ADVOCACY DOSSIER

MOHAD GASMI

محاد قاسمي

At liberty **Algeria**

Mohad Gasmi organised unemployed youth in southern Algeria, protested fracking, and joined the Hirak reform movement. He spent more than four years in prison for Facebook posts deemed to praise terrorism and share confidential information.

HuMENA.

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

Case reference HM-DZ-2026-004

01

THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Mohad Gasmi organised unemployed youth in southern Algeria, protested fracking, and joined the Hirak reform movement. He spent more than four years in prison for Facebook posts deemed to praise terrorism and share confidential information.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**14 Jun 2020**
COUNTRY	**Algeria**
SENTENCE	**Five years in prison for praising terrorism (October 2021), reduced on appeal in June 2022 to three years, one of them suspended; three years for sharing confidential information without intent of espionage (April 2022). Released under presidential pardon on 1 November 2024 after serving more than four years.**
CHARGES	**Praising terrorism** **Sharing confidential information without the intent of treason and espionage**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Mohad Gasmi in connection with peaceful human rights work.

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

03 Guarantee that Mohad Gasmi 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/mohad-gasmi/

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Press freedom violation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)
Unfair trial	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

14 June 2020

ARREST

Placed in Preventive Detention

Mohad Gasmi was arrested by the investigating judge of the court of Adrar and placed in preventive detention on charges of praising terrorism, related to two Facebook posts.

18 November 2020

HEARING

Heard by Investigating Judge

Mohad Gasmi was heard by the investigating judge for the first time, five months after his arrest.

5 January 2021

REFERRAL TO TRIAL

Case Transferred to Criminal Court

The Indictment Chamber of Adrar ordered the transfer of Mohad Gasmi's case to the Criminal Court of Adrar.

5 July 2021

HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS

Hunger Strike Begins

Mohad Gasmi began an open-ended hunger strike to protest his prolonged preventive detention and the transfer of his case to the Criminal Court.

13 October 2021

HEARING

Criminal Court of Adrar holds a hearing

The Criminal Court of Adrar held a hearing, requested additional information, and ruled to continue investigating. The trial was expected to be rescheduled.

17 October 2021

CONVICTION

Sentenced to Five Years

Days after the October hearing, the Criminal Court of Adrar sentenced Mohad Gasmi to five years in prison for praising terrorism.

14 April 2022

CONVICTION

Second Sentence of Three Years

The Criminal Court of Adrar sentenced Mohad Gasmi to three years in prison for sharing confidential information without intent of treason or espionage.

June 2022

APPEAL: SENTENCE REDUCED

Sentence reduced on appeal

On appeal, the five-year sentence for praising terrorism was reduced to three years in prison, one of them suspended. A cassation appeal to the Supreme Court followed.

July 2024

PARDON

Presidential Pardon Issued

A presidential pardon was issued, covering 8,049 detainees, including Mohad Gasmi. The pardon paved the way for his release.

1 November 2024

RELEASE

Released from Prison

Mohad Gasmi was released from prison after more than four years in detention, under the presidential pardon issued in July 2024.

04

THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Mohad Gasmi is an organiser and digital activist from Adrar Province in southern Algeria. He joined the Unemployed Movement, a grassroots network that demands social and economic justice for young people locked out of the formal labour market, and became a public advocate for youth rights in the region.

In 2015 he joined the anti-shale-gas-drilling movement in southern Algeria, which protested peacefully against the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing. Residents feared that fracking would contaminate scarce groundwater and cause irreversible ecological harm in one of the country's most arid regions. The movement organised sit-ins, marches, and online campaigns throughout 2015 and 2016.

When the Hirak movement emerged in February 2019, calling for political and social reform across Algeria, Mohad Gasmi joined the mobilisations. He posted regularly on Facebook about unemployment, environmental destruction, and political accountability. His activism was primarily digital, using social media to document protests, share demands, and criticise state policy.

The Arrest

On 14 June 2020, the investigating judge of the court of Adrar placed Mohad Gasmi under arrest. The Public Prosecution charged him with praising terrorism, citing two Facebook posts he had published. He was placed in preventive detention in Adrar penal institution. He was not heard by the investigating judge until 18 November 2020, five months after his arrest.

Prolonged Pretrial Detention

Mohad Gasmi remained in pretrial detention for fifteen months. On 5 January 2021, the Indictment Chamber of Adrar ordered the transfer of his case to the Criminal Court of Adrar. By July 2021 he had been detained for more than a year without trial. On 5 July 2021 he began an open-ended hunger strike to protest the prolonged detention, the charges against him, and the transfer of his case to the Criminal Court.

A hearing was eventually scheduled for 13 October 2021, about sixteen months into his pretrial detention. At that hearing, the Criminal Court of Adrar requested additional information and ruled to continue investigating and gathering more details before reaching a verdict. It was expected that the trial would be rescheduled until the investigation concluded.

Verdicts and Sentences

Days later, on 17 October 2021, the Criminal Court of Adrar sentenced Mohad Gasmi to five years in prison on the charge of praising terrorism. The verdict came with no additional investigation and no

further hearings.

On 14 April 2022, the same court sentenced him to three years in prison on a separate charge: sharing confidential information without the intent of treason and espionage. He was awaiting an appeal against the five-year sentence when the second sentence was handed down. On appeal in June 2022, the five-year sentence was reduced to three years in prison, one of them suspended.

Release

Mohad Gasmi served more than four years in detention. On 1 November 2024, Algerian authorities released him from prison under a presidential pardon issued in July 2024, which applied to 8,049 detainees.

05

SAMPLE LETTER

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

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Mohad Gasmi, organiser with the Unemployed Movement and anti-fracking campaigner in southern Algeria; member of the Hirak reform movement 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: Mohad Gasmi organised unemployed youth in southern Algeria, protested fracking, and joined the Hirak reform movement. He spent more than four years in prison for Facebook posts deemed to praise terrorism and share confidential information.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop any charges that remain on record against Mohad Gasmi in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Mohad Gasmi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Mohad Gasmi 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 Mohad Gasmi is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

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