

## Press Release

### Participation in the 83rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

The Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces (COSYFOP), represented by its President Mr. Raouf Mellal, took part in several plenary sessions and side events of the 83rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, The Gambia, with the support of the Pan-African organization African Defenders.

Ahead of this session, the Confederation actively participated in the NGO Forum on Human Rights, where it submitted a draft resolution denouncing the alarming rise in hate speech and the mass expulsions of hundreds of thousands of African refugees to the Niger border by Algerian authorities, under the pretext of combating irregular migration.

The Forum adopted this draft resolution, which includes concrete recommendations to address these violations, and transmitted it to the African Commission for review and potential adoption.

On the sidelines of the session, the Confederation also met with Ms Hon. Salma Sassi-Safer, the African Commission's Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons, and Migrants in Africa. On the sidelines of the session, the Confederation also met with Ms. Hon. Salma Sassi-Safer, the African Commission's Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons, and Migrants in Africa. During this meeting, we informed her of the critical situation of Sub-Saharan African refugees who were forcibly expelled from Algeria to Niger, as well as the legal actions we have undertaken at both the regional and international levels to defend their rights. We formally requested her intervention with the Algerian authorities to urge them to comply with their obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Furthermore, we deeply regret the absence of the Algerian National Human Rights Council (CNDH) from this important Pan-African event, and we hope to see it take on a more serious and active role in the future in defending human rights in Algeria, rather than remaining a symbolic body lacking real impact.

The Trade Union Confederation of Productive Forces views this initiative as a natural extension of its moral and legal commitment to the defense of human rights. We now believe the ball is in the court of the African Commission, and we sincerely hope that it will adopt this resolution, which is fully aligned with the spirit and principles of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights—a continental reference in the protection of refugees and the fight against all forms of discrimination and collective expulsion.

**Banjul – The Gambia, May 5, 2025**

**President of COSYFOP**  
**Raouf Mellal**

