

APPEAL

# Environment alert criminalized in Algeria - Solidarity with Kamel Aïssat

Saturday 19 August 2023, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#), [Petition / Sign-on Letter](#) (Date first published: 12 August 2023).

Algeria, like every other country in the world, is being seriously affected by climate change, as well as by the pollution and fires affecting the countries of the Mediterranean. The ecological challenge is becoming ever more essential, especially as globalized neoliberalism is driving the intensive exploitation of natural and mineral resources, degrading the environment, disrupting biodiversity and displacing local populations against a backdrop of poverty and poor health.

Kamel Aïssat, a university lecturer in Algeria, is leading the fight “for our environment”. An Australian company [[1](#)] is operating a zinc and lead mine in Bejaia, which poses a clear danger to the health of the population but also generates extra profits for the company and rents for Algerian executives. The project threatens to displace entire villages, damage the region’s flora and fauna, and pollute groundwater and a protected wetland with international label Ramsar.

This academic has been placed under judicial supervision and threatened with arrest, and banned from leaving the country, who called on scientific and associative experts, doing no more than warn of the serious risks of such a project. Before him, other “whistleblowers” such as Moad Gasmi, an anti-shale gas activist in southern Algeria, and Noureddine Tounsi, a “whistleblower” who exposed corruption in the oil industry, were heavily convicted. We denounce this repression, which criminalizes environmental whistleblowing, and demand justice for these prisoners of conscience.

Defending the environment is not a crime. This is why Moad Gasmi and Noureddine Tounsi must be released, all legal proceedings against Kamel Aïssat must be dropped and his freedom of movement must be restored.

*First signatures:*

Fouad Abdelmoumni, human rights defender  
Zoheir Aberkane, freelance journalist  
Gilbert Achcar, academic  
Hakim Addad, political activist  
Lahouari Addi, sociologist  
Abderezak Adel, university lecturer, trade union activist  
Nadia Agsous, journalist and writer  
Abderrahim Afarki, human rights activist  
Mohammed Akkad, environmental activist  
Cengiz Aktar, political scientist  
Zineb Ali-Benali, academic  
Ayad Ahram, human rights activist  
Ali Aït Djoudi, President of Riposte internationale

Sanhadja Akrouf, feminist and community activist  
Hala Alabdalla, filmmaker  
Françoise Alamartine, EELV transnational  
Tewfik Allal, community activist from Algerian emigration in France  
Faïza Ameer, IT consultant  
Youcef Ammar-Khodja, political activist, human rights defender  
Soussou Ammour, feminist and political activist  
Ghanima Ammour, poet  
Salah Amrane, publisher  
Mick Armstrong, National Executive Socialist Alternative (Australia)  
Jacob Andrewatha, Socialist Alliance National Co-convenor  
Boualem Azahoum, community activist  
Nordine Azzouz, journalist  
Najib Bachiri, Berkane Man and Environment Association  
Yamina Baïr, journalist  
Etienne Balibar, philosopher  
Ludivine Bantigny, historian  
Malika Baraka, physician  
Brigitte Bardet-Allal, retired literature teacher  
Mohammed Bazza, community leader  
Akram Belkaïd, journalist, writer  
Nora Belmokhtar, community activist  
Fatima Benagdi, citizen  
Amara Benamara, Algeria Democracy and PEPS  
Malika Benarab Attou, former EELV MEP, association president  
Bachir Ben Barka, retired academic  
Esther Benbassa, ecologist senator from Paris  
Madjid Benchikh, former Dean of the Faculty of Law, Algiers  
Raymond Benhaïm, economist, consultant  
Najy Benhassine, economist  
Nourredine Benissad, lawyer, human rights activist  
Ghali Abdelmajid Beniza, anthropologist, CRIA  
Monia Ben Jémia, academic  
Saïd Benmerad, teacher, expert  
Lynda Bennabi, citizen  
Ali Bensaad, university professor  
Aziz Bensadek, community activist  
Fethi Benslama, psychoanalyst  
Hayat Berrada Boust, editor of "Maroc Réalités"  
Mohamed Berrahou, Association of Friends of the Environment (Oujda)  
Olivier Besancenot, internationalist activist  
Sophie Bessis, historian  
Sandra Bloodworth, National Executive Socialist Alternative (Australia)  
Manuel Bompert, NUPES MP  
Mostefa Bouchachi, lawyer  
Abderrahmane Bouchène, publisher  
Hocine Boukella, artist  
Ramdane Boukerbe, doctor  
Mohand Boukerouis, consultant  
Alima Boumediene, lawyer, EELV activist  
Mouloud Boumghar, legal scholar

Omar Bouraba, political activist  
Hassina Bourzah, educator  
Souad Brahma, lawyer at the Rabat bar, women's rights and human rights activist  
Rony Brauman, doctor, teacher  
Anne Brenac  
Dimitrije Birač, political activist, Croatia  
Léonard Brice, ecosocialist activist  
Pierre Brunisso, lawyer at the Paris bar  
Michel Capron, professor emeritus  
Nadia Chaabane, feminist and human rights activist, former member of the Tunisian Constituent Assembly  
Mohamed Chaouih, community activist (Association des Marocains en France)  
Julie Chapon, geographer and trade unionist  
Patricia Charton, EELV deputy mayor  
Mina Cheballah, ecofeminist activist with Grana Nostra and the Tharwa n'Fadhma n'Soumer association  
Patrick Chemla, psychoanalyst  
Massensen Cherbi, lawyer, law lecturer  
Mouhieddine Cherbib, human rights defender  
Khadija Chérif, feminist activist  
Alice Cherki, psychoanalyst  
Huguette Chomski Magnis, General Secretary of Mouvement pour la paix et contre le terrorisme (Movement for Peace and Against Terrorism)  
Kaddour Chouicha, trade unionist and human rights activist  
Patrice Coulon, human rights activist  
Ahmed Dahmani, retired academic  
Michèle Decaster, anti-colonial activist  
Monique Dental, leader of the "Ruptures" feminist network  
Karima Dirèche, historian  
Saïd Djafer, journalist  
Nacer Djabi, sociologist  
Habiba Djahnine, filmmaker  
Lyès Djebaïli, economic engineer  
Nadir Djermoune, academic architect-urban planner  
Bernard Dréano, Center for International Solidarity Studies and Initiatives (CEDETIM)  
Alma Dufour, environmental activist, NUPES MP  
Penelope Duggan, International Viewpoint  
Simon Duteil, co-secretary of Union syndicale Solidaires  
Nassera Dutour, President, Collectif des familles de disparus en Algérie (CFDA)  
Dominique Eddé, writer  
Amal El Bakri, Rapad Morocco  
Ahmed El Haij, former president of the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH)  
Nacer El Idrissi, President, Association des travailleurs maghrébins de France (ATMF)  
Tin Hinane El Kadi, academic  
Suzanne El Kenz, writer, teacher  
Driss El Korchi, community activist  
Patrick Farbiaz, Pour une écologie populaire et sociale (PEPS) (Social and popular ecology)  
Luc Farez, association director  
Saïd Fawzi, General Secretary, Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Morocco (ASDHOM)  
Wahid Ferchichi, academic  
Abdelouhab Fersaoui, political activist

Diane Fieldes, National Executive Socialist Alternative (Australia)  
Michel Filippi, philosopher  
Jacques Fontaine, geographer, internationalist activist  
Fouad Hassam, human rights defender (LADDH)  
Yosra Frawes, feminist  
Souad Frikech, human rights and community activist  
Fred Fuentes, Editor, Links International Journal of Socialist  
Fanny Gallot, historian, feminist and trade union activist  
François Garçaut, citizen of the world  
Michelle Garcia, feminist and internationalist activist  
Franck Gaudichaud, history professor  
François Gèze, publisher  
Nacira Guénif, university professor  
Ali Guenoun, historian  
Hocine Guernane  
Murielle Guibert, co-secretary of Union syndicale Solidaires  
Ratiba Hadj-Moussa, sociology professor  
Hamza Hamouchene, researcher and activist  
Zaki Hannache, human rights defender  
Mohammed Harbi, historian  
Mhamed Hassani, writer  
Pascale Hassoune, psychoanalyst  
Ghazi Hidouci, economist, former minister  
Pip Hinman, journalist, co-editor at "Green Left  
Aïcha Jabrane, community activist  
Ramin Jahanbegloo, philosopher  
Mohamed Jaïte, lawyer at the Paris Bar  
Kamel Jendoubi, former minister, human rights activist  
Eva Joly, lawyer, former member of the European Parliament  
Manu Kaci  
Smaïl Kadi, specialist in business application design  
Aïssa Kadri, sociologist  
Monique Kaiser, anti-globalization activist  
Myriam Kendsi, painter  
Nabila Keramane, EELV environmental activist  
Catherine Kestelyn  
Tahar Khalfoune, academic  
Chérifa Kheddar, community activist  
Aurore Koechlin, sociologist, feminist activist  
Aziz Krichen, sociologist  
Abdellatif Laâbi, poet  
Souad Labbize, poet  
Lydia Labertrandie, EELV town councillor  
Thierry Labica, academic  
Kamal Lahbib, human rights defender  
Eveline Lahlou, retired teacher  
Annie Lahmer, regional ecologist councillor  
Ilyas Lahouazi, political and human rights activist  
Latifa Lakhdar, university lecturer  
Jaffar Lakhdari, consultant  
Samir Larabi , doctoral student in sociology

Antoine Larache, editor of "Inprecor  
Abdeslam Lassel, Secretary General, Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH)  
Salaheddine Lemaïzi, journalist  
Philippe Leroyer  
Kevin Le Tétour, co-secretary of the Sud Éducation federation  
Patrice Loraux, philosopher  
Djamila Loukil, photographer  
Mohamed Lounas, economist, CGT confederal advisor  
Michael Löwy, member of the Global Ecosocialist Network  
Djemaa Maazouzi, literature professor  
Insaf Machta, academic  
Lotfi Madani, citizen in solidarity  
Ahmed Mahiou, former Dean of the Faculty of Law, Algiers  
Mustapha Majdi, community activist  
Ziad Majed, university professor  
Jan Malewski, editor of "Inprecor  
Noël Mamère, former mayor of Bègles, former EELV member of parliament  
Gilles Manceron, historian  
Marc Mangenot, economist  
Lila Mansouri, President of the Paris-Riposte internationale office  
Gustave Massiah, economist  
Henri Mermé, coordinator of Ensemble!'s international commission  
Umit Metin, coordinator of the Turkish Citizens' Assembly (ACORT)  
Aziz Mkichri, human rights activist  
Khadija Mohsen-Finan, political scientist  
Kamel Moktefi, toxicologist  
Marie José Mondzain, philosopher  
Maati Monjib, historian, banned from leaving France  
Aldjia Moulai, feminist anti-racist activist (Association Culture et solidarité)  
Rabah Moulla, political activist Alternatv  
Kamal Naït Zerad, academic  
Youssef Thierno Niane, lawyer  
Houssa Ouachrine, ADM Sala Al-Jadida  
Abdelkader Ouchiha, nurse  
Idir Ounnoughene, human rights activist  
Lucien Perpette, trade unionist (retired), Belgium-Slovenia  
Simon Picou, CGT activist, Ministry of Labor  
Raymonde Poncet-Ramade, EELV senator  
Christine Poupin, ecosocialist activist, NPA spokeswoman  
Susan Price, Co-editor, Green Left  
Patrick Radjef, entrepreneur  
Aïssa Rahmoune, Vice-President, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
Youcef Rezzoug, journalist  
Natalia Ribas Mateos, sociologist  
Laurent Ripart, historian  
Messaoud Romdhani, human rights activist  
Pierre Rousset, community activist and internationalist  
Khadija Ryadi, President of the Coordination maghrébine des organisations des droits de l'Homme (COMDH), winner of the United Nations Prize for Human Rights  
Lana Sadeq, feminist and community activist (Forum Citoyenneté Palestine)  
Djaballah Saighi, political activist

Saïd Salhi, human rights defender, vice-president of the Ligue algérienne de défense des droits de l'Homme (disbanded)  
Marie-Claude Saliceti  
Catherine Samary, feminist and internationalist activist  
Si Ahmed Sidi-Menad, climatologist  
Nedjib Sidi-Moussa, author and teacher  
Catherine Simon, journalist and writer  
Robert Simon, non-violent activist and environmentalist (EELV)  
Michèle Sinapi, retired teacher  
Tahar Si Srir, political activist (Collectif Libérons l'Algérie)  
Francis Sitel, co-director of "ContreTemps" magazine  
Saadi Sough, former vice-president of the Talsa association (Béjaïa)  
Saïd Sougty, President of the Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Morocco  
Benali Soussou, Association of Friends of the Sidi Maafa Forest (Oujda)  
Joëlle Stolz, journalist and writer  
Frédéric Supiot, consular delegate for the French in Belgium  
Claude Szatan, community activist, CEDETIM  
Marouane Tabti, doctor  
Aurélien Taché, EELV MP  
Taoufiq Tahani, academic  
Hakim Taïbi, journalist, teacher  
Tahar Takesrit, communications entrepreneur  
Daniel Tanuro, ecosocialist author  
Nadia Tazi, philosopher  
Yassine Temlali, historian  
Adel Thabet, political activist (Tunisian Workers' Party)  
Eric Toussaint, spokesman for CADTM international  
Josette Trat, academic and trade unionist  
Aurélien Trouvé, anti-globalization activist, NUPES MP  
Miguel Urban, MEP, anti-capitalist activist  
Philippe Vachette  
Charlotte Vanbesien, FERC CGT secretary  
Christian Varin, internationalist activist and trade unionist  
Sam Wainwright, Socialist Alliance National Co-convener  
Samir Yahiaoui, political analyst  
Mourad Yefsah, senior information systems consultant  
Salem Ziouche, entrepreneur  
Abdallah Zniber, immigrant community activist in France

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## Footnotes

[1] Terramin <https://www.terramin.com.au/tala-hamza-zinc-1>