

Geneva, 10 December 2024

**Open Letter to His Excellency Abdelmadjid Tebboune
President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
El Mouradia, Algiers**

**Subject: Call for an Official Response to the UN Special Rapporteurs' Communication,
on the Occasion of International Human Rights Day**

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, celebrated on December 10th, the Confederation of Productive Forces Trade Union (COSYFOP) addresses this open letter to express its deep concerns regarding the state of trade union and human rights in Algeria.

We commend the recent efforts of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs, whose communication dated September 12, 2024 (Ref: AL DZA 3/2024)¹, raised pressing questions about freedom of association and trade union rights in Algeria. This communication, endorsed by esteemed experts such as Ms. Mary Lawlor, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and Ms. Gina Romero, Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association, marks a significant step forward in addressing these critical issues.

We are also deeply grateful to the UN experts for highlighting the case of Mr. Raouf Mellal, the president of COSYFOP, as a poignant example of the challenges faced by trade unionists in Algeria. This recognition underscores the struggles endured by union leaders, lawyers, journalists, and human rights defenders, as described in their report.

In their communication, the Special Rapporteurs raised several legitimate and specific concerns, including:

1. Ensuring a safe and enabling environment for unions and civil society organizations to conduct their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.
2. Clarifying the legal grounds for prosecutions against human rights defenders, including Mr. Raouf Mellal.

¹ <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29319>

3. Implementing measures to prevent human rights violations and ensuring accountability for those responsible.

Your Excellency, an official and constructive response to this communication is not only a vital step toward safeguarding Algeria's international reputation but also a testament to the government's commitment to upholding human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and international treaties.

As we reflect on the importance of International Human Rights Day, we urge you to take decisive steps to address the concerns raised by the UN experts. Such actions would demonstrate Algeria's dedication to fostering an environment where trade union and human rights are respected and protected.

This open letter is not only a call for immediate action but also an invitation to reaffirm Algeria's role as a nation committed to justice, equity, and freedom for all.

We remain hopeful for a positive response and stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue to advance these essential rights.

Respectfully,

On behalf of COSYFOP,

Raouf Mellal

President of the Confederation of Productive Forces Trade Union (COSYFOP)

Attachement :

Communication from the UN Experts

