

NEWSLETTER N°92

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

MOBILISATION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN ALGERIA



In the run-up to the Algerian presidential elections in early September, the CFDA mobilised for 23 days with partners including Human Rights Watch and Riposte Internationale. The associations led a campaign for the release of prisoners of conscience in Algeria, accompanied by activists and the Algerian media. This national mobilisation aimed to support the detainees and their families, including by denouncing the arbitrariness of such deprivations of liberty and calling for their release. The campaign also made it possible to challenge the legitimacy of a locked presidential election, the outcome of which was known beforehand. In addition, on the eve of the vote, the associations published an opinion piece in Médiapart, warning of the increasing climate of shrinkage and repression of Algerian civil society that has plagued the country for at least two decades.



مرشحين للحرية

AGAINST IMPUNITY AND OBLIVION! - WEEK OF EVENTS TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE ON 30 AUGUST



As every year, to mark the International Day in Memory of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance, the CFDA co-organised a campaign of events with FEMED - the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances - and other partners such as Amnesty International. The theme of this year's commemoration was 'Together, let's fight impunity', a reminder of the vital importance of taking action against enforced disappearances, a crime under international law whose systematic and widespread practice constitutes a crime against humanity.

Nassera Dutour speaks on disappearances in Yemen

To mark the opening of the campaign on enforced disappearances on 29 August, the CFDA President shared her expertise and made recommendations as part of an online event organised by Mwatana for Human Rights, a Yemeni association set up in 2007 in Sana'a, which works to defend human rights.

Nassera was asked to share her experience in referring cases to international human rights protection mechanisms. She spoke alongside five other speakers on the subject of enforced disappearances in Yemen and the international mechanisms for combating these crimes. The discussions focused in particular on the legal, ethical and humanitarian responsibilities of all parties to a conflict to reveal the fate of victims immediately and to ensure redress for violations.

Enforced disappearances in Chechnya and the North Caucasus



Stiching justice initiative (SJI) is an association dedicated to the legal protection of victims of human rights violations related to armed conflicts and anti-terrorist operations in the post-Soviet region. There are many disappearances in this region, but the families struggle to organise themselves to assert their rights to Truth and Justice. Therefore, SJI organised an online conference and invited Nassera to tell her story of organising families of the disappeared in Algeria, how the mothers and other family members came together, how they supported each other, how they formulated their objectives and how together they continued their search, their advocacy, their struggle for truth and justice. She was also asked to talk about her work on preserving the memory of relatives of the disappeared and, above all, how she found the strength to carry on.

The Bastille in Paris, a place to gather in tribute to the disappeared



The CFDA came together with other families and associations of families of the disappeared from all over the world for speeches and moments to reflect in memory of the disappeared towards the end of the day on 29 August. This tribute, organised by its partner FEMED, included five minutes of silence, which could be joined online.

Screening and discussion, 'I, Sister Alice, who disappeared in Argentina in 1977' ('Moi, sœur Alice, disparue en Argentine en 1977')

Sharing and emotions continued on the evening of 29 August at the screening of the documentary 'Moi, sœur Alice, disparue en Argentine en 1977' at the International Centre of Popular Culture ('Centre international de culture populaire') in the 11th arrondissement of Paris. Participants were able to exchange views in the presence of the director Alberto Marquadt and enjoy a friendly drink.

Conference 'The fight against impunity: what are the tools?'

On Friday 30 August at Amnesty International's headquarters in Paris, a conference was given by renowned specialists committed to truth and justice for enforced disappearances. Participants listened to Emmanuel Decaux, professor at the University of Paris II and former Chairman of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Obeida Dabbagh, brother of Mazen Dabbagh, who disappeared and was murdered by the Syrian authorities.

A day to rally in solidarity



Many came together on 31 August to nurture their commitment and unite against impunity and oblivion for one day. On the Place de la République in Paris, participants gathered around screenings, stands, musical performances, exhibitions, testimonies and debates.

An evening of stories of disappearances



On 5 September, the FEMED, supported by the CFDA, organised an evening of testimonies from families of the disappeared and victims of enforced disappearance, enriched by debates, discussions and screenings. Speakers included witnesses from Algeria, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Argentina.

SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND RESILIENCE FOR SURVIVORS, HEART OF THE MISSION OF THE CFDA

A day of sharing and healing

The Association for Rehabilitation, set up by the CFDA, organised a day of exchange, healing and resilience for victims of violence on 1 September in Algiers. Led by a clinical psychologist, the workshops consisted of helping participants to express their emotions and gradually take control of them. The creation of a safe space allowed every word to be heard, respected and valued, with a view to healing and building resilience for each participant.

During the most emotionally-loaded activity, entitled 'Free Voice', the participants were invited to imagine themselves facing the person or persons of their choice. By projecting one or more of their loved ones in front of them, or even those responsible for the harm they had suffered, the participants reconnected with their feelings, and were able to release the suffering and emotions they had long buried and run away from.

This day was particularly rewarding. The participants suggested that this training be regularised throughout the year, in addition to expressing their need for individual therapy.

Towards tools for emotional management of violence

The CFDA and SOS Disparus contributed to an intensive training course in emotional management for victims of violence on 13 and 14 September in Algiers. The event was attended by psychologists and experts in personal and professional development, women's rights activists and victims, in addition to association staff.

Using an approach combining presentations, practical workshops and collective reflection, this training aimed to strengthen the emotional capacities of the participants as well as the ability of psychologists and members of the association to support victims of violence. The event also aimed to create a mutual support network among the participants.

ADVOCACY AND CONTACT WITH SPECIALISTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS



From 23 to 25 September, the CFDA was invited to an mission of advocacy organised by the FEMED in Geneva at the same time as a dialogue was being held between the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and Morocco. The programme of this mission was rich in meetings and information.

In addition to taking part in the CED/Morocco dialogue, the mission met a number of special rapporteurs, experts from the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Guillaume Ngefa.

BRIEFS

THE ACTION OF THE CFDA, INFORMED BY SPECIALISTS ON FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

The CFDA continues to seek expertise in its work on enforced disappearances. In July, the association conducted an interview with Soraya Laribi, a doctor in history and professor at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales), for the purpose of writing an article on revenge.

A DAY FOR ASSOCIATIONS

The campaign for the International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearance ended on 7 September 2024, with the participation of the CFDA and the FEMED in the Day for Associations organised by the Maison des Associations in Montreuil. Banners were displayed, as well as portraits of the disappeared, roll-ups with photos and lists of the names of people who disappeared in Algeria, and so on. These images attracted a large audience, especially from the Algerian community and prominent figures such as Alexis Corbières, who praised the work of the CFDA and the FEMED.

RALLY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH ON DISAPPEARANCES, DENIED BY THE CHARTER FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

As every year, on 29 September, the families of the disappeared gathered in front of the National Council for Human Rights in Algiers to reiterate their demand for the truth about the fate of their children who disappeared after being arrested by the **law enforcement officers**.



Cette date marque le critique 19ème anniversaire de l'adoption par référendum de la Charte dite pour la paix et la réconciliation nationale. Ce texte méconnaît le droit des familles de disparus à connaître la vérité sur le sort de leurs êtres chers et à obtenir justice pour les préjudices subis du fait du crime de disparitions.

This date marks the critical 19th anniversary of the adoption by referendum of the so-called Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. This text ignores the right of families of the disappeared to know the truth about the fate of their loved ones and to obtain justice for the harm suffered as a result of the crime of disappearance.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CFDA SPEAKS ON FRANCE 24

On 31 August, Mrs Nassera Dutour spoke to a large audience as a guest on France 24. She raised awareness of the issue of enforced disappearances in Algeria and around the world, while informing on the fight against impunity.

PRESS RELEASE

Revue de Presse - Septembre 2024

Revue de Presse - Août 2024

Revue de Presse - Juillet 2024

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