



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
SUBMISSION FOR ALGERIA

NGO Submission

New York, March 2022

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## ABOUT HRF

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally, with a focus on closed societies. HRF unites people in the common cause of defending human rights and promoting liberal democracy. Our mission is to ensure that freedom is both preserved and promoted around the world.

We focus our work on the founding ideals of the human rights movement, those most purely represented in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

## INTRODUCTION

This submission was prepared by HRF for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Algeria. In this submission, HRF evaluates Algeria's implementation of recommendations put forth during its previous UPR, as it relates to the current human rights situations in the country, which is characterized by systematic, widespread, and gross violations of human rights, including: the curtailment of the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association and the freedom of religion; arbitrary arrests, detentions, and other violations of due process of the law; as well as gender-based violence and discrimination.

## FOLLOW-UP ON THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

1. As a member state of the United Nations (UN), Algeria has committed to protecting, promoting, and respecting the individual rights and fundamental freedoms laid out in the UDHR. The most recent UPR of Algeria by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) took place on May 8, 2017. The UNHRC considered and adopted the outcome of the country's review during its 36th Session, on July 19, 2017. A total of 229 recommendations were made to Algeria,

with the government accepting 113 recommendations, considering 65 already implemented, and noting 34.<sup>1</sup> Although Algeria accepted several recommendations which covered a range of issues, the government of Algeria has not made productive strides in implementing these recommendations.

2. Several UN Member States recommended that Algeria ratify particular international conventions and remove reservations to core human rights instruments. Despite the number of States that made these recommendations, critically, Algeria is yet to:
  - a. ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
  - b. ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Punishment or Treatment (CAT);
  - c. ratify the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances;
  - d. ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; and
  - e. withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
  
3. UN Member States expressed concern over the discrimination against women and LGBTQ+ persons, especially the criminalization of consensual same sex sexual relations and lack of effective legislation to criminalize gender-based violence.<sup>2</sup> Regarding civil and political rights, stakeholders criticized state harassment against independent media outlets, autonomous trade union members, and human rights defenders, and expressed that religious freedom of non-Muslims is not respected, in contradiction to the Articles of the Constitution.<sup>3</sup>
  
4. As a member state of the UN, Algeria has committed to protecting, promoting, and respecting the individual rights and fundamental freedoms laid out in the

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<sup>1</sup> *Algeria: Responses to Recommendations – Third Review, Session 27, UPR-INFO*, at 1 (Sept. 2017), [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/algeria/session\\_27\\_-\\_may\\_2017/response\\_to\\_recommendations\\_algeria\\_2017.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/algeria/session_27_-_may_2017/response_to_recommendations_algeria_2017.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Council, Working Grp. on the Universal Periodic Review of the Twenty-Seventh Session, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Algeria*, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/36/13 (July 19, 2017), <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/217/01/PDF/G1721701.pdf?OpenElement>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

UDHR. Algeria has also ratified the: ICCPR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CAT, CEDAW (with reservations), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and Convention on the Rights of the Child.<sup>4</sup> Regionally, Algeria has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.<sup>5</sup>

5. Algeria's Constitution formally guarantees the protection of several human rights, but despite these constitutional guarantees, in practice, individuals in Algeria are routinely subjected to human rights violations, not least by the very existence of laws that criminalize and infringe on their fundamental freedoms.

## ALGERIA'S NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

6. Algeria's Constitution<sup>6</sup> contains several key provisions relating to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens.
7. In relation to the equal protection of individuals under the law, Algeria's Constitution states:

### *Article 37*

*All citizens shall be equal before the law and shall be guaranteed the right to equal protection.*

*There shall be no pretext for discrimination on the basis of birth, race, gender, opinion, or any other personal or social condition or situation.*

8. In relation to the fundamental rights of physical integrity and liberty and women,

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<sup>4</sup> U.N. Office of the High Comm'r for Human Rights, U.N. Treaty Database, *Ratification Status for Algeria*, [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=3&Lang=EN](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=3&Lang=EN) (last visited Mar. 17, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> *Algeria's Constitution of 2020*, Constitute Project (2020), [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Algeria\\_2020.pdf?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Algeria_2020.pdf?lang=en).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

Algeria's Constitution provides:

**Article 38**

*The right to life is inherent to the human being and protected by the law, and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of it.*

**Article 39**

*The inviolability of the human being shall not be infringed.*

*Any form of physical or moral violence or violation of dignity shall be prohibited and punishable by law.*

*Torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, including human trafficking, shall be punishable by law.*

**Article 40**

*The State shall protect women from all forms of violence in all places and situations in the public, professional, and private spheres.*

*The law shall guarantee victims access to shelter and care facilities, appropriate appeal methods, and free legal assistance.*

9. In relation to the rights to freedom of religion, expression, assembly, and association, Algeria's Constitution states:

**Article 51**

*Freedom of conscience and freedom of opinion shall be inviolable.*

*Freedom of worship shall be guaranteed and exercised without discrimination in compliance with the law.*

**Article 52**

*Freedom of expression shall be guaranteed.*

*Freedom of association and public assembly shall be guaranteed upon obtaining a permit. The law shall determine the modalities for exercising these freedoms.*

**Article 53**

*The right to form associations shall be guaranteed upon obtaining a permit.*

*Associations shall not be dissolved except by virtue of a judicial decision.*

**Article 72**

*The right to belong to a trade union shall be acknowledged for all workers. The law shall guarantee the freedom to exercise this right.*

10. In relation to rule of law and fair process, Algeria's Constitution states:

**Article 41**

*Every person shall be presumed innocent until proven guilty by an ordinary jurisdiction in accordance with a fair trial that ensures all the requisite guarantees for his defense.*

**Article 43**

*No person shall be held guilty except by virtue of a law duly promulgated before the perpetration of the incriminated act.*

**Article 44**

*No person shall be prosecuted, arrested or detained except in the cases determined by law and in accordance with the forms prescribed by it.*

*Any person arrested must be informed of the reasons for his arrest.*

*Provisional detention shall be an exceptional measure for which the reasons, period and conditions of its extension are defined by law.*

*Acts and facts of arbitrary arrest shall be punishable by law.*

### **Article 45**

*Detention pending a criminal investigation shall be subject to judicial control and shall not exceed forty-eight (48) hours.*

*Any person remanded in custody shall have the right to get in touch with his family immediately.*

*Any person remanded in custody shall be informed of his right to contact his lawyer. The exercise of this right may be restricted by the judge in exceptional circumstances specified by law.*

## **POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

11. Since its independence from France in 1962, Algeria has witnessed political instability, including in the form of a brutal civil war from 1991 to 1999, and a rise of terrorism in the late 2000s.<sup>7</sup>
12. In 2019, the Hirak protest movement erupted to dismantle Algeria's corrupt and repressive political system. In April 2019, protests led to the resignation of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, after two decades in power.<sup>8</sup> In December 2019, Abdelmadjid Tebboune was elected as the new president in the highly-boycotted election with a voter turnout just under 40%.<sup>9</sup> Only one of the five candidates had not previously held a cabinet post under Bouteflika, and outside election observers were not allowed to enter the country.<sup>10</sup> In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions put an end to the weekly demonstrations of the Hirak movement, and the government intensified its repression against activists, journalists, and dissidents.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Algeria Profile - Timeline*, BBC (Apr. 9, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14118856>.

<sup>8</sup> Sally Nabil, *Algeria protesters demand end to regime after Bouteflika's fall* (Apr. 5, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47830156>.

<sup>9</sup> Merrit Kennedy, *Algeria elects A New President in Controversial Election* (Dec. 15, 2019), <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/13/787789940/algeria-elects-a-new-president-in-controversial-election>.

<sup>10</sup> Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2021: Algeria* (2021), <https://freedomhouse.org/country/algeria/freedom-world/2021>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*



13. Following the protests and unrest, in November 2020, constitutional reforms were approved in a referendum in which less than 24% of the electorate turned out to vote.<sup>12</sup> The new Constitution maintains the death penalty, lacks the freedom of religion, and makes the exercise of freedom of speech conditional on religious and cultural values.<sup>13</sup>

14. Algeria remains ruled by an authoritarian regime: political affairs continue to be dominated by a closed elite based in the military and the ruling party, the National Liberation Front; elections are distorted by fraud, and electoral processes are not transparent, despite several opposition parties in parliament; and corruption is widespread at all levels of government.<sup>14</sup>

## FREEDOMS OF EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY, AND ASSOCIATION

15. The ability of opposition members to engage in political activities is severely restricted in Algeria. The Interior Ministry must approve political parties before they can operate legally, and parties may not be formed along explicitly ethnic lines.<sup>15</sup> The Islamic Salvation Front remains banned altogether,<sup>16</sup> and officials routinely interfere with any opposition party activities and even suspend them.<sup>17</sup> Opposition leaders have also been subjected to detention and prosecution.<sup>18</sup>

16. The regime requires nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to apply for permission to be established and to operate, and the process often includes

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<sup>12</sup> *Algeria passes constitutional changes after historically low turnout*, Deutsche Welle (Nov. 2, 2020), <https://www.dw.com/en/algeria-passes-constitutional-changes-after-historically-low-turnout/a-55473708>.

<sup>13</sup> Amnesty Int'l, *Amnesty International Report 2020/21 The State of the World's Human Rights*, at 63 (2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/algeria/report-algeria/>.

<sup>14</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> Amnesty Int'l, *Algeria: Authorities target political parties in their latest clampdown* (Feb. 9, 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/algeria-authorities-target-political-parties-in-their-latest-clampdown/>.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

considerable delays and bureaucratic obstacles.<sup>19</sup> NGOs must notify the officials of staffing changes and submit detailed reports on their funding; accepting foreign funding without government approval is punishable by fines or imprisonment.<sup>20</sup> According to a Penal Code provision introduced in April 2020, members of organizations that receive foreign funding to carry out activities that the government deems detrimental to state security and the “fundamental interests of Algeria” may be sentenced to up to 14 years’ imprisonment.<sup>21</sup> This vague language may be used to limit legitimate activities of organizations opposed by the government.

17. Workers are required to obtain government approval to establish new unions, which is difficult in practice.<sup>22</sup> The Labor Code allows only Algerian-born individuals or those who have held Algerian nationality for at least 10 years to create trade union organizations.<sup>23</sup> Independent unions are repeatedly harassed by the officials.<sup>24</sup> For example, in 2019, Kaddour Chouicha, president of the independent higher education workers’ union SESS and vice president of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, was arrested and sentenced to one year of imprisonment for participating in peaceful protests.<sup>25</sup> He was conditionally released in January 2020, after having been detained for 28 days.<sup>26</sup>

18. In 2020, after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, a ban on demonstrations remained in place, and officials arrested hundreds of activists for their participation in the pro-democracy protests.<sup>27</sup>

## ARBITRARY ARREST, DETENTIONS, AND VIOLATIONS OF DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW

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<sup>19</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *supra* note 13, at 63.

<sup>22</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>23</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *supra* note 13, at 65.

<sup>24</sup> *Repression of independent trade unions continues in Algeria*, IndustriALL Global Union (Sept. 30, 2021), <https://www.industriall-union.org/repression-of-independent-trade-unions-continues-in-algeria>.

<sup>25</sup> *Kaddour Chouicha acquitted*, Frontline Defenders, <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/imprisonment-kaddour-chouicha> (last visited Mar. 17, 2022).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

19. Security forces in Algeria repeatedly conduct warrantless searches and engage in arbitrary arrests and detentions.<sup>28</sup> Officials use vaguely worded provisions such as “inciting an unarmed gathering” and “harming national security” to arrest and detain individuals considered to be disturbing public order or criticizing the government.<sup>29</sup> In June 2021, President Tebboune amended the Penal Code by presidential decree, expanding the already-broad definition of “terrorism” in Article 87 to include “harm the integrity of national territory or to incite doing so, by any means.”<sup>30</sup> This is used to prosecute activists, journalists, and human rights defenders. As of February 2022, the number of political prisoners was estimated to be 330.<sup>31</sup>
20. In April 2021, police arrested the head of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights Kaddour Chouicha and journalists and activists Jamila Loukil (Chouicha’s wife) and Said Boudour in the city of Oran.<sup>32</sup> They were later charged with belonging to terrorist groups and plotting against the authority of the state.<sup>33</sup> They face up to 20 years in prison.<sup>34</sup>
21. In July 2021, prominent Hirak activist Chems Eddine Laalami was sentenced to two years in prison for “hate speech,” “contempt for institutions,” “distribution of false news,” and “inciting an unarmed gathering.”<sup>35</sup>
22. In August 2021, Kamira Nait Sid, co-president of the World Amazigh Congress — an international NGO that defends the rights of the ethnic Amazigh people —

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<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *Halt Criminalization of Peaceful Dissent in Algeria*, AI MDE 28/4264/2021, at 5–6 (June 24, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MDE2842642021ENGLISH.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Algeria: 3 Years On, Repression on Protests Tightens* (Feb. 21, 2022), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/21/algeria-3-years-repression-protest-tightens>.

<sup>31</sup> Peter Rossman, *Algeria’s political prisoners go on hunger strike amid escalating repression*, Open Democracy (Feb. 11, 2022, 7:27 AM), <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/algerias-political-prisoners-go-on-hunger-strike-amid-escalating-repression/>.

<sup>32</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2022: Algeria* (2022), <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/algeria>.

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> *Algeria: Journalists Said Boudour and Jamila Loukil Transferred to Anti-Terrorist Unit*, Majalat (Sept. 17, 2021), <https://www.majalat.org/news/algeria-journalists-said-boudour-and-jamila-loukil-transferred-anti-terrorism-unit>.

<sup>35</sup> *Algeria: Chems Eddine Laalami sentenced to two years in prison*, Majalat (July 14, 2021), <https://www.majalat.org/news/algeria-chems-eddine-laalami-sentenced-two-years-prison>.

was abducted from her home and held incommunicado for three days.<sup>36</sup> She was charged with “undermining national unity and state security” and “belonging to a terrorist organization” under Article 87 of the Penal Code, which holds a penalty ranging from 10 years in prison to life imprisonment and the death penalty.<sup>37</sup> Currently, she remains detained, awaiting trial.<sup>38</sup> Kamira’s sister, Zina Nait Sid, was also arrested by security forces without a warrant.<sup>39</sup>

23. In August 2021, Slimane Bouhafs, an Amazigh activist and Christian convert, went missing from his home in Tunis.<sup>40</sup> His whereabouts remained unknown for six days until he appeared in court in Algiers. According to his relative, unidentified men had carried a seemingly unconscious Bouhafs out of a building before he went missing.<sup>41</sup> Bouhafs was charged with “endangering the safety of the state,” a “call to public disturbance,” and “terrorism.”<sup>42</sup> He remains detained, awaiting trial. Bouhafs had previously spent two years in prison, from 2016-2018, for “offending the prophet of Islam,” and was registered as a refugee with the UN in Tunisia in 2020.<sup>43</sup>

24. In January 2022, Fethi Gares, opposition leader and prominent Hirak protest movement figure, was sentenced to two years in prison.<sup>44</sup> He was convicted for an “attack on the person of the President,” “dissemination of publications that may harm the national interest,” and “dissemination of information which could

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<sup>36</sup> *Unlawful Arrest and Detention of Woman Human Rights Defender Kamira Nait Sid*, Front Line Defenders, <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/unlawful-arrest-and-detention-woman-human-rights-defender-kamira-nait-sid> (last visited Mar. 8, 2022); *Indigenous woman human rights defender arrested and detained in Algeria*, Int’l Work Grp. for Indigenous Affairs (Nov. 16, 2021), <https://www.iwgia.org/en/algeria/4566-indigenous-woman-human-rights-defender-arrested-and-detained-in-algeria.html>.

<sup>37</sup> Front Line Defenders, *supra* note 36.

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*

<sup>39</sup> Int’l Work Grp. for Indigenous Affairs, *supra* note 36. <https://www.iwgia.org/en/algeria/4566-indigenous-woman-human-rights-defender-arrested-and-detained-in-algeria.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *Algerian Refugee Deported From Tunisia Now Imprisoned in Algeria* (Sept. 3, 2021), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/09/algerian-refugee-deported-from-tunisia-now-imprisoned-in-algeria/>; Geraldine Boechat, *Tunisia: Algerian opposition figure Slimane Bouhafs handed over to Algeria*, Medafrica Times (Sept. 1, 2021), <https://medafricatimes.com/24276-tunisia-algerian-opposition-figure-slimane-bouhafs-handed-over-to-algeria.html>.

<sup>41</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *supra* note 40.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.*

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*

<sup>44</sup> Human Rights Watch, *supra* note 30; *Algérie: trois ans après, que reste-t-il du Hirak?*, Radio France Internationale (Feb. 21, 2022), <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20220221-alg%C3%A9rie-trois-ans-apr%C3%A8s-que-reste-t-il-du-hirak>.

undermine public order,” among other charges.<sup>45</sup>

## FREEDOM OF RELIGION

25. The Algerian Constitution of 2020 removed language from the previous constitution guaranteeing freedom of conscience<sup>46</sup> and guarantees the freedom of worship only if exercised in accordance with the law.<sup>47</sup>
26. Religious communities in Algeria may only gather to worship at state-approved locations.<sup>48</sup> Religious minorities, such as Christians and non-Sunni Muslims, are frequently persecuted.<sup>49</sup> Officials have cracked down on the Ahmadi minority, claiming that its members denigrate Islam, threaten national security, and violate laws on associations.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, according to the Protestant Church of Algeria, officials rarely approve the Church’s request for licensing, putting its churches at risk of closure.<sup>51</sup>
27. Prosecutions for blasphemy and nonbelief are sometimes used against political dissidents.<sup>52</sup> For example, in October 2020, prominent Hirak activist Yacine Mebarki was sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment and a fine of 10 million Dinar (approximately 77,000 USD) for offenses including “supporting atheism” and “offending Islam,” after police found a slightly damaged Quran in his house.<sup>53</sup> In April 2021, religion scholar Saïd Djabelkhir was sentenced to three years in prison for “offending the Prophet of Islam” and “denigrating the dogma or

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<sup>45</sup> Human Rights Watch, *supra* note 30.

<sup>46</sup> Eric Goldstein, *The Right That Vanished from Algeria’s Constitution*, Human Rights Watch (Feb. 15, 2021, 12:00 AM EST), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/15/right-vanished-algerias-constitution>.

<sup>47</sup> *Algeria’s Constitution of 2020*, *supra* note 5, Art. 51(2), (2020), [https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Algeria\\_2020.pdf?lang=en](https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Algeria_2020.pdf?lang=en).

<sup>48</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>49</sup> *Id.*

<sup>50</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Algeria: Crackdown on Protestant Faith* (Oct. 24, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/24/algeria-crackdown-protestant-faith>.

<sup>51</sup> Amnesty Int’l, *supra* note 13, at 64.

<sup>52</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>53</sup> *Algeria: Free Amazigh and Hirak activist in prison for exercising his freedom of opinion*, Civicus (Nov. 11, 2020), <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/news/4736-algeria-free-amazigh-and-hirak-activist-in-prison-for-exercising-his-freedom-of-opinion>.

precepts of Islam.”<sup>54</sup>

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

28. Although the Constitution provides for gender equality, women continue to face both legal and societal discrimination in Algeria. Many women are paid less than their male counterparts in similar positions, few women hold company leadership positions, and sexual harassment is common.<sup>55</sup>
29. Women do not hold equal rights in marriage and divorce under the family code, which is based in Islamic law.<sup>56</sup> For example, women must obtain a male guardian’s permission to marry, and the father is the legal guardian of his children.<sup>57</sup> Women must also apply to courts for a divorce on specified grounds, while men are allowed unilateral divorce without explanation.<sup>58</sup>
30. Domestic violence against women is common, and the law does not sufficiently protect victims.<sup>59</sup> According to a website tracking femicides in Algeria, dozens of women are killed yearly: 75 in 2019, 54 in 2020, and 55 in 2021.<sup>60</sup> Furthermore, no law addresses spousal rape.<sup>61</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

HRF calls on Algeria’s government to:

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<sup>54</sup> *Freedom of expression in Algeria: the case of Islamologist Said Djabelkhir*, European Ctr. for Law & Justice, <https://eclj.org/religious-freedom/osce/liberte-dexpression-en-algerie-laffaire-de-lislamologue-said-djabelkhir-> (last visited Mar. 17, 2022).

<sup>55</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>56</sup> *5 things to know about women’s rights in Algeria*, Borgen Project (Dec. 8, 2020), <https://borgenproject.org/five-facts-about-womens-rights-in-algeria/>.

<sup>57</sup> Freedom House, *supra* note 10.

<sup>58</sup> Human Rights Watch, *supra* note 32.

<sup>59</sup> *Algeria: war against women*, Middle East Institute (Feb. 8, 2021), <https://www.mei.edu/publications/algeria-war-against-women>.

<sup>60</sup> Middle East Institute, *supra* note 59; *Liste Féminicides 2021*, Féminicides Algerie, <https://femicides-dz.com/femicides/femicides-2021/liste-des-femicides-2021/> (last visited Mar. 17, 2022).

<sup>61</sup> Middle East Institute, *supra* note 59.

- a) Protect the rights of all individuals to freedom of peaceful assembly, association, and expression;
- b) Promote, without reserve, the rights to freedom of expression and association, and ensure that activists, journalists, and opposition groups can operate peacefully within Algeria without fear of retribution in the form of censorship, harassment, arbitrary arrest, and arbitrary detention, among others;
- c) Ensure that religious minorities can practice their religion within Algeria without fear of retribution;
- d) Decriminalize consensual same-sex activity and refrain from persecuting and harassing sexual and gender minorities;
- e) Strengthen its commitment to gender equality, including by:
  - i) withdrawing all its reservations to CEDAW;
  - ii) equalizing rights between both men and women in family law;
  - iii) criminalizing spousal rape; and
  - iv) protecting women from gender-based violence and femicide;
- f) Cooperate with regional and international human rights mechanisms by allowing the special procedure mandate holders to carry out an independent assessment of the human rights situation in Algeria and advise the government; and
- g) Engage in constructive national dialogue with religious, political, and social groups — particularly opposition groups — to generate a sustainable solution to ensuring peace and protection of human rights within the country.