



## An Independence Day devoted to protest

The 20<sup>th</sup> Friday of popular uprising called Hirak matched, on July 5, with the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of country's independence. Even more numerous than the previous Fridays, Algerian people occupied the streets to demand the end of the system and the establishment of a rule of law.

During this demonstration, one of the demand was to stop the arrest of demonstrators. While the acting president praised the peacefulness of the movement and the *"restrain of the security forces"*, the arrests of demonstrators have multiplied.

In deed, a lot of arrests happn during those demonstrations. Whether they are political opponents, activists or members of civil society, many persons have been arrested and often placed under committal order.

If arrests are increasing, the movement does not run out of steam. Every Friday Algerian people keep protesting and affirming their demands.



The families of the disappeared have come out in large numbers to demonstrate alongside hundreds of thousands of other Algerians to claim Truth, Justice, the change of the system and, finally, a real freedom for the people. The families also participate to those demonstrations to be heard.

## Training on radiophonic technique on July 18th, 19th and 20th in Algiers

This training, which took place on 18, 19 and 20 July at the headquarters of SOS Disparus in Algiers, was aimed at students in communication or journalism interested in the defense of human rights and wishing to train for the realization radio programs.

Animated by an Algerian journalist, the training approached the theoretical aspects concerning the realization of an online radio program, from the definition of the subject to editing, through the documentation, the writing of questions, the interview and the sound recording. Each session during these three days of training was accompanied by practical exercises.

The second day of this training, coinciding with the 22nd Friday of the popular uprising, was devoted to Hirak, this exemplary event held every Friday since February 22, 2019. Participants in the training spent the afternoon with the protesters in the Hirak mingling with the crowd for micro-sidewalks, interviews and video shooting. Everyone had to do a report not exceeding six minutes.

At the end of this training, the participants acquired the necessary knowledge to create radio broadcasts, from preparation to editing.

### **International Day of the Disappeared**

August 30 was proclaimed, by the United Nations, International Day for the Memory of the Disappeared thanks to the important work of the associations of the families of the disappeared in international forums and in their respective countries. All the associations of families of the disappeared in the world commemorate this day by setting up many events reminding this tragic crime against humanity

The CFDA, alongside the Fédération euroméditerranéenne contre les disparitions forcées (FEMED) and other organisations such as Amnesty International, l'Association Marocaine pour les Droits Humains, Association des Parents et Amis de Disparu.e.s au Maroc, le Collectif de Solidarité avec le Nicaragua, le Collectif Paris-Ayotzinapa, Donde Estan, le Forum Marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Human Rights Solidarity, Terre et Liberté, et Yakay-Der, organized a screening / debate on August 30, 2019 on the theme of Memory, and a meeting Place de la République in Paris.

### **Screening / debat on August 30, 2019**

The screening / debate took place on the premises of Amnesty International France under the theme "Enforced Disappearances and Memory".

After the broadcast of a report on the issue of memory in Morocco, with the testimonies of



victims of the years of lead, many speakers took part in the debate.

Geneviève Garrigos, Head of Americas hub at Amnesty International, said that the phenomenon of enforced disappearance is still relevant, and that it is important for associations to continue their fight.

Gilles Manceron, historian and co-leader of the working group "Memory, History, Archives" of the League of Human Rights, then addressed the issue of memory from a historical point of view. He said that enforced disappearance is a very old phenomenon, but has developed with modern states, sometimes massively.

Emmanuel Decaux, professor emeritus of the University Panthéon-Assas Paris II, member of the CNCDH and former president of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, addressed the issue of memory and enforced disappearances through a legal approach. The definition of a new human right that is not to be subjected to enforced disappearance was born thanks to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance.

Rodrigo Restrepo, member of the French branch of the Colombian Commission for Clarification of the Truth, and member of the group of families that operates through the research unit of the disappeared, then spoke on the peace agreements

signed in 2016 in Colombia, which has led to the creation of several legal entities of which it is a part.

Miguel Benasayag, a Guévarist fighter of the Argentine dictatorship, philosopher and psychoanalyst, focused on the case of Argentina and the question of truth, as an axis that moves according to the recognition of facts. Moreover, the interpretation of these facts can lead to different versions of the truth. He ended his speech by sounding the alarm about the normalization of the violence our societies are witnessing today, taking the example of torture, which is no longer an impassable border for states.

There followed several questions and interventions from the public and the members of associations present, which helped to enrich the debate and the time to conclude the conference is almost too quickly arrived.



### **Meeting Place de la République (Paris) on August 31, 2019**

The meeting took place at the Place de la République on Saturday, August 31st. A dozen people volunteered to help install the tents, photo exhibitions and documentation booths that were planned for this gathering. Cakes and tea were also made available to visitors coming to learn about the reality of forced disappearances from the various organizations represented.

The associations have each set up a documentation stand including books, magazines, brochures and petitions to inform the general public about their work and the reality of enforced disappearances in each country they work on. Each association has also posted dozens of photos of victims of enforced disappearances as well as

photos of gatherings of families of disappeared groups, allowing the public to learn about the fight for truth and justice led by families and their representatives around the world.



In the middle of the afternoon, Kurdish musicians did us the honor of playing and singing some songs evoking the phenomenon of enforced disappearance and its circumstances, thus attracting many visitors. It was followed by a speech by several representatives of associations.

This gathering was a success, arousing the curiosity of passersby throughout the day, despite the technical problems encountered which unfortunately prevented the projection of films and documentaries.

### **SOS Disparu(e)s in Algeria commemorates the International Day of the Disappeared**

On August 30th of this year, coinciding with the 28th day of Hirak in Algiers, SOS Disparu(e)s organized its annual gathering to commemorate this international day in memory of all the missing in the very heart of the popular uprising.



The Algerian youth joined the families of the disappeared and came to pay tribute to the victims. These young people then expressed their solidarity with the families on this important day

for the victims of enforced disappearances. They brandished the photos of the disappeared while spontaneously improvising songs about the missing and the courage of the mothers of the disappeared, asking them to never give up.

### **SOS Disparu(e)s welcomes the sociologist Nacer Djabi**

It is under the theme *"Algeria: sociology and revolution"* that the sociologist Nacer Djabi, on Saturday, September 28, 2019, hosted a conference-debate at the invitation of SOS Disparu(e)s.



Present in the popular movement since February 22, the researcher delivers his observations and warns decision-makers against their misunderstanding of sociological developments in society. According to him, there is a risk in managing the current crisis. "The government has not understood the rapid social transformations that have taken place in Algeria in recent years. And if this misunderstanding persists, we can go to a brutal confrontation", he declared during this conference-debate.

Nacer Djabi explains that the current *hirak* is characterized by the presence of three essential components of society: young people, women and the middle class.

According to him, young people are the illustration of this sociological transformation of society. He believes that: *"These young people who demonstrate are the product of this transformation that we have not noticed [...] The reference of the young Algerian today is neither Saudi Arabia nor Pakistan. It refers to the modern world. This is confirmed by its insistence on the peaceful nature of the mobilization and the respect of the women present in force in the hirak. Thus, we are no longer in the configuration of the 1990s"*.

In addition to young people, the role of women is also crucial, thanks to their commitment synonymous with breaking with the old order.

Finally, the middle class is also strongly present in this movement. They feel really stuck by the system and not just from a financial point of view.

Nacer Djabi then believes that *"this is the best of what society has produced that ended up in the hirak"*.

### **14th anniversary of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation**

September 29, 2019 was the 14th anniversary of the promulgation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation.

On this occasion, mothers and relatives of the victims held a rally near the National Council of Human Rights (CNDH) in Algiers to claim the truth.

Brandishing portraits of missing persons, mothers call to the truth. *"We want to know the fate of all the disappeared. That those who kidnapped them tell us where they were buried"* they say.



Hacene Ferhati, a member of the SOS Disparus Association, says: *"14 years after the promulgation of the reconciliation charter, the authorities have done nothing to allow the families of the victims to know the truth. One can not claim reconciliation without knowing the fate of all the victims"*.

Every week the families of the disappeared hold gatherings similar to this one. Each week they

raise their voices to hope that one day they will access to Truth and Justice.

## News

### **Transmission of an urgent appeal to the United Nations Human Rights Council**

On Thursday, September 26th 2019, Ahcene Kadi and Karim Boutata, activists and leaders of the Rassemblement Action Jeunesse, were arrested by plainclothes officers inside the cafeteria Milk Bar of Abane-Ramdane Street, in downtown Montreal. Alger. Held in custody for three days, they were presented on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 2019, before the investigating judge.

Placed under committal order, they are accused of *"incitement to the violation of territorial integrity by broadcasting videos on facebook"* and *"wearing signs and slogans detrimental to national unity."* These arrests show a desire to reduce youth and opposition to silence and harm freedom of expression.

The CFDA therefore transmitted an urgent appeal to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression and opinion at the United Nations Human Rights Council on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019. They call on the Algerian authorities to stop these violations and guarantee the right to freedom of expression and opinion

### **Human Rights are in mourning**

The Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algerie and SOS Disparu(e)s have learned with deep sadness the death of Louis Joinet, a great humanist, on Sunday, September 22nd 2019.

Louis Joinet, a former independent expert to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, has dedicated his life to providing justice to victims, including victims of enforced disappearances, and to fighting impunity.

The Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algerie and SOS Disparu(e)s, on behalf of all families, convey their condolences to his family and loved ones.

### **Report on the Families of the Disappeared**

On August 16th 2019, TV5MONDE reported on the situation of the disappeared families. The latter highlights the testimony of Zahra Boucharef whose son, Riad, was arrested in 1995.

On August 27th 2019, a new report was broadcast on Berbère TV. For more than an hour it was an opportunity to highlight the story of the families of the disappeared as well as the work of SOS Disparu(e)s in its fight for Truth, Justice and Preservation of Memory.

These reports are an opportunity to raise awareness among listeners and spectators in the families' fight. It also proves that this fight is still relevant.

## **Revues de Presse**

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### **July**

<http://bit.ly/2kpd9XP>

### **August**

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

### **September**

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

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