

NEWSLETTER N°95

Avril-Mai-Juin 2025

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

NO FORGETTING, NO SILENCE

April

"LIBERATED VOICES DAY: EMBRACING OUR EMOTIONS"

Faced with years of waiting, silence, and lack of answers, the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of the disappeared carry within them both an intimate and collective pain. In an effort to bring some relief to this suffering, the CFDA and SOS Disparus often organize activities that resemble group therapy. It was in this context that, on April 12, a day titled "Voices Unleashed: Let's Live Our Emotions" was held. This day aimed to offer mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of the disappeared a safe space to move beyond their pain, express long-buried emotions, and begin a path of inner healing and resilience.

Guided by a psychologist, the meeting allowed for the exploration of different therapeutic approaches: speaking, listening, artistic expression, and relaxation — all within a caring and deeply humane environment.

REFLECTIONS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT PRACTICES FOR VICTIMS

On April 22, 2025, a training session was held on psychological practices with victims. The aim of which is to promote women's rights through the capacity building of mental health professionals. The session was specifically designed to enable healthcare professionals to improve the care and support of victims suffering

from acute stress and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

At the end of the session, participants expressed the wish to renew these initiatives through regular reflection days between psychologists. The goal is to continuously strengthen their intervention skills and to build a lasting, collaborative dynamic of professional support together.

CONFÉRENCE SUR LE PATRIMOINE IMMATÉRIEL DE GAZA



The experts from the Center for Research on Memory Preservation and Human Rights Studies (CPMDH) are focusing on the Palestinian issue. They wish to make a modest contribution to this ongoing tragedy unfolding before the eyes of the world.

To this end, a conference was held on Saturday, April 26, on the intangible heritage of Gaza, presented by Ms. Djamila Hamitou, a storyteller from Oran. The program included a presentation of the Palestinian writer and folklorist Yahia Hassan Abu, followed by the traditional Palestinian tale "Dhakaa Sayad."

DISAPPEARANCE IN TIMES OF WAR



Many international historians and researchers are interested in, conducting studies on, and writing works about the effects of colonialism.

Within this context, historians and researchers, along with Soraya Laribi, with the support of the Foundation for the Memory of the War in Algeria, the Battles of Morocco, and Tunisia, organized a conference on April 28 and 29 at the Academy of Overseas Sciences.

This conference was organized into four sessions: Erasing traces or disappearing — Legislating on disappearances and accounting for them — Searching for, exhuming, and identifying the disappeared or their remains — Mourning and maintaining the memory of the disappeared.

The objective was to analyze the notion of "disappearance" from different angles: in situations of "danger of death" (the definition from the Civil Code, 1958), "forced" (UN definition, 1978), or voluntary. The wars (world wars, decolonization wars, civil wars...) of the 19th and 20th centuries contributed to the development of legislation on disappearance. It has also led to the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2006 and entered into force in 2010.

The far-reaching effects of these disappearances on victims by proxy were addressed (mobilization of associations, impossible mourning, substitute community rituals, necro-nominalism...), as well as the research carried out on an individual scale or state-level efforts to

locate or identify individuals (forensic doctors or forensic sciences) were also discussed. Invited to this conference, Ms. Dutour Nassera was asked to present to the audience the creation of the CFDA, its objectives, and all the work carried out over the years.

THE CFDA: VICTIM OF REPRESSION, CENSORSHIP, AND DENIAL.

Since the beginning of the year, violations of individual and collective freedoms have intensified. The Algerian authorities have prevented the holding of two events organized by the Collective in Algiers: one focused on transitional justice, and the other dedicated to International Women's Rights Day.

The security forces physically prevented these gatherings from taking place by blocking access to participants and members of the CFDA and SOS Disparus. They also do so by surrounding the affected neighborhoods.

R A D I O
DES SANS VOIX

Alongside this physical censorship, there is now virtual censorship as well. The CFDA's most essential communication tools are under attack—namely, its websites.

From the moment it was launched in 2016, the online radio station, *Radio des Sans Voix*, was censored. Access to it was immediately blocked and remains inaccessible in Algeria, while its website is constantly targeted by hacking attempts.

MÉMORIAL DES
DISPARUS
EN ALGERIE

Today, these attacks have crossed a new threshold.

The website of the Memorial for the Disappeared ([www.memorial-algerie.org] (<http://www.memorial-algerie.org>)) was totally hacked and destroyed. Designed as a space of remembrance in honor of the victims of enforced disappearances that occurred in Algeria during the 1990s, the site shared the faces, names, and stories of the disappeared.

These attacks are quite significant: they aim to silence the families and obstruct access to information for human rights defenders, researchers, and students. In response to this repression, the CFDA published a statement on May 25th denouncing censorship, denial, and the erasure of the disappeared in Algeria.

On May 29, SOS Disparu(e)s organized a friendly afternoon gathering with the mothers of the disappeared. This day served as a reminder of the ongoing struggle they lead daily to uncover the Truth and achieve Justice regarding the fate of their children. Throughout the day, there were discussions and a shared meal.

THE CFDA HONORS THE FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED



Mother's Day is traditionally a time for all mothers to be reunited with their children. Unfortunately, for the mothers of victims of enforced disappearances, this day is all too often stripped of its joy and festive meaning.

And yet, these women draw their strength from the love they have for those they raised and have always cherished. For this reason, SOS Disparu(e)s believes they deserve, like all other mothers, to be celebrated and honored. The organisation believes that their efforts need to be recognized and thanked with

with a heartfelt gratitude.

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN ALGERIA.

On February 5, 2025, a delegation of five members from SOS Disparus, accompanied by the association's president and lawyer, was received at the Human Rights Council (CNDH) by its new president, Mr. Zaalani. The delegation had previously submitted to him a memorandum prepared ahead of this meeting.



However, since no response was given to this request, the CFDA decided to schedule a follow-up meeting with the president of the CNDH to inquire about the progress made after the first meeting.

That is why, on June 8, 2025, a second hearing took place, during which the President of the CNDH proposed that the members of SOS Disparu.e.s draft a written proposal for a transitional justice process to be implemented in Algeria, aimed at addressing the families' needs for truth and justice.

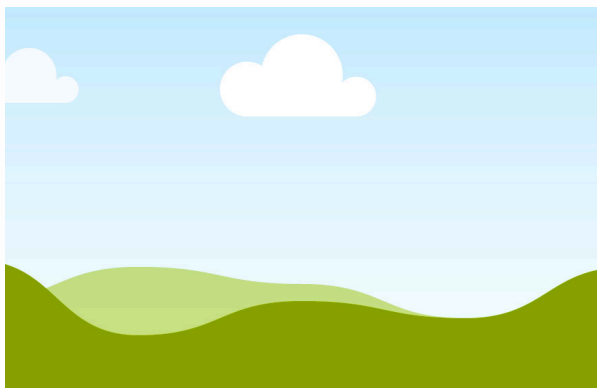
Mr. Zaalani affirmed that this document would be personally delivered to the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune. The document is currently being drafted.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MEHDI BEN BARKA

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The CFDA was invited on Saturday, June 14, as part of the 60th anniversary of the kidnapping and disappearance of Mehdi Ben Barka and on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of his widow, Rhita Bennani. The purpose was to pay tribute to her at the Mehdi Ben Barka Institute. This event was organized by the Institute at the town hall of the 10th arrondissement of Paris, on Saturday, June 14, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. It began with an introduction and a presentation of the Mehdi Ben Barka Institute, followed by a testimony from Hayat Berrada-Bousta on the theme: "Along a river between the swell and the calm." The day continued with interventions by Khadija Ryadi and Latifa El Bouhsini, who discussed "the Moroccan woman's struggle for freedom, democracy, and social justice," which was followed by a debate. Then Nassera Dutour spoke about enforced disappearances and "women's fight for truth, justice, and against impunity." Finally, Marie-France Cohen Solal spoke on "The Palestinian woman on the front lines."

THE FRANCOPHONE ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS (FAW)



The FAW was born from the desire to strengthen the collective voice of Francophone feminist movements in multilateral spaces.

In a context where the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ people are constantly challenged, the FAW positions itself as a strategic and operational framework, designed for and with activists.

The FAW consortium (composed of Equipop, FFMED, and FIDH) leads the Alliance. It directs actions, ensures the continuity of advocacy, coordinates activities, and oversees operations.

It ensures coherence between advocacy spaces and activists' priorities.

In the run-up to the Human Rights Council and on the occasion of..., the AFF organized its first advocacy mission to UN bodies and state representatives. This mission took place from June 22 to 27 and brought together feminist activists from Tunisia, Algeria, Cameroon, Morocco, France, Senegal, Mauritania, and Benin.

At a side event, Nassera Dutour was invited to speak on the theme: "The exacerbation of discriminatory norms and sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflicts in the Middle East."

The aim of these days organized in Geneva was to build a collective, coordinated, inclusive, and resolutely feminist advocacy tool. This was for the general aim of supporting local and international struggles, with 9 Francophone feminist activists. Nassera Dutour was able to speak on the theme of "armed conflicts, between the instrumentalization of gender and the invisibilization of women in peace processes," with a focus on Algeria.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE



June 26 is the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, proclaimed by the United Nations. This day exists to bring visibility to what often remains hidden and to support survivors.

It was established in connection with the United Nations Convention Against Torture (1984) and aims to denounce, raise awareness, and demand accountability by reminding that torture is a crime without exception. Measures have already been put in place, including an international legal

framework (UN, OPCAT), NGOs such as Amnesty International and OMCT, care centers for victims, and monitoring mechanisms in prisons and places of detention. The CFDA published a post on its Instagram account to mark the occasion, contributing to significant media visibility.

AN ATTENTIVE PRESIDENT: CONNECTING WITH PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMICS

Nassera Dutour first gave an interview to Cannelle Tomasoni and Clémence Bouchart for Prison Insider, as part of an article dedicated to the criminalization of activism on a global scale. Through her testimony, she analyzed enforced disappearances and the detention of individuals for their opinions as instruments of political repression, illustrating her points with the Algerian example.

She was later a guest on the podcast *Macahu*, where she spoke about the enforced disappearances that took place during the Black Decade.

She also highlighted the legal and political deadlock faced by the families of the disappeared since the adoption of the Civil Concord Law, enacted on July 8, 1999 which

continues to deny them truth and justice.

This work of remembrance and awareness will continue in April: Nassera Dutour will meet with a PhD student from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. She is currently writing a thesis on the mothers' movement in Algeria, in order to conduct a sociopolitical analysis of the movement from its origins to the Hirak uprising.

Nassera will also speak with a student working on her thesis titled "The Violence of Silence: The Algerian Civil War and the Struggle for Reconciliation, Memory, and Historical Truth."

These interviews will allow for an in-depth discussion on how Algerian civil society challenges the imposed silence and works to preserve collective memory.

Through her public statements and unwavering commitment, Nassera Dutour continues her fight to make the invisible visible and to amplify the voices of those who are still being silenced today.

PRESS REVIEWS

Press Review- [April 2025](#)

Press Review- [May 2025](#)

Press Review- [June 2025](#)

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