



The Tahrir Institute
for Middle East Policy

**Committee to Protect Journalists
The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy**

**Joint Stakeholder Submission to the UN Human Rights Council
Universal Periodic Review – The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria**

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State of Freedom of Expression and Press Freedom in Algeria

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide. CPJ defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal.

Contact:

Website: www.cpj.org

Postal address: P.O. Box 2675, New York, NY 10108

Phone: +1 (212) 465-1004

Email: info@cpj.org

The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP) is dedicated to centering localized perspectives in the policy discourse to foster accountable, transparent, and just societies in the Middle East and North Africa. TIMEP was founded in 2013 in Washington, DC; it has a network of expert fellows located throughout the world. TIMEP is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the District of Columbia.

Contact:

Website: www.timep.org

Postal address: 1717 K Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC, 20006

Phone: (202) 967-8589

Email: info@timep.org

Introduction

This joint submission documents a deterioration in the state of press freedom in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, facilitated by the legal framework, as well as violative practices. The information presented in this submission is based on evidence collected by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP) in consultation with local human rights defenders, journalists, and lawyers.

Prior Relevant UPR Recommendations

1. Algeria underwent its third UPR cycle in May 2017, its second in May 2012, and its first in April 2008.
2. In its third UPR cycle, Algeria accepted 10 out of 15 recommendations from States related to freedom of expression and/or press freedom. These recommendations have yet to be sufficiently implemented as of the date of this submission:
 - a. Strengthen national legislation and amend other regulations to ensure freedom of expression and comply with the Constitution and international human rights obligations (129.94,¹ 129.95,² 129.106³; A/HRC/36/13);
 - b. Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression, assembly, and association, to not hamper the legitimate work of non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders, and journalists (129.96,⁴ 129.98,⁵ 129.104⁶; A/HRC/36/13);
 - c. Implement the constitutional provisions guaranteeing press freedom and amend defamation laws to respect freedom of opinion and expression (129.99⁷; A/HRC/36/13);
 - d. Establish an independent regulatory authority for broadcast media (129.102⁸; A/HRC/36/13);
 - e. Amend legislation that criminalizes freedom of expression and opinion on social media, and remove all other obstacles that prevent the right to freedom of expression (129.105,⁹ 129.107¹⁰; A/HRC/36/13).
3. Also during its third UPR cycle, Algeria partially accepted one recommendation to respect the right to freedom of expression by abolishing the prison sentence for press-related offenses; particularly those defined as “insult”, “contempt” or “defamation” (129.97.1, 129.97.2; A/HRC/36/13.¹¹ Algeria noted recommendations from States to adopt a legal framework to protect journalists from intimidation and harassment, and decriminalize defamation; facilitate the issuance of visas and accreditations to foreign journalists; and decriminalize peaceful free expression to conform to its Constitution (129.100,¹² 129.101,¹³ 129.103¹⁴; A/HRC/36/13).

4. While Algeria's acceptance of a number of recommendations relating to press freedom in its third cycle is a noted improvement from its second one,¹⁵ the Algerian government continues to undermine fundamental human rights principles through the online censorship of media, the suspension of accreditations and/or blocking of websites, and the intimidation, detention and criminal prosecution of journalists.

Situation for Press Freedom in Algeria (Particularly Since UPR 3rd Cycle)

Legal Framework

5. In February 2019, Algeria experienced a historic revolutionary moment with the spur of nationwide peaceful demonstrations, also known as the "Hirak" movement, which forced an end to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's 20-year rule over the country. The Hirak protestors demanded transition to a state centered in the rule of law and devoid of corruption from the governing elites, and called for democratic governance that respects collective freedom and individual liberties.¹⁶ President Abdelmadjid Tebboune assumed the executive office in December 2019, after winning a contentious election denounced by popular protests.¹⁷ Instead of heeding the public's call for democratic reforms, the Tebboune government has heightened its crackdown on civil society and journalists reporting on the Hirak. As detailed in the following section, Algeria has weaponized the law to criminalize freedom of expression; arrest, detain, and prosecute journalists; and deprive the public of their right to access information.
6. Algeria has an obligation to guarantee freedom of expression and press freedom under its national constitution,¹⁸ and protect freedom of expression under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).¹⁹
7. The constitutional reforms adopted in November 2020,²⁰ expanded prior constitutional rights protecting press freedoms by guaranteeing "freedom of expression and creativity of journalists and media collaborators; [and] the journalist's right to access sources of information within the framework of respect for the laws in force."²¹ Article 54 of the **Constitution** also recognizes that the press: "shall not be restricted by any form of prior censorship"; that it has "the right to publish and investigate upon obtaining a permit to do so"; and that "the activity of newspapers, publications, television and radio channels and electronic sites and newspapers can only be prohibited by court order."²²
8. The **Law on Information No. 12-05**, enacted on January 12, 2012, is one of the main legal authorities governing the right to information and the press in Algeria. It provides the authorities with broad discretion to limit the publishing of information based on "national identity and cultural values," "national security and defense," public order, and the economic interests of the State.²³ The breadth of restrictions on information flows governed by Law 12-05 extends to *anyone* who publishes or "disseminat[es information on] current events, messages, opinions, ideas and knowledge, through written, audio, visual or any electronic forum intended for the public."²⁴ Moreover, the law imposes a burdensome

administrative process on publishing houses and journalists when printing information intended for the public by requiring approval from the media regulatory authority—which is governed by members appointed by the President and the Ministry of Communications.²⁵ Article 92 of the law imposes heavy fines and prison terms on journalists for disseminating any information that: disrespects national symbols; is incomplete, biased and/or inaccurate, defamatory and/or slanderous, immoral; endangers people and/or threatens citizens' sensitivity; and undermines national history.²⁶ While Article 84 grants journalists “access to sources of information,” it excludes information “[that] undermines state security and/or national sovereignty”; “[concerns] judicial investigations”; or “information likely to harm foreign policy and economic interests.”²⁷ Such imprecise and broad legal terms severely limit the rights of both journalists and the public.

9. Privately-owned media organizations may also be subject to restrictions imposed by **Law No. 12-06 on Associations** and **Law No. 14-04 on Audiovisual Activity**. Article 39 of Law 12-06 restricts the registration of organizations whose objective undermines national security or public order.²⁸ Organizations are also forbidden from receiving donations and/or grants from foreign or non-governmental institutions.²⁹ Law No. 14-04 expands on the content and information flow restrictions defined in Law No. 12-05 on Information by requiring all media organizations be owned and incorporated by Algerian citizens in Algeria.³⁰ Media organizations are further subject to an opaque licensing process that grants a government-appointed regulatory body the broad discretion to deny and/or suspend a license to broadcast, without proper notice to private media outlets, when “national security” or “public order and morality” interests are threatened.³¹ The untimely and unjustified delays related to obtaining a license, invasive content restrictions, and risk of punitive monetary fines severely limit independent press freedom in Algeria.
10. Algerian government authorities weaponize vaguely defined counterterrorism and national security provisions within the **Penal Code** to treat journalists as security threats and harmful subversives.³² The Penal Code contains numerous provisions that effectively criminalize the right to freedom of expression. Articles 77 and 78 punish any activity considered “to destroy or change the regime,” and anyone engaged in a “conspiracy to incite an armed insurrection against the State.”³³ Article 87 *bis* ambiguously defines a terrorist act in a manner that may include the activities of journalists, among other non-violent individuals.³⁴ Articles 96 and 100 prohibit anyone from distributing misinformation or propaganda that is likely to harm the national interest.³⁵ Article 144 *bis* criminalizes any insult or defamation to the “honor” of a public official; and imposes a monetary fine and imprisonment against anyone “who[] offends the Prophet (Peace and Blessings Upon Him), the Messengers of God or disparages the dogma of Islam[.]”³⁶ Article 196 permits “imprisonment for one to three years and a fine of DA 100,000 to DA 300,000, [against] anyone who willfully disseminates or propagates, by any means, to the public false or slanderous information or news likely to undermine public security or order.”³⁷ Such vague provisions have been instrumentalized by Algerian authorities to place severe restrictions on and target journalists.³⁸

11. On April 29, 2020, the Algerian government passed **Law No. 20-06**, supplementing Algeria's Penal Code to criminalize the dissemination of news authorities deem false and financing of any association which might "undermine the states or the fundamental interests of Algeria."³⁹ The law fails to adequately define "false news" thereby allowing the government to censor content it considers controversial without an independent oversight mechanism. This law has been enforced against perceived dissidents including journalists.⁴⁰
12. Article 2 of Law No. 20-06 also introduced Article 95 *bis* to the Penal Code, which criminalizes the receipt of "funds, a gift or an advantage, by any means...to carry out or incite to carry out acts likely to undermine the security of the State, the stability and normal functioning of its institutions, national unity, territorial integrity, the fundamental interests of Algeria or public security and order."⁴¹ The overly broad language affords the government disproportionate and discretionary power to prosecute members of civil society including journalists that receive local or foreign funding, if the government deems their activities and/or reporting a threat to "national unity."⁴²
13. In November 2020, President Tebboune issued an executive decree, ushering in the country's first **digital media law**.⁴³ The decree supplements the Law on Information No. 12-05 governing audio-visual media and print publications.⁴⁴ It allows for the removal of digital content to prevent the spread of "disinformation" or "illegal content."⁴⁵ Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the decree exclusively limit the publishing of digital content to platforms that are entirely domiciled in Algeria—requiring the domicility of the creation and development of hardware, servers, and operational support also be Algerian.⁴⁶ The recent restrictions to the digital media space occur in line with the government's efforts to control content by blocking websites and suspending accreditation to foreign media outlets.⁴⁷
14. On March 30, 2021, President Tebboune adopted, without parliamentary debate, **Ordinance No. 21-08** and **Ordinance No. 21-09**, supplementing the Penal Code.⁴⁸ Ordinance No. 21-08 expanded on the already vague definition of "terrorism" set forth in Article 87 *bis* of the Penal Code,⁴⁹ broadening it to include acts aimed at "working or inciting, by any means, whatsoever, to gain power or to change the system of governance by unconstitutional means," and "undermining the integrity of the national territory or incit[ing] to do so, by any means whatsoever."⁵⁰ Article 3 of Ordinance No. 21-08 also introduced Article 87 *bis* 13 and 14 to the Penal Code, which establish a national list of terrorist individuals and entities in Algeria, prohibit "the activity of the person or of the entity," place a travel ban on listed individuals, and allow for the freezing and seizing of their funds and assets.⁵¹ According to Article 87 *bis* 14, individuals can be designated as terrorists in the absence of a final court judgement.
15. Ordinance No. 21-09 supplementing the Penal Code restricts information shared through "events or news, ...a document, photo, sound, visual or audiovisual recording, a conversation or telephone call" that "undermine" public authorities.⁵² Even though Article 5 of the Ordinance protects an Algerian citizen's right to access information,⁵³ the Ordinance does not provide exceptions or limit the government's broad and discretionary

power to classify information. Separately, Article 22 of No. 21-09 allows law enforcement officials to deploy invasive surveillance technologies on individuals, without judicial oversight or authorization.⁵⁴ Articles 28 to 48 authorize the Algerian government to impose severe fines and seek imprisonment against individuals accused of distributing or sharing information about public officials and/or government affairs that are deemed “classified” and/or “sensitive.”⁵⁵ These amendments paved the way for Algerian authorities to target political dissidents, including journalists, under the pretext of national security or counterterrorism measures.⁵⁶

16. The exploitative measures and vaguely defined legal provisions featured above provide Algerian authorities with ample discretion to abuse government power and silence journalists with impunity.

Press Freedom Violations

17. Between May 1, 2017, to January 31, 2022, CPJ recorded the detention and imprisonment of dozens of journalists, the blocking of several news websites, the censoring of journalists and news outlets, the targeting of foreign news outlets, and the expulsion of many foreign journalists out of the country. This occurred alongside a larger crackdown on freedom of expression across the country.
18. Since May 2017, and especially following the Hirak, CPJ’s research shows that **the number of imprisonment, arbitrary detentions, and prosecutions of journalists by Algerian authorities, on vague charges unrelated to media laws nor in line with basic tenets of international human rights law, has risen significantly.**
19. Police arrested local journalist **Said Chitour** at Algiers International Airport on June 5, 2017, after he had been questioned by state security forces on at least two prior instances. Prosecutors charged him with espionage for “leaking classified documents” to foreign diplomats.⁵⁷ After serving 18 months in pre-trial detention, Chitour was released on November 11, 2018 after an Algiers court issued a moot 16-month prison sentence with one year suspended.⁵⁸
20. **Merzoug Touati**, blogger and the founder of al-Hogra news website, was arrested in Bejaia on January 18, 2017, after publishing a video interview with an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. On May 24, 2018, a court in Béjaïa convicted Touati for “sharing intelligence with a foreign power” and inciting civil disobedience. His initial ten-year prison sentence was reduced to seven years on appeal in June 2018.⁵⁹ On March 4, 2019, Touati was released after an Algerian court issued a new verdict.⁶⁰ He would later be arrested while covering protests in Béjaïa on June 12, 2020.⁶¹ On January 3, 2022, Touati was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 100,000 Algerian dinars (US\$718).⁶²
21. On December 9, 2018, authorities detained journalist **Adlene Mellah** for reporting on a solidarity event in support of an imprisoned rapper. On December 25, 2018, an Algiers court convicted Mellah of “incitement of armed assembly” and sentenced him to one year

in prison. However, his sentence was overturned on January 23, 2019, and Mellah was released on a six-month suspended sentence. Mellah has been detained on two prior instances by Algerian authorities for his reporting on corruption.⁶³

22. Police arrested journalist **Sofiane Merakchi**, a correspondent for al-Mayadeen TV channel, in Algiers on September 22, 2019 for allegedly evading customs authorities while importing broadcasting equipment.⁶⁴
23. On October 7, 2019, authorities arrested freelance journalist **Abdelmoundji Khelladi** while covering a Hirak protest in Constantine. A few days later, a court ordered his detention pending trial on charges of using social media to disrupt national unity.⁶⁵
24. Authorities summoned freelance blogger **Adel Azeb Chikh** on October 14, 2019, to appear before the penal chamber of El-Oued Court after the director of the state employment agency filed a complaint over an article he published online. The court charged Chikh with taking pictures without authorization and ordered his detention pending trial.⁶⁶
25. On October 15, 2019, freelance journalist **Said Boudour** was charged with undermining the morale of the army, defamation, spreading false news, and insulting Algeria's regime, over his social media coverage of the Hirak protests. He was ordered to pre-trial detention by the court in Oran.⁶⁷
26. Authorities arrested journalist **Mustapha Bendjama**, the editor-in-chief of newspaper *Le Provincial*, for covering the Hirak protests in Annaba on October 23, 2019. Bendjama was previously arrested in June and September on similar grounds.⁶⁸
27. On November 26, 2019, authorities arrested and detained political cartoonist **Amine Benabdelhamid**. On December 5, 2019, a Court convicted him for insulting the president, violating territorial integrity, and disseminating publications harmful to national security, and sentenced him to three months in prison.⁶⁹
28. In 2020, authorities continued to harass prominent journalist **Khaled Drareni** for his coverage of the Hirak protests on social media. On March 29, a court ordered him to pre-trial detention.⁷⁰ Drareni was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 50,000 Algerian dinars (\$389) for "inciting an unarmed gathering and undermining national unity," on August 10, 2020.⁷¹ Ultimately, his sentence was reduced to two years.⁷²
29. On June 17, 2020, authorities summoned journalist **Ali Djamel Toubal**, a reporter for newspaper *Ennahar*, and arrested him for covering the Hirak protests on social media. Toubal was sentenced to two years in prison for insulting state institutions and distributing publications harmful to national unity.⁷³
30. Authorities arrested journalist **Abdelhakim Setouane** on October 18, 2020, at his home in Algiers after the Ministry of Communications sued Setouane for publishing an article alleging that the president of the People's National Assembly had an extramarital affair.⁷⁴ On March 29, 2021, a court convicted Setouane for defamation, blackmail, and invasion

of privacy, and sentenced him to six months in prison and fined 50,000 Algerian dinars (\$374).⁷⁵

31. In 2021, judicial police in the southern city of Tamanrasset arrested journalist **Rabah Karèche**, a correspondent for *Liberté* newspaper, after he responded to a summons for questioning on April 18. Authorities interrogated Karèche about an article he published earlier that day, convicted him of spreading false news and “undermining national security and unity”, and sentenced him to one year in prison including four suspended months.⁷⁶
32. Police officers in the northern city of Tizi Ouzou arrested *Liberté* journalist **Mohamed Mouloudj** on September 12, 2021 for allegedly spreading false news, harming national unity, and belonging to a terrorist group. Mouloudj was ordered by an Algiers court to pre-trial detention.⁷⁷
33. Throughout 2021, Algerian authorities repeatedly arrested journalists *en masse* while they covered Hirak protests. On April 23, **Said Boudour** was re-arrested in Oran.⁷⁸ On May 11, 2021, police briefly detained **at least 6 journalists**.⁷⁹
34. And on May 14, police arrested *Radio M* **Radio M Kenza Khattou**, while covering protests in Algiers, along with **15 other journalists** also covering the same protests.
35. CPJ has also documented a rise in **the judicial harassment of journalists**, especially after the Hirak protests.
36. Algerian authorities frequently employ non-punitive censorship tactics by way of questioning and judicial monitoring, to intimidate journalists. One such case includes the continued harassment of **Mustapha Bendjama**, editor-in-chief of news website *Le Provincial*, who covers the Hirak. Since 2019, he was summoned for questioning over 20 times by police in Annaba. And on June 1, 2021, he was placed on judicial control for criticizing the local governor in 2020.⁸⁰
37. Prior to his April 18, 2021 arrest, the judicial police summoned journalist **Rabah Karèche** five times, to question him about his reporting on the Tuareg protests.⁸¹
38. Journalist **Ihasne El-Kadi**, the editor-in-chief of *Radio M* and *Maghreb Emergent*, has been questioned by Algerian police and placed under judicial supervision several times for his political activism. Most recently authorities summoned El-Kadi on March 21, 2022 and accused him of belonging to a terrorist organization.⁸²
39. Since the February 2019 protests, authorities have increasingly **targeted foreign and local news outlets to limit independent coverage of the country’s political landscape**.
40. In March 2019, authorities detained Tunisian journalists, **Tarek Amara**, a Reuters reporter, and **Intissar Chelly**, a news correspondent at TRT, upon their arrival to Algeria, where they had travelled to cover the Hirak protests. The journalists were shortly expelled

and sent back to Tunisia after a government official filed a complaint about a Reuters report on the protests.⁸³

41. Similarly, in April 2019, authorities expelled journalist **Aymeric Vincenot**, the AFP bureau chief in Algiers, to Paris on April 9 for allegedly failing to renew his press accreditation. Vincenot claims that he attempted renewing it many times but authorities ignored his requests.⁸⁴
42. CPJ research also shows a rise in **targeting foreign and local news outlets under the pretence of failing to comply with Algeria’s broadcast licensing regulations.**
43. On October 2019, the French satellite operator, Eutelsat, stopped broadcasting the U.K.-based channel **Al-Maghrabia TV** in the country, for allegedly failing to obtain a broadcasting license.⁸⁵
44. The Communications Minister Ammar Belhimer, issued a statement on March 13, 2021 describing **France 24**’s coverage of protests as “biased” and in support of banned groups in Algeria, and threatened to withdraw its license and accreditation.⁸⁶ Belhimer ultimately withdrew France 24’s accreditation on June 13, 2021, in response to the channel’s reporting of the Hirak.⁸⁷
45. In a similar incident, Algeria’s communications ministry withdrew the press accreditation of Saudi news channel **Al-Arabiya**, on July 31, 2021, for allegedly spreading misinformation.⁸⁸ And on August 16, 2021, the Ministry of Communications ordered local news channel **Lina TV**, off the air, citing licensing issues.⁸⁹
46. The government crackdown on media outlets significantly expanded when journalists were prosecuted under Law No. 20-06 for allegedly disseminating “false news” and misinformation. Authorities have used the same law to **block independent news websites reporting on protests in the country.**
47. Access to independent news website **Interlignes** was re-blocked in Algeria on April 19, 2020.⁹⁰ On April 22, 2020, authorities blocked access to local news website **DZvid**, and in May 2020, they blocked local news websites **L’Avant-Garde**, and **Le Matin d’Algérie**.⁹¹
48. However, authorities have banned independent news websites even before enacting Law No. 20-06. On October 5, 2017, authorities blocked access to **Tout sur l’Algérie**, without justification.⁹² By August 2019, authorities blocked access to local news websites **Algérie Part**, **Tout sur L’Algérie Interlignes**, **Observ’Algérie**, and **Algérie Patriotique**.⁹³ **Maghreb Emergent** and its partner radio website **Radio M**—platforms frequently utilized by Hirak activists and journalists—became inaccessible on April 9, 2020.⁹⁴

Recommendations

In light of the aforementioned findings, CPJ and TIMEP call on States participating in the UPR process to make the following recommendations for Algeria to:

1. Craft legally binding regulations to ensure that Algeria's media regulations, laws, and state practices are brought in line with the national constitution and international human rights standards, including Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
2. Establish and implement an effective and independent national action plan that protects journalists' right to practice their profession, which would include *inter alia* all security sector and judicial reforms necessary to do so.
3. Amend the penal code to prohibit the prosecution of journalists under laws not related to media or journalism.
4. Increase access to information by amending Law on Information No. 12-05, to protect freedom of expression not limited to the government's broad interpretation of preserving national security, identity, and cultural values.
5. Amend Article 2 of Law No. 20-06 to clearly define what constitutes "false news."
6. Establish an impartial regulatory oversight committee to review any content censored by the government under Law No. 20-06, and allow the censored party to participate in the review process.
7. Ease registration restrictions imposed under Law No. 12-06 on Associations to allow independent media organizations to receive donations and grants from government and/or non-government institutions including foreign donors.
8. Allow foreign media outlets and journalists to work in Algeria without undue burden by granting accreditations and licenses.
9. Provide media organizations with proper notice and opportunity to be heard before a fairly elected and impartial administrative body prior to suspending a license to broadcast.
10. Create an independent oversight mechanism that allows journalists to timely challenge a government decision removing digital media content.
11. Release all imprisoned journalists, drop all charges against them, and stop arresting journalists for their work.
12. Stop government interference in media content and halt the prosecution of journalists and bloggers over their coverage of political events. Stop the prosecution of journalists and others expressing their right to freedom of expression under vaguely-defined national security and terrorism provisions.

13. Exclude journalistic work, including investigations on the conduct of public officials and government activities, from terrorism classification.
14. Amend Article 3 of Ordinance No. 21-08 to respect civil liberties and allow journalists and media outlets designated as terrorists to challenge that classification before an independent judicial body; arrests and criminal prosecution should be a matter of last resort.
15. Implement safeguards within media laws to protect press freedom and afford journalists due process rights.
16. Start a dialogue with local stakeholders and civil society to promote an open and free press where journalists may report on a full spectrum of political, social, and economic issues without fear of retribution.
17. Stop revoking, and threatening to revoke, the press accreditations of foreign news outlets covering events in the country and return all revoked accreditations to their parties.
18. Halt the expulsion of foreign journalists for their journalistic work.
19. Lift the block on all banned independent news websites in the country.

¹ Strengthen effort to bring national legislation into line with the Constitution and with its international human rights obligations, especially with regard to the right to freedom of expression (Italy).

² Implement freedom of association, expression, assembly and peaceful demonstration in accordance with the ICCPR (Kenya).

³ Bring its legislation into line with the new Constitution to ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression, association and assembly (Spain).

⁴ Take further measures to guarantee the rights to expression and belief (Australia).

⁵ Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression by reforming its legislation, notably so as not to hamper the legitimate work of NGOs and human rights defenders (Luxembourg).

⁶ Respect international standards by preventing judicial pressure on journalists and other activists (Moldova).

⁷ Amend administrative and other regulations and practices in order to implement the constitutional provisions regarding freedom of the press and clarify the law on defamation and its application so as to ensure freedom of opinion and expression (Sweden).

⁸ Complete the procedures related to the establishment of the independent regulatory authority for the broadcast media (Tunisia).

⁹ Take urgent measures to amend criminal legislation on freedom of expression and opinion online (Argentina).

¹⁰ Align domestic legislation to international standards to fully respect the ICCPR (Brazil).

¹¹ Respect the right to freedom of expression by abolishing the prison sentence for press-related offenses; in particular those defined as “insult”, “contempt” or “defamation” (Canada).

¹² Decriminalize defamation and adopt a framework to protect journalists from intimidation and harassment (Ireland).

¹³ Facilitate the issuance of visas and accreditations without restriction to foreign journalists (France).

¹⁴ Amend penal code articles that punish peaceful free expression with prison terms to conform to Algeria’s Constitution (United States).

¹⁵ Algeria did not accept recommendations issued by Netherlands and Mexico to review laws and practices that restrict the freedom of press, expression and assembly.

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- ¹⁶ Abdelkader Cheref, *'They Should All Go.' Are the Hopes of the Hirak Protest Movement Fading in Algeria?*, DAWN, (Mar. 1, 2022), <https://dawnmena.org/they-should-all-go-are-the-hopes-of-the-hirak-protest-movement-fading-in-algeria/>.
- ¹⁷ Djamila Ould Khettab, *Polls Close in Algeria Election Denounced by Protesters as 'sham'*, AL JAZEERA, (Dec. 12, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/12/polls-close-in-algeria-election-denounced-by-protesters-as-sham/>.
- ¹⁸ Arts. 52, 54, La Constitution Algérienne (2020), <https://www.joradp.dz/TRV/FConsti.pdf>.
- ¹⁹ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 34 on Article 19, CCPR/C/G/34, 2011, <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/gc34.pdf>.
- ²⁰ Middle East Eye, *Algeria : Voters Back Constitutional Changes despite Historically Low Turnout*, News, (Nov. 2, 2020), <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/algeria-constitutional-referendum-voters-turnout>.
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- ²² Art. 54, La Constitution Algérienne (2020), <https://www.joradp.dz/TRV/FConsti.pdf>.
- ²³ Code de l'information, Loi organique No. 12-05 du 2 janvier 2012, <https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/text/334842>.
- ²⁴ Art. 3, Code de l'information, Loi organique No. 12-05 du 2 janvier 2012, <https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/text/334842>.
- ²⁵ Art. 40, Loi sur les Associations, Loi No. 12-06 du 12 janvier 2012, <https://bit.ly/36xbesh>.
- ²⁶ Art. 92, Loi sur les Associations, Loi No. 12-06 du 12 janvier 2012, <https://bit.ly/36xbesh>.
- ²⁷ Art. 84, Loi sur les Associations, Loi No. 12-06 du 12 janvier 2012, <https://bit.ly/36xbesh>.
- ²⁸ Art. 39, Loi sur les Associations, Loi No. 12-06 du 12 janvier 2012, <https://bit.ly/36xbesh>.
- ²⁹ Art. 30, Loi sur les Associations, Loi No. 12-06 du 12 janvier 2012, <https://bit.ly/36xbesh>.
- ³⁰ Chapitres 2 et 3, Loi relative à l'activité audiovisuelle, Loi No. 14-04 du 24 février 2014, <https://bit.ly/3qMeff4>.
- ³¹ Art. 103, Loi relative à l'activité audiovisuelle, Loi No. 14-04 du 24 février 2014, <https://bit.ly/3qMeff4>.
- ³² Amnesty Int'l, *Halt Criminalization of Peaceful Dissent in Algeria*, MDE 28/4264/2021, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MDE2842642021ENGLISH.pdf>.
- ³³ Code Pénal (2015) <https://www.joradp.dz/trv/fpenal.pdf>.
- ³⁴ Code Pénal (2015) <https://www.joradp.dz/trv/fpenal.pdf>.
- ³⁵ Code Pénal (2015) <https://www.joradp.dz/trv/fpenal.pdf>.
- ³⁶ See, e.g., MENA Rights Group, *Algeria: Penal Code Amendments Restrict Freedoms of Expression and Association*, (July 20, 2021), <https://menarights.org/en/articles/algeria-penal-code-amendments-restrict-freedoms-expression-and-association> (“Article 144 of the Criminal Code in its previous and current versions has been used during the Bouteflika era to hinder the activities of journalists or human rights defenders such as Hassan Bouras, Mohamed Tamalt and Merzoug Touati.”).
- ³⁷ Code Pénal (2015) <https://www.joradp.dz/trv/fpenal.pdf>.
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