

NEWSLETTER N°98

January-February-March 2026

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Collectif des
Familles de
Disparus en
Algérie

CFDA OFFICES SEALED IN ALGIERS



What families had feared for so many years finally came to pass. On March 16, at around 1:30 p.m., a police raid took place at the CFDA's offices in Algiers, resulting in their sealing off. A large contingent of officers, including both uniformed and plainclothes police, arrived on the scene. The officers conducted a thorough inspection of the premises without providing any immediate explanation, taking photographs and recording the identities of everyone present. After briefly questioning those present about whether a meeting was taking place, they stated that they had come to seal the CFDA's premises, presenting the association's lawyer with a decision resulting from a meeting held on March 10 and dated March 12. At the conclusion of the operation, those present were asked to leave the premises.

For many years, successive landlords had been approached, intimidated, and threatened, and eventually demanded the return of their property. As a result, the association was forced to move locations almost every year until 2013, when it was finally able to settle permanently in its current premises without the landlord being harassed. In January 2025, however, members of the police—two in plain clothes and one in uniform—showed up around 6 p.m., carrying a document resembling a summons, looking for the owner. Not finding him, they left without giving any instructions.

This office was one of the very few places in Algeria where the memory of the disappeared still found a foothold, a voice, a presence. It was a refuge, a breath of fresh air, an almost sacred place, entirely dedicated to the families of the disappeared and to the disappeared themselves.

Within these walls, families gathered, supported one another, and shared their pain and their hopes. They could gaze at photos of their loved ones, speak to them in silence, and confide in them what they had never stopped carrying within themselves.



Today, the families find themselves helpless and torn away from one of the last places where they could breathe freely together. They are disoriented: no longer is there a president to welcome them, no longer is there a place to gather, no longer is there a space where the memory of their loved ones could continue to be upheld, protected, and shared.

This sealing off of the site constitutes yet another act of violence inflicted upon the families. It leaves behind an immense void, a heavy, almost suffocating silence. For these families, it is an entire chapter of their struggle, their history, and their dignity that is once again being shaken.

In light of this situation, SOS Disparus reaffirms its unwavering commitment to truth, remembrance, and justice. The organization emphasizes that its work is fully aligned with the defense of human rights and the inalienable right of families to know the fate of their missing loved ones

MARCH 24: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE RIGHT TO THE TRUTH AND CONFERENCE ON MARCH 27

March 24 marks the International Day for the Right to the Truth, paying tribute to the victims of serious human rights violations, honoring those who have dedicated their lives to defending these rights, and recalling the moral and political legacy of Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero.

The first calls for this right emerged in the 1970s in Latin America, driven by civil society, notably by the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo movement in Argentina, which fought to learn the fate of their loved ones who forcibly disappeared under the military dictatorship. Even today, this struggle remains relevant, including in Algeria, where thousands of families continue to demand the truth about the 1990s' enforced disappearances.

The right to the truth is inseparable from the State's obligation to protect human rights, conduct serious investigations, guarantee effective remedies, and ensure reparations for victims.



On this occasion, the CFDA co-organized a screening and discussion event with FEMED on March 27, 2026, at the Bourse du Travail in Paris. The event began with a screening of the documentary *Y'a plus d'Amine*, followed by a panel discussion focused on the search for truth and its political, social, and legal dimensions. A discussion then took place with researchers Laetitia Bucaille, a sociologist and professor at INALCO and CESSMA, specializing in transitional justice, post-conflict situations, and political violence, and Morgane Jouaret, a researcher specializing in issues of memory, transitional justice, and movements for truth following political violence, particularly in post-civil war Algeria.

This event provided an opportunity for collective reflection on the right to the truth, the issues surrounding enforced disappearances, and the struggles waged by families to ensure that justice is served and that the memory of their loved ones lives on.



THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS HONORS THE MOTHERS OF THE DISAPPEARED

On this International Women's Day, the Foundation for the Promotion of Rights in Algeria wanted to pay special tribute to the mothers of the disappeared by sharing a moment of warmth, gratitude, and solidarity with them.





The members of the Foundation arrived at the SOS Disparus offices, their arms laden with gifts for the mothers. The gifts were distributed in a warm and caring atmosphere. Poems were recited, texts read aloud, and personal stories listened to with deep compassion. Each woman was able to express what she still carries within her, what she still hopes for, and what she refuses to give up. The stories intertwined with moments of silence, and smiles with tears.

For these mothers, this moment meant much more than a simple celebration. It was a space where they felt acknowledged, supported, and valued, far removed from the indifference and denial they all too often face. Each in her own way, they reminded us that their struggle for truth and justice has never ceased, despite the passing years and the obstacles they've faced.

This gathering highlighted the essential role of the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of the disappeared in the struggle for truth. Their daily, often silent, commitment is one of the strongest pillars of civil resistance in Algeria against political violence and the erasure of memory.

Through this tribute, the CFDA reaffirms that the defense of women's rights is inseparable from the struggle for dignity, memory, and justice.

SECOND TRAINING SESSION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: CFDA AND RIPOSTE INTERNATIONALE BRING TOGETHER LAWYERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



On February 13 and 14, 2026, the CFDA, in partnership with Riposte Internationale, organized the second training session on international humanitarian law (IHL). About fifteen participants—lawyers, legal professionals, and human rights defenders—took part in these two days of intensive discussions.

The training was led by four renowned speakers: Attorney Ahmine Nouredine, Attorney Sadat Fetta, Attorney Bouchachi Mostefa, and Attorney Badi Abdelghani. All shared their expertise on legal issues related to armed conflicts and serious violations of international law.



The program included an in-depth review of the fundamentals of international humanitarian law (IHL): the definition and categories of armed conflicts, the principles governing them, the applicable legal framework, and the nature of the regime in Algeria. The speakers then addressed the protection of persons in times of war—whether civilians, prisoners, or vulnerable groups—as well as the means and actors involved, drawing in particular on the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute.

Participants also examined the international responsibility of states, its constituent elements, and its legal implications. The session concluded with an analysis of war crimes and individual criminal responsibility, focusing on the role of international courts in prosecuting these crimes.

This second session reaffirms the commitment of the CFDA and Riposte Internationale to strengthening the legal expertise of actors engaged in the defense of human rights, in a context where mastery of international law remains an essential tool for documenting, denouncing, and preventing violations.



FEBRUARY 22: 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HIRAK

February 22, 2019, marks a defining moment for modern Algeria. On that day, the Hirak shattered the myth of a resigned society. Millions of Algerians took to the streets peacefully to reject a fifth presidential term and, beyond that, an entire political system. The movement was distinguished by its lack of centralized leadership, its strong political maturity, and a collective determination to reclaim their voice. Seven years later, this momentum remains a historic turning point—neither a total victory nor a failure, but a profound rupture in the relationship between society and those in power.



While the Hirak movement has not succeeded in transforming the state or bringing about a political transition, it has had a profound impact on society. It has fostered a broader political consciousness, a greater demand for transparency, a stronger rejection of corruption, and a new generation of socially engaged citizens, both in Algeria and among the diaspora. However, the opposition's lack of organization and internal divisions have limited the movement's ability to translate into a political alternative.

Today, the legacy of the Hirak remains alive but unfinished. The regime has changed its rhetoric and its faces, without any major transformation of its fundamental mechanisms. The movement has opened a breach, freed speech, and established a lasting political foundation, but without succeeding in transforming the system. In this sense, the Hirak appears to be a successful social transition, still awaiting political translation.

Since the Hirak, state impunity has continued to grow. Arrests of human rights defenders, journalists, and activists have only increased, and the authorities restrict and punish them, preventing the independent investigations and prosecutions required by law.

RADIO FOR THE VOICELESS

THE LARBAA NATH IRATHEN CASE: "A TRIAL UNDER POLITICAL INFLUENCE"



During a roundtable discussion organized by the NGO Riposte Internationale, several journalists, activists, and civil society representatives delivered a harsh assessment of the so-called Larbaa Nath Irathen (LNI) trial, which was marked by death sentences and a process widely criticized as opaque, inconsistent, and politically motivated. In their view, this case goes beyond the judicial sphere and is part of a deliberate political strategy. [[Read the full article here.](#)]

TESTIMONY: "MY HUSBAND, DJAMIL FAHASSI, A JOURNALIST WITH CHANNEL 3, WAS ARRESTED AND HAS BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE"



[Watch the testimonial here](#)

Ms. Safia Fahassi, a leading figure in the National Association of Families of the Disappeared, recounts the disappearance of her husband, Djamil Fahassi, a journalist with Algerian Public Radio Channel 3, who was arrested and disappeared on May 6, 1995. [[Listen to the full testimony here.](#)]

OUR SELECTION OF ARTICLES FOR FURTHER READING

[A Alger, les autorités ferment une association enquêtant sur les disparus de la « décennie noire »](#), Le Monde

[Algérie. Les autorités doivent immédiatement annuler la fermeture de SOS Disparus et respecter les demandes de la société civile en faveur de la vérité et la justice](#), Amnesty International

[Algérie : fermeture arbitraire de SOS Disparus et nouvelles atteintes graves aux droits des familles de disparus](#), communiqué conjoint

[Da Algeri parte il tour africano del papa. Con un richiamo ai potenti: «No al dominio dei popoli»](#), il manifesto

REVUES DE PRESSE

[Revue de Presse - Janvier 2026](#)

[Revue de Presse - Février 2026](#)

[Revue de Presse - Mars 2026](#)

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