

Newsletter n° 77

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie



Algerian's protest facing the regime's suppression and the Coronavirus

The Algerian protest which seeks the establishment of a peaceful democratic transition is still facing the suppression carried out by the authorities. Obviously, the regime is enjoying the coronavirus pandemic to intensify the suppression against the demonstrators and the militants of the Algerian protest. Security services increased arbitrary detentions and conventions of political opponents

including students and journalists. In October 2020, the UN blamed Algeria regarding arbitrary arrests.

The arrests, trials and convictions which occurred over the last months highlight the contempt of the Algerian authorities for Freedom of speech and Human rights. CFDA has a special thought for the journalist Khaled Drareni who has been sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment. He was very active on social media platforms and Algerian independent media. He symbolised the media freedom and the

freedom of speech within the Hirak. Similarly, the journalist Abderkrim Zeghileche was convicted on the 24th of August, 2020 for “undermining the national unity” .

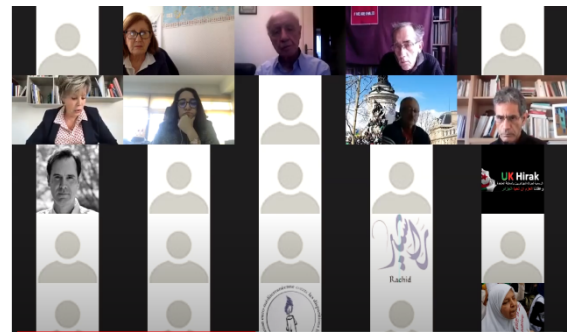
However, the Algerian civil society carries on struggling. It organises itself to preserve and perpetuate the mobilisation against the regime. Hence the launch of the “Nida 22” movement (“February 22”), whose SOS Disparus is an active member, in October 2020.



Amendment of the Algerian Constitution

On the 1st of November 2020 , the Constitutional Amendment, which was defended by the Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune as a response to his lack of legitimacy, was subject to a national referendum. The referendum was approved yet widely ignored by the citizens, mobilizing only 10% of the electoral body. This referendum failed to heal the democracy deficit in the country and strengthened the weight and the position of the military in the Algerian’s political life.

“For an universal ratification of the Convention against Enforced Disappearances”



CFDA-SOS Disparus regrets that 10 years after the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, only 62 countries ratified this Convention. Yet, enforced disappearances and impunity regarding these crimes are still a reality today. International pressure is necessary in order to ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearances and eradicate these practises. That’s the reason why the CFDA, along with other associations of families of disappeared; decided to launch a campaign for the ratification of the Convention. Several events were organised including two online conferences this semester.

Indeed, due to the COVID 19 outbreak, public activities have been limited and associations are forced to organise events online.

Thence, the 12th of December 2020, the CFDA took part to a web conference organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) entitled “The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance : What results 10 years

later ?". The purpose of this web conference was to foster the Convention at a larger scale in anticipation of an universal ratification.

The 22th of December 2020, the CFDA organised a conference online untitled "For an universal ratification of the Convention against Enforced Disappearances" in order to raise awareness on the low number of signatory countries of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Several participants attended the conference including Pierre Audin, son of Josette and Maurice Audin (disappeared during the Algerian War), Emmanuel Decaux, former President of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Houria Esslami, former President of the UN Working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances. She highlighted the fact regarding enforced disappearances in Algeria , only thirty cases have been clarified by the Algerian authorities, whereas the number of disappeared during the Algerian Civil War is estimated at 8000.

Training programme on psychological trauma in Algeria

From 11th to 15th October 2020, the CFDA organised a training programme on psychological trauma in order to improve the skills of a group of psychologists and bring them new knowledge on the newest concepts of psychological trauma care.

The training put the emphasis on the NET (Narrative Exposure Therapy), a new

treatment to treat cases of profound trauma.

Since then, the CFDA has set up psychological consultation within the SOS Disparus's office in Algier, Algeria. A room has been fitted out and furnished in order to suit the requirements of psychological consultations and to make clients more comfortable inside. Those consultations take place one day a week and are ensured by a group of 6 psychologists who are all volunteers.

The Radio of the voiceless continues to inform its audience



Radio of voiceless is working to inform its audience about human rights violations in Algeria. Between documentaries, testimonies, portraits and debates, and a monthly press review, the Radio of the voiceless intends to perpetuate the memory of those who disappeared during the civil war, a memory that the Algerian authorities are trying to stifle.

The commitment of its journalists enables the creation of rich, varied and, above all, regular content covering a wide range of subjects : human rights, freedom of expression, solidarity and humanitarian

initiatives at the local level, social issues, political, economic and cultural news.

This semester marks International Women's Rights Day on the 25th of November each year. Several subjects were devoted to icons of the struggle for women's emancipation through portraits and reports but also on projects such as women's entrepreneurship or sustainable rural development. From Maya Jribi to Eleanor Roosevelt, these programmes pay tribute to women from Algeria and from the world by underlining their essential role in society as well as in all struggles for the defence of human rights.

The radio station is also continuing its activity on its social networks (Facebook, Twitter) in order to gain visibility and extend its audience to a wide audience. The radio is currently considering the production of programmes in a live format. Finally, the radio has been integrated into the "Réseau Radio Maghreb" whose ambition is to build a sustainable regional network of community radio stations providing reliable local content to their audience.

Involvement of the CFDA in advocacy campaign led by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

The advocacy campaign initiated by the CIHRS continued to gain momentum during this semester. On 28th October 2020, the CFDA took part, alongside the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the association Agir pour le Changement et la Démocratie en Algérie (ACDA), in an conference online entitled "The Constitutional Referendum of the 1st

November: what remains of Algeria's democratic transition". This meeting, which was open to the general public, addressed the perspectives of the "Hirak" in view of the current context marked by the COVID19 pandemic and the referendum for the revision of the constitution imposed by the President. The event gave Algerian civil society the opportunity to express its views on numerous subjects such as the constitutional process, the independence of the judiciary, gender equality and the questioning of freedom of expression in Algeria. Nassera Dutour, President and spokesperson of the CFDA, spoke on a subject that is at the heart of the CFDA's concerns, the future of freedom of association in Algeria after the 1st of November 2020.



Following this campaign, the European Parliament (EP) adopted on Thursday 26th of November an urgent resolution on Algeria highlighting "the deterioration of the human rights situation in Algeria. This was proposed by six of the seven EP's political groups, and enjoyed broad support across the political spectrum.

A joint communiqué entitled "**Algeria: The European Parliament calls for action on human rights and expresses its solidarity with the demonstrators**" was

also published in December 2020, in order to alert the European Union to the deterioration of human rights in Algeria. Through this communiqué, the CFDA called on the European Union and some of its Member States to adopt a tougher position toward the Algerian authorities regarding the respect of human rights, on the occasion of the meeting of the EU-Algeria Association Council on the 7th of December 2020.

As a reminder, the EU-Algeria Association Council is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy which aims at developing relations between the European Union and its closest neighbours.

Ahead of this Association Council, an online meeting was held on the 5th of November 2020, with the head of the Algeria office.

News in brief

CFDA's participation to events on the occasion of International Human Rights Day

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day and the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December, many events were organised in Algeria or by Algerian organisations across the world.

Thus, the CFDA recalled, in the context of events such as the one organised by the London-based association SHOOA for Human Rights, its fight against impunity for crimes of enforced disappearances, a fight that the association has been leading for more than 20 years.

CFDA's participation to a webinar organised by the British NGO Redress

On 15 December 2020, the CFDA participated in a webinar on the scope and impact of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in Africa, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention. Organised by the British NGO Redress, which helps victims of torture to obtain justice and reparation, this webinar was an opportunity to recall that only 17 African countries have ratified the Convention while the African continent is particularly concerned by the problem of enforced disappearances. This state of affairs is explained by the massive use of these practices by the security forces of several countries. The intervention of Nassera Dutour helped to feed the exchange on the Algerian case regarding enforced disappearances.

Press communications

10th of december, 2020 – CFDA

Communiqué : 10th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Communication of the CFDA for the 10th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Press Review

October 2020

November 2020

December 2020

<https://bit.ly/3pty1cN>

<https://bit.ly/3pg0oel>

<http://bit.ly/3pu6Aza>

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