

The Algerian authorities are Weaponizing counter-terrorism against civil society and civic space



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I. Introduction

The peaceful uprising of the Algerian people on February 22, 2019, shattered the civil facade of power, which wanted to give the world an image of a democratic regime respectful of individual and collective freedoms. The Algerian people unmasked the regime to find themselves face-to-face with the de facto and real power holders, namely the military. The Algerian power ignored the popular demands and preferred confrontation to conciliation. From then on, he set himself the objective of rebuilding a new civil facade, which is enslaved to him. For this purpose, a political roadmap has been drawn up, ignoring the people's deep demands, namely a new way of

of rebuilding a new civil facade, which is enslaved to him. For this purpose, a political roadmap has been drawn up, ignoring the people's deep demands, namely a new way of governing the country based on real popular legitimacy and genuine democracy. Thus, the two logics confront each other head-on, one that the people want a radical change in the mode of governance and the other that of power characterized by political perseverance. The Algerian authorities control all the security services. Therefore, they will not refrain from using them to repress peaceful protest, going so far as to use the legal instruments of counter-terrorism at the discretion and its corollary pretrial

detention without worrying about respect for human rights. Moreover, the civil space has completely disappeared in favour of the prison and court space. This report blames and reports the serious, blatant and systematic human rights violations linked to the use of anti-terrorism legal mechanisms by the Algerian authorities against civil society and civic space.



II. The government's strategy to counter civil society: the implementation of the anti-terrorist legal system with article 87bis (ordinance n° 21-08 of June 8, 2021, modifying and supplementing Ordinance n° 66-156 of June 8, 1966, on Penal Code)



In order to counter dissident voices, empty the streets of protest and peaceful demonstrations and exclude civil society, the Algerian government has developed a repressive strategy, which consists of criminalizing any non-violent opposition. Faced with the determination of peaceful activists, so the Head of State tightened by ordinance the legislation by introducing an anti-terrorist procedure by establishing ordinance n° 21-08 of June 8, 2021 (Article 87 bis) of the Penal Code and introduces a new definition of the terrorist act with a broad and imprecise character taking advantage of the absence of a universally accepted definition of terrorism. In this regard, the Head of State has completely ignored United Nations resolutions which emphasize that the definition of terrorism and closely related crimes must be accessible, precisely formulated, non-discriminatory and non-retroactive. In addition, in total disregard for the good practices of international law, **which does not take into account the three cumulative elements, namely:**

- 1.The means used must be lethal;
- 2.The intention of the act must be to instill fear in the population or to compel a government or an international organization to do or refrain from doing something;
- 3.The objective must be to promote an ideological objective.

Those targeted by this anti-terrorist legal procedure are the peaceful activists who contest the legitimacy of this power, not terrorism. Therefore, the Algerian authorities want to take terrorism as an excuse to justify the repression. It should be remembered that before the implementation of the ordinance n° 21-08 of June 8, 2021, the government staged through its media narration acts of terrorism to the total astonishment of the Algerians who peacefully demanded a change in the mode of governance, which they demonstrated for several months.

The most worrying is the use of the expression «unconstitutional means», which targets the peaceful activists of Hirak because of their peaceful demand for a change in the mode of governance. The charge of a «terrorist act» is severe and punishable by death. In addition, the Penal Code establishes a national list of terrorist persons and entities who commit one of

the acts provided for in article 87bis that classification commission registers if it is the subject of a preliminary investigation, criminal prosecution, or whose guilt is declared by a judgment or court decision. The decision to register on the national list is published in the official journal. This publication is worth noticing of the concerned, who have the right to request their removal from the national list to the commission thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the decision. The use of the disjunctive coordinating conjunction «or» and not «and» implies that persons or entities can be publicly designated as terrorists in the absence of a final judgment. Which did not take long; come a few weeks later since the Rachad movement, and the movement for the autonomy of Kabylie (MAK) and some presumed personalities linked to these two organisations, such as Mr Kadour Chouicha, Said Boudour and Djamilia Loukil, as well as twelve (12) other political and civil

society activists, were included on this list (Amnesty International September 28, 2021, Frontline defenders, May 7, 2021). In addition, it is of particular concern that the legal or natural persons concerned are not directly informed of their inclusion in the national list of terrorist persons and entities (MENA Rights group; June 24, 2021). Some activists are prosecuted under Ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021 (Article 87 bis) without their knowledge or notification and without being registered on the national list of «terrorists» but will discover it through the collective of lawyers in another case of other activists. Thus, the case of F. Boumala, who, after having been arrested and imprisoned three times, has just been prosecuted by the court of Tizi Ouzou for terrorism (Ordinance No. 21-08 or art 87bis and art.87bis paragraph 3) and put under judicial control.

Another corollary of the use of Ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021 (Article 87 bis) is to subject the accused to judicial control, or he must go to the police station or gendarmerie station designated by the court every or twice a week or more to sign and prove his presence to prevent him from going about his business and lead an everyday life.

III. Consequences of the use of anti-terrorist measures (Ordinance No. 21-08) on civil society and peaceful activists

Civil society activists are the last line of defence, along with lawyers from defence groups, to bear the brunt of frontal attacks by the authorities, as they are the ones who denounce torture, arbitrary arrests, preventive detentions and everything that goes on behind the scenes in the courts. However, lawyers are also used by the Algerian authorities to tell the international community that the right to a defence is guaranteed and respected as well as to a fair trial. In reality, the trials are a true parody of justice where the

will of the security services dictate, in almost all cases, the verdicts to the magistrates with files often empty. More than three hundred peaceful activists have been prosecuted based on Ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021 (Article 87 bis). The most surprising is that the highest magistrate in the country is adamant and denies the existence of prisoners of conscience. At the same time, his Minister of Justice minimises and admitted that there is a small number during the review devoted to Algeria at the UN Human Rights Council of November 11, 2022, and added that the majority of those who are considered prisoners of conscience are, according to him, prisoners of common law. Moreover, this same minister kept a total blurriness on the definition of terrorism before dodging to answer the question on preventive detention during this session.

A. The imprisonment of lawyers, journalists and civil society activists based on the anti-terrorist legal procedure (ordinance n° 21-08 of June 8, 2021)

1. Case of the lawyer Abderraouf Arslan



Abderraouf Arslan is the only lawyer at the bar of Tebessa (Algeria) willing to defend the peaceful activists of the Hirak, including Mr Aziz Bekakria (and other detainees), against the repressive apparatus. He had just become the lawyer of Mr Bekakria, a former prisoner of conscience and member of the Rachad movement, arrested at his home on Thursday, May 20, 2021, by agents of the DGSI, who handed him over to the gendarmerie. Noting that his custody was extended beyond the maximum legal period of four days, Arslan had presented himself to the gendarmerie brigade to meet his client. Very concerned about the physical integrity of his client, the lawyer insisted on meeting him. He was informed at the same time that Aziz Bekakria would remain in police custody for twelve days, an exceptional measure reserved for cases of severe crime or terrorism.

Furthermore, it is by going a second time to demand to see Aziz Bekakria that the lawyer Arslan was arrested on May 26, 2021, and placed in custody. Previously, the lawyer had been informed that his name was frequently mentioned during interrogations in which police and gendarmerie officers presented him as the leader of a network within the Hirak of Tebessa. Mr Arslan knew that his arrest was imminent. An utterly fabricated terrorism file with a list of names supposedly involved in a subversive organisation was fabricated (Algeria watch 2021).

2. Case of the journalist, writer and human rights activist Hassan BOURAS

Mr Hassen Bouras is a journalist and member of the Algerian League of Human Rights (LADDH). He was arrested near his home on September 6, 2021, in El Bayadh (northwest, located 545 km from Algiers) with a search of his home and transferred to Algiers on September 12, 2021, and placed under arrest warrant by the investigating judge of the court of Sidi M'hamed in Algiers. Mr Bouras was charged with "membership in a terrorist organisation, advocacy of terrorism, and conspiracy against the state's security to change the system of governance" ; he was also prosecuted for "use of technology and media to enlist individuals against the authority of the state. After more than a year in pretrial detention, he was tried on November 30, 2022, by the criminal court of Dar El Beida. The journalist was sentenced to two years in prison, one year of which was suspended and released on December 1, 2022.



3. Case of the activist Mohad Gasmi



Mr Mohad Gasmi is a peaceful activist and human rights defender known as the popular Hirak and anti-shale gas activist. On June 7, 2020, the human rights defender was summoned to the police station in Adrar by telephone for questioning about two publications on social networks. The interrogation took place in the absence of his lawyer. In one of the publications, Mohad Gasmi called on the Algerian army to "serve the people" during the COVID-19 crisis. The second publication dates from 2018, and Mohad Gasmi stated that the state was responsible for the creation of the armed movement in southern Algeria, the "Southern

Children's Movement for Justice" (MSJ), because the activities of this movement were the result of the government's policy of continuous marginalisation. On June 9, 2020, the Public Prosecutor's Office ordered an inspection of the human rights defender's house, during which the police seized his laptop, cell phone, and a USB stick. On June 8, 2020, Mohad Gasmi was taken into custody and detained at the police station in central Adrar. On June 14, 2020, the Adrar prosecutor's office ordered Mohad Gasmi's preventive detention and charged him with an "apology for terrorism" (Article 87bis). During the COVID-19 crisis, several human rights defenders were subjected to arbitrary detention by the Algerian authorities. On October 17, 2021, the Adrar Court of Assize sentenced human rights defender Mohad Gasmi to five years in prison. The sentence was handed down a few days after its October 13, 2021 hearing, at which the Court of Assize requested additional information about the case and decided to continue the investigation and gather more details before issuing a verdict. It was expected that Mohad Gasmi's trial would be postponed until the investigation was completed.

4. Case of Zaki Hannache



Zaki Hannache is a human rights defender who documents human rights violations in Algeria on his Facebook page. During the rise of the Hirak movement in 2019, Zaki Hannache began to identify, verify, and document cases of arrests of people who participated in the protests. Zaki Hannache also works to document and advocate for the rights and release of defenders sentenced to prison terms.

On February 18, 2022, Zaki Hannache was arrested at approximately 4:00 p.m. by four plainclothes agents at his home in Cherarba, Algiers. His home was searched, and the officers confiscated his phone. The defender was taken into custody. On February 24, 2022, Zaki Hannache appeared before an investigating judge and was charged with several counts, including "apology for terrorism", "receiving funds from an institution inside or outside the country", and "undermining state security. He could face 35 years to life in prison or the death penalty if convicted.

5.Cases of Mahfoud Bedrouni, Boualem Boudissa and Abderrahim Guerna



The vice president of the National Association against Corruption (ANLCC), Mahfoud Bedrouni, was arrested on September 7, 2022, by agents of the Brigade of Research and Investigation (BRI) in Ain Benian in the wilaya of Algiers, and his home had also been searched, transferred the Thursday, September 8, 2022, to the wilaya of M'sila, His arrest came after the arrest of Mr Guerna, professor of computer science at the University of M'sila, arrested on September 3, 2022, in M'sila and Mr Boudissa, engineer and activist of the

Hirak, arrested on September 6, 2022, in Algiers, transferred to M'sila. All three were subjected to a search of their homes. Their arrests came after another activist was apprehended and his phone was searched where Mr Guerna's name was among the list of contacts. The search of Mr Guerna's home found a document in his computer of a report of a meeting that took place on August 24, 2022, where the names of several Hirak activists from the diaspora and those residing in Algeria, including Mr Guerna and Boudissa, appeared. In this report, we can read that it is a discussion by the zoom software of the dissolution of a commission of preparation of a meeting of which SHOAA organisation has obtained a copy. This document does not show any incriminating element that allows prosecuting Mr Guerna, Bedrouni and Boudissa even less to imprison them given that the right of association and peaceful assembly is recognised by the Algerian constitution and the international pact on civil and political rights that Algeria has ratified. According to the collective of defence lawyers, all were charged under Ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021 (Article 87 bis). The arrest of these three people shows that with the Algerian authorities, nothing is guaranteed, not even the right of association and peaceful assembly and that the abuse of pretrial detention will continue.

B. Torture of peaceful civil society activists based on the anti-terrorist legal framework

1. Case of Walid Nekiche

Mr Walid Nekiche is a twenty-five-year-old, third-year student at the National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Algiers; he meets around ten o'clock on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, with other young people to begin a peaceful march as part of the Hirak of students. A policeman in civilian clothes asks him to hand over his smartphone. He complies, and the policeman checks its contents and gives it to him. A few moments later, the same policeman returned to him and asked him to hand over his phone again, and this time, he checked his contacts on the WhatsApp application.

Mr Nekiche is taken to the police station of the Casbah, then to that of Bab el Oued before transferring to an unknown place where later he will learn that it was the infamous barracks, Antar. In his backpack, the police get hold of his diary, and the security services are interested in the Facebook page of his village



animated by the local section of the movement for the autonomy of Kabylie (MAK), which a few months later will be classified as a terrorist organisation. For seven days, he was interrogated and tortured in two police stations and the Antar barracks. At the centre of these interrogations were the relations between Mr Nekiche and his friend José, an attaché of the Spanish embassy in Algiers. A week later, he was incarcerated in the El Harrach prison. From his arrest until his imprisonment, he was not allowed to phone his family and friends, who were looking for him. After four months of detention, in March 2020, Mr Nekiche went before the investigating judge, telling him about the torture and sexual abuse he had suffered, but the judge did not follow up. His file is empty, but the charges are serious, including "undermining security and national unity", "distribution and possession of leaflets to undermine the interest of the country", "participation in a conspiracy to incite citizens to take up arms against the authority of the state and organisation of a secret

way of remote communications to undermine national security" (A. Said, Jeune Afrique February 5 2021). All these charges are part of the anti-terrorist law. The trial took place on February 1, 2021, and lasted fifteen hours and the prosecutor requested life imprisonment. The young man once mentioned the rape and torture he suffered during his testimony. Around one o'clock in the morning, the verdict fell: six months in prison and 20,000 dinars in fine.

The public prosecutor was seized and filed a complaint, but it remained unanswered until today. He spent fifteen months in pretrial detention before finally being released. One of his lawyers, Ms Rezazgui, said that the justice system should have taken over the case after his revelations but unfortunately did not.

2. Case of Sami Dernouni



Mr Sami Dernouni is thirty-eight years old, unemployed, and a father of three children. He survived a serious road accident where he lost two ribs and suffered severe burns to his hand. He was arrested on December 2, 2020, around 14 hours at his apartment in Tipaza, by elements in civilian clothes, probably under the General Directorate of Internal Security under the Ministry of National Defense (DGSI Tipaza). These individuals armed with assault rifles have searched the apartment from top to bottom, leaving a great mess behind them. First taken to the unit of the DGSI Tipaza, Sami Dernouni was questioned for two hours on his links with Hirak activists and his activity on social networks. He was then transferred to the CTRI in Blida (the main centre of the political police in the first military region, a notorious site of torture and enforced disappearances during the 1990s), where he remained for 24 hours. He suffered the first physical

assault during his interrogation: he was beaten with an iron chair and received two shocks of Taser (electric pulse gun) to the leg and neck.

On December 3, 2020, Sami Dernouni was transferred to the Main Operations Center (MOC), the "Antar Center", another notorious barracks under the DGSI, located in Ben-Aknoun, where he was subjected to four days of physical and psychological torture. Upon his arrival, he was greeted by several DGSI agents who beat him, spat on him and insulted him indecently and violently. Mr Dernouni was subjected to water torture, which consisted of making him wear a wet woollen sweater while he was tied up, and they made him spend the night outside where the temperature was freezing in Algiers during this time of the year. He was then subjected to taser shocks during torture's first and second days. This prolonged exposure to electrical impulses caused a cardiac arrhythmia,

which he still bears the after-effects. On the third day, Mr Dernouni was tied by his hands and feet to the bars of his cell for over eight hours. He was continuously beaten until he lost consciousness. On December 6, 2020, Mr Dernouni left the torture room for an interrogation room. For several hours, the agents tried unsuccessfully to extract confessions or incriminating statements from him. He was reconducted to the CTRI of Blida on December 7, 2020, and he was heard the same day

by the investigating judge at the court of Tipaza. Tried on March 9, 2021, he was sentenced to two years in prison for "inciting an assembly", "undermining national unity", and "undermining national security". Following his trial, Sami Dernouni was detained in Koléa prison, where he has since faced numerous pressures and provocations and attempts to bribe him by the political police (Algeria-Watch, April 7 2021).

3. Case of Mohamed Abdellah

Mohamed Abdellah, former sergeant of the national gendarmerie, was assigned to the aerial surveillance of the eastern border of Algeria. He uncovered systemic corruption within the Algerian military institution. He has been the subject of media attacks by the Algerian pro-government press under the pretext of damaging the country's security and stability and the army's reputation. Witnessing massive smuggling activities at the borders, which he reported to his superior, the latter ordered him to keep quiet and threatened him with sanctions if he continued to mention these illegal activities. Mr Abdellah was to discover that these massive smuggling operations, including drug trafficking, were largely covered up by his military superiors and by civilian authorities in the region at the highest level of the hierarchy. Faced with the threats he was facing, he went into exile and requested political asylum in Spain and was granted temporary residency on April 25, 2019, renewable until his request was decided. From Spain, he continued his activities on social networks and openly denounced

the corruption of the military authorities.

On May 14, 2019, Mr Abdellah was sentenced in absentia to 20 years in prison by the military court of Blida under the pretext, among others, of undermining the state's security and the army's reputation. Thus, he was the victim of physical aggression in Alicante, so he had to move and change regions to keep his family safe. The Algerian authorities then issued an international arrest request against him and several European political activists. Thus, on August 11, 2021, he was arrested at the police station in Vitoria, where he had gone to inform the authorities of a change of address. A decision to extradition to Algeria was issued, and his lawyers appealed against it. On August 21, 2021, while a second appeal for summary administrative proceedings was filed with the administrative court in Madrid, Mr Abdellah was deported by boat and handed over to the Algerian authorities. As soon as he arrived, Mr Abdellah was handed over to the Algerian security services and taken directly to the "Antar" barracks (Algiers), infamous for being a



torture centre belonging to the intelligence services, where he was subjected to severe abuse. After several days of incommunicado detention, he was first detained in El Harrach prison in Algiers on August 23, 2021, on charges of having links with the Rachad organisation, classified as a terrorist organisation. Mr Abdellah was brought before the Bir-Mourad-Rais (Algiers) court on January 2, 2022. During the hearing, he publicly stated in court that he was tortured in detention and that the prison authorities regularly inflicted abuse and degrading treatment on him. He said the guards made him leave his cell completely naked, humiliated and beat him. The judge replied that this "did not concern him since he is detained in a military institution" before adjourning the hearing to January 23, 2022. Currently, Mr Abdellah faces a long list of prosecutions fabricated directly by the security services.

4. Case of Mohamed Azouz Benhalima



Mohamed Azouz Benhalima, 32 years old, a corporal in the Algerian army, has been a whistleblower and peace activist of the Hirak since 2019. He fled Algeria in September 2019 after participating in the Hirak, the anti-regime protest movement. Arriving in Spain, he had filed an asylum application there. Algeria had issued an international arrest warrant against him. He was sentenced to ten years in absentia, arrested in Spain, and faced deportation proceedings. According to Mr Benhalima's lawyer, Gomez Cuadrado, the Spanish police motivated their

deportation proceedings by accusations of "activities contrary to national security or that could compromise Spain's relations with other countries.

Since his scandalous expulsion from Spain on March 24 2022, Mohamed Azouz Benhalima has been tortured, bullied and humiliated by his jailers. The latest abuse against him is emblematic of the worst police regimes: Mohamed Benhalima was forced to confess in front of public television cameras. This disgraceful staging will remain in the annals already provided with the violations of law and morality on the part of the regime in Algiers. As soon as he arrived in Algeria, Benhalima was already forced to read, under too obvious a constraint, a text prepared by the DRS, the political police, in front of public television cameras. First taken to the Cavaignac police station (Algiers), he was quickly transferred to the Central Service to fight against organised crime in Saoula (Algiers). In this centre of the General Directorate of Internal Security (DGSJ), he was tortured, stripped and subjected to sexual touching. He will be filmed without knowledge to produce the first confessions on these premises.

On June 19, 2022, during his trial before the court of Koléa, he declared that he had been tortured and had not received any medical visit, although he had requested one from the investigating judge (Algeria-Watch, June 27, 2022).

These cases are glimpses of the practices of the Algerian security services and were made possible by the courage of these men who dared to speak out while the vast majority who were tortured preferred to remain silent. These cases illustrate how the Algerian authorities consider peaceful activists and whistleblowers as terrorists and treat them as such even though their activities are peaceful.

The aim of the Algerian authorities is not to fight terrorism but to use terrorism to neutralise any peaceful discordant voice. They see them as enemies but not as full citizens in defiance of their constitution and the treaties they have signed and ratified, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 5), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 7) and the Convention against Torture (articles 12 & 13), ratified by Algeria on September 12, 1989, and obliging States to investigate all allegations of torture. Ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021, amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 66-156 of June 8, 1966, on the Penal Code that the Algerian Security Council has established and that the Algerian head of state has signed, has just come to harden the legal framework to cover the practices (torture, sexual abuse, mistreatment) of security services on the ground that are common and known for a long time.

C. National Exit Bans (NEB) on Civil Society Activists



The Algerian authorities have imposed arbitrary exit bans from the national territory for both persons residing in Algeria and expatriates living abroad upon their return to the country based on Ordinance No. 21-08. Two lists are sent to the border police:

The number of prohibitions among peaceful activists is constantly increasing and counts more than one hundred and sixty until October 2022. The judiciary establishes the first (public prosecutor, investigating judge and indictment chamber). Since December 2022, all summonses from the judicial police require activists to present themselves with their passports, which are immediately confiscated.

The second is an extrajudicial list or blocklist. It is established by the security services of the political police, and it concerns all peaceful activists, whether they live in Algeria or abroad. In addition, it targets lawyers and human rights defenders, and there are twenty until the writing of this report, including

members of the collective defence of prisoners of conscience. We will mention Noureddine Ahmine, Leila Boughrara, Mohamed Halla, and others.

D. Even cartoonists do not escape conviction for terrorism

Mr Ghilas Aïnouche, a cartoonist thirty-four years old, based on Ordinance No. 21-08, was sentenced to ten years in absentia for his cartoons by the court of Sidi Aïch (Bejaia) on November 30, 2022. Moreover, the Algerian authorities have issued an international arrest warrant against him since Mr Aïnouche has been living in France since 2020. He had no intention of leaving Algeria, but his friends convinced him and advised him to leave Algeria before he was hit with a ban on leaving the national territory (ISTN). Faced with persecution, Mr Aïnouche requested political asylum in France. It is truly a world first that a cartoonist is convicted of terrorism. So, a cartoonist who refuses to give up his freedom to draw the regime's representatives is a terrorist, according to the Algerian authorities. With the Algerian administration, everything is possible; even the pencil becomes a deadly weapon (Le matin d'Algérie 30.11.2022).



IV. The consequences of the anti-terrorist legal framework (or Ordinance No. 21-08) on the civic space



In Algeria, the elements that allow civil society to play a full role, namely access to information, participation and dialogue, freedom of expression and the right to assemble to express one's point of view, and freedom of association, are present on paper but absent on the ground. The intention, confirmed by the Algerian authorities' practices, is not to respect civic space but to desertify it because of the military nature of the regime, which wants to keep the power by all means, including by force. Thus, if the authorities respect this civic space, the popular and peaceful protest will quickly be expressed, which goes against the interest of the administration's officials. As the Algerian authorities have chosen confrontation, political immobility will prevail, and they will be satisfied with cosmetic changes to make the international community believe that they are respecting their international commitments (Algeria has signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture). In contrast, the reality of the authorities' practices shows the opposite. As we have seen above with several examples, from the cartoonist to the environmental activist and human rights defenders, including lawyers, no one is safe from prosecution based on the anti-terrorist ordinance (or Ordinance No. 21-08) and find themselves imprisoned, persecuted, under judicial control, forbidden to leave the country and even tortured. The climate of terror that prevails in Algeria over civil society activists has become appalling and unbearable. If we take the example of SHOAA, an Algerian human rights organisation based in London (UK), which is not recognised by the Algerian authorities (and its request for recognition is not even considered). If the Algerian authorities discover who its members are, they will all be prosecuted based on Ordinance No. 21-8 (or other) and thrown into prison as soon as they arrive in Algeria. The same goes for its active members who form the network on the ground in Algeria, which is responsible for collecting information on activists who are prosecuted or imprisoned, helping lawyers to support activists in their trials, or by whom financial aid is provided, all of whom, without exception, including the lawyers, will be prosecuted and thrown into jail.

It is crucial to enjoin the Algerian authorities:

- 1- To cancel ordinance No. 21-08 of June 8, 2021:
- 2- To use the international standards of the definition of terrorism and to specify what is accused.
- 3- Investigate severe torture accusations and punish those responsible, regardless of the reasons (terrorism or other reasons);
- 4- Stop using preventive detention constantly and regulate it by removing this power from a single judge but leaving it to a college of judges, and punish judges who abuse the use of pretrial detention;
- 5- Stop using the ban on leaving the country without legal proceedings with serious charges, whether for 6- Algerians living in or abroad Algeria.
- 6- Allow Algerian human rights organisations to operate in complete freedom so that their funding is not hindered.

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