

Contents listsavailableatASJP (Algerian Scientific Journal Platform)

Academic Review of Social and Human Studies

journal homepage:www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/PresentationRevue/552



The Algerian Labor Movement (ALM) under French repression (Aissat Idir as a model 1956-1959)

الحركة العمالية الجزائرية تحت القمع الفرنسي عيسات إيدير أنموذجا 1956_1959

Djilali Tekrane^{1,*}

¹ Faculty of Human and Sociology Sciences, Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef, ALGERIA.

Article info

Historique de l'article:

Received: 14-03-2022

Accepted: 29-06-2022

Keywords:

repression

Algerian Labor Movement

Aissat Idir

strike

prison

workers.

Abstract

This paper aims to expose an historical approach of the main French crimes in Algeria during the war of liberation 1954-1962 .The Algerian civil society was submitted to French cruelty ,i.e., the Algerian labor movement (ALM) paid a heavy cost among its leadership and militants through various means: persecution, assassination, imprisonment, transfer ,fire-out, humiliation and exploitation in order to prevent those workers to take part in demonstration to emancipate their country. Why did French authorities forbid civilians to militate peacefully? and why it did not let them revendicate their requests legally and lawfully?

In this study, we deal with a narrative and analytical approach that suit this kind of topics .As a result ,we can deduce some consequences that were related tightly to French colonialism : civilian society and economy were both damaged and dislocated and forcing thousands of people to refuge in Tunisia and Morocco or immigrate abroad. The ALM appealed for the international community to take responsibility to put an end to these terrible crimes against humanity, and called for an independent investigation to reveal unforgivable and unforgettable French crimes in Algeria; to discover the ugly face of the western civilization in Africa that ever heard nowadays in various means of media.

ملخص

الكلمات المفتاحية:

تهدف هذه الورقة الى الكشف عن مقاربة تاريخية للجرائم الفرنسية في الجزائر خلال الثورة التحريرية 1962-1954 ، حيث اخضع المجتمع المدني الجزائري لفظاظة الفرنسية ، ذلك ان الحركة العمالية الجزائرية دفعت ثمنا باهظا بين قيادتها ومناضليها عن طريق الاضطهاد ، الاغتيال ، السجن ، الترحيل ، الاذلال والاستغلال بغرض منعهم من المشاركة في التظاهر لتحرير بلادهم . لماذا منعت السلطات الاستعمارية الفرنسية المدنيين الجزائريين من الفئات الشغيلة والحرفية من النضال السلمي لتحقيق مطالبهم المهنبة والتعبير عنها بشكل قانوني ؟

في هذه الدراسة ، نعتمد المنهج السردي التحليلي المناسب للموضوع الذي امكننا تلمس بعض النتائج فية حيث تضرر المجتمع والاقنصاد الجزائريبن طرديا ،اذ نزح الالاف منهم الى تونس والمغرب و هاجر الاخرون الى الخارج ، الامر الذي خلف ازمة انسانية تحملت مسؤوليتها قيادة الثورة والحركة العمالية الجزائرية في التعريف بها وسط المجتمع الدولي والدعوة الى تحقيق مستقل للكشف عن الجرائم الفرنسية التي لا تغتفر ضد الانسانية في الجزائر وكشف الوجه القبيح للحضارة الغربية في افريقيا في مختلف الوسائل الاعلامية.

القمع الإضراب الحركة العمالية الجزائرية عيسات إيدير السجن العمال.

^{*} Corresponding author at: Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef, Algeria. Email : d.tekrane@univ-chlef.dz

1. introduction

As soon as Algerian people were declaring liberation war on November 1st, 1954, the general government in Algiers took speedily many repressive restrictions in order to put down this revolutionary action. Being surprised, the French authorities resorted to cruel procedures against the civilians blindly, took them for soldiers or pro-FLN-ALN (political and military wings of Algerian Revolution) with premeditations such as: shooting, bombarding, displacement, arresting, or persecuting and throwing in jail.

At the first semester of 1956, Algerians had been structured into different social branches to mobilize the society in cities to give support to the revolutionaries . the Algerian labor movement was one of those organizations to urge workers in factories and railways, dockers in ports, merchants in their stores to shut down and give up working and went on strike, demonstration, marches as an act of disobedience to French administration . This admission of the whole civil society in the military action had put France in a great danger and paralyzed its economy ,hence French leaders react vigorously without mercy, ignored laws of war in Algeria .

1- Innocence as a favorite enemy

Earlier, the Algerian Labor Movement(ALM) had been severely repressed, but the eight-day strike made the repression growing cruelly against the civilians in Algeria . The(ALM) had been persecuted since its birth in 1956. The restrictions on its activity took vertical dimension, such as the pursuit of its leadership of the first secretary on May 24-1956, led by Aissat Idir, Mohamed Felissi, Boualem Bourouiba, Mustafa Laassel and Al-Taher Kayed who were transferred to Berrouaghia prison, then to Saint Leu prison (Oran), besides other prisons such as Aflou(south of Algeria) and Bousset in Sidi Bel Abbes(west of Algeria) as well.

Robert Lacoste -as a general governor in Algiersordered the police to arrest about 30 labor militants and officials on 05-01-1957, most of them were tram- workers, postmen and teachers, after had participated in the general strike of merchants and workers, commemorating the memory of innocent victims on September 29-1956, where the French forces generalized repression on Algerian employees since 10-01-1957, curried them to police stations to be punished, and obliged them to have traffic license for their displacement (Mynier and Harbi ,2004,p696) that it meant every movement must be controlled.

The Casbah, shantytowns and workers' quarters were also fenced off with barbed wires, Unemployed people could not leave for fear of arrest. But the general government violated the decree of 01-01-1957 by canceling the family grants, as well as social insurance for workers, which affected the lower wages, and weakened the purchasing power too, and worsened the conditions of living for many families.

The general government in Algiers did not pay allowances for the tramway workers of Arab origins at the end of the year, which seemed to be a racist social policy of Guy Mollet's government and his representative governor-general Robert Lacoste(Mynier and Harbi ,2004,p696)

These hard measures of repression humiliated the professional and human dignity of workers so much in Algeria. The general government stated the imposition of economic sanctions on the workers in both public and private institutions which were characterized by expulsion or being submitted to the disciplinary councils, or delaying the payment of wages or deductions from salaries and deprived them from taking grants, and more than those procedures, the workers may be transferred, suspended or fired out . 80% of the Algerian railway workers were submitted to the disciplinary councils, 50% of service workers had been laid off, 240 hospital workers had been dismissed, and 180 workers had been imprisoned for 8-10 days under the pretext of not responding to the forced labor order(افرس 1989، ص 1966) .

How had the Algerian militants of labor movement been treated in prisons? persecution took many forms. In February 1957, the paratrooper group took Aissat Idir to "Bousset" prison where he was interrogated and tortured with electricity, water in vain, without revealing anything to them, searching for the creation of the third Force inside detention centers, among the Algerian militants (Benkhedda, 2011,p 07).

The French authorities searched firstly for a high-class collaborator to entrap the FLN's plan in order to blow it up ,then continuing the process of physical liquidation of active and troubling elements by various ways . What made it easier for the French repressive services to arrest the militants and identify their names was when CISL(international confederation of free syndicates) provided the International Labor Office (BIT) with a nominal list of the arrested Algerian labor movement (ALM), so the security agents arrested whose names were mentioned in the list quickly one by one(Boussalem, 2000, p 100) .

The life of the first secretary general of the ALM, Aissat Idir, had passed through three phases: he began the first as a detainee, tortured, interrogated, and subjected to bargaining, enticement and psychological pressure; the second phase started with the military trial that accused him for "threatening the state security" and "Attacks on state security and the formation of an evil association" (Fares, 1990, p 97).

However, the repressive French authorities sought by every means- at the third phase- to find a clear evidence or clues to add it in the trial file by faking an accusation against Aissat Idir in cooperating with the Liberation Front (FLN) . This evidence was that Aissat Idir was a member of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution issuing from the Soumam Conference held on August 20-1956. The French police seized a letter addressed to Ahmed Mahsas focused on the relationship between ALM and the Liberation Front(FLN) . This letter was a main pretext for the French security to condemn Aissat Idir(Bourouiba,2001, p 328) .

The Provisional Government of Algerian Republic, CISL, and the National Central Delegate abroad assigned lawyers to defend ALM's detainees, namely: Attorney Henri Rollin (former minister and member of the Belgian Senate) with the lawyer Raymond Shimama, and the FLN assigned the lawyer "Galiou" and Verges to defend both Omar and Fatima Ozaguene and the others (Fares, 1990, p 97).

The trial started on 12-01-1959 with accusations against the ALM militants of harming the external state security and forming an evil association. Aissat

Idir, the first secretary general of the ALM said before the court: "I fought for organizing the workers to defend their rights by legal means for more than 15 years, but there is a wall in front of us that we cannot over-pass it, that is the administration practices, so, the result of that is known wide world: the poverty, the unemployment, the peasants without land, the racial discrimination, the illiteracy. All the contradictory French policies applied in Algeria since 1830 were failed, such as the land confiscation, the displacement of farmers, the injustice, the disintegration which transferred thousands of the Algerian youth to immigrate to France in search of work." (Fares, 1990, p. 99)

Algeria scarified its blood in the two world wars but it was rewarded with the massacre 08-05-1945 ...ALM declared: The social and the political emancipation of our fellow workers is only possible within an independent Algeria, and we claimed that explicitly even before 1954 ... we are not considered as outlaws, we claimed the right to live as human beings, not as subjects in our native country.

The only reason for accusation of Aissat Idir was the establishment of ALM which struggled for dignity." The judicial decisions of ALM's detainees were as follows:

Aissat Idir: innocent - Abdelkader Allal: 03 years in prison - Abd al-Hamid charikhi: two years in prison - Noureddine Iskander: two years - Omar Ozeguene: 08 years - Mustapha cheikh, Moussa Marrakchi, Muhammad Sahnoun, Muhammad Abbas Turki, Ahmed Abbas Turki: innocence - Abdelkader Maachou: 20 years - Embark djilani: 20 years (in absentia) - Mourad ben Atik: 20 years (in absentia) - Ibrahim ben Dris: 20 years in prison (in absentia) - Fatima Ozeguene: 06 years(Fares, 1990, p 100).

2-Decapitating ALM

Shortly after the court pronounced the acquittal of Aissat Idir, the Bijar's paratroopers -ordered by the general Godard - were at the gate waiting for him, Godard said about Idir: "The court approved the pronouncement of acquittal decision but Aissat Idir is an important figure at the First National Council of the Algerian Revolution (arrested on May 24, 1956) and

he is against the France presence in Algeria and he is dangerous and violent and cannot be recovered, our fear that he may join Tunisia later " (Fares, 1990, p 101) They were seeking in vain clues for accusation.

What is noteworthy in the statement was the intention to assassinate Aissat Idir despite his innocence, but in their view Aissat Idir remained a constant and quiet danger for them, even if he was abroad for the possibility of becoming a minister in the interim government and he will continue his struggle against the colonialism . what can France benefit after 3 years of Aissat Idir's imprisonment? Aissat Idir elimination was imminent despite the difference of views between the civilians who support the policy of pacification and the elimination of a person may pose a great threat to their policy, whereas the military wanted to manipulate Aissat to create the third force and reduce costs(Bourouiba, 2001,p329) .

Acquittal decision made a wide echo among the Algerian workers who were more than ever determined to encourage their delegates abroad to take part in joining CISL(international confederation of free syndicates), whose influence was imprinting the workers' speeches praising the work of international centrality that could release ten prisoners of ALM, including Aissat Idir a member of the committee of Coordination and execution . If this international syndicate was not useful in its endeavor, it would not continue its activities and we abandon it forever. Rather, their leadership were aware of negotiations -between FLN and France- that it will take place about the independence of Algeria (ANOM,7G/1198.

The French intelligence exposed in a paper dated 19-01-1959, the affiliation of ALM's militants within the National Liberation Front and the National Liberation Army may not expose them to risk of death -French analysis- as long as there was an international syndicate to defend them by all legal means, the matter made the security forces disagreed the dimensions of the military court decision. So, the Bigeard's special forces vetoed against court rule and tried him by their own methods in order to be a "lesson" for his friends and the true justice will be outside the courtroom according to those killers.

The foreign delegation of the ALM called on the workers of the world and the international syndicate to sympathize with the struggle of the Algerian people and the Algerian workers.

Aissat Idir as a leadership, after being acquitted on January 13-1959, had been threatened with death at any moment. The syndicates all over the world must take their moral and humanitarian responsibilities in urging the President of the Military Court in Algeria, the French Minister of Justice and the general De Gaulle to release the arrested ALM militants, this moment was an opportunity to discover the reality of the global labor solidarity(El Moudjahid, 1959, 169).

The ALM delegation in Tunisia took a great effort in revealing the circumstances of the assassination of the first national secretary of the ALM .

Mr. Aissat Idir in a press released against the Governor General Paul Delouvrier on 03-08-1959 (ANOM,7G/1106) a memorandum of his determination to assassinate Idir, who was kidnapped during his leaving the court then transferred to Birtraria torture center, more terrible that his place of detention and health status had not been announced since January 17-1959 until he was transferred to Maillot Hospital in April-1959, where a journalist statement indicated that a fire occurred inside Aissat Idir's cell, and neither his family nor his lawyer were allowed to visit him, which made ALM inferring clues over the days following the verdict that the governor-general personally responsible for the cowardly assassination (ANOM,7G/1106).

The French military and the politicians aimed to get rid of Aissat Idir and transfer him to the torture center in Bir al-Touta, where he was tortured for a period of four days in order to extract confessions and provide information on the activities of the Coordination and execution Committee, and then transferred to the military hospital in Maillot (Bab al-oued-Algiers) in a deplorable condition.

The jailers drew a welding machine on his body, after that ,the French authorities pretended that a fire broke out in his room because of his habit of smoking, in sake to wide-spread the suicide hypothesis on this major human crime. However, Aissat Idir was known not to smoke at all. After that; he was put under tight security on everything combustible and prevented visitors from bringing it to jail. Aissat Idir remained for weeks suffering from burns-blooded that affected his body (the thigh and muscles especially) and his skin was strewn in layers.

His family did not know if he was dead or alive and could not find his place of detention until 10 days after. He was put in the mortuary room (Benkhedda, 2011,p08), not even his attorneys knew where he was, it was noticed after the announcement of his death 26-07-1959, his wounds was sewn by many medical threads, 22 anesthetics, his body looked like as if it had been ironed (Fares, 1990, p102), covered with bandages, blood was dripping from his mouth and nose. His family buried him at the cemetery of Sidi M'hamed in the upper part of Algiers.

3-Tracking Aissat Idir's comrades

The rest of ALM activists were not far from repression; so the security services keep a tight control on the ALM's militants' activity in order to dismantle the leadership of the whole organism that showed harmony with the national struggle that claimed by (FLN-ALN).

On January 21 1957, the militant Nassima Habalal2 was arrested and tortured by the tenth parachute division for a period of 40 days in purpose of extracting information in vain .She was presented to the military trial, which issued a sentence of imprisonment for five years, then she was transferred to France for a rental residence, whereas her colleagues were exposed to physical torture and psychological exhaustion . for example, Ibrahim Zerdani 3 had been kicked and punched in a cellar Algiers municipality, and the same destiny witnessed by his friends such as Arezki Mabed in Beni-Messous, Taher Laalem in Sidi Bel Abes.

These labor militants were subjected to various forms of abuses. Lakhdar Kaidi ,after his arrest 19-09-1956, two dogs bitten his ankle, then he was taken to the headquarters of the Regional Security Directorate in Bouzareah, then Beni Messous, where he was interrogated, tortured by water, hung from his legs

until 09-30 - 1956, that it means 11 days of persecution. But this repression did not break their determination for emancipation and national liberation (Kaidi, 2005, p 242).

Some members of the ALM's secretary, including Abdelnour Ali Yahya, Abdelkader Allal, Rahmoun Dakar, Embarek djilani, Ahmed Zitouni - the day after the arrest of the first secretariat of the federation -sent a letter to the general governor Robert Lacoste 01-12-1956, stated by above-mentioned declared: "The Algerian workers will not surrender and will continue their struggle to satisfy their needs, respect their honor, and a ceasefire through negotiations with the National Liberation Front (FLN), as the only legal representative of the Algerian people, and the only political and military force capable of stopping war and negotiating the Algerian crisis "(

identity 1989).

The contents of the message above showed the determination of the ALM's militants to continue the national struggle in all forms to gain national rights and strengthen the organic link with the Liberation Front for Algeria independence, stating that the workers were militants in FLN. "(Fares, 1990,p 62)

The arrestation and the brutal torture of many Algerian workers deprived the ALM from the public and official activity and pushed it to continue the struggle from inside prisons and the detention centers or to join the units of the Liberation Army and provide the logistical support to soldiers or get into the confidentiality since March 1957.

After major raids on militants, the ALM was handled by a youth staff, in spite of lack of experience, but they were full of courage and patience(Bourouiba, 2001,p274).

Loosing much of its power in Algeria, the ALM lost the initiative to take action in the name of workers in demonstration or strike. This situation deprived the FLN to take any military- political action at home. Because of eight-days strike's results, the FLN looked for a space available to its new activity that is to say, Tunisia and France to establish the ALM's external delegation as a representative section of ALM to deal with the Algerian workers.

In a nutshell, there were no longer objective conditions for the ALM activity at home because of the lack of finance and human figures and the war occupied a large area at home and abroad.

4- Workers continued The national struggle in other ways

The prisons and detention centers were full of the ALM activists. so, it was necessary to find a way to continue the national struggle in other ways in order to build bonds of solidarity for the national cause.

In January ,1957 inside prisons, on the initiative of Aissat Idir and his companions such as; Ammar Chittour and Belkacem Tatache incited their comrades not to salute the French flag and reject the orders of prison directors(Bourouiba, 2001,p303).

In Oran, the police governor insulted the prisoners by forcing them to salute the French flag in the morning and in the evening. The FLN's Committee inside the prison decided to organize a hunger strike with the militants both of the Algerian Communist party and Messali's party lasted for 10 days as a political reaction. Lambert (responsible of prison guards) responded by threatening them to be transferred to another jail in order to break the strike and dislocate the common sympathy growing gradually among detainees. Then he brought a group of force to the prison yard that started the process of kicking the detainees, cursing and beating and forced them to open the strikers' mouths forcefully on a hot day of July to demoralize them and breached their sympathy. Feeling so exhausted and bored, some of the strikers began to fall down one by one, 10 of them survived after being rescued. The strike achieved its results according to:

1-all political trends inside the prison were united around the goals of the strike.

- 2- News of the strike reached the press.
- 3-The detainees' families protested and formed a delegation to take a complaint against Lambert and revealed the abuses. Then signing and distributing a petition condemning the conduct of the jailers.
- 4- Commitment to the group(djamaa) and prayer (cheikh Sahnoun, Al-Yadjouri and cheikh chabouki)

which raised the spirit of sacrifice, patience among prisoners.

Fear of the infection spread away to the rest of the prisons, the administration dispersed the members of the strike committee by transferring Massaoud Haddadi and Hassan Bourouiba to Aflo prison, Rabah Karbouch, Aissat Idir, Atallah ben Aissa, Sid Ali Abdel Hamid and Abdelkader Amrani to Bossuet prison (in Sidi Bel Abbas) (Bourouiba, 2001,p307).

Prisons became a fertile field for the ALM detainees to form militants, consolidate patriotism, teaching prisoners the principles of the struggle and the patience over adversity, strengthening the brotherhood ties and the cooperation between them.

Through isolated buildings and internal corridors, detainees activated the campaign of sympathy for those who lost patience and courage due to the prison unbearable conditions, provided an atmosphere of psychological comfort and compensate for family warmth, even relatively, by organizing lessons in history, literature and language learning and reading newspapers that were concerned with news of the Algerian Revolution as: Témoignage Chrétien, Observateur, Express.

On the other side, they exploited family visits and lawyers to find out new news of the Revolution achievements both at home and abroad, encouraged making links with jail guards but taking care of the psychological services that were created inside the prisons in 1957 by the colonial administration to deceive the Algerian militants (155 مر) (1989، مر)

Previously detained, the ALM's militants often remained in stability and comfort but they would feel menaced at any moment, as once liberated the French authorities pursued them to re-arrest or assassinate them . For that reason ,they moved away from the usual places and got away from the spies of the French administration, re-engaged in the national struggle to support their friends .

The ALM's militants held new tasks within the operational cells of the FLN. The workers of railway, post company took the major part in the cities to prepare the December 1960's demonstrations

(Galissot, 2007, p 235), formed the regiments inside Casbah with the participation of Souleiman Riba, Abd Al-Rahman Khamissa, Mohammad Bouchakour and Mohammad Hachlaf (Bourouiba, 2001,p 321).

Abdelkader Omrani as an ALM's activist coordinated with Hadidouch and Hassan Al-Askari main leaders of the Thunderbolt regiments in Casbah, established at the beginning of 1955. The role of these workers was not limited to performing a specific job, but extended to many tasks according to the need for strengthening the struggle or providing information, smuggling weapons, ammunition, and medicines to the ALN 's elements; or the distribution of the ALM 's newspapers "The Algerian Worker", or sending their comrades abroad (Mustafa Khalaf Allah took over the operation)) towards France by the steamship workers, when the militants were smuggled out or for fear of arrest, assassination, or assignment to a mission with help of some progressive French people who were sympathetic with the revolution, such as the chef (Noel) who hid them in his room(73، 1989، سعودى ، 1989، استعودى ، 1989، استعودى ، 1989، استعودى ، التعودى ، التعودى ، التعود ا then transferred Rahmoun Dakar to France secretly .Unfortunately He was being sentenced to death the day after the eight-day strike in 1957(Fares, 1990, p 62) because of his complicity with the Algerian warriors.

Some characteristics of heroism of the ALM's activists were what Houari Ben Sliman did in supplying the FLN's groups in Algiers with weapons and dynamite that were taken from the store to Mersa el kebir in oran . The driver(Pro-FLN) of the French officer was cooperating with the Algerian militants , who was not subjected to inspection when entering or leaving the workshop ,then the shipment received by Mustafa Zaitouni 4 and Mohamed Klach and Abdelkader Allal to be transported by train to Algiers(Bourouiba, 2001,p238) .

5-Bringing the ALM to fight abroad

The ALM did not neglect the importance of diplomatic campaign after the impossibility of open struggle in homeland, so Rahmoun Dakar5 and Mouloud Kaid provided CISL with various reports on the reality of the ALM's situation, which often called on the official authorities to accelerate the

resolution about the Algerian case, to negotiate with the representatives of the Algerian people, release the workers detainees and stop repression against the civilians immediately(Fares, 1990, p 86).

In the meeting that brought together representatives of ALM in Tunisia with the Minister of Social Affairs of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA), Mr. Ben Youssef ben Khedda, from 12 to 15 October 1958 in a closed meeting, they discussed the issues raised in the urgent and future agenda, it was decided to elect an executive committee consisting of 12 members, which in turn elected the secretariat of the external delegation of the ALM who were: Djilali Oujdi Damerji, Rahmon Dakar, Embarek djilani, Abdelkader Maachou 6 and Safi Boudissa 7

They stated to take care of the refugees in both Tunisia and Morocco financially and morally, housing them and professionally training them to be employed in public institutions by the CISL's financial support and sent the injured ones to Est Germany, Yugoslavia and Hungary.

The ALM elements Sent complainted to the International Labor Office and the International Human Rights Commission, the United Nations, the International Red Cross (حمبارك ،1989 مص 155), through CISL which was considered as the best channel for passing the statements of the external delegation of ALM to the world workers by commemorating the day of the of Aissat Idir's trial and his fellows on 12-01-1959 in front of the Military Court, recalling the campaign of arrest that followed the national secretariats since the emergence of ALM, directing the message to their comrades around the world: "We, your colleagues, were fighting against the French colonialism in Algeria, it was a battle of honor, the liberation and development of the Algerian working class. It is the duty of the workers of the world to stand by the Algerian people and workers in their battle, and international solidarity must be focused on:

- * Condemning the colonial war imposed on the Algerian workers, which was accompanied by rude oppression, the abolition of freedom of association and democracy, and the violation of human rights.
- * Announcing the demonstrations and submitting

petitions condemning the war of extermination against the Algerian people led by the successive French governments.

- * Sending telegrams of protest to the President of the Military Court, the French Minister of Justice and the French president Charles De Gaulle.
- *Release the ALM's militants who will be tried on January 12-1959 and all the activists imprisoned in Algeria and France, and that date will be a test for international labor solidarity(El Moudjahid, 1959, p 141).

The same activity was undertaken by the ALM's foreign delegation that traveled to Brussels led by Abdelkader Maachou to participate in the executive committee of CISL, held from November 28 to December 02, 1960, by adopting decisions related to the Algerian issue:

- * Stop war in Algeria, not to weaken the power of the French and Algerian people and not to waste the power of the youth by depriving them from political and syndicate freedom in Algeria and deporting thousands of Algerians outside the borders of their country.
- * Stop NATO's(north Atlantic treaty organization) military support to France directly or indirectly.
- * Implement the right of self-determination between the French government and the interim government of Algeria (GPRA).
- * Giving the UN mediator guarantees for a referendum in Algeria.
- * Guaranteeing personal and syndicate freedoms, and releasing detainees(El Moudjahid, 1960, p 343).

Conclusion:

French officials preferred depending on repressive rules to put an end to the Algerian blow-up quickly, without taking into consideration human rights or Geneva's agreements about civilian in war; as we have detailed above, we can deduce some results that may answer the problematic that I raised before:

1-French repressive devices targeted the ALM to isolated civilians within cities from participating in the national duty process.

- 2-The French authorities aimed to dislocated the Algerian revolutionaries both political(National Liberation Front) or military(National Liberation Army) wing from people to act together against French colonialism, in seek of dividing them to reign.
- 3-Urging the civilians in cities to go on strike or demonstration may knock down many daily activities and to transfer cities to dead towns which might refute the French allegations in press that France had defeated "the rebellion" in Algeria.

4-France exposed sadism tension towards the Algerian activists as to judge them outside the court by assassinating or killing them under torture with cold blood.

5-significance of the CISL's role abroad in exposing the French genocide among civilians, to reveal and inform international community with French outlaw abuses in Algeria, in sake of gaining world-wide sympathy to liberation and to acquire recognition later on to the Algerian fighting and sacrifice.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

Comments(Biography)

1-Aissat Idir :born on June 17, 1915, in Tiziouazou Est of Algiers, headed Algerian workers in CGT(general confederation of labor) on the name of Algerian people party, integrated into FLN to guide ALM secretary, as a leader in 1956, he was caught on June 30, 1956, tortured by French army untill he died on July 26, 1959 .for more details see in : Gallissot(René), Algérie, Engagements sociaux et question National de la colonization at independence, bibliographic dictionary of the workers' movement Maghreb, Barzakh, Algiers, 2007, p 46 .

2- Nassima Hablal: militant at Algerian people party since 1940 in Algiers, and in 1950 she became a sectary of Muslim women association of Algeria, in 1955 she was designed at Abane ramdan's secretary. more information see: Gallissot(René), Algérie, Engagements sociaux et question nationale de la colonisation à l'indépendance, dictionnaire bibliographique du mouvement ouvrier Maghreb, Barzakh, Alger, 2007, p 323.

3-Zerdani Brahim: railway worker, militant of CGT in Algiers, main member of ALM while establishing ,tortured on February 1957 at under-grounds of Algiers municipality. more in: https://maitron.fr/seen on December 10, 2020.

4-Zitouni Mustapha: CGT militant, he was a docker, militated in Algerian people party, member of eight-day committee in 1957; arrested and detained until 1961, released and returned to port of Algiers to stop OAS(secret army organization) attacks, in 1962 he was charged to reorganize ALM .see further more in: https://maitron.fr/ seen on December 25, 2020.

5-Dekkar Rahmoun: was born on February 18, 1927 in guerguour (Constantine Est of Algiers) poste office worker, CGT militant; ALM's member in 1956 see more in: https://maitron.fr/ seen on December 25, 2020

6-Abdelkader Maachou :so called Abdeldjalil, he was born in 1931 in Mascara ,Arabic teacher, delegate of ALM in Belgium 1956, in Cairo 1957, in Morocco 1958, he was coordinator of second secretary of ALMin Tunisia (1958-1959). More Details in : https://maitron.fr/ seen on December 10, 2020.

7- Safi Boudisa: was born in Geryville (El beiad) on august 22, 1929, worked at Peugeot factory in sochaux in France, correspondent of "amicales des travailleurs Algeriens" 19571958, at ALM's secretary in Tunisia, labor minister in 1964. see more in: Engagements Social et question National. De la décolonisation à l'indépendance, de 1830 à 1962, sous la direction de René Gallissot, Éditions de l'Atelier, 2006.and https://maitron.fr/ seen on December 10, 2020

Sources and references

A- in French

1-Gilbert Mynier et Mohamed Harbi, Le FLN – documents et histoire 1954-1962, édition Casbah, Alger, 2004 .

- 2- Hamid Boussalem, La guerre d'Algérie 1954-1962, torturées par le Pen, coédition Rahma-ANEP . Algiers, 2000 .
- 3- Mohamed Fares, Documents et témoignages sur le syndicalisme algérien, Editions

Andalouses. ENAP-ENAL .

- 4- Boualem Bourouiba, Les syndicalistes algériens, leur combat de l'éveil à la libération nationale 1936- 1962, coédition Dahleb- ENAG ,Alger, 2001
- 5- Archive Centre Overseas (ex-en-Provence- Mersaille), FLN 1954-1961, G / 1198.

- 6- Lakhder Kaidi, Une histoire du syndicalisme Algérien, entretiens de Nasser Djabi, édition, Alger, 2005 .
- 7- Rene Gallissot, Algérie colonisée ,Algérie algérienne 1870-1962, la république française et les indigènes, édition Barzakh, Alger, 2007.
- 8- El Moudjahid, Appel aux travailleurs du monde, N° 35, 15-01-1959.
- 9-El Moudjahid, L'Algérie a la révolution du comite de CISL a Bruxelles, No 74, 15-12-1960 .

B-in Arabic

فارس محمد، أبحاث في تاريخ الحركة النقابية الجزائرية، جذورها،-10 تطورها، مراحلها حتى، مجلة من تاريخ الحركة النقابية الجزائرية (الاتحاد العام للعمال الجزائريين)، ط1، الجزائر، 1989

سعودي محمد ، صور عن كفاح عمال ميناء الجزائر ودور النقابة في -11 الثورة التحريرية، حوار مع النقابي مصطفى زبتوني مجلة الاتحاد العام للعمال الجزائربين، ط1، الجزائر، 1989

امبارك جيلاني، الاتحاد العام للعمال الجزائريين بين 1962-1957 -12 مجلة المركزية الوطنية، ط1، الجزائر، 1989

How to cite this article

Djilali Tekrane (2023), The Algerian Labor Movement(ALM) under French repression (Aissat Idir as a model 1956-1959), Academic review of social and human studies, vol 15, number 02, Hassiba Ben Bouali University of Chlef, Algeria, p. p: 3-11