

# ALGERIA

## Christian

### **Slimane BOUHAFS**

**Age:** 49 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016, in Setif, Kabylie Region

**Charges:** Blasphemy against Islam and Muhammed

**Statement of the defendant:** He claims that the message and the pictures he posted on social media about the light of Jesus that overcomes the 'lie' of Islam and on the execution of civilians by the Islamic terrorists referred only to radical Islam and terrorism.

**Article of the criminal/ civil/ administrative code:** The Algerian penal code Article 144 bis (Provides that any individual who insults the prophet and the messengers of God, or denigrates the creed or prophets of Islam through writing, drawing, declaration, or any other means, will receive three to five years in prison, and/or be subject to a fine of between 50,000 and 100,000 Algerian dinars [approximately between €423 and €847 Euro])

**First court decision:** On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

**Last court decision:** On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016, his sentence was reduced to three years in prison.

**Other information:** Bouhafs' health conditions are precarious. The Algerian League for Human Rights (LADDH) said it will take this case to the Supreme Court. The sentence could be a way to silence Bouhafs because of his political activism. He is a member of the self-determination Kabylie movement (MAK), a separatist group.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/08/4582070/>

## Ahmadis: 35 cases

### *Arrests of six (unnamed) Ahmadis in November*

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, **nineteen** Ahmadis were arrested in Béni Saf and subsequently sentenced to unknown prison terms.

### *Arrests of twenty (unnamed) Ahmadis in September*

In early October, **twenty** Ahmadis were arrested in the city of Skikda on 30<sup>th</sup> September for performing Friday prayers at a private villa. In November, Skikda's circuit court sentenced the (unnamed) Imam of Ahmadiyya community to eight months in prison and fined him 300,000 Algerian Dinars (approximately €2,568 Euro). While the other arrested individuals were sentenced three months in prison and fined 30,000 Algerian Dinars (approximately €256 Euro).

### *Arrests of nine (unnamed) Ahmadis in June*

In June, the Research Division of the National Police (SRGN) shut down the community's main headquarters in the city of Bilda and arrested six Ahmadis from Blida. Soon after the security forces also arrested the National President of Ahmadiyya Community in Algeria from Bou-Ismaïl (Tipasa) and two other individuals from the capital Algiers. The nine individuals were charged with endangering state security and undermining social integrity. Sentences are not known.