

Advocacy dossier

Said Boudour

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At liberty **Algeria**

Journalist and human rights monitor from Oran, formerly with the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, who covered the Hirak and migrants' rights and was detained several times between 2018 and 2021. Acquitted of terrorism charges in February 2025, he says a 2019 search notice still restricts his movement.

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The case at a glance

Journalist and human rights monitor from Oran, formerly with the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, who covered the Hirak and migrants' rights and was detained several times between 2018 and 2021. Acquitted of terrorism charges in February 2025, he says a 2019 search notice still restricts his movement.

Status **At liberty**	Arrested **23 Apr 2021**	Country **Algeria**
Sentence Acquitted of all charges on 26 February 2025.		
Charges Enrolment in a terrorist or subversive organization 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 Said Boudour 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

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)

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

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How the case unfolded

June 2018

Arrest

Arrested in Oran

He was arrested after attending a meeting of the Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights, one of several arrests between 2016 and 2018 linked to his reporting, including on a corruption scandal and on the treatment of migrants.

September 2019

Arrest warrant issued

Arrest warrant issued against him

An arrest warrant was issued against him after he took part in pro-democracy demonstrations in Oran. He has said the resulting search notice was never formally lifted.

6 October 2019

Arrest

Arrested in Oran and questioned over Facebook posts

Security officers in Oran arrested him and questioned him about his Facebook posts.

7 October 2019

Conditional release

Charged and released by the investigating judge

He was charged with harming the morale of the army and harming national unity. The investigating judge released him the same day pending trial.

15 October 2019

Re-arrest

Returned to custody on the indictment chamber's order

The indictment chamber cancelled his release and ordered him placed in custody. The date of his later release is not known.

24 November 2020

Ruling in absentia

Sentenced in absentia to one year in prison

The Oran court sentenced him in absentia to one year in prison and a fine of 50,000 dinars.

1 March 2021

Arrest

Detained pending a retrial in Oran

He was placed in provisional detention pending a retrial before the Oran court of first instance.

10 March 2021

Conviction

Two-month suspended sentence on retrial

On retrial, the Oran court gave him a two-month suspended prison sentence.

10 March 2021

Release

Released at the end of the retrial

He was released at the end of the retrial hearing.

23 April 2021

Arrest

Arrested while covering a Hirak march in Oran

Police arrested him while he was covering a Hirak demonstration in Oran and held him on terrorism accusations.

29 April 2021

Charge filed

Charged with terrorism-related offences

The Public Prosecutor of Oran charged Boudour with enrolment in a terrorist organization, conspiracy against state security, and propaganda harmful to the national interest. The case included twelve other Hirak activists.

29 April 2021

Conditional release

Released under judicial control

After being charged, he was released and placed under judicial control, with a duty to report to the police every 15 days.

17 June 2021

Context

UN experts write to Algeria about his case

UN special procedures sent a communication to the Algerian government about the case against him, Jamila Loukil and Kaddour Chouicha.

November 2021

Acquittal

Acquitted on appeal of insulting a state body

He was acquitted on appeal of the charge of insulting a state body, for which he had received a two-month suspended sentence.

4 August 2022

Hearing

Appeal to lift judicial surveillance rejected

The fifth chamber of the specialized criminal court in Algiers rejected Boudour's appeal to withdraw the judicial surveillance that had obstructed his work as a journalist and human rights defender.

21 August 2022

Hearing

Second appeal rejected

The Indictment Chamber of the Algiers Judicial Council upheld the lower court's decision to reject Boudour's appeal, maintaining the judicial surveillance.

5 September 2022

Summons

Summoned for investigation

Boudour and co-defendants Kaddour Chouicha and Jamila Loukil were summoned to appear for investigation before the investigative judge of the Fifth Chamber of the Specialized Criminal Court.

7 September 2022

Hearing

Appeared for questioning

Boudour appeared before the investigative judge at the Sidi M'hamed Court in Algiers, facing the risk of pre-trial detention.

December 2023

Acquittal

Acquitted at first instance by the Dar El Beida criminal court

The Dar El Beida criminal court acquitted him in the April 2021 terrorism case. The prosecution appealed.

26 February 2025

Acquittal

Acquitted of all charges

The Criminal Court of Appeals of the Algiers Judicial Council acquitted Boudour and his co-defendants of all terrorism-related charges after four postponements of the verdict.

20 July 2026

Context

Says he is barred from domestic flights and hotel stays

In an interview, he said he cannot take domestic flights or stay overnight in hotels in Algeria, because a 2019 search notice against him was never formally lifted.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: this record was checked against current sources. Said Boudour is free and was acquitted with Kaddour Chouicha and Jamila Loukil of all terrorism-related charges on 26 February 2025. In July 2026 he said that a search notice issued against him in 2019 had never been formally lifted, so that he still cannot leave Algeria, take domestic flights or stay overnight in hotels.

Background and Work

Said Boudour is a journalist and human rights defender based in Algeria. He is a member of the Algerian League for Human Rights, one of the country's oldest independent human rights organizations. His work has focused on organizing peaceful demonstrations, documenting the treatment of political prisoners, and defending the rights of migrants passing through Algeria. He became active during the Hirak protest movement, which began in February 2019 and called for democratic reforms, an end to corruption, and the resignation of long-standing political elites.

Boudour's journalism and human rights monitoring made him a target of state repression as authorities moved to suppress dissent following the Hirak. Dozens of activists, journalists, and defenders associated with the movement were prosecuted under terrorism, national security, and defamation laws. Boudour was among them. He was detained in October 2019 over Facebook posts, again in March 2021 pending a retrial, and from 23 to 29 April 2021 after police arrested him while he covered a Hirak march in Oran.

The Charges

On 29 April 2021, the Public Prosecutor of Oran charged Boudour, along with human rights defenders Kaddour Chouicha and Jamila Loukil, in a criminal case involving terrorism-related offences. The charges included enrolment in a terrorist or subversive organization 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 case also included twelve other activists involved in the Hirak movement. If convicted, Boudour faced up to twenty years in prison.

The charges were part of a broader campaign to criminalize peaceful political dissent under the guise of counter-terrorism. No evidence of violent activity or terrorist association was presented in the case. The prosecution relied on the defendants' participation in protests, their online advocacy, and their association with civil society organizations.

Judicial Surveillance and Restrictions

Boudour was placed under judicial surveillance, a measure that severely restricted his freedom of movement and obstructed his work as a journalist and human rights monitor. On 4 August 2022, the fifth chamber of the specialized criminal court in Algiers rejected his appeal to withdraw the surveillance. On 21 August 2022, the Indictment Chamber of the Algiers Judicial Council upheld that decision on appeal.

The surveillance meant that Boudour could not

leave his area of residence without permission, could not travel, and remained under constant monitoring. For a journalist whose work depends on access to sources, sites of abuse, and communities in need of documentation, the restrictions effectively ended his professional activity. The measure was used as a form of pre-emptive detention, punishing him without the need for a trial verdict.

Prolonged Proceedings and Acquittal

On 5 September 2022, Boudour, Chouicha, and Loukil 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. They appeared on 7 September 2022. The risk of pre-trial detention remained constant throughout the proceedings.

On 3 December 2023, the Dar El Beida criminal court acquitted Boudour and his co-defendants at first instance, and the prosecution appealed. The case was postponed four times. Each postponement extended the period of uncertainty, surveillance, and professional paralysis. Finally, on 26 February 2025, the Criminal Court of Appeals of the Algiers Judicial Council acquitted Boudour and his co-defendants of all charges. The acquittal vindicated them, but it came after nearly four years of judicial harassment, restrictions on movement, and obstruction of their human rights work.

Pattern of Repression

Boudour's case is part of a systematic pattern of repression targeting Algerian human rights defenders, journalists, and activists associated with the Hirak movement. Terrorism laws have been weaponized to silence dissent. Judicial surveillance, travel bans, and prolonged pre-trial proceedings are used to isolate and incapacitate defenders without the need for conviction. The acquittal in Boudour's case underscores the baselessness of the charges, but the process itself achieved its objective: years of disruption, intimidation, and constraint.

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