

President of the Republic of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune
Présidence de la république
Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahia, El Mouradia, Alger
16000 ALGERIJE

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, November 2020

Your Excellency,

On 27 September 2020, the lawyers of political activist Abdallah Benaoum made yet another request for his transfer to hospital, following the rapid deterioration of his health in prison, which puts his life at risk. They have not received an answer to date. Abdallah Benaoum is suffering from clogged arteries and is in urgent need of a second heart surgery.

His lawyers submitted a first request for provisional release in April 2020, which was rejected. The judge justified the rejection by the serious nature of the "crimes" he is accused of, which refer only to Facebook posts critical of the authorities. However, these posts were fully protected by his right to freedom of expression.

I call on you to drop all charges against Abdallah Benaoum and ensure that he is immediately and unconditionally released. In the meantime, he must be transferred without any further delay to a medical facility where he can receive the urgent medical treatment prescribed by his cardiologist.

Yours sincerely,