

FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE SUBJECTED TO INTIMIDATION: UN CALLS ON ALGERIA TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE



Following a complaint filed by the CFDA in early April, the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) officially called on the Algerian authorities to address the increasing number of acts of harassment targeting the families of victims of enforced disappearances.

The CFDA spoke out in particular against the arrests of Rachid Ben Nakhla and Hamza Tellaa—both sons of disappeared persons—in the context of increasing repression against the relatives of victims and human rights defenders. This escalation comes after the expulsion of CFDA President Nassera Dutour in July 2025, followed by the closure of SOS Disparus's offices in March 2026.

On May 13, several United Nations experts made their concerns public. They condemned the arbitrary detention of relatives of victims of enforced disappearance and the closure of SOS Disparus, and reminded the authorities of their obligation to protect families from any form of reprisal, harassment, or intimidation. They also called for the immediate clarification of Rachid Ben Nakhla's situation and reminded the authorities that concealing a person's place of detention may constitute an enforced disappearance under international law.



This intervention is an important step in securing international recognition of the violations reported by the families and in reminding Algeria of its obligations regarding truth, justice, and the fight against impunity.

THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS ARE STILL FIGHTING!

For several decades, the families of victims have tirelessly pursued their fight for truth and justice. Despite the passage of time, their advancing age, and the obstacles they have faced, they continue to mobilize with undiminished determination to make the voices of their disappeared loved ones heard.

Over the past few months, their activism has taken place amid an increasingly repressive climate: SOS Disparus's offices were sealed off in March, gatherings were banned, and there have been acts of intimidation, police pressure, and arrests. These measures, however, have not discouraged the families from pursuing their efforts.

Every Wednesday, the mothers of the disappeared continue to gather in front of the National Human Rights Council (CNDH), carrying on a protest that has become a symbol of their struggle for truth, justice, and remembrance.



DOCUMENTATION ON VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN ALGERIA

As part of its partnership with the Aix Global Justice Legal Clinic at Aix-Marseille University, the CFDA supported research conducted by the clinic's students on freedom of association, freedom of the press, and media freedom in Algeria. Drawing on the CFDA's expertise and on-the-ground experience, this research is now available on the CFDA's website.



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**Libertés d'association,
de la presse et des
médias en Algérie :
constats des restrictions
et recommandations
pour une mise en
conformité**

Furthermore, the CFDA has been invited to contribute to the preparatory work on General Comment No. 38 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which is currently being drafted. This document aims to clarify the interpretation of Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protects the right to freedom of association.

The CFDA team therefore worked to provide a contribution aimed at documenting the specific restrictions it faces, as well as those affecting its partner organizations. This contribution also offers comments on several aspects of the General Comment draft, with the goal of ensuring that the voice of Algerian civil society is heard in this international process.

MIGRATIONS – JUSTICE FOR THE MISSING PERSON



This regional meeting on missing persons in the context of Mediterranean migration, organized by EuroMed Rights in Rabat and to which the CFDA was invited, brought together families of missing persons, organizations, lawyers, forensic experts, and journalists from across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Its main objective was to break the silence surrounding migration tragedies by focusing on three pillars: truth, accountability, and justice.

The discussions highlighted major shortcomings in the handling of disappearances along migration routes, including insufficient rescue efforts, difficulties in identifying bodies, the lack of support mechanisms for families, and the consequences of the militarization of European borders, which are making migration routes more and more life-threatening.



The meeting resulted in the formulation of concrete recommendations, particularly regarding legal mechanisms to establish state accountability and forensic measures such as the creation of a cross-border ante-mortem/post-mortem database. It thus reaffirmed that these disappearances result from security-related political choices, calling for a unified mobilization and placing the rights of families at the center of the effort—a conclusion that directly aligns with the work of the CFDA in Algeria.

CFDA BRINGS THE ISSUE OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES BEFORE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

From June 23 to June 25, 2026, the CFDA participated in an advocacy mission in Geneva, organized by the FIDH on the occasion of the 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Conducted in partnership with Riposte Internationale and the Ligue Algérienne des Droits de l'Homme, this initiative took place just a few days before the Algerian legislative elections on July 2, with the aim of raising awareness among international bodies about the human rights situation in Algeria.



During three days, the delegation met with representatives of the permanent missions of member states, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and several special procedures mandate holders of the Council. These discussions provided an opportunity to bring the main human rights concerns in the country to the attention of UN officials.

On this occasion, Nassera Dutour spoke on behalf of the families of victims of enforced disappearance, highlighting the Algerian government's failure to provide answers regarding the fate of those who have been subjected to enforced disappearance. She emphasized the need to establish a genuine process based on truth, justice, and recognition of the victims, in order to meet the expectations of the families who have been seeking the truth for decades.



The delegation also drew attention to other major concerns, including discrimination against women, the use of Article 87 bis of the Penal Code to repress human rights activists and defenders, and the situation of religious minorities.

Despite the refusal of the Algerian delegation to the Human Rights Council to meet with the organizations on the mission, this mobilization helped raise international awareness about the human rights situation in Algeria and establish a direct dialogue with several key actors within the UN system. It also paves the way for follow-up on the discussions that took place, particularly with the United Nations special procedures, in order to continue advocacy work on the issues raised.

THE CFDA AT THE HEART OF THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



In Paris, the CFDA took part in the 9th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held from June 30 to July 2, 2026, and organized by Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM). Over the course of three days, more than 1,300 participants from some 100 countries discussed the challenges faced by the anti-death penalty movement, at a time of resurgence of executions in certain countries.

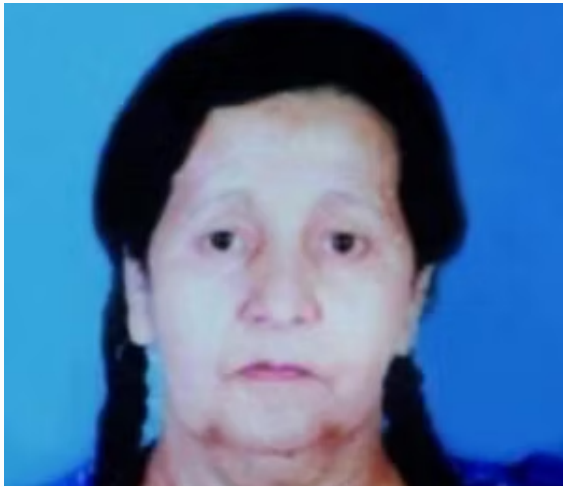
Several important achievements marked the Congress: Lebanon's commitment to abolition, Morocco's application to host the next session, a statement by 75 UN experts condemning the discriminatory nature of the death penalty, and new commitments from Sierra Leone, Chad, Cambodia, and the Central African Republic.

Powerful testimonies, particularly those of Hideko Hakamata and Philippe Maurice, reminded us of the human cost of the death penalty.

By participating in this international event, the CFDA reaffirms its commitment to the universal abolition of the death penalty, continues its advocacy against its retention in Algeria, and strengthens its partnerships with international human rights organizations.

THE RADIO FOR THE VOICELESS

A GRANDDAUGHTER WRITES TO HER GRANDMOTHER THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE DISAPPEAR



In the empty house left by your absence, my father—your eldest son—writes to you, his missing mother, his mother who cannot read, the only love letter a man has ever written to you.

He speaks to you, and every line he writes redraws your presence; his words have the gentleness of whispered tenderness and the solemnity of an oath laid at your feet. [\[Read the full article here.\]](#)

WITH A VOTER TURNOUT OF 20.79%, THE FUTURE ALGERIAN PARLIAMENT IS TAKING OFFICE WITH A LACK OF LEGITIMACY



The record-high abstention rate on July 2 goes beyond simple electoral apathy. It calls into question the ruling party's institutional strategy since 2019 and weakens the National Assembly before it has even been established. [\[Read the full article here.\]](#)

POLITICAL STALEMATE, INSTITUTIONAL CONTRADICTIONS, EROSION OF FREEDOMS, AND THE LEGACY OF THE HIRAK: AN INTERVIEW WITH FETHI GHARES



[Watch the testimonial here](#)

The interview offers a political analysis of the national situation through four major dynamics: the suspension of the MDS, the institutional contradictions surrounding Article 200, the anticipated composition of the next Parliament, and the growing pressure on civil society. In it, Fethi Ghares describes a locked-down political system, where judicial and administrative decisions are used to silence critical voices, particularly as elections approach. [\[Listen to the full interview here.\]](#)

ALGERIA: A DAMNING REPORT CONDEMNS THE INTENSIFICATION OF REPRESSION IN 2025



[Watch the testimonial here](#)

The report presented by Riposte Internationale and the CFDA asserts that 2025 was one of the most repressive years in Algeria. It condemns an authoritarian drift marked by the political use of the justice system, the expansion of repressive laws, and the criminalization of civic engagement, concluding that there has been a significant reduction in freedoms and civic space. [\[Ecouter l'entretien intégral ici.\]](#)

FOR FURTHER READING

Algérie : des experts de l'ONU alarmés par la répression visant les familles de disparus et la société civile

Algérie. entre répression et persécution : rapport annuel 2025 sur la situation des droits de l'homme en Algérie

Libertés d'association, de la presse et des médias en Algérie : constats des restrictions et recommandations pour une mise en conformité

PRESS REVIEWS

Press Review – April 2026

Press Review – May 2026

Press Review – June 2026

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