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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

I WAS EXPELLED FROM MY OWN COUNTRY!"

30 JULY 2025

Algérie : éloignement arbitraire de Nassera Dutour de son pays par les autorités

06/08/2025 COMMUNIQUÉ Algérie AR EN
Défenseurs des droits humains



On the 30 July 2025, Nassera Dutour, an Algerian citizen and President of the Collective of the Families of the Disappeared in Algeria (CFDA), as well as its Algerian branch SOS Disparus, was arbitrarily denied entry by the Algerian authorities upon her arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport in Algiers.

This expulsion, in violation of Algeria's international commitments and its own Constitution, reflects a broader trend of authoritarian drift, marked by continuous violations of fundamental freedoms and the rights of human rights defenders.

For several years, civic space in Algeria has been increasingly restricted.

In response to this expulsion, the CFDA teams have, over the past months, reached out to international human rights organizations, as well as relevant national, regional, and international bodies, to raise the alarm and seek accountability.

On the 31 of July 2025, the CFDA issued a joint statement with the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) to draw attention to the situation of Ms. Nassera Dutour.

On 6 August 2025, in response to this situation, the International Federation for Human Rights and numerous co-signing organizations launched an urgent appeal. That same day, the Algeria Solidarity Collective of the EuroMed Rights network also released a statement condemning the incident.

The CFDA also alerted several UN Special Rapporteurs^[1], members of the OHCHR working on gender issues, members of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and its corresponding Committee, as well as the Vice-Chair and Chairperson of the African

L'affaire Nassera Dutour : quand l'oubli devient politique



À l'approche de la Journée internationale des personnes disparues, célébrée chaque année le 30 août, l'affaire Nassera Dutour prend une résonance encore plus poignante. Cette journée vise à sensibiliser le monde aux disparitions forcées, à soutenir les familles en quête de vérité et à rappeler aux États leur responsabilité dans la lutte contre l'impunité. Le refoulement de cette figure emblématique de la mémoire des disparus, incarne exactement

[1]

In parallel with these actions, Nassera Dutour gave several media interviews on television channels such as TV5 Monde, ALTERNATV, Almagharibia TV, and Algérie Part.

She also participated in multiple press interviews, which were featured in print media (such as *Il Manifesto*), online outlets (*Le Matin d'Algérie*, *Radio des Sans Voix*, *Mondafrique*, *El Hounna Review*), as well as in specialized human rights journals, including the *Journal of the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms*.

According to the official expulsion report issued by the Algerian authorities, Ms. Nassera Dutour was expelled under Law No. 08-11 of 25 June 2008, concerning the conditions of entry, stay, and movement of foreigners in Algeria.

However, Ms. Dutour holds Algerian nationality and presented herself upon arrival with her Algerian passport.

The illegal expulsion of Ms. Dutour constitutes a clear violation of Article 49 of the Algerian Constitution, as well as an infringement of several international human rights instruments, including:

Article 12(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which states that "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country."

Article 12(2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which affirms that "Every individual shall have the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

Article 13(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”



Nella Giornata delle vittime di sparizioni forzate parla Nassera Dutour, madre di un desaparecido del "decennio nero" algerino, fondatrice del Collettivo delle famiglie dei dispersi

In response, a collective of lawyers was formed to ensure Ms. Dutour's legal defence. Composed of Me Bouchachi, Me Badi, Me Ahmine, Me Benlahreche, and Me Aidoun, the collective filed an appeal for annulment before the Administrative Court of Second Instance, seeking to overturn the decision banning the President of the CFDA from entering Algerian territory.

After compiling a detailed case file containing all the evidence demonstrating the illegality of the expulsion, the legal team also filed a complaint the same day before the National Human Rights Council.

Both procedures remain ongoing to this day.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY OF RIPOSTE INTERNATIONALE



On 19 August 2025, during the official opening of Riposte Internationale's Summer University, Nassera Dutour emphasized the importance of spaces for free expression, lamenting that such spaces no longer exist in Algeria.

Alongside Aïssa Rahmoune, Secretary General of the FIDH, Nassera Dutour spoke about the capacity or rather the incapacity of the Algerian justice system to guarantee fair, impartial treatment that complies with international human rights standards.

This theme reflects a call for transparency, reform, and accountability within Algerian institutions.

The President of the CFDA also took part, on the third day of the Summer University, in discussions on violence against human rights defenders in Algeria. During this exchange, Nassera Dutour revisited the treatment she faced upon her arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport.

The discussion first focused on the legal dimension of her case and on the debate surrounding the terminology used to describe the situation, "refoulement," "removal," and "expulsion."

An Algerian lawyer suggested that the term "banishment" most accurately captures the reality of what happened.

The conversation then turned to the various pressure tactics employed by the authorities to restrict and intimidate activists in their work.

THE VIOLENCE OF SILENCE 27-30 AUGUST 2025

Under the title "The Violence of Silence," the Euro-Mediterranean Federation against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED), together with the Collective of the Families of the Disappeared in Algeria (CFDA) and several associations of families of the disappeared, launched a four-day campaign on the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

How can one fight against a silence that, for the victims of enforced disappearances, represents a double form of violence?

First, the violence of the silence imposed by the disappearance of a loved one; then, the violence of the silence of the authorities, which makes any prospect of truth or justice impossible.

This was the central theme addressed by FEMED throughout the campaign.

In Paris, the commemorative days were marked by gatherings, conferences, film screenings, exhibitions, and debates key moments that allowed families of victims to come together, pay tribute to their loved ones, and make their voices heard.

The photo exhibitions retraced the stories of victims of enforced disappearances around the world, giving a human face to tragedies too often rendered invisible. The Algerian, Moroccan, Lebanese, Syrian, Uruguayan, Chilean, Tamil, and Tibetan communities shared their stories, expressing their pain, resilience, and determination to achieve truth and justice.



A conference on “The Violence of Silence” was also held at the offices of Amnesty International France.



Following the opening remarks by Anis Harbi, Vice President of Amnesty International France, Emmanuel Decaux, former President of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Wendy Carazo Méndez, a researcher specializing in international law, transitional justice, and the right to truth, offered legal perspectives. They respectively examined the use of law to confront the persistence of silence and analyzed the violence of silence through the lens of the right to truth.

Houria Abdelouahed, university professor and psychoanalyst, and Maria Laura Stirnemann shared their personal experiences as daughters of disappeared persons. They focused on a psychoanalytic analysis of enforced disappearance, exploring how imposed silence, endless waiting, and the absence of a body profoundly affect both individual and collective subjectivities.

Finally, Sana Yazigi, President of the Creative Memory of the Syrian Revolution Collective, provided an overview of the situation of enforced disappearances in Syria, emphasizing the importance of resisting denial. She also presented the collective's work, which opens new artistic spaces of expression related to enforced disappearances.

A new publication by the collective, focusing specifically on detainees and the disappeared in Syria, currently available in Arabic, is expected to be translated into French soon.

In Algiers, SOS Disparus called for a gathering in front of the National Human Rights Council, which took place on 30 August, marking the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

Beyond remembrance, these gatherings highlighted the crucial importance of transnational solidarity. Confronted with a global phenomenon, families reaffirmed the need for collective mobilization across borders to fight impunity and defend fundamental rights.

Unfortunately, only a few demonstrators were able to attend, as more and more families have passed away over the years. Yet, they stood their ground for nearly an hour before the police dispersed them, allowing them to leave the area without incident.



THE REDESIGN OF THE CFDA WEBSITE: A RENEWED SPACE FOR OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY

The CFDA has undertaken a complete redesign of its website, which has been available since early September at the following link: cfda.algerie-disparus.org.

This new, more user-friendly and content-rich platform has been designed to better reflect the CFDA's commitment and to make information more accessible. Its ergonomics have been rethought to ensure easier navigation, with a clear menu and well-defined sections.

The site now offers greater depth of information, allowing visitors to explore in detail the CFDA's mission, activities, latest news, and key documents produced over the years including reports, testimonies, photo galleries, and videos.

Beyond being an information platform, the website serves as a space of memory and transmission. Its visual design highlights images accompanying texts and testimonies, making the visit both intuitive and engaging.



This new website reflects the CFDA's determination to provide a space that honours the memory of the disappeared and gives families and partners full access to its work. The CFDA warmly invites you to visit the new site and to continue supporting the voices of those whom some try at all costs to silence.



CONTRIBUTION TO ALGERIA'S MID-TERM UPR REPORT

As part of Algeria's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), scheduled to take place in 2027, the CFDA contributed to the mid-term report submitted by civil society organizations and coordinated by the EuroMed Federation, with the aim of providing a mid-term assessment of the progress or lack thereof regarding various human rights issues.

The CFDA specifically contributed to the sections assessing the state of freedom of expression and the press, as well as the situation of enforced disappearances.

Algeria rejected all recommendations made during the previous UPR cycle. Despite the complete inaction of the Algerian government, the CFDA reiterated several key recommendations, including:

- Establishing a truth commission within a transitional justice framework.
- Ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute.
- Repealing the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, its implementing ordinances, and all general amnesty laws.
- Ensuring thorough and independent investigations into all allegations of enforced disappearances, and guaranteeing effective remedies, reparations, and psychosocial support for the families of the disappeared.
- Upholding and enforcing Article 51 bis of the Algerian Code of Criminal Procedure.
- Exhuming and identifying all anonymous graves.
- Allowing individuals seeking justice for crimes committed during the "Black Decade" to work freely, without obstruction or denial of entry into their own country.

ADVOCACY MISSION IN GENEVA

23–25 SEPTEMBER

To denounce the reprisals she suffered on 30 July 2025 following her participation in the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, Nassera Dutour travelled to Geneva to conduct a series of institutional and bilateral meetings.

She met with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, several Permanent Missions (including Germany, Belgium, and France), the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on Transitional Justice, the Office on Reprisals of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as the gender and Algeria-specific offices within the OHCHR. These meetings provided Ms. Dutour with the opportunity to request concrete support and to strengthen the follow-up of her case.

During her two days in Geneva, Nassera Dutour also spoke during the interactive dialogue on the Secretary-General's report on cooperation with the United Nations.

On this occasion, she publicly denounced her arbitrary and unlawful expulsion from Algeria and called on States to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders and to enhance cooperation between them and UN mechanisms.



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SO-CALLED CHARTER FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

29 SEPTEMBER 2025

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the “Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation,” the families of the disappeared gathered at 11 a.m. in front of the National Human Rights Council, alongside the CFDA and SOS Disparus.

A conference was then held at the SOS Disparus offices, featuring interventions from three of Nassera Dutour’s defence lawyers, Me Bouchachi, Me Badi, and Me Ahmine.

In Paris, another conference took place on 3 October 2025, aimed at fighting against oblivion and continuing to denounce this Charter, which perpetuates a climate of widespread impunity in Algeria.



HIGHLIGHTS

PARTICIPATION IN THE INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION

18–19 SEPTEMBER 2025

With the aim of promoting a culture of strategic litigation among lawyers, activists, and civil society organizations, and of strengthening the capacity of these actors to choose the most appropriate international and regional procedures, while equipping participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage with judicial and quasi-judicial institutions, President Nassera Dutour took part in a two-day training session organized by the EuroMed Rights network.

Through presentations, discussions, case studies, and collective debates, the sessions provided an opportunity to revisit regional and international legal mechanisms that lawyers, activists, and victims can use to overcome the paralysis and weakening of national judicial systems.

This working session proved particularly valuable for civil society actors from Algeria and Tunisia, at a time when the increasing restrictions on civic and associative space make it increasingly difficult to organize such initiatives at the national level.

CFDA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 AUGUST 2025

On 18 August 2025, the Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algérie (CFDA) held its General Assembly, bringing together members of the Board of Directors as well as new prospective members.

This meeting provided an opportunity to review the organisation's activities and the challenges it continues to face. After an overview of the current situation in Algeria, the participants approved both the activity report and the financial report covering the period 2022–2025. These documents highlighted the work accomplished despite a difficult political context, marked by numerous obstacles hindering the implementation of CFDA's projects.

Discussions also focused on future challenges, particularly on strategies to strengthen the impact of field actions and to improve the association's communication efforts. The exchanges underscored the need to adapt CFDA's approaches to an ever-evolving environment.

The assembly concluded with the election of new members to the Board of Directors and the Executive Bureau, voted in by a majority. The newly elected team is composed as follows:

- President: Nassera Dutour
- Vice-President: Houria Sabri
- Secretary General: Chahinez Benchikh
- Treasurer: Tony El-Kesserwani
- Political Strategy Officers: Nedjma Benaziza and Nesroullah Yous

This new composition marks an important step in continuing CFDA's commitment to truth, justice, and memory.

PRESS REVIEWS

[Press Review- July 2025](#)

[Press Review - August 2025](#)

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