, the Forum of national consensus, which gathers all different sensitivities within society, will have to achieve a consensus on practical

modalities for the implementation of the Constituent Assembly, as well as an historic compromise on fundamental and inalienable principles, the respect of all freedoms, human rights and equality. It will have to proclaim the birth of the new republic through a founding text.

- Fifthly, electing a Constituent Assembly in charge of drafting the new Constitution
- Finally, returning to constitutional legality, with an opening of the political field and the organization of general elections.



The International Women's Day

The 8th of March 2019 holds a double symbolic : it was the day of the International Women's Day as well as the one of an important demonstration against Abdelaziz Bouteflika's run for a 5th mandate. Hundreds of thousands of Algerian, among which were many women, have peacefully demonstrated.



Photo Arslane Bestaoui/Sipa

This year, the atmosphere is new, the context isn't what it used to be, and the Algerian women are not going to miss this historic gathering. Indeed, Algerian women have decided to make their voices as well as their choices heard. They won't be put aside and will play a part in the « people's movement » of which the country has taken acquaintance of since February the 22nd. This is why on Friday the 8th; they wouldn't take a break asking for more rights, more freedoms and a better future for Algeria.

As for the mothers of disappeared, they were also there to celebrate this historic day which was the 8th of March, together with their fellow citizens, a smile on their lips and with a great determination. They were carrying pictures of their disappeared loved ones and shouting slogans such as « give us back our children », thus keeping their fight alive.



Djegdjiga Cherguit: an emblematic figure of the fight

Madam Cherguit, mother of a disappeared person and former Moudjahida during the National Liberation War, is an example for us all in her fight. She is one of these mothers who made history as well as Algeria's glory, and is a female figure of the national uprising.

She never ceased throwing herself, body and heart, at the core of the fight, first against the colonial system, then against the Algerian state to ask for Truth and Justice for the people who disappeared during the 90s. With the desire to see the Algerian citizen tall, free, protected and aware of its responsibilities in the evolution and prosperity of its country, Madam Cherguit never stopped putting at the service of human rights her revolutionary personality.

This is why SOS Disappeared has wished to pay her its respect by organizing a surprise event in the premises of the association, on February the 3rd, 2019. Many human rights activists answered SOS Disappeared's call, as well as associations such as the Raj and Amnesty International, representatives of the FFS political party and other families of disappeared. This tribute was the expression of their gratitude and appreciation for the moudjahida Cherguit, for the sacrifices she made so the Algerian national could retrieve its independence and dignity.



Madam Cherguit recounted her fight against colonialism. Her joy and proud linked to the country's independence could still be read in her eyes, more than 50 years after the proclamation of independence. She talked with fervor, her love for Algeria was unbeatable. She also discussed her fight to make the Algerian State render Truth and Justice for all the disappeared of the 90s and make memory heard and remembered.

The development of the Center for Memory Preservation and the Study of Human Rights

Oran's Center for Memory Preservation and the Study of Human Rights (CPMDH) is still attracting many students and professors who come to listen to interviews or to participate in conferences. Its attendance is evermore growing thanks to the many meetings of various local associations in its premises.

In January, academicians have organized at the CPMDH a training for their social sciences students in master degree. Currently, groups of

law and sociology students, who are doing researches on human rights, are coming to the CPMDH to get documentation, as its documentary resources are abundant on international mechanisms for human rights protection.



Moreover, the Center is key for the CFDA's work as interviews with families of disappeared are led there.

Short news

When SOS Disappeared call Algerian politicians...

SOS Disappeared has participated in a seminary organized by the RAJ, where a presidential candidate, Mister Fares Ghares, was invited. SOS Disappeared's team took advantage of it to call him on the question of the disappeared and ask him where in his program this issue was addressed. They also reminded him how essential it is, for the families but also for Algeria's future, to fight impunity and reestablish truth and justice for all victims of enforced disappearances.



Mister Fares Ghares, for whom it is a said scandal this issue isn't solved yet, has committed to do all in his power to end this problem.

RAJ seminar : The general situation of the country and the next presidential election

On the second seminary organized by the RAJ and called « The country's general situation and next presidential election », it was the presidential candidate Ali Ghediri's turn to be called upon by Hacene Ferhati who was representing the families of disappeared.

In the course of his speech, Hacene Ferhati defended the activities led by the Collective of Families of Disappeared in Algeria and exposed the families claims. He also asked Mister Ali Ghedri what was his thoughts on the resolving of the issue concerning the 90s disappeared, and how he was planning to deal with it in his programme.

Mister Ghadri answered that even if he has been in the military, he was before everything else a man of the people, and that he understood the suffering of the families. He ended up proposing the organization of a round table with the families of the disappeared in order to listen to each of them and to help them find a solution.



Press reviews

January

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

February

<http://bit.ly/2UpeKO4>

March

<http://bit.ly/2D8pTii>

Contact

Email : cfda@disparus-algerie.org

Website : www.algerie-disparus.org

Phone : 0033 (0)9 53 36 81 14



[Notre page](#)



[Notre Mémorial Virtuel](#)