**URGENT ACTION**

ACTIVISTS TARGETED IN ALGERIA

**Security forces surrounded the office of a civil society organization in Algeria on 19 December. At least five activists were arrested and at least two are still being detained. There are fears that other activists are at risk of being arbitrarily arrested.**

On 19 December, the organization SOS Disparus, set up by relatives of victims of enforced disappearances in Algeria, was planning a gathering in the centre of Algiers, the capital of Algeria. This was to coincide with the visit of the French President to Algeria, in order to bring attention to their struggle for truth and justice. As members of the NGO and other human rights activists gathered at the organization’s office at around midday, mainly plain-clothed security officers prevented them from getting in, while also preventing people already inside from getting out. They also used force to confiscate photos of forcibly disappeared family members that their relatives were holding.

The security forces also arrested several activists, including **Abdiaziz Mardine** and **Tariq Manri**, two activists in the National Committee for the Defence of the Rights of the Unemployed (Comité pour la défense des droits des chômeurs, CNDDC), who are believed to be held at the local police station. There are fears that further arbitrary arrests of human rights activists may occur.

**Please write immediately in French or your own language:**

  Calling on the Algerian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all activists arrested near the SOS Disparus office in Algiers on 19 December, as they were arbitrarily arrested;

  Urging the authorities to ensure that the security forces do not prevent or disperse peaceful demonstrations, and to respect the rights to freedom of assembly and expression;

  Calling on the authorities to stop harassing relatives of people forcibly disappeared and other activists and to ensure the right to truth and justice for all victims of crimes.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 JANUARY 2013 TO:**

President

His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika

Présidence de la République

El Mouradia, Alger

Algeria

Fax: +213 21 609618 (keep trying)

Email: president@el-mouradia.dz

**Salutation: Your  Excellency/Excellence**

Minister of Justice

His Excellency Mohamed Charfi

Ministry of Justice

8 Place Bir Hakem

16030 El Biar, Alger

Algeria

Fax: +213 21 921701(keep trying)

Email: contact@mjustice.dz

**Salutation: Your Excellency/ Excellence**

**And copies to**:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Mourad Medelci

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Place mouhamed Seddik ben Yahia

El Mouradia, Alger,

Algeria

Fax: +213 21 50 4141/4242 (keep trying)

**Salutation: Your Excellency/ Excellence**