



## SOS Disparus

### Press release

### **The era of the single party is back in Algeria**

The Algerian government has once again revealed its sinister desire to close down all human rights associations in Algeria and does not seem to want to stop there.

After the dissolution of the association Rassemblement Action Jeunesse (RAJ), the legal proceedings against the MDS and the RCD, the sealing of Radio M, the sealing of the premises of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH), everything leads us to believe that the Algerian authorities now want to make SOS Disparus disappear.

Indeed, **on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 6pm, two police officers, one of them in combat gear accompanied by another one in civilian clothes who had come in an official police car, rang the doorbell of the offices of SOS Disparus in Algiers. They were looking for the owner of the offices to leave a convocation. The A4 document in the hands of the police officer did not look like a convocation. It was a very worrying document.**

The malicious intent of the Algerian government towards SOS Disparus is not new. Despite all the steps taken, the association still has no legal status in Algeria. Faced with the resistance of the families and their association, the Algerian authorities decided to make the families of the 'disappeared' disappear completely from the scene by forbidding them to gather, believing that the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation would allow them to turn the page on a history that haunts them: Enforced disappearances.

SOS Disparus is the only entity in Algeria to offer a space to families whose relatives were victims of enforced disappearance during the 1990s after being arrested by the forces of law and order. The official number is 8 023 disappeared persons in Algeria. Many NGOs speak of 23 000 disappeared in Algeria.

Despite the intimidation and death threats against the leaders of the association and all the suffering they have endured, the families of the 'disappeared' continue to carry on the fight with an unprecedented determination to ensure that the families of the victims obtain the Truth and Justice that the authorities owe them. SOS Disparus works for the non-repetition of the crime of enforced disappearance, considered by the United Nations as a crime against humanity.

The families of the 'disappeared' state to the highest Algerian authorities that the street saw them being born and they will continue to grow up in the street and to exist as long as they have not found answers to their questions, with or without offices.

**Thus, SOS Disparus and the CFDA call for unconditional solidarity** with all human rights organizations in Algeria that are suffering repression from an authoritarian state. Our associations represent the last democratic bastions to give a voice to the victims of the violence of the Algerian state.

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Nassera Dutour

President CFDA/SOS Disparus