



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Algeria

*Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)*¹



© Abdelkader Djedei

DZA-01 – Abdelkader Djedei

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement
- ✓ Failure to respect parliamentary immunity
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension or revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

A. Summary of the case

A senator since 2019, Mr. Abdelkader Djedei was nominated by the members of his political party (the National Liberation Front) for the post of Vice-President of the Council of the Nation on 30 May 2023. However, Mr. Djedei reportedly came under intense pressure and multiple threats aimed at forcing him to resign from his new post, on account of his critical stance towards the Government.

After refusing to give in to the various threats, Mr. Djedei had legal proceedings brought against him for “contempt of a state institution”, “defamation of the public authorities”, “dissemination of posts likely to harm the national interest” and “dissemination of information endangering public order or public security” for comments he had made during a discussion in 2019 with the Minister of Energy and the CEO of Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil and gas company. Mr.

Case DZA-01

Algeria: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Former Member of Parliament from the majority party

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint: June 2025

Recent IPU decision: October 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing: Hearings with the complainant and the Algerian authorities, represented by the President of the Council of the Nation, at the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the President of the Council of the Nation (August 2025, April 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: April 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the President of the Council of the Nation (March 2026)
- Communication to the complainant: April 2026

¹ The delegation of Algeria expressed its reservations regarding the decision.

Djedei had filmed this discussion before posting it on social media in 2019.

The comments that led to Mr. Djedei's indictment were made in the exercise of his right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by Article 52 of the Algerian Constitution. These non-abusive and non-hostile comments questioned national policies implemented in southern Algeria and criticized the Algerian Government's failures towards citizens in the south. On 17 September 2023, the Member of Parliament was summoned and questioned by the national gendarmerie in Touggourt about his statements, even though he enjoyed parliamentary immunity and no formal procedure to lift his immunity had yet been initiated.

After refusing to waive his parliamentary immunity, as provided for in the Algerian Constitution, the President of the Council of the Nation referred the matter of immunity to the Constitutional Court for a ruling. On 13 November 2023, the Court decided to lift the senator's parliamentary immunity, finding that the charges against him were sufficient and were unrelated to his parliamentary mandate.

On 5 February 2024, the Touggourt court sentenced Mr. Djedei *in absentia* to three years' imprisonment and a fine for the charges against him.

In his letter of 26 August 2025, the current President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, explained that in September 2023 the former President of the Council of the Nation had taken precautionary measures against Mr. Djedei, removing him from the Council's bureau, because he was convinced that the investigations conducted by the judicial police against him would be successful. However, Mr. Nasri added that these measures had not hindered the exercise of Mr. Djedei's parliamentary mandate. This information is disputed by the complainant, who alleges that Mr. Djedei was unable to complete his term of office because he was forced into exile in Spain with his family in 2023–2024 due to the threats and risk of imprisonment he faced. His emoluments ceased to be paid by Parliament from the moment he left Algeria.

With regard to the lifting of Mr. Djedei's parliamentary immunity, in the same letter dated 26 August 2025, the President of the Council of the Nation stated that the Algerian Constitutional Court was the sole competent authority to rule on requests for the lifting of parliamentary immunity. As for the legal proceedings, the President of the Council of the Nation emphasized in the same letter that these were at the discretion of the public prosecutors. The President of the Council of the Nation added that Mr. Djedei still had two legal remedies open to him to challenge the decision: appeal and petition to the Court of Cassation. However, these remedies do not suspend the sentence handed down.

On 16 September 2025, Mr. Djedei was reportedly approached by two individuals near the home where he was living in exile, whom he believed to be affiliated to the Algerian intelligence service. They allegedly urged him to withdraw the complaint he submitted to the Committee in exchange for a return to Algeria without risk of imprisonment.

On 14 October 2025, Mr. Djedei received a summons from the Spanish National Court regarding an official extradition request submitted by the Algerian authorities to their Spanish counterparts. There is an extradition treaty between Algeria and Spain for crimes related to drug and human trafficking.

During the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) in Geneva, the Committee met with the President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, in the context of a hearing, during which he reiterated the arguments set out in his letter of 26 August 2025.

In November 2025, the complainant added that the Algerian consulate in Spain had refused to issue consular cards and identity documents to Mr. Djedei's children. In this regard, the President of the Council of the Nation provided further clarification in his letter of 14 April 2026, in which he stated that "the Algerian consular authorities in Spain cannot respond favourably to the requests of the complainant, who is in an irregular situation under Algerian law and who cannot, therefore, avail himself of its protection, unless he returns to Algeria, places himself at the disposal of the Algerian authorities and accepts the judgment delivered against him on 5 February 2024".

On 27 January 2026, the Central Investigating Court of Madrid rejected the request for the extradition of Mr. Djedei submitted by the Algerian authorities on 27 May 2025 for the purpose of prosecution on charges of corruption, money laundering and fraud. The complainant provided a copy of the decision refusing extradition, which included the grounds put forward by the Algerian authorities. In its decision of 27 January 2026, the Investigating Court of Madrid considered that, in

view of the lack of sufficient factual detail regarding the charges against Mr. Djedei in the extradition documentation, and their general nature, it could not grant the request.

In his letter of 14 April 2026, the President of the Council of the Nation explained that Mr. Djedei's case was being handled by the Algerian Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a view to unblocking the extradition procedure, which had reportedly been rejected by the Central Investigating Court of Madrid on procedural grounds. In his letter, the President of the Council of the Nation also indicated that the Algerian authorities had not yet received a copy of the said judgment from the Spanish authorities.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the President of the Council of the Nation for his letter of 14 April 2026; *nevertheless regrets* the lack of information concerning the extradition request submitted by the Algerian authorities against Mr. Djedei;
2. *Reiterates its concern* at the disproportionate sentence of three years' imprisonment handed down *in absentia* to Mr. Djedei for comments made in the exercise of his fundamental right to freedom of expression; *reaffirms* that Mr. Djedei's comments were made in the exercise of his parliamentary duties, as they were intended to promote the interests of the citizens of the southern region from where he comes and which he represents in the Council of the Nation;
3. *Calls once again* on the competent authorities, in view of the charges against Mr. Djedei, to drop the proceedings against him, to reconsider their position with regard to him and to put an end to the intimidation he is facing in exile;
4. *Notes with satisfaction* that Mr. Djedei was not extradited to Algeria following the decision of the Investigating Court of Madrid of 27 January 2026; *is nevertheless troubled* by the grounds put forward by the Algerian authorities to justify the extradition request submitted to the Spanish authorities with respect to the former senator, particularly given that the charges against him in the extradition documentation, as identified in the decision of the Central Investigating Court of Madrid, appear to bear no relation to the initial charges brought against him;
5. *Calls once again* on the Algerian authorities to provide information regarding the extradition request submitted to the Spanish authorities against Mr. Djedei, in order to understand the grounds on which that request is based;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the President of the Council of the Nation, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.