

10 October 2019

## Algeria: Continued criminalisation of human rights defenders in Algeria

**Said Boudour** is facing several charges including “defamation”, “contributing to the weakening of the morale of the army”, and “insulting the regime”. He was conditionally released on 7 October 2019, after being detained by the Algerian authorities since 6 October 2019 in Oran.

[Said Boudour](#) is a journalist, human rights defender and member of the Algerian League for Human Rights. As well as organising peaceful demonstrations, he works to defend the rights of migrants and political prisoners.

In late September 2019, following his participation in peaceful, pro-democracy demonstrations in the city of Oran, an arrest warrant was issued for Said Boudour. On 6 October 2019, he turned himself in to the Department of National Security in Oran, where he was detained for almost 24 hours, interrogated, and denied access to his lawyer. Said Boudour is facing several charges, among them, “defamation and the spread of fake news”, “contributing to the weakening of the morale of the Algerian National Armed Forces”, and “insulting the Regime of Algeria”.

For several years Said Boudour has suffered frequent harassment from the Algerian authorities for his coverage of human rights issues in the country. He was detained for such work in June 2016, in June 2018, and on December 2018.

Other human rights defenders have also been subject to harassment from the Algerian state. Human rights defenders [Hamid Goura](#) and **Slimane Hamitouche** were separately detained and interrogated on 8 October 2019, due to their participation in peaceful protests. Hamitouche was later released but given a travel ban and placed on probation which requires him to report to the police station every 15 days. Two days later, on 10 October 2019, human rights defender **Abdelouahab Fersaoui**, was detained by police officers in plain clothes, and continues to be held in an undisclosed location.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the crackdown against human rights defenders in Algeria. The arrests and charges against Said Boudour and other human rights defenders are believed to be solely motivated by their peaceful and legitimate work defending human rights in Algeria.

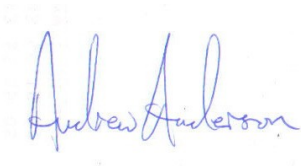
### Front Line Defenders urges the Algerian Authorities to:

1. Immediately drop all charges against Said Boudour and unconditionally release Abdelouahab Fersaoui as Front Line Defenders believes that they are being targeted solely as a result of their legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
2. Lift the travel ban and probation on Slimane Hamitouche as it is believed that these measures have been taken against him solely on account of his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights;
3. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Algeria and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 5: *“For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels: (a) To meet or assemble peacefully”*.

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson  
Executive Director