

## 2022 Timeline

1. On 10 March 2022 border control services were reported to have interrogated several Kabylie at the Algiers Airport. The questioning stemmed from border control suspecting the Kabylie of being supporters for the MAK and self-determination movements.<sup>1</sup>
2. The MAK reported that on 2 March and 4 March 2021 Moussa Albour and Aderrahmane Si Zid were detained in the village of Toursal and were taken to Tidjelabine-Libere. The MAK also noted that while in custody the two were raped by algerian forces.
3. On 17 February 2022 arrests continued against self-determination activists as MAK member Sofiane Zarkak and civilian Kader Hammad were detained. Zarkak had been under judicial supervision along with nine other activists, including academic Mira Moknache on charges of "unarmed crowd", "attack on national unity" and "violence against the police " back in 2019. After they had taken part in a rally in support of Kabyle activists and having waved an Amazigh flag during the demonstration. Hammad was arrested and placed under a warrant due to taking a picture of his friends in front of a Kabyle flag. Zarkak is awaiting a presentation before an investigating judge.<sup>2</sup>
4. On 27 January 2022 MAK Paris Île de France coordination launched a call for a rally at the Place de la Bastille (Paris) to march against the 230 Kabyle activists who are still held in prisons throughout Algeria without being tried. The MAK urged for support and to challenge the international opinion on the repression against Kabyle which they claim the servile Algerian media being silent over.<sup>3</sup>
5. On 18 January 2022 24-year-old activist Wissam Sifouane was arrested after a home search by Algerian police officers on the Amazigh New Year. Sifouane was home alone in Bechloul as her family were attending a funeral in another village. She passed her 6th day in police custody on 17 January 2022.
6. On 17 January 2022 imprisoned former Executive of MAK Razik Zouaoui and activist Dda Moh Khedim, lives are in danger. Chafaa Zouaoui, sent an urgent message on 11 January 2022 about the deterioration of Razik's health condition. He stated that Radio contracted the coronavirus and was asked to draw up a balance sheet of his weight loss but never received a follow-up. While, Mohamed Khedim, known as "Dda Moh", is suffering following the deterioration of his health, several sources have reported. As the conditions of prison Kolea is incompatible with respect for human dignity.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Madani, K. (2022). *À l'aéroport d'Alger, tout Kabyle est suspect !* [online] Le Matin d'Algérie. Available at: <https://lematindalgerie.com/a-laeroport-dalger-tout-kabyle-est-suspect/>

<sup>2</sup> B, L. (2022). *Le régime algérien poursuit sa répression : Nouvelles arrestations de militants kabyles.* [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2022/01/30/le-regime-algerien-poursuit-sa-repression-nouvelles-arrestations-de-militants-kabyles/228003/>

<sup>3</sup> Massi, A. (2022). *Détenus d'opinion kabyles dans les prisons algériennes : Appel à un rassemblement de soutien à la place de la Bastille (Paris).* [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2022/01/27/detenus-dopinion-kabyles-dans-les-prisons-algeriennes-appel-a-un-rassemblement-de-soutien-a-la-place-de-la-bastille-paris/227999/>

<sup>4</sup> B, L. (2022). *Prison de Koléa : La vie de deux détenus d'opinion kabyles en danger.* [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2022/01/17/prison-de-kolea-la-vie-de-deux-detenus-dopinion-kabyles-en-danger/227928/>

7. On 7 January 2022 in Chorfa Algerian authorities arbitrarily arrested a young activist Attaf Mohand without disclosing his reason for detention nor whereabouts.<sup>5</sup>
8. On 2 January 2022 the Secretary General of the Union for the Kabyle Republic (URK) Lyazid Abid stated the brutality expressed against the Kabyle people by the Algerian government is a prelude to genocide. Abid asserted that the criminal handling of the covid-19 crises and the premeditated forest fire attacks the Algerian regime was determined to decimate the Amazigh culture.<sup>6</sup>

## 2021 Timeline

9. The MAK reported that in 2021 the community of Larbaa Nath Irathen saw a mass wave of arrests resulting in the following individuals to be detained: Moulaek Mouhand Oubelaid, Mouhand Laskri, Yacine Nechak, and Mamou Syphax. The MAK also noted that 10 out of 300 of those detained in 2021 suffered from torture and sexual abuse.
10. On 2 December 2021 Kabylia Activists plead to the UN Minority Issues Commissioner requesting the protection of Kabyle people as they declared a state of emergency. The statement expressed that more than three thousand citizens had been already murdered by forest fires and covid, while more than three hundred Kabyle executives were imprisoned. Those detained suffered from rape, and were accused under terrorism charges. The plea called for the immediate involvement of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to determine sanctions against Algeria to halt further human rights violations.<sup>7</sup>
11. The MAK reported that the Kabyle rejected and boycotted all the algerian national elections earning 0 percent in scores including the presidential elections on 12 December 2021, the parliament elections on 12 June 2021, the constitution referendum on 1 November 2021, and the local elections on 27 November 2021.
12. According to the MAK on 27 November 2021 Mustaspha Akkouche and Arezki Hidja were detained and sent to Ain Timouchent.
13. On 14 September 2021 Police arrested journalist and prominent Hirak member Fodil Boumala. An investigation was opened on allegations of Boumala having disseminated false statements on his Facebook page and that he undermined national unity. He remained in pretrial detention. It should be noted that Boumala had been arrested two times before in the last five months since the Hirak protest began in 2019.<sup>8</sup>
14. On 13 September 2021 authorities arrested Mohammed Mouloudj and later charged him with “spreading false news, harming national unity and belonging to a terrorist group” in

---

<sup>5</sup> Massi, A. (2022). *Chorfa : Interpellation d'un jeune militant kabyle*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2022/01/07/chorfa-interpellation-dun-jeune-militant-kabyle/227864/>

<sup>6</sup> Massi, A. (2022). *Lyazid Abid sur la situation actuelle en Kabylie : “En dépit de la brutalité, l'espoir est permis.”* [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2022/01/03/lyazid-abid-sur-la-situation-actuelle-en-kabylie-en-depit-de-la-brutalite-lespoir-est-permis/227844/>

<sup>7</sup> Zidane LAFDAL friends of Kabylie Movement for the Self-determination of Kabylia

<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Watch (2021). *Algeria: Events of 2021*. [online] Human Rights Watch. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/algeria>

reference to the MAK movement. He was questioned on his contacts within the MAK such as MAK founder Ferhat Mehenni, to which he stated they were specifically for his journalism work. He was then placed in pretrial detention.<sup>9</sup>

15. On 24 August 2021 Karima Nait Sid, co-president of the World Amazigh Congress, was detained incommunicado in an unknown location for three days according to Frontline Defenders. Later, 1 September she appeared before a prosecutor in Algiers, who charged her with “undermining state security and belonging to a terrorist organization” in reference to the MAK.<sup>10</sup>
16. On 13 June 2021 The Ministry of Communications banned French TV Station M6 from operating in Algeria, one day after it aired a documentary film about the Hirak protests. The ministry stated the tv station harmed the reputation of Algeria (and attempted to) breach the indefectible trust between the Algerian people and their institutions.<sup>11</sup>
17. On 31 May 2021 according to the MAK, Sofiane Babaci was detained in Laazi where he was detained and taken to in Kolea.
18. On 18 May 2021 Radio M’s director Ihsane El Kadi was detained on charges of “undermining national unity” and publications that harm the national interest” after he published an article criticizing labeling the Rachad and MAK as terrorist organizations. Under the Judicial supervision of El Kadi had to meet several restrictions, such as the obligation to report at a police station weekly, confiscation of his passport, and require the permission of local authorities for him to leave the area of Algiers.<sup>12</sup>
19. On 17 May 2021 Amnesty International called for the immediate drop of charges against human rights defenders and Hirak members Kaddor Choucha, Jamila Loukil, and Said Boudour, as well as 12 other activists within the Hirak movement, all who face the death penalty or lengthy prison sentences.<sup>13</sup> The allegations against them are based on being linked to the Rachad political movement and having infiltrated the Hirak movement in order to weaken it. The three remain firm in denying such allegations, as they will wait for the indictment chamber of Oran Court to determine if they were to be freed or await pre-trial detention for 16 months.
20. On 14 May 2021 Authorities arrested Radio M journalist Kenza Khatto on charges of “participation in an unarmed gathering” and “dissemination of news that could undermine national unity” for her coverage of the Hirak protests. On June 1, she appeared under provisional release before a judge in Algiers who sentenced her to three months.<sup>14</sup>
21. On 10 May 2021 The prosecutor for the court of Vgayet requested heavy sentences ranging from six to nine months of prison and fines against nine young activists. During

---

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>13</sup> Amnesty International (2021). *Algérie. Les charges fabriquées de toutes pièces retenues contre des défenseur-e-s des droits humains doivent être abandonnées*. [online] Amnesty International. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2021/05/algeria-drop-trumped-up-charges-against-three-human-rights-defenders/>

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid* Human Rights Watch (2021). *Algeria: Events of 2021*

the trial, the representative of the public prosecutor requested three years in prison against three activists and a fine of 100000 Da and six months of prison for the others including 20000 Da. The nine are being charged for the unarmed gathering and undermining national unity.<sup>15</sup>

22. On 2 May 2021 Algerian authorities arrested Hirak members, Mohamed Tadjadit and Malik Riahi Tarek Debaghi, Soheib Debaghi, and Nouredine Khimoud. The men were arrested in connection to a Youtube video posted on April 3 that showed them consoling a 15-year-old boy who had been sexually molested by police officers after his arrest during a protest. The public prosecutor at the court of Sidi M'hamed stated the allegation was unfounded and later prosecuted the five men on “dissemination of false information likely to disturb the public order”, “invasion of a child and its exploitation for purposes contrary to morality”, and “incitement to debauchery and position of narcotics (drug) for consumption”.<sup>16</sup>
23. On 28 February 2021 The Eastern Regional Coordination of the MAK called for all independence activists to rally against the prosecution of nine activists who were summoned to the Algerian judiciary for having participated in 2016 in a march in support of Dr. Djamel Eddine Fekhar who was arbitrarily imprisoned. The nine were accused of inciting an unarmed gathering while three of them are charged with undermining national unity. The trial was placed on hold due to a lawyer's strike, while another seven activists who took part in the rally in front of the court were arrested.<sup>17</sup>
24. On 19 February 2021 Lounès Hamzi, president of the West coordination of MAK-Anavad was arrested in Tizi Ouzou on 6 October 2020. Hamzi was arrested for his organization and supervision of the MAK organization. The demand for his release took place in a march on 19 February 2021 followed by a rally where organizations took turns denouncing the Algerian state and their campaign of terror against Kabylia.<sup>18</sup>
25. On 1 February 2021 25-year-old Walid Neckiche suffered from torture and rape by Algerian forces while in custody. Neckiche had been arrested on 26 November 2019 during a student demonstration before reappearing in January 2020 in prison. He was sentenced to serve six-months in prison for “possession of leaflets” after being accused of being a member of a Kabyle separtaist movement and “conspiracy against the state”.
26. On 30 January 2021 The Committee for the Defense of Freedoms of Vgayet (CDL) launched another appeal against the hunting of independence activists from Algerian

---

<sup>15</sup> Imaxlufen, D. (2021). *Tribunal de Vgayet, de lourdes peines requises à l'encontre des neuf indépendantistes kabyles*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2021/05/10/tribunal-de-vgayet-de-lourdes-peines-requises-a-lencontre-des-neuf-independantistes-kabyles/178829/>

<sup>16</sup> Benali, A. (2021). *Cour d'Alger : Mandats de dépôt confirmés contre Tadjadit et 4 autres activistes du Hirak*. [online] Algeria Eco. Available at: <https://www.algerie-eco.com/2021/05/02/cour-dalger-mandats-de-depot-confirmes-contre-tadjadit-et-4-autres-activistes-du-hirak/>

<sup>17</sup> Massi, A. (2021b). *Kabylie : Le régime colonial réprime, les indépendantistes résistent*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2021/02/27/kabylie-le-regime-colonial-reprime-les-independantistes-resistent/177650/>

<sup>18</sup> Kocella, M. (2021). *Makouda : Intervention de Muh Said, cadre de l'URK, lors du rassemblement pour la libération de Lounes Hamzi*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2021/02/19/makouda-intervention-de-muh-said-cadre-de-lurk-lors-du-rassemblement-pour-la-liberation-de-lounes-hamzi/177480/>

security forces. The CDL reported that an activist's father was targeted and suffered a severe attack in court and was beaten by police after. The CDL also claimed 30 activists were beaten and arrested before being released three hours later. Those who ran from the police were hunted throughout the CNS district. The committee condemned the violence from police and that the repression held one objective to prevent any solidarity among activists who have been persecuted since 2016.<sup>19</sup>

27. On 6 January 2021 35 activists detained in Vgayet appeared before a court with 32 activists who awaited their trials in the Bejaia court. The Committee for the Defense of Liberties of Vgayet (CDL) in a press release commented if the government wished to prosecute all those who demonstrated their rights, freedoms, and dignity. While also stating the fight for democracy and change must continue and that standing in solidarity with those who were arrested.<sup>20</sup>

## 2020 Timeline

28. On 08 December 2020 Dalit Yamouni one of the oldest journalists in Vgayet appeared in court on December 2020 after the trial was originally scheduled for September 15 before it was postponed. He was charged for unarmed gathering during a march in June 2020, in the town of Bayet. The Committee for the defense of freedoms of Vgayet launched an appeal calling for solidarity with the victims of the continuing repression.<sup>21</sup>
29. On 6 October 2020 Kabylie independence activists protested in front of the Akbou court to announce the arrests of activists from the MAK. The Kabylie independence activists continue to face persecution from the Algerian government which prohibits all activities initiated from the self-determination movements.<sup>22</sup> While lawyer Kader Houali, who represented the four activists who were summoned to appear before the investigating judge at the Akbou court as accused, claimed the case was sent back to be heard at a later date. At the same time, there were several other activists who came to oversee the rally who were manhandled and arrested by security forces in front of the court. He further claimed that many MAK members were arrested and taken to police stations after being beaten.<sup>23</sup>
30. On 21 August 2020 The Hirak leaders called for disbanding of future demonstrations after the Covid-19 nationwide lockdown in March. However, the easing of the lockdown did not deter police officers from harming activists in their attempts to resume protests.

---

<sup>19</sup> Haddouche, T. (2021). *Bgayet : les indépendantistes face à la répression*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2021/01/30/bgayet-les-independantistes-face-a-la-repression/175661/>

<sup>20</sup> Haddouche, T. (2021a). *Bgayet : la répression continue*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2021/01/06/bgayet-la-repression-continue/170829/>

<sup>21</sup> Haddouche, T. (2020). *Bgayet : le journaliste Dalil Yamouni devant le tribunal*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/12/08/bgayet-le-journaliste-dalil-yamouni-devant-le-tribunal/170205/>

<sup>22</sup> Haddouche, T. (2020). *Bgayet et Tizi Ouzou : rassemblements pour exiger la libération des détenus*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/06/21/bgayet-et-tizi-ouzou-rassemblements-pour-exiger-la-liberation-des-detenus/168876>

<sup>23</sup> Haddouche, T. (2020). *Akbou : l'avocat Houali dénonce la solidarité sélective*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/10/06/akbou-lavocat-houali-denonce-la-solidarite-selective/169764/>

As seen in the arrests of more than 100 activists in August in Algiers, Bilda, Setif, and Tizi Ouzou<sup>24</sup>, and Annaba and Bejaia in September.<sup>25</sup>

31. On 10 August 2020 The Sidi M'hamed tribunal in Algeria sentenced journalist Khaled Drareni to three years in prison and a fine of 50,000 Algerian dinars due to reporting on the Hirak protest movement. The tribunal also sentenced political activist Samir Ben Larbi and national coordinator of the families of disappeared Slimane Hamitouche to two years in prison over their online publications and participation in the Hirak protests.<sup>26</sup>
32. On 21 June 2020 Hirak Activist Amira Bouraoui, was sentenced to a year in prison. She had been prosecuted on charges of “incitement to crowds”, “incitement to break sanitary confinement”, “publication that may undermine national unity”, and “offense or denigration of the dogma or precepts of Islam”, “offending the President of the Republic by outrageous, insulting or defamatory expression”, among other charges<sup>27</sup>. Her trial for appeal was scheduled to resume on 12 November 2020. While activist Amar Acherfouche was attacked by five police officers and suffered several fractures in the tibia of both feet.<sup>28</sup>
33. On 21 June 2020 Protests broke out calling for the release of 12 activists arrested in Bgayet: Dalil Yamouni from Sidi Aich, Ouchene Abdellah from Taskriout, Boudjemaa Zinedine from Bgayet, Maouchi Mahfoud from Semaoun, Alloui Tarek from Toudja, Kali Fares from Semaoun, Ben Abdelhak Lamine from Semaoun, Saidani Yanis, Aftis Zalou from Merdj Ouamane, Bouazzoug Jugurta from Sidi Ali Lebher, Rafik Idir from Djebira and Zaidi Aklil. At the same time another call was made for another rally after several protestors were arrested in Tizi Ouzou.<sup>29</sup>

---

24 The New Arab (2020) *Algeria: Attempts to resume the Hirak demonstrations in 21 provinces and the arrest of more than 100 activists* <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%86-100-%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%B7-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%85%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%81%D9%8A-21-%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9>

25 The New Arab (2020) *Limited demonstrations to try to resume the popular movement in Algeria* <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/%D9%85%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A6%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B9%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1>

26 Amnesty International (2020). *Algeria: Authorities pursue crackdown on Hirak, sentencing journalist Khaled Drareni to three years in prison*. [online] Amnesty International. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/08/algeria-authorities-pursue-crackdown-on-hirak-sentencing-journalist-khaled-drareni-to-three-years-in-prison/>

27 Marouf-Araibi, Y. (2020). *L'activiste Amira Bouraoui Libérée, son procès renvoyé à septembre*. [online] INTERLIGNES Algérie. Available at: <https://www.inter-lignes.com/lactiviste-amira-bouraoui-liberee-son-proces-renvoye-a-septembre/>

28 S, N. (2020a). *Le militant Amar Acherfouche sauvagement tabassé par la police algérienne*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/06/21/le-militant-amar-acherfouche-sauvagement-tabasse-par-la-police-algerienne/168865/>

29 *Ibid* Haddouche, T. (2020). *Bgayet et Tizi Ouzou*

34. On 19 June 2020 lawyer and political activist Madjid Hachour reported that three activists were arrested in the city of Ouadhias.<sup>30</sup>
35. On 17 June 2020 The trial of activists Merzoug Touati, Yanis Adjlia, and Amar Berri who were arrested in the Vgayet demonstrations was refused a trial via video conference. The three men remained imprisoned until 1 July when their trial was rescheduled.<sup>31</sup>
36. On 14 June 2020 Journalist Merzoug Touati was arrested during a demonstration in Vgayet. He was accused of undermining national unity, exposing people's lives to the danger of death during sanitary confinement, and others. Previously, Touati was sentenced to seven years in prison for exchanging messages over the Internet with an Israeli in 2016. After several months in prison, he was released following strong popular mobilization in Kabylia. Merzoug Touati, upon his release, resumed his political activities against the regime. On social networks and in the field, he has always denounced the decision-makers.<sup>32</sup>
37. On 12 June 2020 Demonstrators were prevented from beginning their scheduled march near Taos-Amrouche Culture House in downtown Vgayet by police officers. Violent clashes broke out resulting in the arrest of demonstrators, those who escaped went to the sit-in to demand the release of the arrested activists
38. On 27 March 2020, security forces arrested Khaled Drareni, journalist and founder of the Casbah Tribune for “calling for an illegal gathering” and “undermining national unity”. Authorities warned Drareni to halt coverage over Hirak protests, during integrations and arrests. When he refused, he was sentenced to three years in prison, before an appeals court reduced it to two years on 15 September<sup>33</sup>
39. An appeals court on 24 March 2020 sentenced Karim Tabbou, to one year in prison on accusations of criticizing the army and supporting the Hirak movement. On 6 April Tabbou was set to be prosecuted on other speech-related charges. The sentence came one day before Tabbou was set to go free after he completed a six-month sentence.<sup>34</sup>
40. On 20 March 2020 Algerian protesters obeyed a presidential order over the coronavirus that banned all street demonstrations before establishing a nationwide lockdown. Supporters of the protest movement including imprisoned Karim Tabbou, human rights lawyer Mustafa Bouchachi and former minister Abdelaziz Rahabi urged protestors to heed the order and stay home.<sup>35</sup>

---

30 Haddouche, T. (2020c). *Bgayet et Tizi Ouzou : des émeutes et des arrestations*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/06/19/bgayet-et-tizi-ouzou-des-emeutes-et-des-arrestations/168858/>

31 Haddouche, T. (2020b). *Bgayet : des centaines de manifestants devant le tribunal*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/06/17/bgayet-des-centaines-de-manifestants-devant-le-tribunal/168841/>

32 S, N. (2020c). *Merzoug Touati de nouveau arrêté*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/06/14/merzoug-touati-de-nouveau-arrete/168792/>

33 *Ibid* Human Rights Watch (2021). *Algeria: Events of 2021*

34 Human Rights Watch (2020). *Algeria: Protest Leader's Sentence Doubled on Eve of His Release*. [online] Human Rights Watch. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/05/algeria-protest-leaders-sentence-doubled-eve-his-release>

35 *Ibid* Human Rights Watch (2021). *Algeria: Events of 2021*

41. On 6 February 2020 President Tebboune signed a decree pardoning several thousand prisoners who were released from jail, but protesters from the Hirak movement were not included in the pardon.<sup>36</sup>
42. On 27 January 2020 Algerian protesters obeyed a presidential order over the coronavirus that banned all street demonstrations before establishing a nationwide lockdown. Supporters of the protest movement including imprisoned Karim Tabbou, human rights lawyer Mustafa Bouchachi and former minister Abdelaziz Rahabi urged protestors to heed the order and stay home.<sup>37</sup>
43. Human Rights reported that authorities arrested 20 activists in Algiers on 17 January 2020 during the 48th consecutive Friday of mass protest according to the National Committee for the Liberation of Detainees. Two of whom were Hakim Addad and Samir Larabi who were members of the Youth Action Rally (Rassemblement Action Jeunesse) a non-governmental organization involved with the Hirak. However, the two were let go the same day, unlike 18 other activists who spent two nights in court. On 19 January 2020 public prosecutor of the Sidi M'hamed First Instance Court in Algiers charged 16 for “illegal gathering” and two for harming national unity” under Article 79 of the penal code.<sup>38</sup>
44. On 13 January 2020 more than 300 demonstrators were arrested in Tizi Wezzu, after protestors were insulted and assaulted. MAK and URK members were still not released and their whereabouts remained unknown.<sup>39</sup>
45. During the Yennayer celebrations on 12 January 2020 100 activists from the MAK and URK were arrested by Algerian forces in Vgayet (Béjaïa), Tizi Ouzou and Tuviret (Bouira). The URK denounced the arrests calling them arbitrary and demanded the release of their members.<sup>40</sup>
46. On 2 January 2020 70 Hirak detainees were released. The National Committee for the Liberation of Detainees estimated that about 80 protestors were still being held in prison.<sup>41</sup>

---

<sup>36</sup> News 24 (2020). *Algeria president pardons thousands but not protesters*. [online] News24. Available at:

<https://www.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/algeria-president-pardons-thousands-but-not-protesters-20200206>

<sup>37</sup> Chikhi, L. (2020). Algerians forego weekly protest amid coronavirus. *Reuters*. [online] 20 Mar. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-protests/algerians-forego-weekly-protest-amid-coronavirus-idUSKBN2172RT>

<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch (2020). *Algeria: Post Election Repression*. [online] Human Rights Watch. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/28/algeria-post-election-repression>

<sup>39</sup> S, N. (2020d). *Tebboune sort ses griffes contre les Kabyles*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/01/13/tebboune-sort-ses-griffes-contre-les-kabyles/150378/>

<sup>40</sup> Abid, L. (2020). *La police coloniale algérienne empêche les Kabyles de célébrer Yennayer*. [online] Tamurt | Votre lien avec la kabylie. Available at: <https://tamurt.info/2020/01/12/la-police-coloniale-algerienne-empeche-les-kabyles-de-celebrer-yennayer/150369/>

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid* Human Rights Watch (2021). *Algeria: Events of 2021*

