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President of the Republic of Algeria
Abdelmadjid Tebboune
Presidence de la Republique
Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahiya
El Mouradia

Alger 16000
Algérie

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Your Excellency,

**I write to you to urge you to ensure that the five-year sentence against peaceful activist and poet Mohamed Tadjadit is overturned following his appeal trial on 17 April, that all charges against him are dropped and that he is released immediately and unconditionally. His conviction and sentence stem solely from the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and amount to a misuse of the justice system to suppress dissent.**

On 20 January 2025, the Rouiba Court in Algiers sentenced renowned activist Mohamed Tadjadit, known as the «poet of the Hirak», to five years in prison and a DZD 200’000 fine. The court convicted him of «undermining national unity», «publishing content harmful to national interest», «inciting to an unarmed gathering» and «offending public bodies» based solely on his recent social media publications and digital communications expressing dissatisfaction with the political and socioeco-nomic situation in Algeria. These include posts relaying the «#Manich\_Radi» («I am not satisfied») hashtag, which was part of a social media campaign initiated in December 2024 by fellow Hirak activists to highlight dissatisfaction with the current government, and poetry with political messages denouncing injustice.

Police arrested Mohamed Tadjadit on 16 January 2025 at his home in a suburb of Algiers, seized his phone and held him in custody for three days without visits from his family or a lawyer. Authorities tried Mohamed Tadjadit in expedited proceedings without sufficient time to prepare his legal defense, thus undermining his right to a fair trial.

Since 2019, the Algerian authorities have detained and prosecuted Mohamed Tadjadit in at least six separate cases, all related to his peaceful activism and expression of dissenting views.

**I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Mohamed Tadjadit, to quash his conviction and sentence, to drop other charges against him related to his exercise of his right to freedom of expression and to stop misusing the criminal justice system against him and other activists and artists.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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