



« Forensic Anthropology at the service of Transitional Justice »

The CFDA actively participated in organising the international conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Forced Disappearances (FEMED), "Medico-Legal Anthropology at the service of Transitional Justice", held on October 30th and 31st, 2021 in Paris, 20th Arrondissement's Town Hall.

The main objectives of this conference were the transfer of knowledge and expertise concerning transitional justice and the identification of missing persons through forensic anthropology. The conference brought together many forensic and transitional justice experts and members of FEMED partner organisations.

The sessions were devoted to the concept of transitional justice, the contribution of forensic anthropology in the processes, and the mechanisms of transitional justice, through a presentation of the current research work carried out by FEMED around the needs of the families

who lost a relative to enforced disappearance. During those two days, the research assistants on Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Syria presented their research on the need of families and the recommendations they issued.

The participants also discussed the specific experiences in searching for the truth, justice and reparations in relation to forensic anthropology and identification of bodies in their own country. They also talked about what they expected from the conference.



The CFDA trains the youth on digital marketing

Witnessing important flaws concerning internal and external communication in Algeria, the CFDA and SOS Disparus launched a course on digital marketing for the SOS Disparus team, the Radio des Sans Voix journalists and young human rights militants.

The training, which lasted four days, October 25th-28th, featured interactive sessions and group work, moderated by Marketing Expert Ms. Rym Adel.

The program included a first introductory day, with an introduction to the participants and the trainer. The next two days focused on digital marketing and the platforms to use, such as Facebook or Instagram, as well as radio shows and podcasts.

The fourth day began with a reminder of the previous days, a session on analysis and sponsorship, an evaluation of the workshop, and closing.



ERIM and Radio des Sans Voix Partnership

Radio des Sans Voix works for freedom of expression in Algeria through numerous programs aimed at informing its public about human rights violations in Algeria. A monthly press review is also published and reviews in detail the current human rights events in the country. Through its program "Let's not forget", the radio also carries out regular work on the memory of the victims of enforced disappearances during the civil war.

As part of the "Maghreb Radio Network" project, Radio des Sans Voix journalists produced, broadcasted and shared seven programs on the theme of media and information education and human rights.

The shows, produced with support from ERIM, covered Fake News, hate speech, migrant rights, popular science, freedom of the press and expression, and human rights. The Radio has also produced and broadcasted other programs on the disappeared, human rights, and transitional justice etc.

<http://www.radiodessansvoix.org/>

R A D I O
DES SANS VOIX

The CFDA sends individual cases to international organisations

Taking advantage of a little lull during the month of August, the CFDA team worked tirelessly to complete and follow up on the disappeared's files that were never transmitted to the international entities, in particular to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, or those which had not been deemed admissible. An intensive update of the missing parts was carried out in order to make it possible to send several individual communications. These requests are crucial in the fight against the families of the disappeared and the recognition of enforced disappearances. They also demonstrate that Algerian families cannot initiate legal or administrative procedures against the perpetrators of the crime of enforced disappearances in Algeria because of the charter "for peace and national reconciliation" adopted by referendum on September 29, 2005.



The disbandment of the leading human rights organisation RAJ is a blow to freedoms

Reacting to the decision handed down on Wednesday, October 13 by the Algiers Administrative Court, which granted the government's arbitrary request to dissolve the Rassemblement Actions Jeunesse (RAJ), a very active Algerian civil society organisation that played a role at the forefront of the Hirak protest movement, Amna Guellali, deputy director of the Middle East and North Africa program of Amnesty International, said:

“The decision to dissolve the Rassemblement Actions Jeunesse (RAJ) is devastating news for human rights in Algeria. It also alarmingly illustrates the authorities’ determination to toughen the crackdown on independent militant activities and crack down on the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Shutting down civil society organisations is one of the most severe restrictions on the right to freedom of association. To do so, to silence those who voice criticism, and to crush dissent is illegal and unacceptable. ”

On May 26, 2021, the Interior Ministry informed the RAJ that it had requested its dissolution, on the grounds that the organisation's activities were contrary to the provisions of Algerian law relating to associations. All of these activities are protected by the right to freedom of association and clearly comply with the rights established by the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. In 2019 and 2020, 11 RAJ members were arrested and prosecuted, and nine members of the organisation were arbitrarily detained, purely for demonstrating peacefully or expressing peaceful views on the Internet.

Since its creation, the RAJ has worked to promote respect for human rights in Algeria, playing a key role in human rights education of the youth and the promotion of these rights and, more recently, calling for a democratic process and radical political changes during the Hirak protests. In a press release issued on Wednesday, October 13th, the RAJ announced that it would appeal the ruling.

Freedom of association is protected by article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Algeria on the 12th of September 1989. The dissolution of an organisation can be taken only when there is a clear and imminent threat to national security or public order, it must be proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued and be adopted only when less restrictive means would be insufficient.



Algeria : Organisations, personalities, and activists warn of the worsening of the human rights situation

Human rights organisations, personalities, lawyers and leaders of opposition parties are challenging the Algerian authorities’s fundamental freedoms’ record. On December 9th, they signed a long document drawing a gloomy picture of the situation of freedoms in the country ([Press Release 09/12/2021](#))

Among the signatories of this text, we find the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH), the Collective of Families of Disappeared in Algeria (CFDA), lawyers known for their commitment to the protection of human rights, including Mostafa Bouchachi, Boudjema Ghachir, academics, including Ahmed Mahio,

former dean of the law school of Algiers, Aïssa Kadri, sociologist, and Louisa Aït Hamadouche, political scientist.

"This year again, we are celebrating World Human Rights Day, coinciding with the 73rd anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights accepted by Algeria after its independence, in a climate of repression and restrictions on the fundamental rights of Algerians". The declaration also denounces "a dark year for human rights in Algeria".

According to the signatories, contrary to "the hopes aroused" by the peaceful Hirak of February 22nd, 2019, "the action of the authorities is characterised by a desire to stifle all autonomous civic spaces and to criminalise the political action of critical voices".

"As the whole of society faces an acute social, economic and health crisis, more than 500 people have been taken into custody and over 7,000,000 people arrested in the year of 2021 alone just for the acts of to have exercised their fundamental rights of opinion, expression and peaceful demonstrations guaranteed by law. The number of people who are in legal proceedings exceeds 2,500", deplore the authors of this declaration.

Denouncing the attacks on all freedoms (freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of association, and freedom of opinion), the declaration affirms that "more broadly, it is the freedoms of opinion and expression which are threatened in their substance itself through the extension of the definition of terrorism and the new system for designating terrorist persons and entities".

By exposing the situation, the signatories call on "the authorities to respect their international commitments contained in international human rights treaties and conventions" ratified by Algeria. They "call on the authorities to stop the repression and the lifting of all restrictions on the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms".

They also asked for the "unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience, journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers".



The disappeared's families resume their weekly meetings the National Human Rights Council

Every Wednesday, since August 1998, the families of the disappeared have gathered in front of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) which followed the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCPPDH), to assert their right to truth and justice. Unfortunately, in Algeria the families of the disappeared have been deprived of these weekly gatherings because of the 3rd wave of Covid-19 in the country and health measures. However, still determined to fight for real recognition and real rights, families have resumed weekly gatherings that are still as essential to the fight advocated by the CFDA.



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

Aout

<https://bit.ly/3C5e2qR>

Septembre

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