

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

Rotterdam,

Your Excellency,

I am writing to raise my concern about the recent arrest and detention of Algerian journalist Rabah Kareche, a correspondent of the Liberté newspaper in Tamanrasset, southern Algeria. Security forces summoned him on 18 April 2021 and questioned him about an article published that day in relation to a protest organized by the Touareg population of Tamanrasset to contest a recent administrative territorial demarcation.

A prosecutor at the first instance court of Tamanrasset charged Rabah Kareche on 19 April with the offences of “spreading fake news or information which threatens security or public order” and “harming the national security or national unity” as well as “creating or supervising an electronic site to publish information likely to cause discrimination and hatred in society”.

In light of the above, I urge you to immediately drop all the baseless charges against Rabah Kareche, and immediately and unconditionally release him as he is detained solely for peacefully exercising his human rights and carrying out his work as a journalist.

I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

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