

# URGENT ACTION

## ALGERIAN ACTIVIST DAHMANE KERAMI RELEASED

**Algerian activist Dahmane Kerami was released on 31 December 2016 after spending one year behind bars for participating in 2014 and 2015 in peaceful social protests in Tamanrasset, southern Algeria.**

On 7 October 2015, the Tamanrasset Court of First Instance convicted Algerian activist, **Dahmane Kerami**, and six others of “rebellion”, taking part in “unarmed gatherings” and “inciting” others to join “unarmed gatherings”, for taking part in peaceful protests in 2014 and 2015. They were all sentenced to one-year prison terms and fines of 5,000 Algerian dinars (about 50 US dollars). On 21 December 2015, the Tamanrasset Court of Appeals suspended the prison terms of six of the defendants, and confirmed Dahmane Kerami's one-year prison term. He and six co-defendants were also convicted to a one-year prison term in a separate case, also in relation to a peaceful protest, before being pardoned on 5 July 2016 on the occasion of Algeria's Independence Day, but Kerami remained in prison to serve his prison sentence from the first case. In April 2016, he was transferred to Menea prison near Ghardaia, over 1060 km from Tamanrasset, in southern Algeria, where he served the remainder of his prison term. He was released on 31 December 2016.

Dahmane Kerami was imprisoned for participating in peaceful protests in support of the rights of workers laid off by a local gold mining company, as well as sit-ins denouncing the environmental consequences of shale gas fracking in the area, within a local protest group called “Ma Frat” (colloquial Algerian Arabic meaning “It has not been solved”). Amnesty International will continue monitoring developments in connection with other members of the group who are being prosecuted for their peaceful protests, most recently calling on the Algerian authorities to provide a health clinic and other basic services to their impoverished neighbourhood. For more information, please refer to a [public statement](#) released by Amnesty International on 10 February.

**Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.**

This is the fourth update of UA 54/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde28/4437/2016/en/>

Further information on UA: 54/16 Index: MDE 28/5856/2017 Issue Date: 16 March 2017

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