

Newsletter n° 78

January, February, March 2021

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFDA continues to sensitize the Algerian civil society.

The CFDA organized several “hybrid” conferences (online via zoom and in person at SOS-disparus’ office in Algiers and/or Oran).

The first conference took place on January 23rd, its main themes were “**Rule of Law and Democracy**”. The conference was moderated by Nawel TAILEB (from SOS-Disparus Oran). Several members of the Algerian civil society including professors, PHD students,

researchers and lawyers intervened in front of an audience mainly made of students.

First, professor, Kaddour Chouicha, president of the LADDH (Office of Oran), deeply implicated within the Hirak movement especially against the current system and for the independence of justice in Algeria, shared his experience with the audience.

Then, Fethi Bendouma, Abdelmalek Saltnia, Chawki Mrabet and Kacimi Youcef confirmed Kaddour Chouicha’s argument by explaining the importance of a broad reform of the Algerian system in order to implement

the Rule of Law and independent and efficient judiciary institutions as part of a democratic transition.



Abdelatif Alem, lawyer at the Oran court concluded the conference by insisting on the importance of a global work about the Rule of Law and the independence of justice in order to allow victims of the Algerian Civil War, as well those who had to face the current repression orchestrated by the authorities, to finally enjoy their right for Justice, Truth and Compensation.

The second conference dealt with the issue of **impunity** within the Algerian system. It took place on February 13th and was broadcasted live on CFDA and SOS-disparus' social media accounts thanks to a Zoom link. Many young Algerian and students attended to the conference within the office of the research Center for the Preservation of Memory and Human Rights studies (CPMDH).

After a short introduction, families and relatives of the disappeared took the floor in order to present their daily struggle against the culture of impunity. Soraya Zoubirou, Aïcha Tiarti and Fatma Oualid shared a touching testimony with the audience.

Then, Nacera Haddouche (lawyer at the bar of Tizi Ouzou and member of the Collectif des avocats du Hirak) and Ahmed Mebrek (lawyer at the Oran Supreme Court and

former public prosecutor) explained how the Algerian judiciary system shall be reformed in order to put an end to the widespread culture of impunity in the country.

Finally, Nordine Drici, Human Rights activist and president of *Planète Réfugiés Droits de l'Homme* shared his legal expertise as well as his experience fighting for Human Rights in Algeria. He mainly insisted on the necessity to reform the Algerian judiciary system so that Human Rights violations could not remain unsanctioned anymore. After that, he argued that a democratic transition would not be possible without a prior work on the Rule of law and the independence of Justice.

Both conferences were part of CPMDH's daily work to raise awareness among the members of the Algerian civil society about the stakes of democratic transition, separation of political powers or check and balances. The CPMDH also continues its activities with the students, the teachers and researchers as well as with the families of the disappeared despite the sanitary crisis.



Hirak's second anniversary.

On February 22 of this year, the Algerian activists and Human Rights defenders celebrated the second anniversary of Hirak's birth. On that day, numerous calls for demonstrations were shared around social media.

A few days earlier, the Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune [announced](#) that he will proceed to a ministerial reshuffle on February 21st. President Tebboune also affirmed his will to dissolve the People's National Assembly and to organize new elections. He also allowed a presidential pardon to several detainees who were imprisoned due to their implication within the Hirak.



Nevertheless, according to several testimonies, the Algerian authorities blocked the main roads leading to the capital city in order to limit the number of protestors who could have taken part to this event.

Since February 2019, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus took part in every protest organized every Friday within the Hirak. On February 22nd, as every week, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus joined the protestors and continued to support the popular revendications, claiming for the rights to Truth, to Justice and to compensations for families of the disappeared. Together, the families of the disappeared and members of the Hirak

celebrated the two years of struggle for a democratic transition in Algeria.

The Radio des sans Voix gives the floor to the oppressed.

R A D I O DES SANS VOIX

The Radio des Sans Voix broadcasts numerous programs (interviews, testimonies, debates and portraits) with the objective of informing its audience on Human Rights violations in Algeria. The Radio also monthly broadcasts a press review which discusses in detail the Human Rights related news in the country. In addition to that, the Radio regularly works for the memory of those who disappeared during the Algerian Civil War by the way of its “Do not Forget” rubric. These programs still are the most popular on the radio’s website and YouTube channel.

Our journalists also work on numerous issues which matter for the Algerian civil society. Lastly, the Radio focused its work on women’s rights in Algeria with several programs in the context of the International Women Day. Our journalists specifically worked on issues such as feminicides, sexist and sexual violence, being a woman in Algeria today, and the constant struggle of many women for justice.

Each week, the journalists work on human rights and fundamental liberties issues as well as the political, judiciary, and cultural news. Finally, the Radio is very much active on its social media (Facebook and Twitter) in order to increase its visibility and to extend its audience, especially among young Algerians and students.

The CFDA started construction work within its Algiers office in order to implement a true radio recording studio so that the work conditions of the journalists and the quality of the proposed programs will be soon improved.

The families of the disappeared celebrated the International Women's Day

As in other years, the families of the disappeared featured among the participants of the events which were organized on the International Women's Day.

On March 8th, the CFDA published a press release calling the families of the disappeared, and especially the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of the disappeared to mobilize themselves. Women's rights are systematically violated by the Algerian authorities who refuse to grant them their right for truth and justice.



In addition to these human rights violations, women in Algeria also have to face numerous forms of violence and discriminations. They are often confronted to physical and psychological violence, or to the policiary oppression and repression. Algerian women also face an institutional violence, especially through the family code which seriously harms women's rights.

Despite these challenges and obstacles, Algerian women still demonstrate their determination, dignity and pugnacity through a long-term struggle for their rights. Against the political power which advocates in favor of a policy of amnesia, and which plays the card of indifference, they chanted loudly "GIVE US OUR CHILDREN BACK!"

The CFDA and SOS-Disparus gathered with the families of the disappeared as well as members of the Algerian civil society in front of the Tahar Djaout Press House to support the daily struggle of these women.

Right for Justice and Right for Truth

On March 20th, the CFDA organized a "hybrid" conference (online via the Zoom application and in presence in Algiers) on the theme of "**the independence of Justice in Algeria**". This conference was addressed to the members of the Algerian civil society, as part of the CFDA's daily work for justice and truth.



Several lawyers and members of the Algerian civil society intervened and shared their experience during this conference. They talked about the functioning of the Algerian judiciary system, the recent repressive laws as well as the issues inherent to the new Constitution. Mustapha Bouchachi, Haboul Abdellah, Massensen Cherbi, Noureddine Benissad, Nabila Smail, Aissa Rahmoune and Madjid Benchikh (all lawyers, human rights

defenders or members of associations) were present among the speakers. Their interventions also dealt with the role of Human Rights or justice-related NGOs and lawyers and vis-à-vis the judiciary system in Algeria.

Press release

March 8th: <https://bit.ly/3t4vjLt>

Communiqué : la journée internationale des droits de la femme, communiqué du CFDA à l'occasion du la 111^{ème} journée internationale des droits de la femme,

Press Review

January 2021

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

February 2021

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

March 2021

<https://bit.ly/3e74ane>

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