

Advocacy dossier

Christophe Gleizes

كريستوف غليز

Imprisoned (serving sentence) **Algeria**

Christophe Gleizes is a French sports journalist who contributes to So Foot and Society and was arrested in Algeria in May 2024 while reporting on the JS Kabylie football club. He has been in prison since June 2025 serving a final seven-year sentence for glorifying terrorism, and on 11 November 2026 marked 500 days in Koléa prison while his family seeks a presidential pardon.

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The case at a glance

Christophe Gleizes is a French sports journalist who contributes to So Foot and Society and was arrested in Algeria in May 2024 while reporting on the JS Kabylie football club. He has been in prison since June 2025 serving a final seven-year sentence for glorifying terrorism, and on 11 November 2026 marked 500 days in Koléa prison while his family seeks a presidential pardon.

Status **Imprisoned (serving sentence)**	Arrested **29 Jun 2025**	Country **Algeria**
Sentence Seven years in prison		
Charges Glorifying terrorism Possessing publications for propaganda purposes harmful to the national interest		

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Christophe Gleizes immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

04 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Christophe Gleizes and on any family members affected by the same order.

02

How the case unfolded

May 2024

Travel ban imposed

Placed under judicial control and barred from leaving Algeria

After his arrest he was placed under judicial supervision for 13 months and banned from leaving Algeria.

28 May 2024

Arrest

Arrested in Tizi Ouzou while reporting

Christophe Gleizes was arrested in Tizi Ouzou, about 100 km east of Algiers, while reporting on the JS Kabylie football club.

29 June 2025

Conviction

Sentenced to seven years with immediate imprisonment

The Tizi Ouzou court sentenced him to seven years in prison for glorifying terrorism and possessing publications for propaganda purposes harmful to the national interest. The case concerns his contacts with members of the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylie, which the authorities have designated a terrorist organisation.

29 June 2025

Deprivation of liberty

Imprisoned immediately after the verdict

He was taken into custody on the day of the verdict and has been held in prison since.

3 December 2025

Appeal: judgment upheld

Appeal court upholds the seven-year sentence

The Tizi Ouzou Court of Appeal upheld the seven-year prison sentence.

30 January 2026

Transfer between places of detention

Moved from Tizi Ouzou towards Algiers after a visit by Ségolène Royal

The former French minister Ségolène Royal visited him in Tizi Ouzou prison, where he had been held since June 2025, and said she had obtained his transfer to a prison near Algiers, closer to his family. He has since been held in Koléa prison in Tipaza province.

March 2026

Other act

Withdraws his appeal to seek a presidential pardon

He withdrew his appeal to the Court of Cassation, to open the way for a possible pardon by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. His family made the withdrawal public on 5 May 2026.

11 May 2026

Other act

First visit by a French consul since his imprisonment

Bruno Clerc, the French consul in Algiers, visited him in prison, the first visit by a French diplomat since he was jailed. RSF said he was in good health and good spirits.

25 May 2026

Final judgment

Supreme Court rejects prosecution appeal for a harsher sentence

The Supreme Court rejected the prosecution's appeal for a harsher sentence and took note of the withdrawal of his own appeal, leaving the seven-year sentence final. His lawyers, Amirouche Bakouri and Emmanuel Daoud, said his future now rested with the President.

8 October 2026

Other act

Made an honorary citizen of Paris

The Paris City Council voted unanimously to make him an honorary citizen of the city.

11 November 2026

Other act

500th day in prison, still awaiting a pardon

He marked his 500th day in detention in Koléa prison with no presidential pardon. His parents last visited him on 4 October 2026. RSF held a solidarity football match in Paris on 11 November 2026, at which his parents gave the kick-off, and renewed its call for his release.

03
The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Christophe Gleizes remains in Koléa prison, where he marked his 500th day in detention on 11 November 2026. His seven-year sentence is final and his family, lawyers and Reporters Without Borders are seeking a pardon from President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Background and Work

Christophe Gleizes is a French sports journalist from Agen who lives and works in Paris. He is a freelance contributor to the French magazines So Foot and Society, and in 2018 he co-authored the book Magique Système with Barthélémy Gaillard. France 24 gave his age as 37 in June 2026.

In May 2024 he travelled to Algeria to report on the Jeunesse Sportive de Kabylie (JSK) team of the 1980s and to cover commemorations for the Cameroonian footballer Albert Ebossé. So Foot had also commissioned him to interview a football coach in Algiers.

The Arrest

He was arrested on 28 May 2024 in Tizi Ouzou, about 100 kilometres east of Algiers. He was brought before the public prosecutor and placed under judicial supervision, with a ban on leaving Algerian territory, for about 13 months. According to RSF he was accused of entering Algeria on a tourist visa, glorifying terrorism and possessing publications for propaganda purposes harmful to the national interest.

The prosecution rests on his contacts in 2015 and 2017 with the head of the Tizi Ouzou football club, who is a leading figure in the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylie (MAK). The Algerian authorities designated the MAK a terrorist organisation in 2021, after those contacts. RSF said the only exchange in 2024 concerned his report on the club, citing findings of the indictment chamber's order of 9 December 2024.

Detention Conditions and Health

He was taken into custody on 29 June 2025, the day of his first-instance verdict, and held in Tizi Ouzou prison. On 30 January 2026 the former French minister Ségolène Royal visited him there and said she had obtained his transfer to a prison near Algiers, closer to his family. She described him as calm, reading and taking exercise. Until then, she said, his only visitors had been his parents and Cardinal Jean-Paul Vesco, the Archbishop of Algiers.

He is now held in Koléa prison in Tipaza province. On 11 May 2026 Bruno Clerc, the French consul in Algiers, made the first visit by a French diplomat since his imprisonment, and RSF reported that he was in good health and good spirits. His parents, Sylvie and Francis Godard, made their seventh visit in September 2026 and last visited him on 4 October 2026; his brother and his partner visited in July and August 2026.

Legal Proceedings

On 29 June 2025 the Tizi Ouzou court sentenced him to seven years in prison for glorifying terrorism and possessing publications for propaganda purposes harmful to the national interest, with immediate imprisonment. He denies the charges. On 3 December 2025 the Tizi Ouzou Court of Appeal upheld the sentence.

In March 2026 he withdrew his appeal to the Court of Cassation in order to open the way to a presidential pardon; his family made this public on 5 May 2026. The Supreme Court then rejected the prosecution's appeal for a harsher sentence, which left the seven-year term final. His lawyers, Amirouche Bakouri and Emmanuel Daoud, said his future now fell within the prerogatives of the President of the Republic.

International Response

Reporters Without Borders coordinates a support committee with his family. Its Director General, Thibaut Bruttin, called the sentence nonsensical and said a pardon was the only way to secure his release. An RSF petition launched on 30 June 2025 has gathered more than 20,000 signatures. Franck Annese, founder of So Press, called the verdict unjust.

Amnesty International, in a statement of 13 May 2026, called for his release together with other detained Algerian journalists, and also cited the prosecution of the journalist Saad Bouakba. The football world has joined the campaign: FIFA accredited him for the 2026 World Cup, the French Football Federation has supported the family, and the Ballon d'Or ceremony paid tribute to him. On 8 October 2026 the Paris City Council made him an honorary citizen, and on 11 November 2026 RSF held a solidarity match in Paris to mark his 500th day in detention.

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