

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH GOSFORTH: AMNESTY LETTER OCTOBER 2020

Abdallah Benaoum is a political activist in Algeria, whose life is at risk as he is in urgent need of heart surgery. He has been detained since December 2019 because he criticised the contested 2019 Algerian elections and the repression of the Hirak pro-reform movement. He is currently being held in Oran prison and, due to his vulnerable health, has not been physically capable of meeting his lawyers or family. The judges have unjustly rejected multiple requests for his transfer to hospital or provisional release that have been filed by his lawyers. His next trial session is scheduled for 27th October.

SPECIMEN LETTER (Please feel free to put into your own words, £1.42 stamp needed)

President Abdilmadjid Tebboune
Présidence de la république
Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahia
El Mouradia, Alger
16000 ALGERIA

Your Excellency

Abdallah Benaoum

Abdallah Benaoum has been detained in Oran Prison since December 2019 for Facebook posts in which he criticised the contested 2019 Algerian elections and the repression of the Hirak pro-reform movement.

Abdallah suffers from heart trouble and his cardiologist, who examined him in May this year, says that he is in urgent need of heart surgery. Multiple requests from his lawyers to have him transferred to hospital, or released provisionally due to his deteriorating health, have been rejected. During his trial in July this year, Abdallah was visibly ill, but the judge continued with normal procedures for an hour before a doctor confirmed that he was not fit to stand trial. Yet he is to stand trial again on 27th October.

I call upon you to drop all charges against Abdallah Benaoum and to release him unconditionally as he is being detained solely for the exercise of his freedom of expression. In the meantime, please will you order his transfer to a medical facility where he can receive the urgent treatment that he needs?

Yours sincerely