



MDE 28/6536/2023
27 March 2023

-Check against delivery-

ORAL STATEMENT
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Algeria

UN Human Rights Council
52nd session
27 February - 4 April 2023

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Algeria's support for 160 recommendations, including on guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary and the adoption of a protective asylum law.

The swift implementation of these recommendations is critical for improving the human rights situation in the country.

Mr. President,

Between 2019 and 2022, Algerian authorities arbitrarily arrested, unlawfully detained and prosecuted thousands of political and civil society activists as well as human rights defenders and journalists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

We welcome Algeria's support for the recommendation to amend the law on Public meetings and Demonstrations but regrets its rejection of recommendations to amend the provisions of the Penal Code, [in particular Articles 74, 75, 87 bis, 95 bis, 96, 97, 98, 144, 144 bis, 146, 196 bis and 290 bis] criminalizing the legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.¹ We urge the Algerian authorities to immediately release those detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and to drop all charges against those prosecuted.

Mr. President,

Despite some improvements with regards to women's rights in the 2020 amended Constitution, Algerian law continues to discriminate against women in matters of inheritance, marriage, divorce, child custody and guardianship. Algeria still lacks a comprehensive legislation for an

¹ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Algeria, UN Doc. A/HRC/52/12 and its Addendum UN Doc. A/HRC/52/12/Add.1, recommendations 43.112 (Finland), 43.31 (Belgium), 43.44 (Germany), 43.106 (Australia), and 43.135 (United States of America).

effective and coordinated response to violence against women and same-sex sexual relations are still criminalized.

Amnesty International welcomes Algeria's support for the recommendation to amend the article of the Penal Code which excuses perpetrators of rape in case they marry their victims and urges it to reverse its position on the remaining recommendations to reform or remove provisions in the Penal Code and Family Code which discriminate on the basis of gender.²

Mr. President,

We regret Algeria's rejection of recommendations to ratify remaining key international human rights treaties such as the Optional Protocol against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and to withdraw the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.³ Ratification would be an important step to protecting fundamental rights.

Finally, we encourage Algeria to implement supported recommendations as soon as possible and urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation of supported recommendations and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.

² A/HRC/52/12 and A/HRC/52/12/Add.1, recommendations 43.227 (Canada), 43.38 (Chile), 43.42 (Israel), 43.141 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 43.142 (Belgium), 43.143 (Israel), 43.145 (Panama), 43.225 (Germany), 43.226 (Iceland).

³ A/HRC/52/12 and A/HRC/52/12/Add.1, recommendations 43.1, 43.8 (Ukraine), 43.2 (Denmark), (Estonia), (Mauritius), 43.3 (Ghana), 43.4 (Costa Rica), 43.6 (Sierra Leone), 43.7 (Sudan), 43.9 (Argentina), 43.10 (Cabo Verde), 43.11 (Malawi), 43.18 (Estonia), (France), (Luxembourg), (Mauritius), 43.19 (Romania), 43.20 (Latvia), 43.220 (Vanuatu), 43.221 (Eswatini), and 43.222 (Namibia).