

PRESS RELEASE

Regarding the Arrest of Comrade Ali Mammeri

The Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces (COSYFOP) strongly condemns the arbitrary arrest and harassment campaign targeting **Comrade Ali Mammeri**, President of the National Union of Cultural Employees (SNFC), on the eve of March 19, the Day of Victory.

This morning, at his workplace in Oum El Bouaghi, Comrade Mammeri was forcibly apprehended by plainclothes individuals under humiliating circumstances. He was taken to his home, where an unjustified search was conducted, resulting in the seizure of his personal computer. Subsequently, he was transported to the Oum El Bouaghi police station without any clear legal basis or plausible justification.

This blatant attack on Comrade Mammeri's freedom is part of a systematic campaign of repression and intimidation targeting trade union activists who defend the rights of workers and employees. These rights, guaranteed by the Algerian Constitution and protected by international conventions ratified by Algeria, are being trampled upon. What Comrade Mammeri is enduring constitutes a serious violation of human rights and trade union freedoms, reflecting a clear intent to silence his legitimate struggle for social justice and the defense of workers' rights in the cultural sector, a sector that has long been marginalized and neglected.

The timing of this attack is no coincidence. It comes on the eve of the release of a damning report by the **Committee of Experts of the International Labour Organization (ILO)**, which denounces repeated violations of trade unionists' rights in Algeria. Furthermore, this arrest coincides with official requests from the **Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organization (ILO)** to the Algerian government, demanding clarification on several cases of violations, including the abusive transfer of Comrade Mammeri following his appointment as head of the SNFC last year. These elements confirm that his targeting is deliberate and premeditated.

In light of the gravity of the situation, COSYFOP sent an official email this evening to **His Excellency the President of the Republic**, via the official presidential email address, demanding his immediate intervention to secure Comrade Mammeri's release and to put an end to these repressive practices that tarnish Algeria's reputation and violate the fundamental rights of its citizens.

We firmly declare that these tactics will not deter us. They will not prevent us from continuing our fight for the rights of the most vulnerable workers, nor from supporting Comrade Mammeri and his colleagues in their struggle to defend the oppressed and marginalized in the cultural sector. We warn against the disastrous consequences of these repressive policies, which only exacerbate social tensions and fuel popular discontent.

We call on all trade union organizations, both national and international, as well as all human rights defenders, to mobilize and stand in solidarity with Comrade Ali Mammeri. Together, we must confront these attacks on trade union freedom and democracy.

Date: March 19, 2025

National Executive Committee

