

UPR Intervention for Algeria, 13<sup>th</sup> Session May 29, 2012

*H.E. Mostad Medelci*

The United States welcomes **[head of delegation]** and the delegation of Algeria.

We commend Algeria for several improvements, including partially lifting restrictions on freedom of assembly under its 1990s Emergency Law.

We are concerned by remaining restrictions on civil society organizations under the revised Law on Associations, which permits the government to deny licenses for political, religious, or arbitrary reasons. Additionally, the law could limit foreign collaboration with and funding for Algerian NGOs.

We are also concerned about continued restrictions on free assembly. Several restrictions from the 1992 Emergency Law—including a ban on unlicensed demonstrations in Algiers—remain. Additionally, Ordinance 06-03 places restrictions on assembly for religious purposes.

Finally, we are concerned by reports that many incidents of violence against women are insufficiently investigated and prosecuted by Algerian police and security forces.

The United States makes the following recommendations:

1. Implement legal measures to limit the government's ability to deny an organization's license for political, religious, or arbitrary reasons and to not unnecessarily restrict the ability of Algerian NGOs to receive funding from foreign partners;
2. Remove impermissible barriers to free assembly and expression, including those prohibiting demonstrations in Algiers; and
3. Take robust measures to ensure incidents of violence against women are prosecuted and that protection for victims from retaliation is assured.