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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 May 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



Repression and Intimidation of Human Rights Defenders in Algeria and Tidouf Camps

In a context of increasing repression of peaceful demonstrations by the Algerian security forces, hundreds of people have been arbitrarily arrested since the beginning the peaceful movement Al hirak, including many human rights defenders who try to expose corruption and frauds in Algeria. this anti -corruption activism expose human rights defenders to years of prison and months of pretrial arrests under some ambiguous laws that explain any peaceful criticism to the authorities as a treat to the public order.

This wave of arbitrary arrests, which has clearly targeted human rights defenders, is a very bad signal for a possible transition to democracy in Algeria. The current government is trying by all means to maintain its power and to stifle the ongoing peaceful protest movement, creating a climate of fear through repression, and continuous restrictions on human rights defenders.

Journalists, lawyers' bloggers and social media activists are systematically targeted by authorities especially those who try to expose corruption as an illustration:

We remind you of

Mr Tounsi was arrested and charged in connection with his efforts to expose corruption, including his social media posts criticizing members of the judiciary. He was trailed three times september2020, April 2021, before he started a hunger strike on the 20th of May 2020 for accusing him a second time for insulting symbols of the state as the president. He was sentenced a year of prison

Not only in Algeria anti -corruption human rights defenders but also the are targeted in the In Tinduf refugee camps : : Moulay Bouzid Abba, Fadel El Mahdi, Breica and Mahmoud Zeidane are incarcerated in the prison, with a highly bad reputation of "Dheibiya" for denouncing the diversion of humanitarian food aid given to camps population by polisario leaders and some highly ranked Algerian military officials to the African markets for sale.

Finally, we recommend that

- The practice of corruption by state agents in Algeria must be acknowledged at the highest level and allow the prosecution of perpetrators.
- Remove all restrictions that limits freedom of expression.
- Align its laws with international standards to guarantee free access to information
- Make public all findings of investigations of corruption cases

Tinduf camps are Algerian territories that gather an unidentified number of Sahrawi refugees since 1975, many of them calling for autonomy as political solution to their situation to the conflict with Morocco, there is UN peace process going on to end the conflict peacefully.