



22 September 2017
Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth session, 11-29 September 2017**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

ALGERIA

Mr. President,

Amnesty international is deeply concerned by the continued threats and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and peaceful protesters. The authorities have used a range of repressive laws to quell dissent and restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. While Amnesty International welcomes Algeria's acceptance of recommendations to bring its legal provision on freedom of association and assembly fully into line with international human rights standards,¹ we urge Algeria to publicly commit to a time-frame within which this will be accomplished. It is regrettable that Algeria rejected recommendations to abolish articles in the Penal Code which criminalize defamation with prison-terms.²

The authorities continue to deny long-standing requests to visit Algeria by the UN Special Procedures or to grant visas to international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International. Our organization is deeply concerned by Algeria's rejection of a recommendation to facilitate the issuance of visas and accreditations without restriction to representatives of international organizations defending human rights and to foreign journalists.³ We also regret Algeria's refusal to consider extending a standing invitation to the UN Special Procedures.⁴

¹ A/HRC/36/13, recommendation 129.115. (Netherlands), 129.114. (France), 129.107. (Brazil), 129.108. (Mexico)

² A/HRC/36/13, recommendation 129.97. (Canada), 129.103. (United States of America)

³ A/HRC/36/13, recommendation 129.101. (France)

⁴ A/HRC/36/13, recommendations 129.30 (Uruguay, Belgium, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

In June 2017, Amnesty International raised concerns about a wave of repression against the religious minority Ahmadi, documenting the prosecution of 280 of its members in relation to their religious beliefs or practice.⁵ We regret Algeria's lack of explicit commitment to guarantee the Ahmadi community freedom to practice their religion.⁶

In August 2017, the authorities resumed mass expulsions of Sub-Saharan migrants and refugees across the border into Niger. We welcome Algeria's commitment to adopt national legislation implementing the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Optional Protocol⁷ and to grant protection to refugees determined as such by UNHCR.⁸

We are concerned that Algeria's Family Code continues to discriminate against women in relation to marriage, divorce, child custody and guardianship, and inheritance. We call on Algeria's to reform the Family Code in line with recommendations received,⁹ and to repeal Article 339 of the Penal Code criminalizing same-sex sexual relations.¹⁰

Thank you, Mr. President,

⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/06/algeria-wave-of-arrests-and-prosecutions-of-hundreds-of-ahmadis/>

⁶ A/HRC/36/13, recommendation 129.87. (Canada), 129.89. (United States of America)

⁷ A/HRC/36/13, recommendations 129.223. (Belgium), 129.224. (Germany), 129.225. (Mexico)

⁸ A/HRC/36/13, recommendations 129.222 (Sweden), 129.226. (Portugal)

⁹ A/HRC/36/13, recommendations 129.131 (Spain), 129.132 (Germany)

¹⁰ A/HRC/36/13, recommendations 129.60 (Canada), 129.61 (Sweden)