

Newsletter n°75

April, May, June 2020

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie



Pending events because of the disease situation...



Source: Maghreb Emergent

Two important events were planned by the CFDA and Sos Disappeared during this semester, but the health situation prevented them. Today,

the teams are unable to plan a delayed date but the CFDA and Sos Disappeared are still hoping to organize them at some point. The first event consists in a conference about the independence of the judiciary in Algeria. Nonetheless, the organizers have kept in touch with the speakers and continued to work on the monitoring tasks in order to update these topics, with the aim of holding this conference as soon as the health situation allows it. Secondly, a seminar on collective memory and transitional justice in Algeria is also planned. Even if the exact date remains unknown for now, the CFDA

and Sos Disappeared's teams are still in touch with the participants (lawyers, ONG's representatives, journalists, etc.) in order to take advantage of this pending time and improve the program.

... compensated by a very active programming for our radio show « The Radio of the Voiceless »



Source: Liberté Algérie

If the sanitary situation made impossible the holding of the events quoted previously, this has been compensated by the numerous radio programs, realized from documentaries, testimonies, debates, advocating, etc. The CFDA and Sos Disappeared are proud to assert that the Radio of the Voiceless earned a wider exposure on its different social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and on its website. Human rights in Algeria have been promoted under different aspects, through three main topics: freedom of speech (with shows about the fate of prisoners of conscience, like Abdelwahab Fersaoui, Head of Gathering actions youth (RAJ in French) ; and about the situation of journalists in Algeria on the occasion of the International Day for Press Freedom), the topic of racism (with an interview of Saïd Salhi, Vice-President of the Algerian League of Human Rights) and finally on Algerian women's rights (with a particular focus on domestic violence in

times of quarantine, sexual violence and portraits of emblematic women in Algeria history, such as Yasmina Addi). Furthermore, the radio has pursued its other programs on the rule of law and the presentation of individual cases of enforced disappearances during the civil war in Algeria, in the 1990's.

A crucial work of constant advocacy despite the sanitary crisis



The CFDA and Sos Disappeared's teams were able to keep on working on advocacy, in a remote way, by keeping on getting in touch with Algerian politicians, by email or phone. The objectives and claims remain the same: raising awareness about enforced disappearances and getting truth and justice for all the disappeared of the 1990's and their relatives. The CFDA's final aim is to implement a Truth Commission or other transitional justice's mechanisms. In the United Nations, the CFDA's delegation insisted on the importance of opening debates in the Algerian Popular Assembly and political parties, and called for the ministers to apply these recommendations.

Uneven gatherings of disappeared's families according to the wilayas and the evolution of the sanitary crisis



Every Wednesday since 1998, numerous mothers, sisters, wives and daughters of disappeared have organized gatherings everywhere in Algeria in order to rally public opinion on this issue and pressure the authorities, in order to finally expose the truth publicly. The gatherings were uneven according to the wilayas and, even if the sanitary situation is almost back to normal (compared to the lockdown period), the sustainability of these gatherings remain uncertain. Still, the determination and resilience of these women in their fight against enforced disappearances remain and will remain unchanged. Our teams in Algeria have thus, with them and their families, done a work of monitoring on the sanitary situation. In order to maintain the mobilisation, the CFDA and Sos Disappeared have kept in touch with the disappeared's families to encourage them pursue the advocacy, have written press reviews and have worked on disappeared's files.

Communications to the international organizations on forced disappearances



During this semester, the CFDA's teams have worked on the communication of Nadjib ZAOUÏ's file to the UN Human Rights Committee. Nadjib ZAOUÏ disappeared in 1998 after having been arrested by officers from the Department of Intelligence and Security, with his nephew. The latter was freed a few days later but he never saw Nadjib again. Nadjib's father has done all the legal and administrative procedures possible in Algeria in order to find his son, but in vain. The communication should be sent to the UN Human Rights Committee very soon. Furthermore, in the BENIDIR case, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (CADHP in French) issued its objections on the 9th of December 2019. The Commission deemed that the Algerian state was indeed responsible for the disappearance of Mr Ali BENIDIR, that potential financial compensations could never be enough to ensure justice to Mr BENIDIR's mother, his father having now passed away, and that the National Charter for Peace and Reconciliation (2005) was not legitimate to deprive victims' families from their individual

right to justice. The Commission concluded then that the lack of diligence, required to shed light on these violations of human rights perpetrated against Mr BENIDIR, didn't allow his relatives to know the truth about what happened. The Commission also mentioned the fact that this communication falls into a public interest litigation case, of which the result will have consequences on other victims of the national tragedy. The CADHP, thus, thinks that the implementation of an independent Commission in charge of shedding light on the events occurred during the national tragedy is necessary to ensure answers and the truth that the victims have been looking for.

Preparation of the commemoration of the International Day of the disappeared with a group of associations



The International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances is held every year on the 30th of August. On this occasion, the CFDA prepared a public event and an online conference, of which the next newsletter will talk about in more details.

Feeding of a database on disappeared in Algeria



The CFDA and Sos Disappeared do a great deal of work together to collect data from the victims' families in order to document as many cases of enforced disappearances occurred during the Algerian civil war as possible. New files are constantly created and have been integrated, since recently, to a digital database. This work allows to rationalize access to information appearing in the files and to secure the preservation of these data. The CFDA and Sos Disappeared also regularly transfer these files to the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances.

Press Reviews

April 2020

<https://bit.ly/2yh1lOg>

May 2020

<https://bit.ly/3d15TGI>

June 2020

<https://bit.ly/31JL1RP>

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