

**Amnesty International; International Federation of Leagues of Human Rights;
Human Rights Watch; Reporters Sans Frontières**

News Service 140/98

AI INDEX: MDE 28/29/98
GENEVA --21 JULY 1998

Algeria: UN Human Rights Committee

Geneva -- The Human Rights Committee concluded today its examination of the report presented, three years late, by Algeria on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Amnesty International, the International Federation of Leagues of Human Rights, Human Rights Watch and Reporters Sans Frontières regret that the Algerian government delegation did not provide concrete and detailed answers to the precise questions asked by the members of the Committee.

This is all the more regrettable since the report contains no precise information concerning the most serious and widespread violations in Algeria, such as extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", torture and unfair trials.

The experts expressed unanimously their concerns regarding the existence of a serious human rights crisis; a number of them also noted that the Algerian authorities have reneged on their obligation to combat violence in the framework of respect for law and order.

The signatory organizations are dismayed by the outright refusal of the Algerian delegation to recognize the existence of extrajudicial executions --even though numerous cases have been documented. Equally, the delegation denied wholesale the existence of cases of torture at the hands of government forces, claiming that only armed groups commit such acts. As for the widespread phenomenon of enforced and involuntary "disappearances", the delegation dismissed the problem, claiming, among other pretexts, that the "disappeared" had joined armed groups or had been abducted by them.

Every question raised by the Committee members concerning individual cases was skirted round by the delegation, which hid behind general and theoretical remarks. Like the report presented to the Committee, the members of the Algerian delegation focussed on references to laws and procedures, completely avoiding the crucial problem, that of the multiple violations of the Covenant's provisions, as well as of Algerian legislation itself.

The signatory NGOs share the concerns expressed by several experts regarding the proliferation of paramilitary militia groups, which has drawn the civil population further into the conflict. Moreover, the signatory NGOs insist on the necessity for the Algerian

authorities to provide the information requested by all the experts on the investigations that the authorities claim to have carried out into massacres, as well as into “excesses” of the security forces.

Noting the blatant failure of the Algerian delegation to provide detailed responses to the experts’ questions and concerns, the signatory NGOs very much hope that the Committee will reflect the seriousness of the human rights situation in its conclusions, and that it will address precise recommendations to the Algerian government and call on it to conform to them.

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