

# Newsletter n°90

January, February and March 2024

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المفقودون DISPARUS

Collectif des  
Familles de  
Disparus en  
Algérie



## ONCE AGAIN TARGETED BY THE REPRESSIVE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT

### The conference on transitional justice on February 29

On February 29, the CFDA organized a conference on transitional justice in SOS Disparus' office in Algiers. The event was to be led by a few lawyers and human rights activists, with the aim of raising public awareness of the complex issues surrounding transitional justice in Algeria. The event was to be attended by Adnane Bouchaib, Nouredine Ahmine, Zakaria Benlahrech, Abdelghani Badi and Nabila Smail, as well as the President of the Djazairouna association of victims of terrorism in the Mitidja region, Cherifa Kheddar, and the President of the Collectif des familles de disparu (e)s (CFDA),

SOS Disparus and the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED), Nassera Dutour.

However, the Algerian authorities decided otherwise, deploying a disproportionate, inappropriate and unjustified array of special forces around the building. The special forces were accompanied by an armada of plainclothes policemen and unmarked cars with tinted windows. As a result, access to the building was forbidden to speakers and families of the disappeared who had come to attend the conference. The police reportedly invoked a "special decision".

The members and staff of SOS Disparus, including their lawyer, were thus ordered to leave and close the premises. People who intended to

attend the conference had their ID cards scanned by the police at the entrance to the building. In addition, the families of the missing were manhandled by the police. The association's lawyer refused to leave the office but, in the face of pressure, she had to give in and leave the premises. Sadek Louail, a former prisoner of conscience, was arrested on his way to the conference. He was released after spending several hours at the Cavignac police station.

### The screening-debate on March 9



To celebrate International Women's Rights Day on March 8, a screening-debate was organized on Saturday March 9, at 2pm, on the premises of SOS Disparu - CFDA in Algiers. However, the event was once again prevented from taking place by the security forces. The police were deployed early in the morning to surround the building. The cleaning agent was arrested at 7:30 am outside the building entrance, before being taken away in an unmarked black car. Once at the police station, her bag was searched by the police and she was subjected to an interrogation, during which a police officer asked her questions about her affiliation with SOS Disparu and its president. She was finally released an hour and a half later.

From the conversations the employee witnessed, it would appear that this operation was aimed at the association's president and lawyer, and not at the employee herself. In the end, the screening-debate never took place.

### TRIBUTE TO FATMA BOUFENIK

On Thursday February 15, a tribute was paid to Fatma Boufenik at the CPMDH in Oran. True icon of the city of Oran, Fatma Boufenik is an activist of undeniable human qualities, a lecturer and co-founder of the association "Femmes Algériennes Revendiquant leurs Droits" (FARD). The Mouvement Mondial des Femmes Leaders Panafricaines (MMFLP) has named Ms. Boufenik as one of the inspiring women of 2023 in Africa.



### CPMDH'S CAFÉS LITTÉRAIRES

Numerous *cafés littéraires* and debates have taken place on the CPMDH premises, raising awareness of a variety of themes among Algerian civil society. In addition to these moments of exchange, the CPMDH offers its visitors a wide range of reference works, available in several languages and each more interesting than the last. The center also offers training courses to help young researchers develop their skills and knowledge according to their needs. If you are interested in these courses, feel free to contact the center !

## Mohamed Mebtoul and the Algerian healthcare system



On Thursday March 7, the CFDA invited Mohamed Mebtoul, the founder of health anthropology in Algeria in 1991, to a *café littéraire* to discuss the following theme: "Algeria, between populism and commodification, a hybrid healthcare system". Head of the social sciences and health research unit at Oran 2 University, Professor Mebtoul shared his expertise on the challenges and dynamics of Algeria's healthcare system, leading to a captivating and enriching discussion.

According to Mohamed Mebtoul, the Algerian healthcare system is "populist". Since the late 1970s, the country's leaders have been striving to establish a free, universal healthcare system that minimizes and erases social differences within Algerian society. This public health policy, which has lasted through a succession of governments, has led to the massive construction of hospitals, polyclinics and other health facilities, as well as the training of several generations of doctors and paramedical technicians on Algerian territory. However, as the country fell into debt in the 1980s due to falling oil prices, the government decided to open up the healthcare sector to the private sector, transforming healthcare into a commodity and the healthcare system into a hybrid system. After describing and analyzing this hybrid healthcare system, Mr. Mebtoul illustrated his remarks with a few stories drawn from his survey of healthcare in Algeria.

## Algerian migration landscape through the eyes of Nabila Moussaoui

On Saturday March 30, political science researcher Nabila Moussaoui took part in a *café littéraire* at the CPMDH, focusing on "Algeria's migratory landscape, a complex reality". During the *café littéraire*, this expert in the anthropology of migration gave an in-depth account of migration dynamics in Algeria, offering the audience an in-depth reflection on contemporary migration issues.

In order to write her fourth book on migration, the anthropologist took on the role of an aspiring exodus. Thanks to this role, Ms. Moussaoui was able to gather many raw testimonies from individuals in search of a better future. In this book, entitled « Pratiques et cultures dans les régions frontalières » (Practices and cultures in border regions), she has brought to life these stories marked by migration, exploring with empathy the motivations, hopes and deep-seated fears of these women and men in their quest for fulfillment.

The discussion was followed by a book sale and signing session.

### BRIEFS

#### INTERNATIONAL LAW TRAINING



Between January 5 and 6, SOS Disparus organized a training session on international law, in collaboration with the NGO Riposte Internationale.

These sessions were led by two lawyers specializing in this field, Maître Ahmine Noureddine and Maître Badi Abdelghani. The training provided an opportunity to analyze the various international human rights protection mechanisms, especially the workings of the Human Rights Committee and the Universal Periodic Review. The aim was to consolidate collective knowledge and skills in order to improve the defense and protection of fundamental rights. Numerous lawyers and human rights activists took part in the training.

### MOMENT OF EXCHANGE WITH THE PARTY JIL JADID

On January 31, the Algerian political party Jil Jadid welcomed a delegation from SOS Disparus, led by mothers of the disappeared, to its headquarters in Algiers. This emotional meeting provided an opportunity to revisit the painful period of the 1990s in Algeria, with a goal to combat oblivion and national amnesia, a battle to which the party is continually committed.



During the meeting, the need to prevent any repetition of a similar tragedy in Algeria was underlined. The mothers of the disappeared were able to share their ongoing and exhausting struggle for truth and justice in the presence of Habib Brahmia (first secretary of Jil Jadid), Meriem Saïdani (founding member of the party) and Noureddine Oukrif. The party expressed its solidarity with the mothers of the missing and reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to contributing to the search for effective legal solutions to bring justice to the victims of this national tragedy.

### THE EMERGENCE OF THE HIRAK MOVEMENT AND ITS DEMANDS 5 YEARS AGO

To celebrate the emergence of the popular Hirak movement in February 2019, Algerian diaspora organizations mobilized in Paris from February 18 to March 9. A march through Paris took place on February 18, while two conference-debates were held on February 24 and March 9 on themes such as "Hirak and politics" and "Hirak and society". These moments of exchange opened the discussion on subjects such as potential political solutions for Algeria, the contributions and role of the diaspora in the democratic transition, the place of women within the Hirak as well as the movement through artistic expressions (literature, music, etc.).

**HIRAK**  
FÉVRIER 2019 - FÉVRIER 2024

A L'OCCASION DU 5ÈME ANNIVERSAIRE DU HIRAK, LES ORGANISATIONS DE LA DIASPORA SE MOBILISENT

**PROGRAMME**

**18 FÉVRIER 2024**  
**MARCHE**  
DE LA PLACE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE  
À LA PLACE DE LA BASTILLE  
DÉPART : 14H

**24 FÉVRIER 2024**  
**HIRAK ET POLITIQUE**  
Les Amarres, 24 quai d'Austerlitz  
Paris 13ème  
De 14h à 20h

- Quelles solutions politiques pour l'Algérie ? Avec la participation des partis politiques : RCD, UCP, PST, FFS Alternatives
- Apports et rôle de la diaspora pour une transition démocratique par les acteurs de la diaspora militante

**9 MARS 2024**  
**HIRAK ET SOCIÉTÉ**  
Centre Louis Lumière, 46 rue Louis Lumière - Paris 20ème  
De 13h à 20h

- Hirak au féminin avec la participation de l'association Appel Égalité
- Hirak et expressions plurielles : littérature, arts visuels, poésie, musique et chants

UNION POUR L'ALGÉRIE CGADD ACDA Collectif des familles des Disparus en Algérie LADDD PADA RIPOSTE LIBERTÉS ALGÉRIE

On this occasion, the CFDA joined forces with Agir pour le Changement Démocratique en Algérie (ACDA), Collectif Groupe Algérie Droit Devant (CGADD), Comité de sauvegarde de la Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme (CS-LADDH), Libertés Algérie, Riposte Internationale, Union pour l'Algérie and Pour une

Alternative Démocratique en Algérie (PADA). The entire program was aimed at "rekindling" and reinforcing the motivation of activists in their fight for the establishment of a democratic state governed by the rule of law, guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of Algerians.

These events took place against a backdrop of repression of individual and collective freedoms, closure of political and media expression, deteriorating social conditions, economic difficulties and disastrous geopolitical decisions. For example, on March 7, Karim Tabbou, founder

of the Union Démocratique et Sociale (UDS) political party, was given a suspended six-month prison sentence and fined 50,000 dinars for "inciting an unarmed gathering, insulting a public official in the performance of his duties and defamation". This verdict was the result of the publication of a video on the UDS Facebook account, in which the opponent criticized the interference of the Algerian army in political affairs. As a reminder, Karim Tabbou is currently one of the leading figures in the Hirak pro-democracy protest movement.

## Press reviews (FR)

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### March

[Revue-de-presse-Mars-2024.pdf](#)

### February

[Revue-de-presse-Février-2024.pdf](#)

### January

[Revue-de-presse-Janvier-2024.pdf](#)

## Contact

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