

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

# FALEH HAMMOUDI

فالح حمودي

**At liberty** **Algeria**

Former head of the Tlemcen office of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, convicted to three years in prison after an interview with Al Maghribiya TV and over Facebook posts documenting migration and criticising state authorities.

HuMENA.

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 8 November 2026

Case reference HM-DZ-2026-008

01

# THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Former head of the Tlemcen office of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, convicted to three years in prison after an interview with Al Maghribiya TV and over Facebook posts documenting migration and criticising state authorities.

| | |
|---|---|
| STATUS | **At liberty** |
| ARRESTED | **19 Feb 2022** |
| COUNTRY | **Algeria** |
| SENTENCE | **Three years in prison and a fine of 100,000 Algerian dinars (approximately 628 euros).** |
| CHARGES | **Running and managing an unsanctioned organisation**<br>**Insulting a statutory body**<br>**Publishing false news that could prejudice public security** |

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

## WHAT WE ASK

01 Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Faleh Hammoudi in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Faleh Hammoudi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Faleh Hammoudi can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

**Latest updates on this case**
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/faleh-hammoudi/

02

# DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

| | INTERNATIONAL STANDARD |
|---|---|
| **Arbitrary detention** | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9 |
| **Denial of legal counsel** | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3) |
| **Judicial harassment** | UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12 |
| **Press freedom violation** | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19 |
| **Unfair trial** | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14 |

03

# HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

**19 February 2022**

ARREST

### Arrested and devices seized

Officers of the National Gendarmerie arrested Hammoudi at his home in Tlemcen after an interview he gave to Al Maghribiya TV, searched the premises, and confiscated his mobile phone and computer.

**20 February 2022**

HEARING

### Appeared before Public Prosecutor

Hammoudi was brought before the Public Prosecutor and immediately transferred to trial at the Tlemcen Court of Misdemeanours.

**20 February 2022**

CONVICTION

### Convicted on three charges

The Tlemcen Court of Misdemeanours convicted Hammoudi of running an unsanctioned organisation, insulting a statutory body, and publishing false news, and sentenced him to three years in prison and a fine of 100,000 Algerian dinars.

**31 March 2022**

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

### Provisionally released pending appeal

Hammoudi was released provisionally pending appeal, about forty days after his arrest.

**17 April 2022**

CONTEXT

### Appeal hearing scheduled; outcome not known

Hammoudi was scheduled to appear before the Penal Chamber of Tlemcen Court for his appeal trial. No reliable source reporting the outcome has been found.

**29 September 2022**

CONTEXT

### Court dissolves the LADDH

A court ruling dissolved the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, whose Tlemcen office he headed. The League confirmed the dissolution publicly in January 2023.

04

# THE FULL STORY

## Background and Work

Faleh Hammoudi holds a prominent position in Algeria's civil-society infrastructure. He headed the Tlemcen office of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH), one of the country's oldest independent human rights organisations, until a court dissolved the League on 29 September 2022. He also serves as national secretary of the Autonomous National Union of Public Administration Staff (SNAPAP), where he leads the human rights and migration department.

His expertise centres on migration. Hammoudi monitors and documents migration flows from Algeria to the European Union, tracking both the policy environment and the lived experience of migrants. He is a member of the EuroMed Rights Migration and Asylum Working Group, contributing Algerian and Maghreb perspectives to regional advocacy.

Much of Hammoudi's documentation work takes place online. He uses social media to share information about migration routes, border policies, and the treatment of migrants by Algerian and European authorities. This public-facing work made him visible, and vulnerable.

## The Arrest

On 19 February 2022, officers of the National Gendarmerie arrived at Hammoudi's home in Tlemcen. They searched the premises and confiscated his mobile phone and computer. He was placed under investigation and taken into custody.

The following day, 20 February 2022, Hammoudi appeared before the Public Prosecutor and was immediately brought to trial at the Tlemcen Court of Misdemeanours. The court convicted him of three offences: running and managing an unsanctioned organisation under Article 45 of the Law Governing Associations; insulting a statutory body under Articles 144 and 146 of the Algerian Penal Code; and deliberately publishing false news that could prejudice public security under Article 196 of the Penal Code.

The charges were linked to posts on his Facebook account and to comments he made in an interview with the Algerian channel Al Maghribiya TV. The court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment and a fine of 100,000 Algerian dinars (approximately 628 euros). The entire process, arrest, investigation, prosecution, trial, and conviction, took place within forty-eight hours.

## Detention and Provisional Release

Hammoudi was held in detention for about forty days from his arrest. On 31 March 2022, he was provisionally released pending appeal. The release was conditional and temporary. Hammoudi remained subject to judicial control and continued to face the three-year prison term unless the appeal succeeded.

An appeal hearing was scheduled before the Penal Chamber of Tlemcen Court on 17 April 2022. No reliable source reporting the outcome of the appeal or his situation after April 2022 has been found. His confiscated devices, the primary evidence in the case, remained in state custody.

## Legal Proceedings

The trial violated basic standards of due process. Hammoudi was arrested without prior summons, tried within twenty-four hours, and convicted on charges derived entirely from his peaceful expression online. He had no meaningful opportunity to prepare a defence or consult legal counsel in advance of the hearing.

The charge of running an unsanctioned organisation appears to relate to his leadership role within LADDH or SNAPAP, both of which operate under restrictive associational laws in Algeria. The charge of insulting a statutory body stems from criticism of state institutions. The false-news charge, codified in Article 196 of the Penal Code, has been widely used against journalists, activists, and human rights defenders who publish material the state deems politically inconvenient.

## Context and Pattern

Hammoudi's case is part of a broader escalation of repression in Algeria following the Hirak protest movement that began in 2019. Dozens of activists, journalists, and human rights defenders have been prosecuted under Article 196 and related provisions. The charges often follow a similar pattern: arrest without warrant, expedited trial, convictions based on social-media posts.

Other defenders working on documentation have faced parallel prosecutions. Zaki Hannache, who documented arrests of Hirak protesters, was arrested two days before Hammoudi's conviction and charged with praising terrorism and receiving foreign funds, charges carrying potential life sentences. The timing suggests a coordinated campaign against those who document state practices.

Hammoudi's work on migration is particularly sensitive. Algeria's forced expulsions of sub-Saharan migrants and its cooperation with European border-externalisation policies have drawn international criticism. Hammoudi's documentation of these practices made him a target.

05

# SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Faleh Hammoudi, human rights defender and trade unionist; former head of the Tlemcen LADDH office (the League was dissolved in 2022) and national secretary of SNAPAP's human rights and migration department; monitors migration flows from Algeria to the EU in Algeria, who has been released. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Former head of the Tlemcen office of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, convicted to three years in prison after an interview with Al Maghribiya TV and over Facebook posts documenting migration and criticising state authorities.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Faleh Hammoudi in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Faleh Hammoudi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Faleh Hammoudi can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal;
4. Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

I will continue to follow this case until the record against Faleh Hammoudi is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
8 November 2026