

NEWSLETTER N°97

October-November-December 2025

Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

"FREED VOICE" DAY



On Saturday, December 20, 2025, in Algiers, the association SOS Disparus-CFDA organized a day of discussion and psychological support entitled "Voix libérées" (Freed Voices) for the families of missing persons. This initiative is part of the association's ongoing psychological support efforts and is the third edition of these events, following the first one in Oran and the second in Algiers.

Supervised by a psychologist, the main objective of this meeting was to offer families a safe and supportive space where they could express long-suppressed emotions, break out of isolation, and begin a process of rebuilding and resilience, both individually and collectively.

To do so, the day was structured around different complementary activities: welcoming and building trust, "inner weather" exercises, a photo-language workshop, a guided talking circle including the empty chair technique, art therapy-inspired artistic expression activities, as well as relaxation and emotional management exercises. These approaches encouraged participants to speak freely, express their suffering related to absence and injustice, and strengthen mutual support among themselves. Feedback from families highlighted the positive effects of the day, particularly in terms of emotional relief, recognition of their experiences, and a sense of peace.

Through this initiative, SOS Disparus-CFDA reaffirms its commitment to supporting the families of missing persons not only in their quest for truth and justice, but in addressing their psychological suffering as well. New "Freed voice" days are planned in order to broaden access to these spaces for discussion and support.

TRAINING COURSE: "FUNDAMENTALS OF PSYCHOTHERAPY (NET AND CBT)"

A training course dedicated to fundamentals of psychotherapy with a focus on Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) was held on December 27, 2025, at the headquarters of SOS Disparus association in Algiers. This initiative was organized as part of an effort to strengthen clinical skills within the Association pour la Réhabilitation des Victimes de Violence (APV), in a context where support for people who have experienced complex trauma remains essential. The session brought together three psychologists working within the association, in a setting that favors the transfer of knowledge and the sharing of experiences.

The training was then led by a psychotherapist and psychologist specializing in NET and CBT, with extensive experience in treating complex trauma. It was also part of a program to supervise and support psychologists who had recently joined the APV association, emphasizing the importance of lifelong learning and the therapist's positioning. The day began with a presentation and introductory exercise to promote group cohesion.



The first modules then focused on the general principles of psychotherapeutic care and the different levels of intervention. After that, a presentation on NET then provided an opportunity to discuss its foundations, clinical indications, and main stages, including the construction of the lifeline and narrative exposure. The training carried on with an introduction to CBT, highlighting its theoretical framework and main clinical indications.

In the afternoon, the discussion was dedicated to specific clinical situations, promoting the link between theory and practice and the adaptation of tools to the realities in the field. This exchange helped consolidate the participants' abilities and strengthen team cohesion again, thereby supporting the APV's mission to provide psychological support to victims of violence.

20 YEARS OF THE CHARTER FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, the CFDA and SOS Disparus organized two conferences simultaneously in Paris and Algiers, dedicated to analyzing this text and its lasting consequences on Algerian society. Entitled "The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation: 20 Years of Impunity," these meetings provided an opportunity to revisit the promises of peace made in the Charter, contrasted with the reality experienced by the victims, particularly the families of the disappeared.

In Paris, the discussions highlighted the profound limitations of a reconciliation process based on amnesty and silence, to the cost of the fundamental principles of truth and justice.

Maître Aïssa Rahmoune, lawyer and secretary general of the FIDH, discussed the essential conditions for lasting reconciliation, emphasizing the need to acknowledge serious human rights violations and guarantee victims effective access to justice. Journalist Nadia Addézio analyzed the political effects of the Charter, particularly the strengthening of authoritarian power and the popular discontent it has helped to fuel.



In Algiers, the conference organized on the same occasion was led by Abdelghani Badi, Nourredine Ahmine, and Mostefa Bouchachi, lawyers and human rights defenders in Algeria, who offered a critical reading of the Charter based on their experience as lawyers working with victims. They emphasized that the Charter institutionalized impunity by closing all avenues of legal recourse, criminalizing the investigation for truth, and silencing the families of the disappeared. For them, this text not only prevented any establishment of responsibility, but also contributed to breaking the bond of trust between the state and its citizens.



The conference brought together about 20 families of the disappeared, with whom an open debate was held. The families shared about their experiences, the lack of truth about the fate of their loved ones, the suffering caused by the endless waiting, and the persistent obstacles to the recognition of their rights.

Those conversations served as a reminder that, twenty years after the adoption of the Charter, the pain remains intact and that institutionalized oblivion cannot be a response to their legitimate request.

Twenty years after its adoption, the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation continues to have profound effects: marginalization of victims, persistent impunity, and obstruction of any transitional justice process. The conferences in Paris and Algiers highlighted the urgent need to open a genuine national debate on truth, justice, and memory, which are essential conditions for the emergence of real, inclusive, and lasting reconciliation.

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES: FILES, FAMILIES, WAITING

During this quarter, the CFDA continued its work of submitting files on enforced disappearances to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances. Fifteen new files were sent by the CFDA, after a long process of collecting, verifying, and formatting the information provided by the families.

Behind each case submitted, there is a story, a waiting, sometimes several decades of silence. Today, more than 2,000 cases remain pending, representing as many families still deprived of truth and justice.



This work involves gathering documents, some of which are quite old, retracing lives that were brutally interrupted, and translating personal suffering into admissible legal evidence. But it is essential because, by engaging with international mechanisms, the CFDA continues to keep these cases alive, to refuse to let them be forgotten, and to remind us that every disappearance deserves an answer.

FEMED GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The FEMED General Assembly (GA) was held on December 1 at the premises of its member association, the IHD (Turkish Human Rights League). It brought together around thirty participants. The activity and financial reports were unanimously adopted. During this GA, FEMED approved five new applications. These are Riposte International (Algeria), the Commission for Rights and Freedoms (Egypt), Le Labo des Mémoires (Spain), the Raja Foundation (Iraq), and the Collective for the Safeguarding of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (Algeria).

WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY: VOICES, RESISTANCE, AND COMMON STRUGGLES



On November 29 and 30, FEMED organized a Women's Assembly which reunited activists, relatives of disappeared persons, lawyers, researchers, and human rights defenders from different countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Over two days, this space allowed women committed to fighting enforced disappearances to meet, exchange ideas, and share their experiences, often marked by years of struggle, imposed silence, and resistance. The Assembly gave a central space to the voices of women: mothers, sisters, and wives of disappeared persons, but also to some activists and professionals working alongside the victims.

Through powerful and sometimes painful testimonies, the participants recalled that enforced disappearances are not only a legal violation, but also a profound violence that affects bodies, families, and generations. Several presentations highlighted the essential role of women in the memory transmission, seeking truth, and mobilizing collective action, despite repression and isolation. Discussions also focused on existing legal mechanisms, their limitations, and the concrete obstacles faced by families in their search for justice and reparation. The Assembly provided an opportunity to compare national realities and develop common reflections on strategies for struggle, transnational solidarity, and the place of women in transitional justice processes.



This exchange concluded with a collective workshop dedicated to drafting a joint statement affirming the need to strengthen mobilization against enforced disappearances and to make women's voices heard at all levels. The Women's Assembly was followed by the FEMED General Assembly, placing these reflections within a broader and more sustainable collective dynamic.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Around 20 families of missing persons gathered in front of the National Pension Fund, as they do every Wednesday at 10 a.m., before heading to the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) to reaffirm their right to truth and justice regarding the fate of their missing loved ones. The aim was as well to call on the CNDH to address the request filed on August 14, 2025, by the association's lawyer, Dalel Aidoun, concerning the expulsion of the association's president, Ms. Nassera Dutour, despite her Algerian nationality and the validity of her Algerian passport.



As soon as the demonstration began, the families, accompanied by the association's lawyer, attempted to make their way to the CNDH, located a four-minute walk from the National Retirement Fund, at Place Addis Abeba, a building adjacent to the People's Palace. A large contingent of plainclothes and uniformed police officers prevented them from continuing on their way. A plainclothes police officer, supported by the commissioner present at the scene, asked the families to leave the place and to return home. When the lawyer insisted on her desire to meet with the President of the CNDH, the police officer indicated that she alone could enter, but that the families had to leave. The police even took taxis to escort them away from the gathering.

On that day, many families were present and very determined. They carried signs and chanted slogans such as:

"We are all Nassera Dutour"

"You don't deport the mother of a missing person"

"Give us back our children, give us back Nassera"

"Even if you prevent her from returning to her country, she will never be silenced"

"You took her son on January 30, 1997, and today you are preventing her from returning to her country."

The families of the disappeared were forced to return home, so Dalel Aidoun, the lawyer, went alone to the CNDH, where she was received by the Secretary General. She reminded him that she had filed a complaint on August 10, 2025, with the president of the CNDH and with him personally, regarding the deportation of the president of SOS Disparus.

The referral concerned a serious violation of freedom of movement and the right of an Algerian citizen to enter the national territory, as guaranteed by the Constitution and international conventions ratified by Algeria.

The Secretary-General indicated that a letter had been sent to the President of the Republic and that he was awaiting a response. He specified that, upon receipt of a reply, he would contact the lawyer again so that she could obtain a written response.



OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Following the expulsion of Nassera Dutour upon her arrival in Algiers on July 30, 2025, the families of missing persons in Algeria decided to send an open letter to the President of the Algerian Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Excerpt from the letter: "Our people, engaged in the struggle for independence, experienced the criminal practice of enforced disappearance at the hands of the colonial army, a silenced crime; and yet, the descendants of the many who were victims of this practice still bear the trauma and painful memories of it today.

How can we conceive that a few decades later, the practice of enforced disappearance, finally classified as a crime against humanity thanks to the struggle of families, women in particular, is being used against us, against our children, our brothers, our sisters, our husbands, our mothers, by our sovereign state, in our rediscovered homeland, thus echoing a despised time, a time of erasure?"

This open letter was posted on social media and also delivered by hand to the Presidency by the lawyer representing the Dalel Aidoun association.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE 41ST FIDH CONGRESS IN BOGOTÁ

The 41st FIDH Congress, in which the CFDA president participated fully, was held in Bogota, Colombia, from October 27 to 31, 2026. The Congress was preceded on October 27 and 28, 2025, by a forum entitled "Acting for our sustainable world, universal rights, and societies – Human Rights Forum." The Forum opened with a ceremony at the Teatro Colón, which paid tribute to human rights defenders around the world through welcome speeches by Colombian authorities and host associations, alongside Colombian artistic and musical performances and testimonies from human rights defenders from different continents.



The hosts of ceremony were: María Paulina Baena, journalist and host of La Pulla, El Espectador, Colombia; Alice Mogwe, President of the International Federation for Human Rights; Yessika Hoyos, human rights lawyer and President of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective of Colombia; Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (via videoconference); Carlos Fernando Galán, Mayor of Bogotá; Soraida Chindoy Buesaquito, Indigenous leader of the Inga Reserve of Condagua, Colombia; as well as representatives of human rights organizations around the world. The ceremony concluded with cultural performances by the Philharmonic Choir for Peace.

After the opening ceremony, all Congress participants were invited to take part in a march in solidarity with human rights defenders who are currently imprisoned or in exile.

The afternoon and the following day saw a series of plenary sessions, round tables, and workshops



organized in interactive spaces to explore issues of climate, democracy, equality, and justice in greater depth. The debates identified concrete courses of action for taking action and mobilizing, both here and elsewhere.



REGIONAL MEETING "MAGHREB WITHOUT FEMICIDE": TUNIS, NOVEMBER 28–30, 2025



This regional meeting was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. It brought together feminist activists, researchers, journalists, and human rights defenders from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia around the "Maghreb without Femicide" initiative, coordinated by EuroMed Rights. The CFDA/SOS Disparus was represented by Maître Dalel Aïdoun, lawyer for the association SOS Disparus. The main objective was to raise awareness of femicide as structural and political violence, to strengthen regional feminist coordination, and to consolidate the participants' knowledge, particularly on the links between sexual violence, gender-based violence, and torture.



The meeting combined public panels and debates, participatory workshops, political and strategic co-construction work, and theoretical and practical training. The approach emphasized the plurality of feminist voices, the exchange of experiences, and the collective production of positions and tools.

ANNUAL GSA MEETING

The annual meeting of the Solidarity Group with Algerian Civil Society was held in Paris on December 5–6, 2025. The first day of the meeting brought together Algerian associations and international organizations. The first session focused on the political situation and legal framework in Algeria, followed by presentations on unfair trials and the manipulation of justice, as well as a summary of the situation of human rights defenders—freedom of the press and expression, the situation of human rights defenders, the persecution of activists, the practice of ISTN in Algeria, and concluded with women's rights and gender equality.

The second day was devoted to the GSA action plan and synergies, and began with the GSA activity report for 2025. The discussion then turned to the action plan for 2026 and the synergies to be put in place. The debate led to the establishment of five working groups: a group on internal communication, a working group on repressive measures, and working groups on campaigns and advocacy. It was also decided to submit a report on torture to the Committee Against Torture and to plan training on cybersecurity.

The third day was devoted to training on advocacy with the European Union for members of the Solidarity Group with Algerian Civil Society.

PRESS REVIEWS

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