



Popular mobilization for democracy does not run out of steam

Thousands of Algerians continue to occupy the streets of Algeria to affirm again and again their rejection of this system. Their movement continues to amaze the world with its peacefulness and tenacity.

The protest resisted all the techniques used by the government to undermine it: blocking access to Algiers, arrests and intimidations, prohibitions to parade with certain emblems, but in vain. The Algerian people are still calling for the eradication of the entire system and for the resignation of Abdelkader Bensalah, President of the Upper House who became Acting Head of State in April.

So far, every day of demonstrations has allowed Algerians to obtain a concession or a retreat from the state. The most notable are certainly the resignation of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and the legal proceedings against his clan.

For SOS Disappeared and the families, the current situation revives their hope and strengthens their mobilisation. The families of the disappeared do not disarm, they continue to be in the heart of Hiraktous Fridays holding the pictures of their relatives and chanting their slogans. Many protesters from the Hirak come to support them, to proclaim their solidarity and take pictures with them.



Photo (NADIA FERROUKHI / HANS LUCAS / AFP)

SOS Disappeared launches public debates in Algiers

The association SOS Disappeared organized a series of public conferences in its premises in Algiers to feed the debate and thus, better understand and analyze the popular uprisings. Each conference was a real success and gathered a great number of participants. The debates were all very enriching and many questions were asked to the speakers.

Professor Majid Benchikh, former dean of the law school and former president of Amnesty International, and Nouredine Benissad, lawyer and president of the Algerian League (LADDH), led this first conference on 25 April 2019 under the theme **"the uprising of the people: situations and perspectives"**.

Another conference under the title **"Hirak and the democratic transition in Algeria"** was organized by Mostefa Bouchachile on May 29, 2019.

On 13 June 2019, a third debate was held with Karim Tabou as keynote speaker under the theme **"between democratic hope and authoritarian temptations"**.

And finally, Mr. Djilali Sofiane, president of the party Jil Jadid, closed this first series of conferences by a debate under the theme **"the people and the democratic transition"**.



« National Conference » of the Algerian civil society for a peaceful way out

The Collective of the Civil Society for a Democratic Transition composed of Human Rights Leagues, RAJ Association, SOS Disappeared, SOS Bal El Oued, etc., the Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions (CSA) and the Civil Forum organized in Algiers on Saturday, June 15, "a national conference" in order to give a political solution to the popular demands and to lay the first steps of the new Algerian Republic. 150 people, each representing an organization, took part in this national conference.

Previously, these three dynamics had held four preparatory meetings, the first of which was dedicated to the memory of Ramzi Yettou, martyr of the popular movement and victim of police violence.

This long-awaited first National Conference reached consensus and drafted a common text called "Roadmap for a way out of the crisis and a democratic transition". The document states the need for "a transition period of six months to one year" as well as the creation of an "independent commission to direct, organize and report the election results".



Photo tirée du journal « El Watan »

The roadmap also recommended the opening of a global dialogue with political actors, the civil society and protesters from Hirak. A larger national conference bringing together all parts of Algerian civil society including political parties is soon to come.

Referral of international instances by the CFDA

In addition to its regular work on cases of disappearance, the CFDA is committed to taking action when human rights are violated and when the lives of others are in danger. Thus, on April 10, 2019, the CFDA issued an urgent appeal concerning the repression suffered by Algerians present during the demonstrations of April 9, 2019 and April 10, 2019, during the peaceful demonstrations in Algiers.

Indeed, Algerian students have traditionally demonstrated each Tuesday morning, without incident since the beginning of the dispute, before dispersing themselves early in the afternoon. This Algerian mobilization has also been recognized at the national and international levels for its pacifism and civility on many occasions.

However, for the first time since the beginning of the movement against the system in place, the police used force to try to evacuate thousands of students during the demonstration. Significant police reinforcements had been deployed in central Algiers, and several buses carrying protesters had been detained in the police's checkpoints. The riot police were particularly aggressive using tear gas and water cannons to disperse protesters and make violent arrests.

The UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression and opinion and the Special Rapporteur of the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association have been seized.

News

SOS Disappeared puts in place a phone number for enforced disappearances during Hirak : 06 65 63 21 78

Since February 22, 2019, Hirak has given rise to a context of repression and arrests by the police. Thus, SOS Disappeared has set up a number to provide legal assistance and support to people wrongfully arrested by law enforcement but also

relatives of a missing person during the events of Hirak.

Collectif des Familles de Disparus en Algérie

Appel : Si vous entendez parler d'une personne qui a disparue après avoir été arrêtée...

Contactez-nous au 06 65 63 21 78



Depuis le 22 février 2019, le Hirak donne lieu à un contexte de répression et d'arrestations. Si vous entendez parler de quelqu'un qui a disparu après avoir été arrêté par des forces de l'ordre, contactez l'association SOS Disparu(e)s au :

21 rue Mustapha Benboulaïd, Alger Centre
06 65 63 21 78 ou sosdisparusde@gmail.com

Nous pouvons fournir une assistance juridique et un soutien. La lutte contre les disparitions forcées est l'affaire de tous.

Interview of Nassera Dutour by a journalist of France Info

In the premises of her association in Algiers, the spokesperson of SOS Disappeared came back on her long struggle to find the whereabouts of her son disappeared for more than twenty-two years.

While the Algerian youth has been roaring its anger on the street for four months, the cases of disappearance from the 1990s resurge among the Algerian society. Clément Parrot, a journalist with France info, came back on the portraits of these mothers and their missing child, detailing the long and difficult procedures by which these women went through. He also mentions the position of the Algerian state on the issue of the disappeared and the potentially new political situation that gives hope and that could be the solution for all the families of the disappeared.



Photo (CLEMENT PARROT / FRANCEINFO)

New case registered by the Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights Committee has registered a new case of enforced disappearance and forwarded it to the Algerian government so that investigations can be conducted to clarify the fate of the disappeared and to protect their rights.

The CFDA also monitors communications submitted on its behalf to the Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Thus, in June 2019, the CFDA sent a response to the State party's observations on the admissibility of a previous communication. The Committee is expected to publish its findings in this matter soon.

Press reviews

April

<http://bit.ly/2TAdhR9>

May

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

June

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

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