

*A letter that I submitted to the board in March 2023*

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I have been undergoing psychiatric treatment since November 2022. I am on a daily regimen of 1 mg of Risperidone and 200 mg of Lithium Carbonate. Risperidone is an antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and Lithium Carbonate is a mood stabilizer used to treat bipolar disorder. Higher doses of Risperidone are usually prescribed for schizophrenia and lower doses are prescribed for bipolar disorder. After an initial month of 1mg dosage of Risperidone, my doctor raised the dosage to 2 mg daily but I had side effects and I didn't feel the same improvement as when I was on 1 mg so I asked the doctor to reduce my dosage back to 1 mg and she agreed to do so.

I suffered from mood instability and the medication prescribed to me for bipolar disorder is helpful. For this I thank the Board for requesting a psychiatric examination and I also thank the examining psychiatrist for recommending treatment. However, I don't find myself suffering from schizophrenia because this latter condition usually involves hallucinations and the experiences I described at the hearing that BNPJ agents must have broken into my apartment in July 2011, that I was subject to witchcraft in November 2011 and that my ex-girlfriend together with BNPJ agents were trying to set me up to charge me with rape, the kidnapping attempt from inside a bar in 2014 and the threatening and insulting phone calls in 2013 and 2014 were all real experiences that I didn't imagine.

The ranting about politics that I had at the company Alcatel in October 2000 was most probably due to my bipolar disorder condition. In that meeting with the manager, not only did I predict the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the Arab Spring and the fall of the Moroccan regime but I also insulted the king and called him stupid and retarded. It is this last detail that made the king angry against me and wanting to hurt me. During that meeting, I was in a state of acute confusion, not at all weighing my words and lost control of what I was saying even though I suspected that I was being videotaped and tried to be calm.

Years later in 2012, I asked my ex-girlfriend who was boasting that she had relatives in the secret police - instead of admitting she had relationships with BNPJ agents - to find out what happened with me at Alcatel. After asking her relative, she told me that he told her that the company had written a report about me that stated that I was in a state of "drunkenness leading to delirium". I actually had a hangover that morning since I used to drink almost every night during that period. She also added that many managers at the company had signed the report. That she could retrieve this information quickly and effortlessly proved to me that she indeed had ties with the secret police and that they kept a file on me. When I went back to Morocco in 2009, I

was under the false impression that that story at Alcatel had been forgotten after so many years. I was clearly wrong about that.

I believe that the secret police is still keeping a file on me and that that file now contains more accusations after I was active publicly on YouTube in the years 2015 and 2016. I made many videos criticizing the king directly and publicly. In one video, upon the suggestion of another militant, I burned the Moroccan flag. That video was shared on Facebook by protesters of the Rif protest (Hirak) movement in 2017. In Morocco, burning the national flag is a crime punishable by imprisonment.

Most Facebook pages of the Rif Protests (Hirak) movement were closed after activists were arrested and sentenced to prison. I still could find some pages on Facebook that shared my video of burning the Moroccan flag.

<https://www.facebook.com/Raba3.de/videos/905561866253673/>

<https://www.facebook.com/100057256459309/videos/430154803988081/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Telegramarif/videos/670071766510080/>

Torture of political prisoners, including of protesters of the Hirak movement, has been documented by Human Rights Watch (see HRW's report about crushing dissent in Morocco, entitled "They'll Have You No Matter What"), Amnesty International (see attached petition <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/two-decades-in-prison-for-speaking-out/>) and recently by the European Parliament (see attached resolution [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0014\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0014_EN.pdf)).

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# Two decades in prison for speaking out

**Human Rights Defender Nasser Zefzafi is serving decades in prison for peacefully protesting. He was subjected to torture and ill-treatment and is being held in terrible conditions as his health declines. Take action and demand freedom for Nasser now.**

Nasser lived a peaceful life with his family in the Rif region of northern Morocco, an area struggling with poor healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Year upon year the population has been marginalized by successive governments in Morocco.

Triggered by the death of a fishmonger who was crushed by a rubbish truck as he tried to recover fish unfairly confiscated by the authorities, in October 2016 peaceful protests began in Nasser's town. Millions of people marched peacefully to express their sadness and frustration. They had had enough. They were demanding change. The Hirak El-Rif movement was born, and Nasser, a firm believer in justice and equality, became a prominent figure in the movement.

In the months that followed, Moroccan security forces arrested hundreds of protesters. On 29 May 2017, Nasser was arrested for interrupting a sermon at a mosque and accusing the Imam (Islamic prayer leader) of acting as a mouthpiece for the authorities. Whilst in custody, Nasser was subjected to torture and ill-treatment by police officers. On 27 June

2018, Nasser was sentenced to 20 years in prison, just for speaking out. *Nasser was held in solitary confinement until 31 August 2018.*

Forced to live in terrible conditions in prison, Nasser's health deteriorated significantly. He's suffering from serious respiratory and eyesight problems and nerve pain. The prison authorities have denied him the medical care he needs.

**Take action and demand freedom for Nasser now.**



**ENGLISH**

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TEXTS ADOPTED

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**P9\_TA(2023)0014**

**Situation of journalists in Morocco, notably the case of Omar Radi**

**European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2023 on the situation of journalists in Morocco, notably the case of Omar Radi (2023/2506(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas independent investigative journalist Omar Radi, who covered Hirak protests and state corruption scandals, has been detained since July 2020 and sentenced to six years in prison on trumped-up charges of espionage, as well as on rape charges in July 2021; whereas his sentence was upheld on appeal in March 2022; whereas numerous due process guarantees were violated, rendering the trial inherently unfair and biased; whereas these violations included prolonged pre-trial detention of one year without justification and prevention of access to his case file and two key defence witnesses, who were prevented from appearing in court; whereas Mr Radi has appealed to the Court of Cassation; whereas he was awarded the 2022 Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Prize;
- B. whereas journalist Taoufik Bouachrine has been detained since February 2018 and was sentenced on appeal in September 2021 to 15 years in prison for sexual offences; whereas there were major violations of due process guarantees in the case of Soulaïmane Raïssouni, who in February 2022 received a five-year prison sentence for sexual offences in an unfair trial;
- C. whereas press freedom in Morocco has been continuously deteriorating, dropping to 135th place in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index; whereas numerous journalists, e.g. Ignacio Cembrero, have been under digital surveillance, been intimidated and judicially harassed, and sentenced to long prison sentences, e.g. Maati Monjib;
- D. whereas in 2020 Reporters Without Borders raised concerns with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls regarding the misuse of sexual assault charges to discredit journalists, a worrying practice also condemned by the feminist organisation Khmïssa and Morocco's Association for Human Rights;
- 1. Urges the Moroccan authorities to respect freedom of expression and media freedom, guarantee imprisoned journalists, in particular Omar Radi, Soulaïmane Raïssouni and Taoufik Bouachrine, a fair trial with all due process guarantees, secure their immediate provisional release and cease the harassment of all journalists, their lawyers and

families; urges the authorities to fulfil their international human rights obligations in line with the EU-Morocco Association Agreement;

2. Strongly condemns the misuse of allegations of sexual assault to deter journalists from performing their duties; believes that this misuse endangers women's rights;
3. Is deeply concerned about allegations that the Moroccan authorities have corrupted Members of the European Parliament; calls for the application of the same measures as applied to representatives of Qatar; reiterates its commitment to fully investigate and address cases of corruption involving non-EU countries seeking to buy influence in the European Parliament;
4. Underlines that its resolution of 15 December 2022 called for a special committee tasked with identifying potential flaws in the European Parliament's rules on transparency, integrity and corruption and making proposals for reforms;
5. Urges the Moroccan authorities to end their surveillance of journalists, including via NSO's Pegasus spyware, and to enact and implement legislation to protect them; urges Member States to stop exporting surveillance technology to Morocco, in line with the Dual-Use Regulation;
6. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of 2018 Sakharov Prize finalist Nasser Zefzafi; calls for the release of all political prisoners; condemns the violations of the rights of peaceful protesters and diaspora activists; deplores the flawed trials and convictions of 43 Hirak protesters, as well as their torture in prison;
7. Calls for the EU and its Member States to continue raising with the Moroccan authorities the cases of detained journalists and prisoners of conscience and attend their trials; calls for the EU to use its leverage towards concrete improvements in the human rights situation in Morocco;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of Morocco.