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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

Press release

UPR review: the international community must not forget the crimes of enforced disappearances in Algeria

On November 11, the United Nations Human Rights Council conducted the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Algeria in Geneva. The Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie (CFDA) and SOS Disparus particularly welcome the initiative of the UPR which allowed for constructive debates on the human rights situation in Algeria.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus would like to salute all the states that have called on Algeria, and in particular the United States, to repeal the amendments to Article 87 bis of the Penal Code, which "contain an overly broad definition of terrorism," and to release "journalists, human rights defenders, and those detained under this provision," as well as the countries that have called on the country to guarantee freedom of expression and to end discrimination against women.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus also congratulate all the States that have recommended that Algeria ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, a very important step towards eradicating these crimes of enforced disappearance, which are spreading on a large scale throughout the world.

However, the CFDA and SOS Disparus are surprised and puzzled that no state has called for an end to enforced disappearances in Algeria, for the establishment of the truth about the crimes of enforced disappearance committed in the very recent past, and for justice for the families. No State has called on Algeria to guarantee the independence of justice - starting with the separation of powers - so that justice in Algeria can play its full role.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus have taken note of the invitation extended by the Algerian government to the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances (WGEID) to visit Algeria in 2024 and encourage it to continue in this direction. **The CFDA and SOS Disparus invite all States to do the same in order to avoid once again a neglect by the international community of the treatment of enforced disappearances in Algeria. As for the families, they hope that this invitation to the WGEID will be effective.**

Despite their resistance to the denial of justice and truth by the Algerian authorities and their advanced age, many families have been struggling for over 30 years to shed light on the fate of their disappeared relatives.

Thus, no State has been able to listen to the mothers of the disappeared in Algeria and to bring to the forefront the voices of NGOs specialized in this issue, which demand that Algeria to :

- Guarantee the establishment of a Commission for the establishment of the truth on a case by case basis;
- Repeal the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, its implementing ordinances, and all general amnesty laws;
- Ensure thorough and independent investigations into all cases of enforced disappearance and guarantee access to effective remedy, just reparations, and psychosocial support for families of the disappeared;
- Exhume and identify all unmarked graves and identify and return the bodies to the families of the disappeared;
- Allow the association SOS Disparus to have a legal existence in its country;
- Stop the violence against the families of the disappeared during their gatherings.

The CFDA and SOS Disparus therefore launch a new appeal to the Algerian authorities and the international community to listen to the suffering of the families of the disappeared and to put in place concrete measures to change the situation regarding cases of enforced disappearance in Algeria.

CFDA and SOS Disparus