



Communiqué

Following the massive celebrations in many Moroccan cities of the Algerian national football team's victory of the African Cup on Friday 19th July, young people in Laayoune city went out to celebrate this victory. These celebrations in Laayoune however lapsed into violent confrontations between a group of young people and children and the security forces, resulting in injuries on both parties, and the damage of public and private properties, including public security vehicles...

Consequently, the young woman Sabah Njournal Bent Hmeida was seriously injured while crossing Smara Street, in a traffic accident caused by a security forces vehicle on its way to lift the siege on another vehicle that the demonstrators were aiming to set on fire. Sabah was taken to the hospital where she breathed her last breath, and an investigation into the accident was announced by the Public Prosecution.

A group of detainees were brought to the attention of the Court of Appeal this morning. They are Khalil Blouz, Ali Mehruk, Soufian Boughanbour, Elhafed Ayyach, Mohammed Ali ElKarwi, Eggay Douihi, Salek Bousoula, Elhafed Riahi and Ahl Sidi Lyazid Rguibi.

Following the monitoring of these events led by the Executive Bureau of the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights:

- We extend our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased and express our solidarity with them in this painful incident;
- We positively take note of the opening of the investigation into the incident and demand that the results be announced, and accountability and sanctions are enforced;
- We strongly condemn the use of children and minors in such violent acts as documented through audio recordings inciting the destruction of a vehicle of the security forces;
- We stress that the detainees be subject to all measures of a fair trial;
- We demand the release of the children if they are among the detainees.

the Executive Bureau
Rabat 24 July 2019