

Abdelmajid Tebboune, President of the Republic of Algeria  
Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahya, El Mouradia,  
Alger 16000, Algeria

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, November 2022

Your Excellency,

I am writing to raise concerns about the ongoing detention of whistle-blower and anti-corruption activist Mohamed Benhlima, a 33-year-former military official, who has been detained in El-Blida military prison since 28 April 2022. He remains held in solitary confinement and continuously denied any contact with other prisoners. Officers at El Blida military prison have also banned him from receiving meals, clothes and even books provided by his family.

He was sentenced to death in absentia in 2021 on charges of espionage and desertion. On 4 September 2022, an Algiers appeal court upheld the conviction and sentenced him to twelve years in prison in three different cases.

I urge you to ensure his immediate release, to quash his death sentence in absentia, and to drop all the charges against him as they are based solely on the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Pending his release, I urge you to ensure that he is removed from solitary confinement and that he is held in conditions meeting international standards and protected from torture. Finally, I urge you to continue to grant him the right to communicate with his family and lawyers and to refrain from any act of intimidation against them.

Yours sincerely,