

13 February 2018

## **Algeria: Abdullah Benaoum facing charges for human rights work**

On 14 February 2018, human rights defender **Abdullah Benaoum** will face trial on charges of “participating in a prohibited gathering,” “insulting a public institution,” “publication of materials with intent against national interests”, “insulting the president of the Republic”, “publication of personal information” in relation to publications on military commanders, and violating article 46 of order 01/06 on the Charter of Peace and Reconciliation which prohibits publications on the 1990 Algerian civil war and carries a minimum sentence of three years and a maximum sentence of five years.

[Abdullah Benaoum](#) is a human rights defender and social media activist who has written on labor rights, prisoners’ rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities in Algeria. The human rights defender has attended demonstrations to monitor and document via social media, violations to the freedoms of assembly and association caused by the excessive use of police force.

The human rights defender is regularly subjected to judicial harassment in retaliation against his work in the defence and promotion of human rights in Algeria. On Thursday, 1 February 2018, Ghalizan court ordered “judicial monitoring” against Abdullah Benaoum in the Chamber of Indictment. The order stipulated that the human rights defender must be in attendance in Ghalizan court once a week and must not leave the Ghalizan municipality.

Front Line Defenders condemns the judicial harassment of human rights defender Abdullah Benaoum and believes it is solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful work in defence of human rights.

### **Front Line Defenders calls upon the government of Algeria to:**

1. Immediately cease the judicial harassment of and drop all charges against Abdullah Benaoum;
2. Guarantee in all circumstances that human rights defenders in Algeria are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.