

## ALGERIA

### Protestants

#### **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.

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

**Last court decision:** On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was granted partial presidential pardon, reducing his sentence to 16 months.

**Place of detention:** On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, he was transferred from Constantine Prison to Jijel 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/>

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/sentence-slimane-bouhafs-reduced>

#### **Samir CHAMEK**

**Age:** 34 years

**Date and place of arrest:** On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Charges:** Blasphemy

**Statement of the defendant:** He said that he only shared publications from other people and does not master the computer and French very well.

**Article of criminal/civil/administrative code:** Criminal Code Article 144 bis 2 (Anyone who insults the prophet and any of the messengers of God, or denigrates the creed and precepts of Islam,

whether by writing, drawing, declaration, or any other means may be imprisoned for up to five years and fined 50,000 to 100,000 dinars [approximately €430 to €860])

**First court decision:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016, he was tried and sentenced to two years in prison and fined 100,000 Algerian dinars [approximately €850.00]

**Second court decision:** On 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016, he was sentenced to five years in prison and fined 100,000 dinar [approximately €850.00]

**Last court decision:** On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017, after Chamek filed an appeal, the judge reduced his sentence to one year in prison and cancelled the fine.

**Other information:** In December 2015, Bouira Judicial Police saw pictures and comments on Chamek's Facebook page that they said were "accusing the prophet Muhammad of terrorism and murder and comparing the prophet to Hitler, mentioning the persecution and massacre of Jews."

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/01/4856384/>

<http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/christian-in-algeria-sentenced-to-prison-for-cartoon-on-facebook/>

### **Ahmadis: 6 cases**

#### ***Arrests of twelve (unnamed) Ahmadis in February 2017***

The Algerian police on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 announced the arrest of twelve members of the Ahmadiyya religious community who have been accused by authorities for promoting the outlawed movement. The men were arrested in Chief, in the north of the country, and were apparently in possession of documents that promote Ahmadi doctrine. The leader of the group and four other members have been imprisoned, while another four have been placed under court supervision. The three others were released.

Source: <http://me-confidential.com/15185-algeria-police-arrests-12-members-of-ahmadiyya-religious-community-for-proselytism.html>

<https://www.rabwah.net/algeria-arrests-12-ahmadis-promoting-faith/>

#### ***Arrests of nineteen (unnamed) Ahmadis in January 2017***

In the last two weeks of January 2017, many Ahmadis were arrested during multiple police crackdowns in Algeria. Their names have not been made public. In Sidi Bel Abbès, two individuals were sentenced to three years in prison, three others were arrested in Tipasa, a group of seven was arrested in Alger, and seven others in Oran. Their sentences remain unknown.

#### ***Arrests of nineteen (unnamed) Ahmadis in November 2016***

In November 2016, nineteen Ahmadis were arrested and subsequently sentenced to unknown prison terms.

On 25th November, Algerian security forces raided a house in the coastal town of Béni Saf and arrested six Ahmadis while they were performing Friday prayers. Beni Saf is located in the northern province of Aïn Témouchent, around 300 miles to the west of capital Algiers. Security personnel seized prayer mats, books, and other documents related to the Ahmadiyya belief as evidence.

#### *Arrests of twenty (unnamed) Ahmadis in September 2016*

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 2016*

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.

*Source:* <https://themuslimtimes.info/2017/02/15/human-rights-without-frontiers-is-calling-upon-the-algerian-authorities-to-stop-harassing-imprisoning-ahmadis-muslims/>,  
<http://timesofahmad.blogspot.be/2017/02/algeria-waves-of-arrests-of-ahmadis.html>  
<https://www.rabwah.net/algeria-continues-to-arrest-ahmadis/>