
Report on: The status of the seven Sahraoui activists detained in- Zaki Prison

Part I:

About the precarious situation faced by the political prisoner Edehja Lachgar in her unilateral cell in the local prison Ezakki – Sale

She arrested with sex human rights defenders after her return from a visit to the Sahrawi refugees' camps and she is the only woman among the group.

According to the testimony of the detainees themselves, they have been kidnapped in a strange way from the elevator of the plane in Mohammed V airport in Casablanca on Thursday October 8, 2009 they were blindfolded and congest them in three civil cars after tightening security guard inside and outside the airport before taken them to an unknown location where they were subjected to questioning for eight days in solitary confinements in a very dire situation before presenting them to the permanent military court in Rabat on charges of high treason and spying to foreign Hostile part to be referred to the central prison of Sale northern of Rabat

The following day, the General Delegate of the prisons administration the so-called Hafiz Ben-Hachem visited them and recommended to tighten the grip on the group and isolated them from the outside world.

Curriculum Vitae of Ms Edehja Lachgar

(A.S.V.D.H)

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Full Name: Edehja Lachgar

Date of birth: 1957 in El-Aaiun Western Sahara

Member of the executive office of the ASVDH

Member of the CODAPSO

She was subjected to the enforced disappearance in the period between 1980.12.22 and, 22.06.1991 in the following secret detention centers:

- Rapid intervention barracks peci cimi (8 months)
- Derb Moulay Chrif in Casablanca (6 months)
- Agdez south of Morocco (one year)
- Quela'at Megouna (8 years and 8 months)

She suffers from several psychological and physical diseases, complications of her enforced disappearance, which was subjected to including arthritis, stomach, and headaches.

Also she suffer many psychological illnesses due to the loss of her husband and loss of motherhood as she could not able to beget children after her marriage after a period of enforced disappearance, which she was vulnerable to it.

- She arrested on October 08 2009 in the Casablanca Airport
She is currently one confinement cell the in prison of Ezaki in Salé under arrest No 50016

Situation inside the prison

According to information compiled by the ASVDH that the location and conditions of detention of Ms Edegja Lachgar in the prison is heavily guarded whom there is no requirements set forth in the minimum standard rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and

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the texts of international covenants on human rights as well as the provisions of the Moroccan law governing the prisons 98.32 one that would ensure the maintenance on the lives of inmates and the maintenance of their human dignity .Thus portending a grave danger threatening to the right of Edegja Lachgar in her life and her physical integrity.

- Cell:

Ms Edegja Lachgar lives in a solitary confinement in isolation from other detainees as well as the outside world and these rooms are usually allocated to punish prisoners and lack to the most basic living and life conditions it is very dirty it lack to ventilation inside, in addition to the scarcity of sunlight.

The prison administration, imposes a heavily guard on Ms Lachgar and incite the common rights prisoners to scream and kicked the door in her while she is sleeping and provoking her, witch prompting her to respond to them with a hysterical manner.

Also seeking to provide her with false information about her family such as , her sister imprisoned, as happened to the sister of Mr. Dahane

She is also prohibited from contacting the outside world and has no radio and barred from access to newspapers and books

Her Suffering is not confined within the cell to bear the stench and respond to fungi and insect pests attacks but the guards attack her by beat and punched, and insulting words during the short period of time allocated to them for break.

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Usually, they vacate the place from all common rights prisoners in order to remain her totally isolated from the outside world.

The right of parallel nutrition:

The Paragraph 20 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners provides that

Every prisoner shall be provided by the administration at the usual hours with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served.

Mrs. Lachgar feed on what bring her family including food, drink, and other needs and that not arrive completely as result of confiscation and theft

The Prison administrations not provide her even a single meal since her refers with her six companions to the prison.

The right to health care:

“Every human being has the right to be in the best health without distinction of race, religion, political belief “

Edegja Lachgar suffers from several diseases due to the enforced disappearance, which had already suffered, and because of the dire conditions living currently in her unilateral cell in the prison of Salé where she suffer from severe pain on the head, her psychological state very degraded due to inhuman cruel, faced by the prison administration in a systematic and racist manner. The administration also prevented her from her right to treatment and to visit to the doctor.

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Isolation from the outside world:

Ensure the right of prisoners and other detainees to receive visits and communication with the outside world linked to an important and necessary principle that the prisoners and detainees in general will return to the community once again, therefore it must rehabilitate them socially as ordinary citizens, Therefore, visits and contacts with the outside world is a necessary part of the rehabilitation process.

In contrast to the above Ms Edegja Lachgar suffer from almost complete isolation from the outside world, she is forbidden to use the phone's hard to prisoners like the other prisoners, and does not have a radio or TV, she is allowed to receive newspapers and books.

The right to visit (a long trip torment):

The prison administration allow Edegja Lachgar s' family only for one visit a week but in a very difficult circumstances where the family lives in El-Aaiun – Western Sahara away from jail in 1200 km .the cost of travel alone, nearly 5000 dirhams, not to mention housing and other needs, which forced her family to travel once a month.

The path of the visit for the family begins by going to the permanent military court in Rabat to take permission to the visit from the investigating judge , Then they go to prison there they must have to wait before the gate of the prison for long hours until the prison administration finished from the families of common right prisoners, and before the end of the allotted time for the visit

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they entering the family dealing with them in a racist manner where they are subject to strict inspection accompanied by harassment,

Also her family is afraid to fabricate charges to one of its members and being subjected to custodial sanctions, such as happened to the sister of Brahim Dahan the detained among the seven . the family not allowed to meet Ms Edegja Lachgar except for limited minutes she always be accompanied by three guards and were separated by two tracks windows.

According to family testimony, one of the guards who accompany them be packed with registration in order to scare and intimidate them.

And this is a testimony of a member of her family

On Monday 23 November 2009, we reached the headquarters of the permanent military court in Rabat, and we follow the rule established by the coroner's request to permit us visiting our daughter from the investigating judge of the Court.

On Wednesday we visited Edegja that's the only day devoted to visit women in prison.

We arrived to the prison gate at one o'clock in local time; we were side in a queue for almost two and a half hour, after that we went into the prison through the door devoted to visitors, and here began the procrastination , where we were asked to wait at the next of a door near a sub-administration. We gave our documentation to the Administrative Officer which he took them and leave till 16.05, he came back, accompanied by privacy guardian to ask us to accompany her to another place Have been subject to a strict inspection including what we carry of victual. Then she asked us to

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accompany her to another door, we entered a room visit, which was a room with metal doors its size about twenty square meters divided by walls the length of each one about a meter and a half and over is an iron fence up to the roof opened by a metal door lead to a vacuum between the fences.

It was 16.30 o'clock when they asked us to sit, till the arrival of Ms Edegja. She came surrounded by the president of the stronghold, five guards and another man. They prevent us to touch her, applying the orders of the director.

They tried to pass her to the second fence, and when he saw her father she cried and demanded to let her sit with him they rejected her request but she evaded from their hands; embarrassed her father during 30 seconds, they stopped the hug and sent her to the second fence .

She sat in front of us separates us the tow fences and an empty space between them and tow guards in that space where barely we can exchange words and talk to explore that our daughter completely cut off from any news about the outside world, and suffers from pain in her head , blood pressure as a result of the psychological stress practiced against her they prohibited her getting Koran and they do not let her to benefit from a break except half an hour with closely surveillance

We talked with her in 14 minutes , then they asked us to leave the room before they returned Edegja to her cell .

* On this basis the ASVDH express its deep concern to the dire situation witch a member of the executive office is facing .

* Demanding the lifting of the isolation imposed on Ms. Edegja and to enable her to enter a radio a television and the Quran

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- * Begin to take necessary actions and measures to improve her living conditions inside the prison
- * refrain to expose her to ill-treatment and inhumane treatment by the guards and some prisoners directed by the administration.
- * Ensure her right to health and to visit a specialist doctor and allow her to visit her family directly without harassment, as well as make her way to connect the outside world and use the phone dedicated to prisoners.
- * Enable her a sufficient time for the space normally without preventing her to contact with other prisoners ..

For reminder:

The so-called Hafiz Ben-Hachem witch currently is the Delegate General in charge of Penitentiary Administration and Reintegration was responsible for many secret prisons during the years of Hassan II's reign especially Agdez, Quela'at Megouna and the barrack of the Rapid Intervention in El-Aaiun .

He also oversaw personally accompanied with the so-called Abde-Aziz Alabouch to questioning the former saharaoui abductees known the group of the mission in 1987 before he became the general director of security.

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