His Excellency Abdelaziz Bouteflika
Présidence de la République
El Mouradia

Alger
Algeria

Fax: +213 21 609618
Email: president@el-mouradia.dz

December 2012

Your  Excellency

**Arrest and harassment of members of the Algerian organization SOS Disparus**

I am writing to express my serious concern about the arrest by security personnel of several individuals at the office of SOS Disparus in Algiers on 19 December. My understanding is that relatives of victims of enforced disappearances were planning a peaceful assembly, to bring attention to their campaign for truth and justice in respect of enforced disappearances in the 1990s. Several individuals are reported to have been arrested, including Abdiaziz Mardine and Tariq Manri, two members of the Comité pour la défense des droits des chomeurs.

I urge you to release immediately, and without conditions, all activists arrested near the office of SOS Disparus on 19 December, since they were exercising peacefully their right to freedom of expression. I also urge you to use your authority to stop the continued harassment of relatives of the people who were subjected to enforced disappearance during the 1990s, and instead to implement policies that allow the truth about crimes committed during that decade to be investigated and published.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Mohamed Charfi
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice
8 Place Bir Hakem
16030 El Biar

Alger
Algeria

Fax: +213 21 921701
Email: contact@mjustice.dz

December 2012

Your Excellency,

**Arrest and harassment of members of the Algerian organization SOS Disparus**

I am writing to express my serious concern about the arrest by security personnel of several individuals at the office of SOS Disparus in Algiers on 19 December. My understanding is that relatives of victims of enforced disappearances were planning a peaceful assembly, to bring attention to their campaign for truth and justice in respect of enforced disappearances in the 1990s. Several individuals are reported to have been arrested, including Abdiaziz Mardine and Tariq Manri, two members of the Comité pour la défense des droits des chomeurs.

I urge you to release immediately, and without conditions, all activists arrested near the office of SOS Disparus on 19 December, since they were exercising peacefully their right to freedom of expression. I also urge you to use your authority to stop the continued harassment of relatives of the people who were subjected to enforced disappearance during the 1990s, and instead to implement policies that allow the truth about crimes committed during that decade to be investigated and published.

Yours sincerely,

His Excellency Mourad Medelci

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Place Mouhamed Seddik ben Yahia
El Mouradia

Alger
Algeria

Fax: +213 21 50 4141/4242

December 2012

Your Excellency,

**Arrest and harassment of members of the Algerian organization SOS Disparus**

I am writing to express my serious concern about the arrest by security personnel of several individuals at the office of SOS Disparus in Algiers on 19 December. My understanding is that relatives of victims of enforced disappearances were planning a peaceful assembly, to bring attention to their campaign for truth and justice in respect of enforced disappearances in the 1990s. Several individuals are reported to have been arrested, including Abdiaziz Mardine and Tariq Manri, two members of the Comité pour la défense des droits des chomeurs.

I urge you to release immediately, and without conditions, all activists arrested near the office of SOS Disparus on 19 December, since they were exercising peacefully their right to freedom of expression. I also urge you to use your authority to stop the continued harassment of relatives of the people who were subjected to enforced disappearance during the 1990s, and instead to implement policies that allow the truth about crimes committed during that decade to be investigated and published.

Yours sincerely,

HE Amar Abba

Embassy of Algeria

54 Holland Park

London

W11 3RS

December 2012-12-20

Your Excellency,

**Letters to the Algerian government concerning the arrest and harassment of members of the Algerian organization SOS Disparus**

I am enclosing copies of letters that I have sent to the Algerian government in respect of the arrest by security personnel of several individuals at the office of SOS Disparus in Algiers on 19 December. There are a number of people in the UK who remain deeply concerned about the restrictions on the freedom of expression of civil society organizations formed in Algeria by families of those who were subjected to enforced disappearance during the 1990s – and about the way in which legally enacted provisions such as the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation remain in conflict with the rights of victims of enforced disappearances and other crimes to justice, under United Nations treaties to which Algeria is a state party.

Yours sincerely,