

Newsletter n°76

juillet, août, septembre 2020



A great fighter for truth and justice and the fight against impunity left us on July 22nd.



Madame Yous, President of the CFDA and SOS Disparus left us on 22 July.

Fatima Yous, a determined, courageous, and patriotic fighter, fought injustice and oppression from a very young age. Since then, in Marseilles, she supported Algeria during the war, as a smuggler, constantly on the lookout for news radio about the other side of the Mediterranean. After arriving in Algeria, she became the "Clemenceau City" nurse, where she lived with her family. Fatima Yous was the benefactor of all, devoted and constantly bringing her help to those who needed it.

In 1997, her grandson, Amine, disappeared, kidnapped by the Algerian State. With her daughter, Nassera Dutour, she launched into a relentless fight in the footsteps of Amine, in Algeria, but very quickly on the international scene. Alerting the international public opinion, they went to Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

This struggle is still carried by the “ collectif des Familles de Disparus”, created at the same time by Nassera Dutour and Fatima Yous, and which since 2001 accompanies families of the disappeared in their struggle.

Fatima Yous was a pillar of the association, which was as much concerned with comforting the families of the 'disappeared' as with organizing weekly gatherings, or going door to door all over Algeria to meet families.

Fatima Yous has campaigned all her life for human rights and against enforced disappearances. She stood up to government threats and continued to fight for the families of the disappeared until her death. Despite this, she never found out the truth about the disappearance of her grandson Amine, like the rest of the disappeared.

Her disappearance left a profound mark on a large number of people close to Fatima and the Collective of the Disappeared. Many tributes have been published on Facebook, and articles have appeared in various newspapers and associations. Nassera Dutour wrote a poignant tribute to her mother, which you can find here: <https://www.facebook.com/sos.disparus>

The « Hirak » facing government repression



The repression of freedom of expression in Algeria experienced a new upsurge in the last quarter, in the context of the "Hirak" demonstrations that began in February 2019. Journalists, bloggers, and activists were severely repressed by the government, that practiced "systematic judicial harassment of journalists," according to the NGO Amnesty International. The list of journalists and activists in prison or under trial is long, but two examples are emblematic of this repression: Abdelkrim Zeghileche and Khaled Drareni.

Abdelkrim Zeghileche, director of an online radio station, has made publications on Facebook that are considered by the government as an attack on national unity. He was sentenced to two year's imprisonment and fined 100,000 dinars for "attacking national unity" and "insulting the head of State".

Also, the journalist Khaled Drareni has been detained since March after covering a demonstration in the framework of "Hirak". He was prosecuted for "inciting unarmed gathering" and "undermining national unity". He was finally sentenced to three years in prison At first instance and two years in prison at second instance.

This sentence caused a great deal of commotion in Algerian society and internationally. Marks of support have come from all sides, as much from Algerian journalists as from journalists and the international community for the respect of human rights. Different demonstrations took place in Paris, New York and Geneva to ask for the release of the journalist and the protection of press freedom and freedom of expression. The EU, the UN and the African Union expressed their concern.

Commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared with a collective of associations



The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is celebrated every year on 30 August. It was proclaimed in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly, which expressed its deep concern at the increase in the number of enforced disappearances in several countries, including arrests, detentions and kidnappings. However, this day had already been the subject of commemorations for many years, notably by Latin American associations such as FEDEFAM, for example. On this occasion, the CFDA made its contribution to this day, 29 August 2020, within a collective composed of other associations working against enforced disappearances in other countries of the world (Mexico, Uruguay, Morocco, Syria, etc.). In this context, an online conference was organized with the title "Enforced Disappearances : Justice and the fight against impunity". It took place from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with a dozen speakers:

- In the first part, Professor Emmanuel Decaux, Professor of International Human Rights Law and former President of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Professor Olivier de Frouville, Director of the Human Rights Research Center (CRDH) and member of the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances, addressed respectively the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the question of State impunity with regard to the phenomenon of enforced disappearance.

Secondly, various members and representatives of associations and civil society from Latin America, North, Central and Sub-Saharan Africa, and the

Middle East spoke about enforced disappearances in their respective countries.

Among the speakers were Cécile Coudriou, the President of Amnesty International, Hacene Ferhati from Aleria, Marie Ange Barbary, from the Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression, Rachid El Manouzi, the Secretary General of FEMED and President of APADM, Abdelhaq Kass from the Moroccan Forum Truth and Justice, Hector Zavala, for the Human Rights Collective in Chile, Elena Salgueiro from Uruguay, ...

This meeting, through its online format, gathered more than 5200 auditors, making it a great success.

But the actions do not stop there. The next day, a demonstration was held at the Place de la République in Paris. Different stands were set up, each association being able to plead the cause of the disappeared in its country to the general public.

Exhibitions took place in the morning, with stands displaying portraits of missing persons. Although the rainy weather did not allow the video projector to work and thus to present the short films that were to be broadcast, it did allow a greater number of people to gather under the tents, who listened to the testimonies of actors of the right to Truth and Justice on enforced disappearances, including two students from Mexico..

Conference of September 29, 2020 on the occasion of the anniversary of the so-called Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation



Last September 29th marked the 15th anniversary of the Charter for National Reconciliation and Peace in Algeria, adopted by referendum in September 2005. The latter, through Article 45 of

the texts implementing the charter, declared the jurisdictional immunity of all state agents, defense and security forces of the Republic. Article 46 of these same texts even threatens from three to five years' imprisonment for anyone who "undermines the institutions of the Algerian Republic", or "harms the honorability" of its agents who have served it with dignity.

Under these pretexts of "implementation of the Algerian people's recognition of the artisans of the safeguard of the Algerian Republic", the State prevents any prosecution of the perpetrators of disappearances and murders that it may have committed. By putting into practice the application texts of this charter in 2006, the Algerian State has flouted the rights of families of the disappeared to truth, or justice, in exchange for meagre monetary compensation that cannot make up for the loss of a loved one.

In addition, each year since the adoption of the charter, on the anniversary date, the CFDA and Sos Disparus regularly organize a rally in Algeria to protest against the charter and to challenge this judicial immunity granted to members of the state.

Last 29 September, after the rally, it was an opportunity to shed light once again on the process of impunity and the injustice created by this charter in 2005. A press conference was held at the headquarters of SOS disparus in Algiers that day. The Lawyers, Bouchachi and Badi, spoke for almost an hour and a half on the subject. The conference was broadcast live on facebook, and viewed more than 1300 times. It is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/sos.disparus/videos/3235055343208261/>

The Collective of Families of the Disappeared in Algeria receives the Peace Builders Award: ICIP



The Catalan International Institute for Peace (or ICIP), is a Catalan Spanish research and action institution based in Barcelona, which is founded on the principles of democracy, justice, equality and equity as well as relations between people, cultures and nations. For several years now, it has awarded the "Peace Builders' Prize" annually to associations, institutions or individuals who have worked in a remarkable and notable way in the defense of human rights and the construction of peace.

On September 21, the CFDA had the honor of receiving this award. On this occasion, the President of the CFDA, Nassera Dutour, as well as Nedjma Benaziza, the granddaughter of a disappeared person, went to Barcelona from Sunday, September 20 to Wednesday, September 23. During these few days, after receiving the prize awarded by the President of the Catalan Parliament within the Catalan Parliament itself, no less than 6 interviews were given by Nassera Dutour and Nedjma Banziza, for different Catalan television channels and newspapers. Nassera Dutour and Nedjma Banziza were able to present the CFDA, its history, its challenges and their fight for truth and justice to a varied audience. Meetings were also organized with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Catalonia and representatives of Catalan NGOs.

This is the second prize received by the CFDA, and the fourth for Nassera Dutour.



The CFDA is part of an advocacy campaign on human rights violations in Algeria organized by the Cairo Institute for the Study of Human Rights, which aimed to shed light on human rights violations that are still present today. The first meeting was held in September by videoconference.

About twenty countries represented at the United Nations were present as well as international associations fighting for human rights.

The CFDA, chose to title its intervention "violations of freedom of expression and arbitrary prosecution". After recalling the notions of freedom of expression and arbitrary prosecution, the CFDA presented the facts in Algeria, namely the arbitrary arrests of Algerians who are campaigning for greater justice in political life and human rights in the country, as well as journalists, bloggers, representatives of political parties, and association activists, such as the imprisonment of the president of the RAJ association and 9 of its members. The CFDA has thus demonstrated the arbitrary nature of these arrests.

Other meetings by videoconference took place during this quarter in which the CFDA addressed the question of freedom of association in Algeria as well as the struggle of the mothers of the 'disappeared' in Algeria.

Advocacy with UN bodies and the EU

The CFDA regularly makes interventions for bodies such as the United Nations and the European Parliament. Last September, the CFDA had the opportunity to advocate at the United Nations on the theme of violations of freedom of expression and arbitrary prosecution.

General Assembly of the PDH

The CFDA was summoned by the PDH to participate in the general assembly in September, in order to take stock of the situation of the associations and their objectives and projects for the future.

August 31, 2020 - Collective of Associations

Universal ratification of the Convention against Enforced Disappearances is urgent.

Tribune of a collective of associations including the FEMED and the CFDA

<https://bit.ly/32i0YiJ>

September 21, 2020 - CFDA

Press Release: A peace builder and a fighter for justice in Barcelona

CFDA press release on the visit of Nassera Dutour, CFDA Spokesperson, to ICIP (Barcelona), which awarded her the 2019 Peace Builders' Prize.

<https://bit.ly/33QSVIY>

Press review :

July 2020

<https://bit.ly/2QEuoAH>

August 2020

<https://bit.ly/35lxlyK>

September 2020

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