

Advocacy dossier

Kaddour Chouicha

قدور شويشة

At liberty **Algeria**

University lecturer and former vice-president of the dissolved Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), acquitted in February 2025 of terrorism charges brought in 2021 over his human rights work. He is free and is contesting the league's dissolution before the UN Human Rights Committee.

01

The case at a glance

University lecturer and former vice-president of the dissolved Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), acquitted in February 2025 of terrorism charges brought in 2021 over his human rights work. He is free and is contesting the league's dissolution before the UN Human Rights Committee.

Status	Arrested	Country
At liberty	**28 Apr 2021**	**Algeria**

Sentence Acquitted in the terrorism case on 26 February 2025. In a separate case, sentenced in absentia on 18 February 2024 to one year in prison; he filed an opposition, and its outcome is not known.

Charges
Enrolment in a terrorist or subversive organisation active abroad or in Algeria
Conspiracy against state security to incite citizens to take up arms against state authority or to undermine the integrity of the national territory
Propaganda likely to harm the national interest, of foreign origin or inspiration

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Kaddour Chouicha and on any family members affected by the same order.

02 Restore valid travel documents and remove any border-watch flags placed in connection with peaceful human rights work.

03 Comply with the ICCPR Article 12 guarantee of freedom of movement.

02

Documented violations

Each violation and the international standard it breaks.

Arbitrary detention International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9

Criminalisation of solidarity International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 21, 22 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 5

Judicial harassment UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12

Threats and intimidation UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

Travel ban International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12

Unfair trial International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

03

How the case unfolded

24 October 2019

Arrest

Briefly arrested at a sit-in in Oran

He was briefly arrested at a sit-in for prisoners of conscience in Oran, and his phone was confiscated.

22 November 2019

Arrest

Arrested with his wife Jamila Loukil

He was arrested with his wife Jamila Loukil and prosecuted for an unauthorised gathering and for disrupting a presidential candidate's meeting.

10 December 2019

Conviction

Sentenced to one year in prison and jailed

In an immediate trial, an Oran court sentenced him the same day to one year in prison, and he was jailed.

7 January 2020

Conditional release

Provisionally released

He was provisionally released for health reasons.

14 January 2020

Arrest

Arrested again in Oran

He was arrested again in Oran.

15 January 2020

Release

Released without prosecution

The prosecutor decided not to prosecute him, and he was released.

3 March 2020

Acquittal

Acquitted on appeal of the December 2019 charges

The Oran appeal court acquitted him of the charges for which he had been jailed in December 2019. The prosecution later took the case to the Supreme Court.

5 November 2020

Arrest

Arrested near Oran prison

He was arrested near Oran prison while waiting for detainees to be released, and fined for breaching social distancing rules. The fine was later lifted.

18 January 2021

Acquittal

Acquitted in the gathering case

He and Jamila Loukil were acquitted at first instance in the unauthorised gathering case. The acquittal was confirmed on appeal on 2 June 2021.

4 April 2021

Arrest

Arrested at a solidarity sit-in

He was arrested with Jamila Loukil.

28 April 2021

Arrest

Arrested outside the Oran Court of Appeal

He and Jamila Loukil were arrested without a warrant as they left the Oran Court of Appeal and were questioned at a police station.

29 April 2021

Charge filed

Charged with terrorism offences

The Public Prosecutor of Oran charged Chouicha alongside Jamila Loukil, Said Boudour, and twelve other Hirak activists with enrolment in a terrorist organisation, conspiracy against state security, and propaganda harmful to the national interest.

29 April 2021

Release

Released after being charged

He was released the same day after being charged.

17 June 2021

Context

UN experts write to Algeria about his case

UN special procedures sent a communication to Algeria about the judicial harassment of him, Jamila Loukil and Said Boudour.

September 2021

Context

Case moved to the anti-terrorism court in Algiers

The case was transferred to the anti-terrorism unit of the Sidi M'hamed court in Algiers.

29 June 2022

Context

Court orders the dissolution of LADDH

The Algiers Administrative Court ordered the dissolution of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights without notifying its members, who learned of it in December 2022.

24 August 2022

Travel ban imposed

Travel ban enforced at airport

Border police at Oran International Airport prevented Chouicha and his wife Jamila Loukil from boarding a flight to Paris. Loukil had been invited by the UN to attend a Universal Periodic Review pre-session on Algeria in Geneva.

7 September 2022

Hearing

Appeared before an anti-terrorism investigating judge

Chouicha, Loukil and Boudour appeared before the investigating judge of the anti-terrorism unit of the Sidi M'hamed Court in Algiers. He was not detained, and the indictment chamber later dropped the state security charge while keeping the others.

16 February 2023

Context

Further UN communication to Algeria

UN special procedures sent a further communication to Algeria about his case.

23 February 2023

Complaint filed

Challenges his travel ban before the Council of State

Having never been formally notified of any ban on leaving the country, he filed an appeal before the Council of State to contest it.

23 March 2023

Other act

Speaks at the UN adoption of Algeria's review by video

Unable to travel, he took part by pre-recorded video in the adoption of Algeria's Universal Periodic Review at the UN, saying he had been prevented from attending in person. Algeria's ambassador replied that he was awaiting trial and could not travel without prior authorisation.

11 May 2023

Context

Supreme Court orders a retrial in the 2019 case

The Supreme Court ordered a retrial in the case in which he had been acquitted on appeal on 3 March 2020.

29 September 2023

Context

Named in the UN report on reprisals

His case was cited in the UN Secretary-General's report on reprisals against people who cooperate with the UN, and again in the 2024 and 2025 reports.

3 December 2023

Acquittal

Acquitted at first instance by the Dar El Beida court in the 2021 terrorism case

18 February 2024

Ruling in absentia

Sentenced in absentia to one year after a retrial in a separate older case

On retrial, the Oran court sentenced him in absentia to one year in prison for publishing information harmful to public order. He learned of the ruling in May 2024 and filed an opposition.

17 July 2024

Travel ban lifted

Able to travel abroad again

He was able to travel abroad, without any official explanation or document on how the ban had been imposed or lifted.

22 September 2024

Hearing

Opposition hearing postponed

The hearing on his opposition to the in absentia sentence was postponed to 20 October 2024. Its outcome is not known.

26 February 2025

Acquittal

Acquitted of all charges

The Criminal Court of Appeals of the Algiers Judicial Council acquitted Chouicha, Loukil, and Boudour of all terrorism-related charges. The verdict followed four postponements and nearly four years of judicial proceedings.

19 June 2025

Appeal outcome

Council of State rejects his challenge to LADDH's dissolution

The Council of State declared inadmissible the appeal he had filed on 22 April 2025 against the dissolution of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, ruling that it did not cite any of the legal grounds provided by law.

30 October 2025

Complaint filed

Complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee

After the Council of State's ruling, he reportedly submitted an individual complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee over the dissolution of LADDH.

September 2026

Other act

Named again in the UN report on reprisals

The UN Secretary-General's 2026 report on intimidation and reprisals against people who cooperate with the UN followed up on his case and that of Jamila Loukil.

04

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked against current sources. Kaddour Chouicha is free: he was acquitted on appeal in the 2021 terrorism case on 26 February 2025 with his wife Jamila Loukil and Said Boudour, and has been able to travel since July 2024. His challenge to the dissolution of LADDH was rejected by the Council of State in June 2025 and is now before the UN Human Rights Committee, and the UN Secretary-General's September 2026 report on reprisals again followed up his case. The outcome of his opposition to a one-year sentence passed in absentia in 2024 is not known.

Background and Work

Kaddour Chouicha is a university lecturer and long-standing human rights advocate based in Oran, Algeria's second-largest city. He serves as vice president of The Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights (LADDH), one of the country's oldest and most prominent civil society organisations, and as president of its Oran chapter. His work has focused on the promotion of political and civil rights, often in contexts where such advocacy exposes defenders to state reprisal. He has also held the position of national coordinator for the Union of Teachers in Solidarity, bridging educational labour rights with broader civic activism.

LADDH has documented arbitrary detention, torture, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly across Algeria. Chouicha's leadership role placed him in direct contact with families of detained activists, journalists facing prosecution, and communities affected by police violence, particularly during the Hirak protest movement that began in 2019. His advocacy was institutional and methodical, grounded in legal documentation and public reporting.

Earlier Arrests

Before the terrorism case, Chouicha was arrested several times for his peaceful activism. On 22 November 2019 he was arrested with his wife Jamila Loukil, and on 10 December 2019 an Oran court sentenced him in an immediate trial to one year in prison. He was jailed, provisionally released on 7 January 2020, and acquitted on appeal on 3 March 2020. He was arrested again in January 2020, November 2020 and April 2021. In May 2023 the Supreme Court ordered a retrial in the 2019 case, and in February 2024 the Oran court sentenced him in absentia to one year in prison. He filed an opposition; its outcome is not known.

The Charges

On 29 April 2021, the Public Prosecutor of Oran charged Chouicha alongside fellow human rights defenders Jamila Loukil and Said Boudour, as well as twelve other activists associated with the Hirak movement. The charges included enrolment in a terrorist or subversive organisation active abroad or in Algeria; conspiracy against state security to incite citizens to take up arms against state authority or to undermine the integrity of the national territory; and propaganda likely to harm the national interest, of foreign origin or inspiration.

The charges carried a potential sentence of twenty years' imprisonment. No evidence of violent activity was presented. The case appeared designed to

criminalise civic organising and cross-border human rights engagement. Prosecutors invoked Algeria's anti-terrorism legal framework, a tool increasingly applied to silence dissent in the wake of Hirak.

Travel Ban and Judicial Harassment

Chouicha was prevented from travelling abroad without ever being formally notified of a travel ban. On 23 February 2023 he challenged the ban before the Council of State, and on 17 July 2024 he was able to travel again, without any official explanation of how the ban had been imposed or lifted. On 24 August 2022, border police at Oran International Airport prevented him and his wife Jamila Loukil from boarding a scheduled flight to Paris. Loukil, a journalist and woman human rights defender, had been invited by the United Nations to attend a Universal Periodic Review pre-session on Algeria in Geneva. The travel ban blocked both their departure, effectively silencing Algeria-based voices from international human rights forums.

On 5 September 2022, Chouicha, Loukil, and Boudour were summoned to appear for investigation before the investigative judge of the Fifth Chamber of the Specialized Criminal Court, the Department of Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime, at the Sidi M'hamed Court in Algiers. The summons, scheduled for 7 September 2022 at 9:30 am, carried the risk of pre-trial detention. The hearing took place, but detention was not ordered. The case continued to move slowly through the judicial system, with verdicts repeatedly postponed.

Acquittal

On 26 February 2025, the Criminal Court of Appeals of the Algiers Judicial Council acquitted Chouicha, Loukil, and Boudour of all charges. The verdict followed four postponements and nearly four years of judicial proceedings. The acquittal closed a case that had served as a sustained mechanism of control, restricting movement, imposing psychological pressure, and deterring international engagement.

The terrorism charges were dismissed in their entirety. No apology was issued. No compensation was offered. He had already been able to travel abroad again since 17 July 2024. On 19 June 2025 the Council of State declared inadmissible the appeal he had filed on 22 April 2025 against the dissolution of LADDH, and on 30 October 2025 he reportedly submitted an individual complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/kaddour-chouicha/

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