

PEOPLE ARRESTED OR INCRIMINATED UNDER THE 2006 LAW

01 – Hamid, Yousef and Rachid were judged in their absence on 28 February 2008 by the court in Ain Turk, Oran District, and given 3 years in prison plus a 500,000 dinars (£3,850) fine. They assisted a young man in difficulty over 18 months who later fell under the influence of a Salafist group, and now accuses them of insulting the prophet. They are awaiting court papers so they can appeal against the decision and the fact that they were given no notification of the trial and no chance to defend themselves.

02 – Brahim was judged on 2 April 2008 at Tiaret, and risks 2 years in prison and a fine of 200,000 dinars (£1,540). Judgement differed to 9 April 2008.

03 – Djallal was tried in March 2008 and accused of proselytising. He was contacted by an undercover policeman who asked for a Bible when they met in a cafe. Suspicious of the questions, he left the cafe only to be arrested in the street by two uniformed police. The case was dismissed and Djallal acquitted.

04 – Two brothers, Hafid and Kadar, were stopped by police on a bus and taken into custody when a dozen Bibles were discovered in their possession. They were released after 24 hours.

05 – A young lady H.K. was stopped at a police control point at Tiaret where six Christian books were discovered in her luggage. She was actually in the process of moving house. She was held for 24 hours and brought before the procurer. She is summonsed to appear in court on 12 May 2008 for “practising a religion other than Islam”.

06 – A school director was celebrating his birthday at home in Beni Douala. The home is school property as it comes with the job. He was accused of celebrating a Christian festival (Christmas) on school property and was sacked from the national education system after 23 years of excellent service. In contrast, it is quite normal for Muslim prayers and festivals to interrupt lessons.

07 – Another educational director at At Amar Cne d’Ait Bouaddou gave permission during school holidays for a choir of Christian children to film their songs in a school room. He habitually allows Muslims to use school rooms outside working hours for similar activities, receptions, parties. He was sacked despite 20 years of excellent service in the national education service. A teacher who was walking by the classroom at the time and joined in with the choir was likewise sacked.

08 – A Christian constructor in Bejaia gained the contract for a local government construction job. After several months it was noticed that he did not stop for Muslim prayers. It was discovered that he was a Christian and security men informed him that his work was terminated as he could “become a source of problems”. His costs have not been paid and he has lost 200,000 dinars (£1,500). As this was an official decision, it is a clear case of official anti-Christian discrimination.

09- A fifty-year old man led a quiet life before he came across a Christian satellite TV channel. Investigating the Christian faith, he became a follower of Jesus. His family-in-law tried to persuade him to return to Islam, eventually bringing in the local imam. The imam declared the marriage invalid and instructed the wife and six children to quit the family home. The case has been going through the courts for two years with no solution.

10- A policeman named Said discovered Christian satellite TV one day and ordered several CDs of worship music. His interest in Christianity sparked an investigation and his house was searched. The discovery of a Bible and the CDs were enough to label him a “subversive element” and he faces trial.