



Launch of the #PasUnCrime campaign for freedom of expression



The Group of solidarity with Algerian civil society met on June 24th and 25th, 2022 in Paris. Following the debates, it appeared important to carry out an advocacy mission before the UPR of Algeria which will take place on November 7th, 2022 in Geneva.

This meeting takes place in a context of rapid deterioration of the human rights situation in Algeria, particularly due to the concentration of power in the hands of the president, who has taken several liberticidal measures, including control of the internet, the use of the pandemic as a pretext to justify repression, and the abuse of the judicial system to incriminate civil society.

The meeting was preceded by the #PasUnCrime digital campaign, which aims to draw attention to the way Algerian authorities are increasingly trying to stifle dissenting voices and independent civil society. Launched by 38 Algerian, regional, and international organizations, including the CFDA, the campaign ran from May 19th to 28th, 2022 on their respective social media accounts.

Mother's Day: gatherings in Oran and Algiers and friendly afternoon



"A mom is someone who comforts you when you are overwhelmed with grief. It is someone who is always there for you, who helps you find your way. It is someone who always has faith in you, even if you fail. It is also someone who is ready to search for you relentlessly, to move heaven and earth to find your trace, when you are victim of forced disappearance..." - Press release

The CFDA/SOS Disparus honored the mothers of the 'disappeared' on Monday, May 30th, 2022 on the occasion of Mother's Day.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus organised the gathering of mothers of the 'disappeared' and their supporters in front of the CNDH on Sunday 29th May 2022 at 11am. This was an opportunity to reaffirm the determination of the mothers in their fight for Truth and Justice for their disappeared sons and daughters.

Following the gathering, the mothers were able to spend a convivial afternoon at 2pm at the headquarters of SOS Disparus in Algiers and Oran with speeches by friends of the association, messages of solidarity and support for the families of the disappeared, testimonies from the mothers, and the broadcasting of videos relating their struggle. Small gifts were offered to mothers who attended.

The ordeal of families of disappeared at sea cruelly revived by the Algerian and Tunisian authorities



During the week of April 11, 2022, in the region of Annaba, the families of 38 people who disappeared at sea in 2008 have (re)lived an ordeal. Their children, some as young as 14 years old, disappeared at sea in 2008, as they tried, like thousands of other Algerians, to leave the country on a makeshift boat to reach Europe. Although some families soon received news of their children: they were arrested by the Tunisian authorities. However, they never saw them again.

Last week, the Algerian authorities summoned 38 families of the disappeared, telling them to go to Tunisia to attend the hearing of their children at the Court of First Instance in the city of Kef. After 14 years of disappearance, silence, questions, the hope of these families is reborn, but it is with horror that once arrived in Tunisia, they have lost hope once again: no trace of the disappeared, and a deafening silence of the Tunisian authorities.

The Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algérie strongly condemns the game played by the Tunisian and Algerian authorities, of which the families of our 38 disappeared of Annaba are still the victims. It is the responsibility of the Algerian state to protect the integrity of our fellow citizens, especially if they are taken hostage by a neighboring state and friend. The CFDA therefore urges the Algerian government not to abandon the 38 missing persons of Annaba, and to provide all necessary information and support to their families. It is absolutely necessary to obtain the truth about the fate of our children.

Merzoug Touati, released then re-incarcerated: The CFDA reiterates its opposition to the repression and its support for Merzoug



The CFDA and several human rights associations have addressed the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in a collective statement to plead for the case of Merzoug Touati, imprisoned in Algeria for exercising his freedom of expression.

After a hunger strike in the prison of Laghouat (500 km from his home in Bejaia), he was transferred on April 17th to the prison of Bouira.

Parties, associations and NGOs had called for his release.

On May 29th, the Court of Bejaia sentenced him in a new case, to one year in prison and a fine of 50,000 DA, for "undermining national unity" and "incitement to unarmed assembly", based on Facebook posts, which date from 2019.

Merzoug left prison on June 20th, after nearly six months in detention. However, he was re-incarcerated on June 28th.

In a reaction on his page, Merzoug Touati said he was "sad" for this "4th conviction by Algerian justice in 2022 and the 7th since (his) release in the alleged espionage case in March 2019." The blogger wondered "about the secrecy of these identical convictions, pronounced in different courts, with the same charges and indictments."

The CFDA reiterates its commitment to freedom of expression in Algeria, and strongly condemns human rights abuses, including the Merzoug case, which represents a dark drift of the regime towards authoritarianism.

European Union awards Egyptian, Iraqi, Syrian and Lebanese journalists



Le 1er juin 2022, la Délégation de l'Union Nassera Dutour, representing the CFDA, was invited to participate as a member of the jury for the prestigious Samir Kassir Award in Beirut, Lebanon.

On June 1st, 2022, the Delegation of the European Union in Lebanon awarded the winners of the 17th edition of the Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press, in partnership with the Samir Kassir Foundation. The results were announced during a ceremony held at the Saint Georges Hotel, Beirut. The ceremony was broadcasted live on television on LBCI channel

The Samir Kassir Award, established and funded by the European Union, is both the annual flagship event for press freedom and the most prestigious journalism award in North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf countries. The award ceremony has been held annually since 2006 to commemorate the assassination of Lebanese journalist Samir Kassir on June 2nd, 2005 in Beirut.

As every year, an independent jury selected the candidates. It was composed of seven media professionals, academics and human rights defenders from Europe and the Middle East: Nassera Dutour (Algeria), human rights activist and president of the Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algérie; Ludovic Blécher (France), Director of Innovation at Google News Initiative; Elham Fakhro (Bahrain), visiting scholar at the University of Exeter; Pavla Holcova (Czech Republic), founder of the Czech Center for Investigative Journalism; Safaa Saleh (Egypt), investigative journalist and war correspondent for Al-Aan TV and winner of the 2010 Samir Kassir

Award; Randa Slim (Lebanon), Director of the Conflict Resolution Program at the Middle East Institute and Samir Kassir Foundation representative on the jury; and Antonio Zappulla (Italy), Executive Director of the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

CFDA meetings in Lebanon and Iraq

The president of the CFDA, Nassera Dutour, had the opportunity to meet with several associations and personalities from civil society and the state in Lebanon and Iraq.

The President was able to see Wadad Halawani, wife of a disappeared and Lebanese activist against enforced disappearances, as well as a member of the National Commission for the Disappeared.

The CFDA also met with the Lebanese Center for Human Rights, Act for the Disappeared, and the International Center for Transitional Justice. The associations would like to solidify their cooperation through the elaboration of new projects that would help amplify the cause of the disappeared. The president also visited the UN headquarters in Lebanon in Beirut.

In Iraq, Nassera Dutour met with the Ministers of Interior and Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Human Rights Adviser, the Parliament Development Institute, and the International Commission against Enforced Disappearances to discuss the state of enforced disappearances in Iraq and to present opportunities for collaboration and capacity building.

CFDA participation in the Regional Conference on Economic and Social Inequalities in the Middle East and North Africa

The International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR) held a regional conference on economic and social inequalities in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa in Tunis on May 13th-14th, 2022.

The conference brought together about a hundred participants, including experts, representatives of social movements from the Middle East and North Africa, academics, as well as representatives of organizations and partners of the IFHR in the region.

This conference was a space for the assessment of a decade of movement and mobilization for economic and social rights and an opportunity for debate and exchange of experiences between social movement activists, human rights groups and experts interested in issues of inequality in order to strengthen the dynamics and approaches of cross-struggle to achieve greater economic and social equality in the region.

The CFDA, represented by its president, Nassera Dutour, took part in the conference.

Radio des Sans Voix : Renovation, remodeling, and new programs



Radio des Sans Voix works to promote the culture of human rights in Algeria and elsewhere, to engage youth in meaningful debates, to give voice to the voiceless, women and students, experts and activists. The Radio is a project undertaken in partnership with ERIM and IMS.

In this context, the Radio was renewed, with a new website, interface, logo, and several new programs and series on various themes focused on human rights, but also society, art, and history, among others.

Participation in the congress of Riposte internationale, Nassera Dutour elected member of the board

The 2nd Congress of Riposte Internationale (RI) was held on Saturday 28th May 2022 in Paris, in ordinary session. After adopting the moral and financial balance sheet, this second congress, placed under the homage paid to the journalist Mohamed Tamalt and to the activists Kamel-Eddine Fekhar and Hakim Debbazi, discussed the situation of human rights in Africa and particularly in Algeria.

The Congress notes with indignation the flagrant and dangerous regression of human rights in Algeria. The country lives at the rhythm of a climate of tension, of repression exacerbated by the imprisonment of tens, even hundreds, of activists and citizens peacefully claiming their legitimate

rights: freedom, democracy and respect for human dignity.

On this occasion, Nassera Dutour, president of the CFDA, reaffirmed her support for the cause carried by Riposte Internationale, and was elected member of the board of directors of the association.

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