



## Algerian Students Activity in France To Support The Liberation Revolution Through Politics And The Media

د . موسى جواد

Moussa.omari77@gmail.com

جامعة سكيكدة

تاريخ القبول: 2021-08-02

تاريخ الإرسال: 2021-04-01

**Abstract:** This study aims to show that Algerian students in Europe depended on their new knowledge about freedom and learning. However, they were very interested in liberation issue of their homeland which was suffering for decades from the French Colonialism.

They were supporting the students meetings and unions of workers. They expressed through the political and media Platforms the need for the independence and the importance of peoples freedom in building themselves.

**Keywords:** liberative activity, Immigrants, students, Revolution, French Colonialism.

### الملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى بيان دور الطلبة الجزائريين المهاجرين إلى فرنسا خاصة وإلى أوروبا عامة، أثناء حرب التحرير. فقد كانوا يعتمدون على معرفتهم بأهمية التعلم في إدراك الحرية. وانشغلوا بقضيتهم الأم، قضية تحرير الوطن الذي عانى لعقود من الزمن تحت نير الاستعمار الفرنسي العاشم.



## Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad

وكان هؤلاء الطلبة منخرطين في النقابات والاتحادات الطلابية والعمالية، ويعبرون عن آرائهم السياسية في كل المنابر الإعلامية المتاحة، مناشدة للاستقلال، ومساندة للشعوب المستعمرة لنيل حريتها.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الطلبة الجزائريون، الثورة، المهاجرون، الاستعمار الفرنسي،

النشاط التحرري

### Introduction:

Algerian students who immigrated to Europe took lots of sorts of liberative fighting. Because of their contact with the European students and association and clubs, they got a total awareness of the necessity of liberation war.

They used many ways and styles to spread the liberal awareness among the students and the workers. In this study, I used the historical analytical method . in order to show and explain the facts and the attitudes. I tried to clarify some historical events depending on the specific references of that period. I'm going to give answers to the following questions:

-What was the role of Algerian students in supporting the revolution against he French occupation?

-What were their different activities in France and other European countries?

-What were the attitudes of French and European students from the Algerian Studants activities ?

-To what extent the colonist authorities were afraid of Algerian students demonstrations in French universities ?

-What did the Arab countries do to help the Algerian revolution?

-How did the students act at the beginning of the revolution on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1954 ?



## Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad

-How the French authorities reacted to the anti-colonial demonstrations?

### 1. Algerian Students Activities Abroad:

The students took the responsibility of gaining support for the revolution among the cultural and union cycles in the foreign countries. Through different visits and contribution in students conferences. Where the Algerian student proved his capacity and ability to support the revolution. Thus, the leaders of revolution depended on students to be representatives of Algeria abroad.<sup>1</sup>

Some students specialized in revolution works and the other groups in secret path. Some others also were engaged in media. Those students took high grades because of their good work in favor of the Algerian revolution. A lot of them were martyred such as: mohammed Zeddour, Mouhammed Ghamdi, Boumadian Tiarti, Amara Rachid, Hassiba ben Bouali, Maryem Saadan and Malika kaida.<sup>2</sup>

This urged Algerian students to found a special organization which appeared in 1954, it Called union of Algerian students in paris. Where the Algerian student felt bigger responsibility and sacrifices . They were ready to involve into the revolutionary work in the mountains with their brothers in National Liberation Army.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> – Ammar kellil: malhamat aljazair aljadida, dar albath, algiers, 1991, 1/343.

<sup>2</sup> –Idriss kheidher: albahh fi tarikh aljazair al-hadith(1830-1962) dar al-gharb, Oran, 1/129.

<sup>3</sup> – Ammar Hellel: nachat talaba aljazairiyin ibbana harb ttahrir1954, la founmik.



## Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad

«One of the forms of nonviolent resistance that most troubled the French authorities in the first years of the conquest was Algerians' emigration. Early emigrations were forced by the invasion and subsequent pacification, as well as»<sup>1</sup>.

### 2. students challenge hard conditions and involve into liberative awarness:

Though hard living conditions that faced the Algerian students, they didn't failed to be aware of the colonialism damages. Although, they lived in isolation. If we take Malik Bennabi as an example of those students, who stated that in addition to hard living conditions of students, they were suffering from moral isolation resulted of the perception other students.<sup>2</sup>

Algerian students in Paris were complaining about their dangerous living conditions. Therefore, they were working in any jobs in order to get money for living and studying. Because of the lack of support from the general government.

Algerians were the most poor among the Maghreb students .They were suffering from racism, because they were obliged to work outside the study.<sup>3</sup> The feeling of racism was still affecting the moral of Algerian students. Especially when looking for rooms, many owners refused to rent rooms for

<sup>1</sup> – Malika Rahal: "Algeria: Nonviolent resistance against French colonialism, 1830s-1950s." In Recovering nonviolent history. Civil resistance in liberation struggles, 107–123. Maciej J. Bartkowski. Boulder, Colo. Rienner, 2013, p07.

<sup>2</sup> – Malika kellil: hijrat aljazairiyyin min al-awress ila firansa, p196-197.

<sup>3</sup> – Mustafa Iachraf: a'alam wa ma'alim maathir jazair mansya, tarjamet ahmed bin mohammed bakli, dar alkassaba, Algiers, 2007, p140.



## **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

Algerian students, or they used to impose high prices in some hotels.<sup>1</sup>

Among tasks of the student union in France, was giving helps...Every student used to give financial contribution between 500 to 1000 franc every month. According to the ability of everyone. Whoever his living conditions are better, he should pay(contribute) more. Regarding the conditions of immigrants who were stripped of their money and possessions. Finally, for the poor students, they were not obliged to contribute.<sup>2</sup>

### **2.1. The Role Of The Associations And The Unions Of Students:**

Although, the fundamental statements of the students unions didn't provide for the political work. But in fact, they were interested in many issues of the national movement. Where this work was confined to the known political parties.

The most of immigrated students to France were following the contemporary events. therefore, they learnt organization approaches, and became saturated with freedom and equality values, hanks to the intellectual attriction. And they exploited that all later in the favor of the national movement inside Algeria.<sup>3</sup>

Those associations of students used to combine students without distinguishing of their religion or opinion. the Algerian students had good positions in the international unions . After

<sup>1</sup> – Malika kellil: op.cit, 206-207.

<sup>2</sup> – Saadi bezian: dawr el-tabaka al-jazairyya fi almahjar fi thawrat novembre 1954, dar houma, Algiers, 1998, p62.

<sup>3</sup> – Lounissi Rabeh, bachir mellah: tarikh aljazair almoassir 1830-1989, dar al-m'arifa, 2010, 2/15.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

they succeeded in founding the association of north African muslim students in paris.<sup>1</sup>

«Algerian unions had an essential role in organizing solidarity with other French occupied territories. For example, in the 1950s the Algerian dockers' unions called on workers to stop loading weapons to be shipped to French forces in Vietnam, where the French faced a war against a movement for independence»<sup>2</sup>.

The students founded **Association of North-Africa Muslim Students** in december 1931 in paris, composed of a lot of groups of Algerian students. Especially students in the universities of Paris and its neighbourhood. It contained also students from Tunisia and Morocco. This association founded a club, a library, a restaurant and a house for the students.<sup>3</sup>

It seemed obviously, that the association of north-africa students was interested in the national issues. It supported all different types national movements. It opposed the arrests which touched the members of the political part "Al-nnadjm" in 1934. From other side, it made a reception party to Maurice Violette, to thank him for his activities in favour of Algerians.<sup>4</sup>

There was also great activity to **The Association of Muslim Students in France**, which was mostly very concerned by the naturalization issue. But unfortunately, there existed a conflict between two categories of students:

<sup>1</sup> – Malika kellil: op.cit.

<sup>2</sup> – Interview with Henri Alleg, Palaiseau (France), 20 January 2003 and Bourouiba, Les Syndicalistes Algériens, 110.

<sup>3</sup> – Malika kellil: op.cit, p208.

<sup>4</sup> – Ibid.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

First: students of Islamic Arabic belonging.

Second: the naturalized students, who preferred the occidental civilization. This position led to the creation of the association of muslim students.

The students' union are astonished when they found that his union of students was supported by the French administration which greeted the naturalized students, and gave them moral and concrete facilities. As an example, getting an intellectual club in paris for them. <sup>1</sup>

The students could understand the political, economical and social events. Recognizing the fact of bad colonialism. The matter which paved the way to awareness and the necessity of homeland liberation.

The reformers direction consisted of the Association of the muslim Algerian scholars. Who had an important role in adaptation to students in France. French reports stated that the association of scholars had done some activities in France during 1930s .

The Association sent preachers to spread its principles among the immigrants, especially the students of French universities. In April 1939, the number of the Association supporters thousands of people. It could open 13 schools and 14 clubs and six Islamic associations. <sup>2</sup>

The Algerian students in France were surprised by the order of strike stated in may, 19<sup>th</sup>, 1956 to boycott the study, the examinations and joining to the mountains. A lot of them were

<sup>1</sup> – Zozou: el-dawr el-ssyasi lilhijra, p154.

<sup>2</sup> –Journal E-Umma, adad87, (25/08/1936)



---

### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

very amazed because there left just few weeks to do the final exams.

Abdelssalam Balaid travelled to France in order to meet the students and the representatives of the liberation front. He met Abban Ramdan, and convinced the students in France that the decision of strike was well planned and obliged.<sup>1</sup>

#### **3. Students Efforts To Internationalize Of The Algerian Issue:**

The leaders of the national movement did their best to internationalize the Algerian issue through the international institutions and organizations. Even the Arab and the friend states did their efforts in favor of Algeria through the united nations organization.

The Algerian students got any opportunity to present their issue, and demand independence. For example, they attended the manifestations of the leftists. Trying to speak about their homeland. As they tried to convince other Algerian immigrants to reclaim their rights.<sup>2</sup>

The Algerian students did the first step to get the international confession. Through attending the international manifestations they were explaining their national issue. And defending their revolution interests and aims, Like they did in Colombia, the Algerian students union contributed the sixth international conference. where other students from Holand,

---

<sup>1</sup> –Ahmed maryouch: al-haraka el-ttollabya al-jazairya wa dawroha fi al-kadiyya alwatanyya wa thawrat el-tahrir 1954, phd, department of history, Algiers, (2005-

<sup>2</sup> – Ali Haroun: alwilaya el-ssabi'a, p95.





#### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

Switzerland, Germany, Italy, China and USA. showed supporting to the Algerian issue.<sup>1</sup>

By the time the Algerian students proved that they were competent and ready to challenge for their revolution success.<sup>2</sup> More and more, the students were supporting their revolution goals and principals. Although, the French persecution was increased fast. But they never surrounded.<sup>3</sup>

They represented a third conference of Tunisian and Moroccan students unions. Which debated the moral and material conditions of students, and the development of the revolution.

#### **4. Earning the German and American Sympathy with The National Liberation Front:**

In the university environment, the impact of African and Asian students was growing increasingly. France was not pleased with this matter. According to the French investigations the number of Algerian students in french universities didn't exceed one percent. But they were all among the National Liberation Front. They were also members of a central permanent delegation led by Mouhammed Daklaoui. The students created an Algerian-German Friendship Committee.<sup>4</sup>

Germany was reacted to the National Liberation Front, and supported the independence of Algeria. Goethe-institut organized language classes for citizens in the Algerian republic

<sup>1</sup> – Lounissi Rabeh, bachir mellah, op.cit, 2/15.

<sup>2</sup> – Ibid, p14.

<sup>3</sup> – Ammar Kellil: op.cit, p334.

<sup>4</sup> – Bouaziz: el-multaka el-ththani lithawra, 124.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

by the support of the students solidarity fund . and the German Media have been talking about Algeria constantly. <sup>1</sup>

In a TV mission about « the war of the seven years » led by Jordan Pasinky, which was considered a glorification of Liberation Front. And a direct criminalization of France. <sup>2</sup>

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference of the General Union of Muslim Algerian Students (23-28/12/1958) in Paris. After the meeting, a lot of delegations came to support the Algerian Students. Among of them was the American Students Delegation who was expelled from France, because of his stated: « Freedom is indivisible, and the American students understood the bad results of the French colonialism. so, colonialists must recognize the independence of Algeria. <sup>3</sup>

#### **5. The Revolutionary Students Activity In The Media Through Radio And Press:**

The Algerian students felt that they were well concerned in the national responsibility which required fighting for the independence of their homeland. They preferred to give the study up and fighting in the mountains to face the colonist forces. <sup>4</sup>

«During November and December of 1954, the FLN began launching a series of attacks in the major metropolitan centers of Algeria. Their initial targets were mostly governmental

<sup>1</sup> – John Paul kahan and close yarghan Molar: komhoryat almanya al-fidiralyya wa thowra al-jazairiyya(1962-1954), dar al-m'arifa, bab el-oued, algiers, p326.

<sup>2</sup> – Ibid, p348.

<sup>3</sup> – Ammar Hellel: op. cit, p78.

<sup>4</sup> – Ali Haroun: op.cit, p87.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

buildings and police stations, French colonists, and Algerian civilians in favor of colonial domination »<sup>1</sup>. Then the claiming students and workers rights became very little comparing with the independence matter.<sup>2</sup>

Algerian students focused on the side of media which had a great role in reporting the news of revolution and its developments.<sup>3</sup> For the target media abroad, the delegation of the National Liberation Front were doing seminars and statements in the international cities and capitals.<sup>4</sup>

Here we must indicate to the great role of the brother-arab-countries in supporting Algerian revolution. These countries used to publicize the Algerian issue in their audio and written media. As an example, Al-ahram journal was covering he activities of Algerian delegation. As it was publishing articles concerning the Algerian issue.<sup>5</sup>

As a result, the use of nonviolent forms of resistance such as formation and work of cultural associations or political nonviolent organizing in particular during the “decade of political parties” after the Second World War<sup>6</sup>.

Also, we can not forget the role of the Arabic radios to support Algerian revolution. As an example of that, the radio

<sup>1</sup> – Celestin, Roger and Eliane DalMoline, France From 1851 to the Present: Universalism in Crisis, (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007, 264.

<sup>2</sup> – Ammar Hellel: op. cit, p78.

<sup>3</sup> – Ali Haroun: op.cit, p87.

<sup>4</sup> – Ammar Hellel: op.cit, p91.

<sup>5</sup> – Alghali Garbi: firansa wa el-thawra al-jazairiyya (1954-1958), dar gharnata, 2006, p496.

<sup>6</sup> – Malika Rahal: nonviolent resistance, p05.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

program acted by the students in Cairo, under the supervision of members of national liberation front party before foundation of the permanent government. During that period, the radio of The Arabs sound was used to broadcast some programs that support the Algerian Revolution .<sup>1</sup>

#### **6. The French reactions:**

Because of their engagement into the liberation revolution, the Algerian students were suffering from the French persecution and oppression. The colonist authorities tried to prevent the students from joining the revolution. But they failed in convincing the students to abandon the idea of fighting for their independence .<sup>2</sup>

«The government also appointed Jacques Soustelle Governor General of Algeria, who gave all French soldiers and military commands license to make any decisions in the field that were deemed necessary to battle the FLN. In this way Soustelle was able to avoid all culpability for the questionable decisions of the men who served under him because he never had to give direct orders calling for brutality<sup>3</sup>».

But in France, after stopping the General Union of Muslim Algerian Students, the students deserted the French

<sup>1</sup> – Rabeh terki amamra: sawt al-jazair min iha'at sawt alarab fi al-kahira wa mahamoho athnaa el-thawra, almultaqa alawwel lili'alam wa li'alam almudhad, 2009, p195.

<sup>2</sup> – Khaloufi Baghdad: nachat al-haraka el- ttollabyya athnaa el-thawra el-tahriryaa1954-1962. Dar al-makhabir, Algiers, 2013, p203.

<sup>3</sup> – Connelly, Matthew, A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002, p 80.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

universities. the French authorities tried to remedy the matter. They offered high posts in their administrations, and demands to get financial helps. In fact their early purpose was to dismiss the students from the armed fight. And remain them there in the universities in all means. Because this abandonment worries the authorities. Especially that international solidarity was more and more increased in all over the world. <sup>1</sup>

By the occasion of the international day of students struggle decided in Bandung conference on February, the 21<sup>st</sup> from every year, the (G.U.M.A.S) took the chance and gave a list by the name of jailed students in France. In order to interfere with the French authorities for releasing them. <sup>2</sup>

The National Union of French Students protested on the decision of stopping the (G.U.M.A.S) and considered that arbitrary decision. Also lots of the students of French high schools unions and the students of north Africa were protesting against this decision. They went out in demonstrations with 16 unions of students with their teachers against the injustice of the French administration. <sup>3</sup>

The French reaction was very shocking. By banning the activities of the Association of Muslim Algerian scholars during

<sup>1</sup> – Ali Haroun: al-wilaya el-ssabi'a hizb jabhat tahrir al-watani dakhil el-torab alfiransi(1954-1962) tajamet el-ssadik Ammari and Mustafa Madhi, Algiers, 2012, p78.

<sup>2</sup> – Yahia bouaziz: mawdho'at wa kadaya min tarikh aljazair wa alarab, dar el-huda, 2004, p190.

<sup>3</sup> – Yahia bouaziz: dawr el-ttalaaba al-jazairiyyin fi thawrat el-ttahrir 1954-1960. Almultaqa alwatani rl-ththani lithawra, 9-10/05/1984, monadhamat alwatanya lil-mujahidin, p7/127.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

world war 2 in France and Algeria as well. That Caused deprivation of Algerians from any political or unpolitical activity.<sup>1</sup>

«Thousands were buried in mass graves, and subsequently the French government attempted to bury the crimes along with victims. However, the international press condemned the atrocity and the excessive response of the French military»<sup>2</sup>. Because of the harassment and the arrests so the Algerian students were obliged to immigrate to Switzerland. In just one year, more than 800 Algerian students immigrated .generally, the Algerian students could obtain many steps in the domain of struggling and fighting whether inside Algeria or outside.<sup>3</sup>

«the political parties diverged dramatically on the advisability of mass nonviolent protests, an indecision that stemmed from the traumatic experience of the May, 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 massacres. At the day celebrating the German surrender in the Second World War, nonviolent demonstrations in eastern Algeria had turned into riots and anti-European attacks after police shot demonstrators waving an Algerian flag in Sétif»<sup>4</sup>.

Algerian students who immigrated to Europe took lots of sorts of liberal fight. Because if their contact with the European

<sup>1</sup> – Mohammed El-bachir Al-Ibrahimi: al-takrir aladabi li jama'yat al'ulama, albassair, 15/10/1951, adad5, p 172-173.

<sup>2</sup> – Evans, Martin, Algeria France's Undeclared War (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012, 89-91

<sup>3</sup> – Yahia bouaziz: mawdho'at, p191-192.

<sup>4</sup> – Malika Rahal: nonviolent resistance, p23.



### **Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

students and association and clubs, they got a total awareness of the necessity of liberation war. They used many ways and styles to spread the liberative awareness among the students and the workers.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

To conclude, I can say that although their hard living conditions, Algerian students in France a high awareness and varied activities to support the Algerian liberation revolution. In Addition, They exploited all opportunities to show their interest in supporting the revolution, Through different unions of Algerian students that were doing many activities, manifestations, and demonstration against the French occupation .

Last but not least, Students of other countries were supporting the Algerian issue through the conference and the statements of Algerian delegation. In general, the American and German students acted positively towards the Algerian independence. Finally, the Arab countries encouraged the students throughout the media . Almost Algerian students in Europe replied the statement of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1954, to armed fight in the mountains.

#### **Bibliography List:**

1) *Ahmed Maryouch: al-haraka el-ttollabya al-jazairya wa dawroha fi al-kadiyya alwatanyya wa thawrat el-tahrir* 1954, (phd), department of history, university of Algiers (2005).

2) Ali Haroun: *al-wilaya el-ssabi'a hizb jabhat tahrir al-watani dakhil el-torab alfiransi(1954-1962)* translated by El-ssadik Ammari and Mustafa Madhi, Algiers, 2012.

3) Alghali Garbi: *firansa wa el-thawra al-jazairiyya (1954-1958)*, dar gharnata, 2006.



**Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

4) Ammar Hellel: nachat talaba aljazairiyin ibban harb ttahrir1954, la fougik.

5) Ammar kellil: malhamat aljazair aljadida, dar albath, Algiers, 1991.

6) Alghali Garbi: firansa wa el-thawra al-jazairiyya (1954-1958), dar gharnata, 2006.

7) Celestin, Roger and Eliane DalMoline, France From 1851 to the Present: Universalism in Crisis, (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007.

8) Connelly, Matthew, A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria's Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2002.

9) Evans, Martin, Algeria France's Undeclared War (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2012.

10) John paul Cahen and close garden molar: komhoryat almanya al-fidiralyya wa thowra al-jazairiyya(1962-1954), dar al-m'arifa, bab El-oued, Algiers.

11) Henri Alleg, Interview with him in Palaiseau (France), 20 January 2003 and Bourouiba, Les Syndicalistes Algériens, 110.

12) Khaloufi Baghdad: nachat al-haraka el- ttollabyya athnaa el-thawra el-tahriry1954-1962. Dar al-makhabir, Algiers, 2013.

13) Idriss kheidher: albahh fi tarikh aljazair al-hadith(1830-1962) dar al-gharb, Oran.

14) Malika Rahal: "Algeria: Nonviolent resistance against French colonialism, 1830s-1950s." In Recovering nonviolent history. Civil resistance in liberation struggles, 107-123. Maciej J. Bartkowski. Boulder, Colo. Rienner, 2013,

15) Mohammed el-bachir al-ibrahimi: al-takrir aladabi li jama'yat al'ulama, albassair, 15/10/1951, adad5.





**Algerian Students Activity in France ----- Dr. Moussa Djouad**

16) Mustafa Lachraf: a'alam wa ma'alim maathir jazair mansya, translation of Ahmed bin Mohammed Bakli, dar Alkassaba, Algiers.

17) Lounissi Rabeh, Bachir Mellah: tarikh aljazair almoassir 1830-1989, dar al-m'arifa.

18) Rabeh Terki Amamra: sawt al-jazair min iha'at sawt alarab fi al-kahira wa mahamoho athnaa el-thawra, almultaqa alawwel lili'alam wa li'alam almodhad, 2009.

19) Saadi Bezan: dawr el-tabaka al-jazairyya fi almahjar fi thawrat novembre 1954, dar Houma, Algiers, 1998.

20) Yahia Bouaziz: mawdho'at wa kadaya min tarikh aljazair wa alarab, dar el-huda.

21) Yahia Bouaziz: dawr el-ttalaba al-jazairiyyin fi thawrat el-ttahrir 1954-1960. The second national conference of the revolution, 9-10/05/1984, National Organization of The Mujahideen.