

# Newsletter n°79

April, May, June 2021

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Collectif des  
Familles de  
Disparus en  
Algérie



## Webinar about Transitional Justice in Algeria: Truth, Justice and reparation

Transitional justice lays on four predefined concepts listed by Louis Joinet as “Transitional Justice four pillars”. These four pillars are the right to know, the right to justice, the right to reparation and the right to non-repetition. They are fully included in every aspect of CFDA’s daily struggle for truth and justice in Algeria since its creation.

In order to put the light on the numerous human rights violations and terrible repression in the context of civil conflicts that have marked their history, some countries have implemented **truth commissions**. These commissions proceed to investigations, write documented reports and propose recommendations. However, in most of cases, these recommendations are not applied. Concerned states often have to acknowledge their fault before trying to implement justice in such situations.

Transitional justice also can be characterized as a “**reparatory justice**”.

During the 1990’s, Algeria has known a major internal conflict which led to tens of thousands of victims, at least 8000 people were enforcedly disappeared during this conflict.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus tried to draw the attention of the families of people who disappeared in the 1990’s as well as of members of the Algerian civil society on this important matter. The conference, entitled “Transitional Justice in Algeria”, was both virtual (using Zoom) and on-site at SOS-Disparus office in Algiers. The conference also was broadcasted live on RAJ’s Facebook account (watch the full video here:

<https://www.facebook.com/RajAlgerie/videos/451790282757113>).



Nassera Dutour, CFDA’s president, opened the webinar with welcoming remarks and a presentation of the speakers and of the subject. Then, Lynda Abbou, journalist at Radio M who moderated the conference started the webinar. Several transitional justice international experts, human rights defenders, lawyers, members of the Algerian civil society and activists honored us with their participation.

Chafia Kechroud, mother of Aziz Bouabdallah an Algerian journalist who disappeared in 1997 was the first speaker. She gave a strong and touching testimony of her constant struggle for truth and justice denouncing the enforced disappearance of her son who was arbitrarily arrested by the

Algerian security forces. His family has not received any information about the place of detention and the fate of Aziz since 1997.

Then, Jean Pierre Massias, Public Law professor and president of the IFJD (Francophone Institute for Justice and Democracy) and Hajer Bouyahia, Human Rights officer for the Office of the High Commissioner for human rights at the UN presented the main components, principles, benefits, and objectives of Transitional Justice. After their important presentation, Madjid Benchikh, former Law professor and president of Amnesty International Algeria, focused on the potential stakes of implementing transitional justice processes in Algeria (regarding past and current crimes).

After that, Cherifa Kheddar shared her experience in relation with transitional justice and victims of terrorism as president of Djazairouna, an association dedicated to victims of Islamic terrorism in Algeria. Abdelwahab Fersaoui, president of the RAJ, who was imprisoned for more than nine months because of his peaceful participation in the popular contestation movement (Hirak), finally focused on the necessity to judge the crimes which were committed by the Algerian authorities and other parties to the 1990’s civil conflict in order avoid any repetition of these crimes against peaceful political opponents nowadays.

### **Tribute to Mister Chihoub : SOS-Disparus stresses his constant struggle for truth**

Mister Chihoub is the father of two young men who disappeared during the Algerian civil conflict. Djamel Chihoub who was 20 years old at the time, was enforcedly disappeared by the Algerian authorities in May 1996 while his younger brother, Mourad, aged 16, also disappeared a few months later in November. Arbitrarily arrested by the military and detained in the

Bakari casern, their family has not received any information for more than 25 years.

Mister Chihoub is fighting within our organization since its creation, with his wife, who sadly passed away recently. Mister Chihoub never missed any of the weekly meeting since 1998 as well as the special events organized by SOS-Disparus. He has not lost hope to learn about the fate of his sons. For his resilience, courage, and determination, SOS-Disparus wanted to pay tribute to him.



### **SOS-Disparus celebrates Mother's Day in Algeria**

This year, on Mother's Day, SOS-Disparus organized an event for the mothers of people who disappeared during the Algerian civil conflict. SOS-Disparus specially ordered a cake and offered presents to the mothers. The association wanted to address a strong message of support to all these women who are fighting with all their energy and courage for truth and justice.

Nassera Dutour, president of the CFDA and SOS-Disparus, also addressed a moving tribute to her mother, Madam Fatima Yous, who passed away on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 in Paris.



### **Awareness-raising: the CFDA continues its actions with French and Algerian students**

As part of its joint awareness-raising campaign, the CFDA, together with the Euro-Mediterranean Federation on Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) launched a series of conferences particularly addressed to students interested in human rights issues and international law.

The first conference, which was an introduction to the main stakes and debates around the crime of enforced disappearance, took place fully online (via the application Zoom) on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Approximately fifty students participated into this introduction conference.

Several experts, NGO representatives and activists shared their experience of the struggle against enforced disappearances through very interesting and diverse interventions. First, Olivier de Frouville, Public Law professor at the Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II) and head of the Paris Human Rights Center presented the main pieces of International Law ruling on Enforced Disappearances their content, achievement and loopholes. Olivier de Frouville works as a Human Rights expert at the UN, he also is member of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

**DISPARITIONS FORCÉES**  
ENJEUX D'UN COMBAT POUR LA JUSTICE ET LA VÉRITÉ

**Adressée à tous les étudiants**

Lien zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9298436688>

Professeurs, chercheurs, membres d'ONG spécialisées, familles de victimes interviendront et répondront à vos questions

IER JUIN ENTRE 17H30 ET 19H30

Pour plus d'informations, rejoignez nous sur notre page Facebook en cliquant ici.

Then, Gabriella Citroni shared her experience of the struggle against enforced disappearances on the field through the examples of her work in Mexico and Nepal. Gabriella Citroni works as a main legal

advisor at Trial International and is an International Law professor at the University Milano-Bicocca. She has been designated as “expert witness” in several case related to enforced disappearances in front on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Finally, Jean-Pierre Massias, Public Law professor, president of the IFJD (Francophone Institute for Justice and Democracy) and cofounder of the Francophone Association on Transitional Justice focused on the relationship between enforced disappearances and transitional justice, thanks to his unique expertise on this particular matter. Jean-Pierre Massias worked as an expert with NATO or the Council of Europe on transitional justice.

This conference also was an opportunity for the many students who were present to freely discuss with the speakers as a 1 hour “debate” session was organized after these three excellent interventions.

### **The Algerian Youth walks side-by-side with the families of the disappeared**



As of 2019, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus take part in the demonstrations organized every Friday as part of the Hirak movement. There, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus frequently join the demonstrators in order to defend the popular revindications and claim their right for truth, justice and reparation.

They also advocate for the implementation of a true “Rule of Law”, a necessary step in the quest for truth.

Despite the numerous attempts from the Algerian authorities to forbid these peaceful demonstrations, especially in Algiers, the Hirak still remains and the walks never stopped. The families of disappeared, as they are used to, walk side-by-side with the Algerian people demanding a democratic transition and requesting truth and justice.

### **The “Voiceless” have a free space to speak thanks to the Radio des Sans Voix**

R A D I O  
DES SANS VOIX

Through its various programs, the Radio des Sans Voix gives the floor to people whose voices are constantly shut down by the Algerian authorities. The Algerian authorities continue to violate freedom of expression, persecuting and prosecuting many political peaceful opponents for criticizing the regime or demanding a true democratization of the country.

Through the interviews, testimonies, debates, and portraits diffused on the Radio des Sans Voix, the CFDA and SOS-Disparus continues to inform its public on the numerous human rights violations in Algeria. The radio also broadcasts a monthly press review, while pursuing its regular work on memory of those who disappeared during the civil conflict in Algeria, especially through the program “Do not forget”, still the most followed on the Radio’s YouTube channel. Every program is shared on the radio’s social medias (Twitter and Facebook) with the objective of expanding its audience, especially among the young and students.

On the other hand, in March, constructions aiming at setting up a true recording studio and improve both work conditions of journalists and the quality of every program started in SOS-Disparus' office in Algiers

### **Sending communications and individual requests to international institutions**



Between April and June 2021, CFDA and SOS-Disparus' staff continued their work on case communications to the UN Human Rights Council and to the UN Working Group against Enforced or Involuntary Detentions. Several victim files we handled and sent to the authorities following the new request forms implemented this year. These individual requests highlight the numerous human rights violations committed by Algeria against those who disappeared and their families regarding international treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) while the Algerian authorities did sign and ratify these treaties.

In addition to that, such communications and individual requests allow the CFDA to denounce the systematic impossibility for anybody in Algeria, to initiate any judiciary or administrative appeal procedure aiming at fulfilling its fundamental rights to truth, justice and reparations. This is mainly due to the 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which violates both Algerian people's rights and the nation's international duties.

### **Press Release**

*April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 – Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie*

**Press release:** Les droits de l'Homme sont universels, inaliénables et indivisibles. Ne tolérons aucune violation de ces droits les plus fondamentaux

*May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 – Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie*

**Press release:** Journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse – Le journalisme n'est pas un crime !

### **Urgent Calls**

Urgent call regarding the dissolution procedure initiated by the Algerian ministry of Interior against the organization *Rassemblement Action Jeunesse* (RAJ) and the systematic repression of members of the organization.

Urgent call regarding the detention warrant pronounced against the lawyer Abderraouf Arslane, the deregistration of the judge Saad Eddine Merzouk and the lack of separation of powers within the Algerian political system.

### **Press Review**

[April](#) 2021    [May](#) 2021    [June](#) 2021

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### **Social Media**

Facebook: SOS Disparus  
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