



MEETING BETWEEN THE RCD POLITICAL PARTY AND THE FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED



On December 20, the Rassemblement pour la Culture et la Démocratie (RCD), an opposition political party in Algeria, received a delegation from the SOS Disparus association in its national headquarters in Algiers. The duty of truth was at the heart of these discussions. Indeed, RCD President Atmane Mazouz, in the presence of Mr. Groucene Abdelkader, President of the Algiers regional office and National Secretary in charge of the Economy, recalled that "no reconciliation can be established on the basis of denial and disavowal by any imposed will for compulsory general amnesia".

The President of the RCD insisted on the state's obligation to carry out serious investigations into the situation of the disappeared, their fate and the identification of the bodies, to combat all forms of impunity.

The members of the SOS Disparu.es delegation reaffirmed, through their testimonies and their demands, the need for political and legal support to face the permanent obstacles to their actions. The members of SOS Disparu.es reiterated the importance of the fight against impunity, as well as the need to consider the repeated and ongoing violations of human rights committed by state authorities (rape, arbitrary executions, torture, enforced disappearances).

« CAFÉ-DÉBAT » IN TRIBUTE TO MASTER ALI YAHIA ABDENNOUR

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



December 10, 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR serves as the foundation for the recognition and affirmation of human rights worldwide. The International Human Rights Day celebrates the adoption of this historic document to, in the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, "stand firm against the rise of intolerance and build a future of dignity, security, justice and human rights for all".

This year, the CFDA paid tribute to Master Ali Yahia Abdennour, a renowned lawyer, former president of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) and fervent human

rights activist. In his memory, the CFDA organized a "Café-Débat" on the theme of his latest book, "My testimony for freedoms". The "Café-débat", held at the offices of SOS Disparu.es, began with a presentation of the author and his book by Larabi Samir, a journalist and doctoral student in sociology. This was followed by a round-table discussion on "Rights and Freedoms", in which a number of specialists took part, including Master Bouchachi Mostepha, a lawyer at the Algiers bar, Ms. Boucherf Fatma Zohra, vice-president of SOS Disparu.es, Ms. Kheddar Cherifa, president of Djazaïrouna, and Master Badi Abdelghani, a lawyer at the Algiers bar.

These debates were guided by the ideas of Ali Yahia Abdennour. He asserts in his book that "Algeria will free itself".

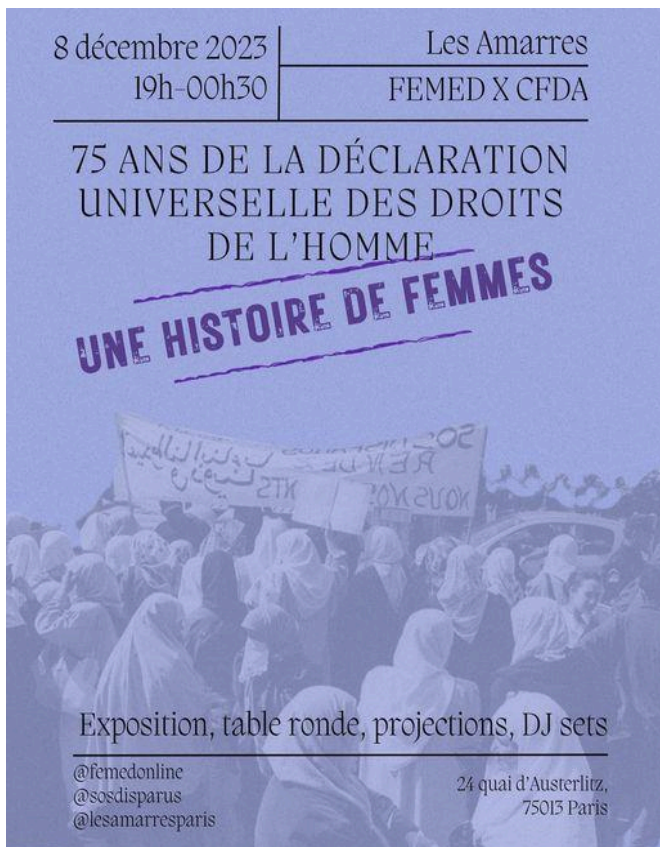
"My testimony for freedoms" has been available in bookshops since December 10, 2017.

SOS DISPARU.ES MEETS THE FRONT DE LA BONNE GOUVERNANCE (FBG)

The meeting, which took place at the initiative of SOS Disparu.es on December 20, marked the first meeting between the Front de la Bonne Gouvernance (FBG) party and SOS Disparu.es, enabling the FBG to learn more about the fight led by the association. An initial contact was established with the aim of presenting the association's actions and demands to the various ministries and state bodies.

As with the RCD, the FBG president affirmed the need for investigations into the fate of the disappeared people and the right to the truth, given the psychological suffering endured by their families. Party members expressed their full support for the association, its action, and its demands. The President stated that he would provide his expertise and analysis on the requests that were made, while contacting the various organizations that could support the cause of SOS Disparu.es.

EXHIBITION, SCREENING AND DJ SETS: A STORY OF WOMEN



At “Les amarres”, an evening event was held in Paris on December 8 for the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, highlighting the women who played an important role in the defense of human rights since 1948. An exhibition of women human rights activists, alongside a text depicting their life events and fights, was carefully prepared by the FEMED and CFDA teams for the event. The aim was to remind us that many women have fought for the respect of human rights, and that they are often forgotten. The event, organized in partnership with the FEMED, also demonstrated that the fight against enforced disappearance is still being waged mainly by women. One of the victims said: "They tied me up and blindfolded me". CFDA President Nassera Dutour also shared her testimony: "Yes", she said, "enforced disappearance kills you slowly".

The families of the victims were also able to share their experiences and their desire to ensure that

the Algerian authorities gradually recognize the crime of enforced disappearance, so that the families can get a chance to move on.

The evening ended with a musical tribute to the disappeared and their families. To keep them alive through our smiles.

ARTICLE ABOUT NASSERA DUTOUR FOR CIVICUS GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Nassera Dutour, President of the CFDA, was interviewed by the CIVICUS Lens team, an initiative within CIVICUS: the World Civil Society Alliance.

The article focused on the repression and persecution of local activists and organizations, with the aim of understanding the challenges they face and exploring the forms of support needed for their action. The pressure exerted by the Algerian authorities to muzzle initiatives led by the Algerian civil society since February 2019 was particularly highlighted. Cases of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and detention have led to drastic restrictions on the freedom of action of human rights defenders.

[ALGERIA: 'The state must respect the freedoms of those calling for truth and justice on enforced disappearances' \(civicus.org\)](https://www.civicus.org/en/2023/12/08/ALGERIA-The-state-must-respect-the-freedoms-of-those-calling-for-truth-and-justice-on-enforced-disappearances/)

In this context, it seems essential to strengthen national solidarity to show a united front and create a balance of power that would lead Algeria to implement the rights and duties recognized and promoted by international law.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Held on November 25, this day celebrates global activism against gender-based violence. The aim of the day is to reflect on, renew and amplify the strategies implemented to make state-level and individual commitments to eliminate violence against women a reality by 2030.

Figures

Between 2019 and 2022, 228 women were victims of femicide in Algeria. 51% of femicides are committed by partners or ex-partners. 37% are committed by a family member. 12% are committed by acquaintances of the victims or unknown people. 71% of these murders take place within the confines of the marital or family home.

To highlight the crime of femicide, SOS Disparu.es organized a film-debate at the Centre de Recherche pour la Préservation de la Mémoire et l'Étude des Droits de l'Homme (CPMDH) on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Hosted by women's rights activist Souad Belmokhtar, the 2015 British historical film "The Suffragettes" was broadcasted.

This film sheds light on the suffragette movement in England at the beginning of the 20th century, a movement that fought for the recognition of universal, undifferentiated voting rights. The film has been praised for its authentic and moving portrayal of the history of the suffragette movement, and for its ability to convey the importance of the struggle for equal rights.

The story follows Maud Watts, a working-class woman who joins the movement after witnessing police violence against women demonstrating peacefully.

« CAFÉS LITTÉRAIRES » AT THE CPMDH

« NESRINI » : A PASSION AT THE HEART OF THE TURMOIL OF 90S ALGERIA

The CPMDH-Oran "café-littéraire" welcomed author Mustapha Bestami on November 18, 2023. The latter shared his work "Nesrini", or "La mémoire brisée et les cœurs unis", a story of love and memory between two people separated by everything.

The novel's author illustrates with delicacy and sensitivity the suffering of those who remain without news of their loved ones, abducted by an organization, a state, or individuals for political or

social reasons. He also evokes the phenomenon of Harga, the clandestine flight that takes thousands of young people to an uncertain future, risking their lives in the process. "Nesrini" is the first part of a trilogy that promises to take us on a journey through time and space. The second volume is currently being published, and the third one is in preparation.

The author of this novel, Mustapha Bestami, was just a child in 1992, when Algeria got plunged into terror. Later, when he became a journalist, he met the families of the disappeared and their associations, who inspired his work.

« LES TOTEMS DE Y'OUDAÏENE » BY AZIZ MOUATS

On Saturday October 7, Aziz Mouats, professor at the University of Mostaganem and agronomy expert and researcher, presented his book "Les totems de Y'Oudaïene". A memoir of the War of National Liberation, the writer highlights the story of a woman who gave her life for the Algerian cause. It tells the story of a people who never stopped fighting for their country.

« TERMINUS BABEL » BY MUSTAPHA BENFODIL

On Saturday, October 14, Oran's CPMDH welcomed Mustapha Benfodil for a "Café littéraire" about his latest work, "Terminus Babel". Born in 1968 in Relizane, this atypical writer adopts a hybrid style that explores literature in an experimental way. He skillfully fuses sustained language and Daridja. He describes his narrative approach as documentary, while retaining his journalistic background. Originally a mathematician, Mustapha began his writing career focusing on science fiction and astronomy. Later, as a journalist for El Watan, he distinguished himself with field reports covering a variety of subjects. He was particularly interested in the "Harragas" migration phenomenon. This fascination led him to cross the Mediterranean in a clandestine boat with migrants from Annaba to Italy, for the purposes of his journalistic investigation.

The author explores a multitude of subjects in his books, constantly striving to advance different causes.

« THE PALM OF FREEDOM » BY KOUIDER KADDOURI

Kouider Kaddouri presented his first book, "The palm of freedom", on Saturday October 21, at the "café littéraire" organized by the CPMDH-Oran. The author describes the Mitidja region between Blida and Boufarik, some ten years before the start of the War of National Liberation.

CAFE DEBATE ON THE REVOLUTION

Amar Mohand Aneur, historian and researcher at CRASC, Mohamed Benziane, journalist, and writer, and Souad Belmokhtar, cultural animator, hosted a "café-débat" on October 28 in Oran, organized by "le Centre de préservation de la Mémoire et l'étude des droits de l'Homme" (CPMDH).

The two writers discussed the Algerian revolution, seeking to compare it with the Palestinian revolution, and to highlight similarities and convergences.

However, the writers emphasize that these two revolutions took place in distinct geographical, geopolitical, and topographical contexts.

BRIEFS

KADDOUR CHOUICHA, DJAMILA LOUKIL AND SAID BOUDOUR ACQUITTED

On Monday December 4, the judge at the Bar El Beida criminal court of first instance in Algiers acquitted human rights activist and academic Kaddour Chouicha and his co-defendants after several years of legal proceedings.

At the opening of the trial, the presence of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mary Lawlor, was particularly welcomed. Visiting Algeria from November 26 to December 5, she was given access to the El Harrach, Koléa and Tiaret prisons.

A report on the human rights situation in Algeria is expected in March 2024.

INSTITUTE EVENT OF CATALA INTERNACIONAL PER LA PAU

From November 27 to 29, human rights organization ICIP organized an international meeting in Barcelona, bringing together the representatives of associations for families of the disappeared, including CFDA President Nassera Dutour.



Most of them, being direct or indirect victims, were able to share their personal experiences and discuss the various possible courses of action. For three days, these women from Algeria, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, the Philippines, Lebanon, Western Sahara, the Basque Country, and Mexico discussed the context of enforced disappearance in their respective countries, the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of their loved ones and the countless steps they had taken to find them, during working sessions and training sessions combined with informal conversations.

The meeting's observations and recommendations will be considered at next year's World Congress on Enforced Disappearances.

Press release :

January

[Revue-de-presse-Janvier-2022.pdf \(algerie-disparus.org\)](#)

February

[Revue 02-22.docx \(algerie-disparus.org\)](#)

March

[Revue 03-22.docx \(algerie-disparus.org\)](#)

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