



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Vice-President of the European Commission

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

Brussels, 23 February 2021

Subject: *Concerns regarding the continued repression of peaceful supporters of the Algerian Hirak*

Dear High Representative Borrell,

Several reports from international and Algerian NGOs point to a continued repression of peaceful supporters of the Algerian Hirak. These reports uncovered numerous cases of torture and abuse against prisoners of conscience. The revelations have sparked widespread indignation among Algerian citizens.

The recent example of a young student protester and Hirak activist, Walid Nekkiche, who was the victim of brutal assault by state security services during his pre-trial detention, is sad proof that the chain of appalling human rights violations in Algeria continues.

To break that chain, it is imperative that all such crimes are followed up by an independent investigation to determine responsibility - as it was demanded by the recent resolution of the European Parliament "*on the deteriorating situation of human rights in Algeria (...)*" dated November 26, 2020. Indeed, the European Commission should do everything in its power to ensure that the demands in that resolution are fully met.

Taking into account the EU's firm commitment to the respect of international law everywhere; in particular, as regards the basic civic freedoms, which are also the core values of the Union itself, I am kindly asking you, as the High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy, to reply to the following questions:

1. What measures have the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) taken to follow up the provisions of the EP's aforementioned resolution with the Algerian authorities, since its adoption at the end of last year?
2. What further steps do the EC and the EEAS envisage taking, in order to convince the Algerian military and security authorities to end all human rights violations, and to respect their international obligations, as well as the values, which form the basis for the partnership between Algeria and the European Union?

Yours sincerely,

Attila Ara-Kovács, MEP