



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Algeria

*Decision adopted by consensus by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)<sup>1</sup>*



© 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 renounce to his new post, following his critical stance on the lack of a government policy on improving the living conditions of citizens in the southern region of Algeria.

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. Djedei had filmed this

#### Case DZA-01

**Algeria:** Parliament affiliated to the IPU

**Victim:** Former member of parliament from the majority party

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

**Submission of complaint:** June 2025

**Recent IPU decision(s):** - - -

**IPU Mission(s):** - - -

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

#### Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the President of the Council of the Nation (August 2025)
- Communication from the complainant: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the President of the Council of the Nation (July 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: September 2025

<sup>1</sup> The delegation of Algeria expressed its reservation regarding the decision.

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, as well as economic disparities between the north and south of the country. On 17 September 2023, the member of parliament was summoned and questioned by the national gendarmerie in Touggourt about his statements, even though he still enjoyed parliamentary immunity and no formal procedure to lift his immunity had yet been initiated.

On 1 October 2023, the President of the Council of the Nation reportedly notified Mr. Djedei that the Minister of Justice had informed him in writing on 25 September 2023 that he was being prosecuted for criminal offences, requesting him to waive his parliamentary immunity, as provided for in the Algerian Constitution. In a letter dated 3 October 2023, to the President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Djedei pointed out that, pursuant to Articles 116, 117, and 129 of the Constitution, he enjoyed parliamentary immunity as a member of the Council of the Nation, that the charges against him had no legal basis, and that the acts of which he was accused were carried out in the exercise of his parliamentary mandate. On 16 October 2023, the President of the Council of the Nation referred the matter of Mr. Djedei's immunity to the Constitutional Court for a ruling. On 13 November 2023, the Court decided to lift Mr. Djedei's 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. The charges classified as contempt of a state institution include the dissemination of posts and recordings likely to harm the national interest, as well as disseminating and promoting information likely to endanger public order and public security, acts provided for and punishable under sections 333, 334 and 335 of the Criminal Code, as amended and supplemented.

In his letter of 26 August 2025, the current President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, explains that in September 2023 the former President of the Council of the Nation took 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 adds that these measures did not hinder the exercise of Mr. Djedei's parliamentary mandate, which expired in January 2025. 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 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 2020 constitutional review had conferred on the Algerian Constitutional Court exclusive jurisdiction to rule on requests for the lifting of parliamentary immunity concerning members of parliament who were subject to legal proceedings and had not voluntarily waived their immunity. As for the legal proceedings, the President of the Council of the Nation emphasizes in the same letter that these are at the discretion of the public prosecutors and that the prison sentence handed down by the competent judicial authority (in accordance with the principle of the separation of powers) against Mr. Djedei is based on the judgment through which he was convicted. The President of the Council of the Nation added that Mr. Djedei still has two legal remedies open to him to challenge the decision: appeal and petition to the Court of Cassation. 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 his complaint to the Committee in exchange for a return to Algeria without risk of imprisonment and on condition that he sign a written document in which he would promise not to raise his case again.

On 14 October 2025, Mr. Djedei received a summons from the Spanish National Court concerning an official extradition request submitted by the Algerian authorities to their Spanish counterparts. Mr. Djedei is invited to appear before the judge on 3 November 2025. There is an extradition treaty between Algeria and Spain for crimes related to drug and human trafficking.

The Committee met with the President of the Council of the Nation, Mr. Azouz Nasri, during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025) in Geneva. The President provided clarification on the procedure for electing the vice-presidents of the Council of the Nation, which takes place in two stages. According to Mr. Nasri, each parliamentary group chooses one or two vice-presidents, whose final election is confirmed by the Council of the Nation in a plenary vote, as provided for in article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the Nation. In Mr. Djedei's case, the election was reportedly not confirmed by the Council of the Nation, which explains why he was unable to take up this position.

Regarding the procedure for waiving parliamentary immunity, the President of the Council of the Nation reiterated the arguments put forward in his letter of 26 August 2025, emphasizing that, following the 2020 constitutional review, the jurisdiction for ruling on the waiving of parliamentary immunity was conferred exclusively on the Constitutional Court. In addition, the President of the Council of the Nation explained that parliamentary immunity applies only to statements made within the Council of the Nation and not to those made outside the chamber.

## **B. Decision**

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Notes* that the complaint concerning the case of Mr. Abdelkader Djedei is admissible, considering that it: (i) was submitted in due form by a qualified complainant under section I.1(d) of the Procedure for the examination and treatment of complaints (Annex I of the revised Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Rights of Parliamentarians); (ii) concerns an incumbent member of parliament at the time of the alleged facts; and (iii) concerns allegations of violation of freedom of opinion and expression, violation of freedom of movement, failure to respect parliamentary immunity, and unjustified invalidation, suspension or revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate, allegations that fall within the Committee's mandate;
2. *Warmly thanks* the President of the Council of the Nation for his letter of 26 August 2025 and for the additional information he provided during the 151st IPU Assembly;
3. *Expresses 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, in which he criticized national policies on the redistribution of wealth in the country; *notes* 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; and *also notes* that, although provocative in nature, his words fell within the scope of freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 52 of the Algerian Constitution and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and should therefore have been protected;
4. *Emphasizes* that the right to freedom of expression is one of the pillars of democracy, that it is essential for members of parliament and that it encompasses all kinds of opinions, including those that may offend, shock or disturb, provided that they comply with the restrictions defined in the main human rights conventions and related case law;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the intimidation reportedly suffered by Mr Djedei in exile and the request for his extradition made by the Algerian authorities against him; *calls on* the competent authorities, in view of the charges against him, to drop the proceedings against him; and *also calls on* the Council of the Nation to protect the freedom of expression of its members, irrespective of their political affiliation, by taking all appropriate steps to strengthen the protection of this fundamental right;
6. *Regrets* the failure to respect Mr Djedei's parliamentary immunity, as he was summoned and questioned by the national gendarmerie before formal proceedings to waive his immunity had been initiated; and *also regrets* the procedure for waiving parliamentary immunity which, although appearing to comply with the Algerian Constitution, deprives Algerian parliamentarians of their right to defend themselves before the Council of the Nation;

7. *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;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.