

Declaration in support of Mohamed Cherfi

On March 5, 2004, Quebec City Police entered the church in which Mohamed Cherfi had taken refuge to avoid a deportation which would put his life in danger. The arrest warrant was obtained using the false allegation of breaking a bail condition – that Mr. Cherfi had not advised the Court of his change of address, while his place of residence has not changed. This warrant was merely a pretext to arrest Mr. Cherfi because the Police immediately turned him over to Immigration agents who in turn deported him to the United States. Mr. Cherfi never appeared before the court which issued the warrant, as required by law.

In deporting Mohamed Cherfi to the United States, the Canadian authorities are quite aware that the Americans will, in turn, deport him to Algeria. According to reports recently published by the *Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme (International Federation of Human Rights Leagues)*, the *Algerian Human Rights League* and *Amnesty International* in Algeria, Algeria is still a country in which human rights are seriously restricted and where defenders of human rights are severely repressed. As a conscientious objector who has refused to serve in the Algerian army, and as principal spokesperson for the Committee of Non-Status Algerians, Mohamed Cherfi risks being imprisoned and persecuted if he returns to Algeria.

International conventions which Canada has signed create the **obligation**, not only for Canada not to deport a person to a country in which he faces such consequences - nor to collaborate with such an act - but also to ensure his protection.

It is important to act before Mr. Cherfi is deported to Algeria by the American authorities. Thus, we invite all individuals and organizations to give their support to this declaration in aid of Mr. Cherfi.

We, the signatories of this declaration, demand that the Canadian and Quebec authorities in the area of immigration and deportation see to it that Mohamed Cherfi is brought back immediately and that they find a humanitarian solution which will allow him to live in Canada.

We also demand that the authorities ensure that police forces respect the legal custom that places of worship be recognized as sanctuaries in which persons in danger can find safety.

Name of person: _____

and/or

Name of organization _____

E-mail: _____

Address : _____

Telephone : _____ Fax : _____

Send your support declarations:
To the *Ligue des droits et Libertés*
by e-mail : info@liguedesdroits.ca
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