

PRESS RELEASE

UNCAC Coalition alarmed over arrest of leading Algerian anti-corruption activist

Dhaka, Tuesday, 07 September 2010. The UNCAC Coalition of CSOs, composed of almost 200 civil society organisations in more than 60 countries, including Transparency International Bangladesh, is deeply concerned about the arrest and continuing detention of Algerian anti-corruption activist Djilali Hadjadj. Hadjadj was arrested on Sunday 5 September 2010 at the airport in the north-eastern city of Constantine and as of last information is still being held by police prior to being charged. The UNCAC Coalition calls on the Algerian government to abide by its international law obligations regarding due process and proper treatment of detainees,

Hadjadj is the president of a local anti-corruption organisation « L'Association algérienne de lutte contre la corruption » (AACC), an outspoken advocate who recently expressed critical views concerning corruption in Algeria and government actions on the issue.

In November 2009, the Algerian Government blocked Mr. Hadjadj's organisation from being represented at the 3rd Conference of States Parties for the UN Convention against Corruption which took place in Doha. Djilali Hadjadj, now under arrest, was present at the 2nd UNCAC Conference in Indonesia in early 2008 and spoke on a panel about the need for protection of anti-corruption advocates and about his experiences with the Algerian Government.

Although a local human rights organisation confirmed that Hadjadj has been in contact with his lawyer and wife, the Coalition is worried about his security, particularly in light of concerns over his health. According to family members, Hadjadj will be transferred to Algiers, where a formal arraignment before a judge is expected.

For years, Hadjadj has worked to prevent and stop corruption in Algeria, with a critical but constructive stance. The Coalition calls upon the Algerian government to ensure a fair and transparent process in line with international standards.

Note to Editors: The [United Nations Convention against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#) is the most comprehensive global legal framework for combating corruption. It is a binding agreement [ratified by 141 states](#) on standards and requirements for preventing, detecting, investigating and sanctioning corruption. The adoption of an effective review mechanism at the upcoming Conference of States Parties is essential for the success of the UNCAC.

The UNCAC Coalition was formed in 2006 and is composed of almost 200 civil society organisations in more than 60 countries. Its goal is to promote ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption. More information can be found at www.uncaccoalition.org

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is the accredited national chapter in Bangladesh of the Berlin-based Transparency International, a global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. A founding member of the UNCAC Coalition, TIB is a participatory social movement for transparency and accountability through strengthening institutions, laws and practices in Bangladesh. More at www.ti-bangladesh.org.