

# JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
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To all MEPs signatory to the letter concerning the continued repression of peaceful supporters of the Algerian Hirak

Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2021 on the situation in Algeria.

The European Union, and the European External Action Service in particular, is following closely the developments in Algeria and in particular the human rights situation, and pays particular attention to some of the individual cases, including the case of Walid Nekkiche. Respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights is enshrined in the Algerian Constitution and is also an essential element of EU-Algeria relations, as reflected in the Association Agreement and reinforced by the Partnership Priorities. The EU is committed to ensuring its implementation.

We regularly raise the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms with the Algerian authorities, in Algiers through the EU Delegation and at Brussels Headquarters. We particularly insist on the respect of international standards regarding the conditions of detention, ratified by Algeria, and have often found opportunities to pass substantial messages, at different levels. Within the framework of our structured dialogue with Algeria, governed by the Association Agreement, we emphasize the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, taking due consideration when useful, of individual cases brought to our attention. At the sub-committee on Political Dialogue, Security and Human Rights on 19 October 2020, we had a frank and open exchange on human rights, in particular on the conditions of detentions, treatment of detainees and the need to liberate political prisoners. At the EU-Algeria Association Council on 7 December 2020, I personally had the opportunity to discuss human rights and fundamental freedoms at political level with the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sabri Boukadoum.

I publicly stressed the importance of freedom of expression and pluralism in the democratic process following the presidential pardon and release of political prisoners on 18-19 February 2021.

The EU is determined to enhance dialogue with Algeria, based on trust and constructive criticism, and keeps encouraging the Algerian partners to establish an inclusive dialogue with all the representatives of the society.

In parallel, the EU-Algeria Joint Parliamentary Commission, established in June 2018, also provides additional good opportunities for further discussions and privileged contacts on the above matters.

I would like to express my appreciation for the continued attention and engagement of the Members of Parliament to the respect of human rights in Algeria. I personally and my services remain ready to continue working closely with the European Parliament on these important matters.

Yours faithfully,



Josep Borrell Fontelles