



## **Criminal Policy in Algeria: An Analytical Study of the Impact of the 2019 Popular Movement on Criminal Laws**

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### **Abstract:**

This research aims to explore the intricate interplay between popular uprisings and criminal justice policy in Algeria. It seeks to conduct an in-depth analysis of how popular demands have influenced the development and modification of criminal legislation, and to assess the extent to which policymakers have responded to these demands. The significance of this research lies in highlighting the role of popular movements in shaping criminal policies, and identifying the gaps and challenges faced by the legislative reform process in this field. The research will adopt a multidisciplinary research methodology that combines legal analysis with social and political analysis. It is expected that the research will reveal that popular movements have played a crucial role in driving legislative reform in Algeria, and that there is a close relationship between popular demands and changes in criminal laws. The research will also shed light on the challenges facing the reform process, such as resource scarcity, corruption, and institutional resistance. Furthermore, the research aims to provide practical recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Algerian criminal justice system in addressing contemporary challenges. It is anticipated that this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the interaction between popular movements and criminal justice policy in Algeria, and provide an analytical framework that can be utilized in studying similar cases in other countries.

**Keywords:** Algeria; criminal policy; legislative reform; popular movement

### **Introduction:**

Popular movements represent a complex social and political phenomenon that seeks to bring about fundamental transformations in political and legal systems. In the Algerian context, the popular movement of 2019 constituted a significant turning point, as it ignited a wave of broad reformist demands, particularly targeting the judicial system and criminal policy.



This research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the reciprocal interactions between popular dynamics and developments in criminal legislation in Algeria. More specifically, the study seeks to answer the following central question: How did the 2019 popular movement in Algeria influence the orientations of criminal policy and the development of related criminal legislation? To this end, the research focuses on analyzing a set of subsidiary questions, including:

- ✓ What was the nature of the demands raised by the popular movement in the field of criminal policy?
- ✓ How did the executive and legislative authorities in Algeria respond to these demands?
- ✓ What legislative changes occurred in Algerian criminal law in the aftermath of the popular movement?
- ✓ What challenges were encountered in the implementation of these legislative changes?

The study adopts a research methodology that combines theoretical analysis of laws and policies with an in-depth case study of Algeria. It also relies on a wide range of sources, including legislation and statutory texts, research reports, and expert articles.

This research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the interactive relationship between popular movements and legislative developments, particularly in the field of criminal policy. It also aims to provide a critical analysis of the policies adopted in Algeria, identifying their strengths and weaknesses. Through this analysis, practical recommendations can be proposed to enhance the effectiveness of legal reforms in Algeria and ensure their sustainability.

The importance of this research lies in its contribution to:

- ✓ Expanding academic knowledge by offering an in-depth analysis of the relationship between popular movements and legislative changes within a specific field.
- ✓ Supporting decision-making by providing practical recommendations to policymakers and legal professionals.
- ✓ Enhancing public dialogue by highlighting the importance of legal reforms in achieving social justice.

The research is structured as follows:

- ✓ Chapter One: Presents the theoretical framework of the study, including the definition of the popular movement and the concept of criminal policy, as well as an examination of the relationship between them in academic literature.
- ✓ Chapter Two: Analyzes the demands of the popular movement in the field of criminal policy, the authorities' response to these demands, and the legislative changes introduced into Algerian criminal law.
- ✓ Chapter Three: Examines the challenges encountered in implementing the legislative changes and assesses the impact of the popular movement on human rights in the Algerian context.

It is expected that this research will enrich the debate on the relationship between popular movements and legal reforms and serve as a useful reference for researchers and policymakers interested in this subject.



## **Chapter One: The Theoretical and Political Framework of the Popular Movement**

The popular movement in Algeria constitutes a unique phenomenon that has left a profound mark on the country's political and social landscape. Understanding the dimensions of this complex phenomenon, from its historical roots to its impacts on various aspects of life, represents a fundamental step towards analyzing the developments Algeria has witnessed in recent years. This axis aims to establish a solid theoretical framework for understanding this phenomenon, by defining the popular movement and its concept, and reviewing the concept of criminal policy and defining its relationship with the popular movement in Algeria.

### **Firstly: The Concept of the Popular Movement**

The phenomenon of the popular movement is one of the most prominent social and political dynamics witnessed by contemporary societies, including Algerian society. At its core, the popular movement is a spontaneous and collective expression of the aspirations and hopes of a broad segment of society, seeking to achieve radical political or social change.

#### **1- Definition of the Popular Movement:**

The popular movement is a collective expression of the pursuit of social and political change, characterized by its dynamic nature and reliance on broad participation from individuals and groups. As many studies indicate, the popular movement aims to bring about fundamental changes in political and social systems. It represents a collective effort to achieve common goals, such as achieving social justice, enhancing political participation, and building a more democratic society.

Academic studies agree that the popular movement is a dynamic social movement, characterized by decentralization and spontaneity, and relies on broad participation from individuals and groups. The popular movement aims to challenge existing conditions and effect change in the relationships between the state and society, and among different social groups. The popular movement is not merely a temporary gathering or a fleeting protest, but rather a complex social phenomenon distinguished by a set of distinctive characteristics:

- ✓ **Interactive Nature:** The popular movement transcends being merely a group of individuals; it constitutes a continuous interaction among various social and political actors, leading to a changing and evolving dynamic<sup>(i)</sup>.
- ✓ **Non-Structural Nature:** Unlike political parties and official institutions, the popular movement is characterized by the absence of a rigid organizational structure, granting it great flexibility and the ability to adapt to variables.
- ✓ **Transformative Goal:** The popular movement aims to achieve a fundamental change in the existing situation, whether on the political, social, or economic level.
- ✓ **Extensive Use of Technological Tools:** social media and new media play a crucial role in organizing the popular movement and amplifying its voice.

#### **2- Definition of Criminal Policy:**

Criminal policy is defined as the comprehensive set of principles, means, and procedures adopted by the state to combat and prevent criminal phenomena. This is manifested through the precise identification of acts considered criminal, the prescription of diverse and proportionate



penalties for them that take into account the nature of the crime and the seriousness of its perpetrator, in addition to organizing effective mechanisms for applying criminal law to ensure the establishment of the pillars of social security and the protection of public order. This policy is fundamentally influenced by prevailing social considerations, such as the values and traditions of society, economic conditions that may drive the commission of some crimes, and cultural developments that may necessitate the criminalization of new acts or the re-evaluation of existing criminalization. In this context, the popular movement, as a living expression of social and economic changes and citizens' aspirations towards a more just system, pushes political systems, including criminal policy, to adapt and undertake the necessary legislative and judicial reforms to meet citizens' aspirations<sup>(ii)</sup> .

### **Secondly: The Historical Context of the Popular Movement in Algeria**

The popular movement in Algeria constitutes a pivotal turning point in the country's history, embodying a complex interaction between a set of historical, political, social, and economic factors. The history of the popular movement in Algeria dates back to the pre-independence period, when the country suffered from French colonization that lasted for more than a century. This colonization left deep marks on the national identity and political consciousness of the Algerian people. After the long and arduous war of liberation, and despite achieving independence, many challenges remained, creating a state of popular discontent. Over time, crises accumulated and problems worsened, increasing the intensity of social and political tensions. Among the most prominent of these crises are:

- ✓ The Economic Crisis: Algeria suffered from recurring economic crises, leading to high rates of unemployment and poverty, and the deterioration of public services.
- ✓ The Political Crisis: The political system in Algeria was characterized by stagnation, whereby it emptied institutions of any content that gave them credibility in the eyes of the citizen<sup>(iii)</sup>.
- ✓ The Social Crisis: Social problems worsened, such as corruption, favoritism, and marginalization, increasing feelings of injustice and frustration among citizens.
- ✓ The Spark that Ignited the Movement: It was a series of accumulated events that ignited the spark of the popular movement in Algeria. Among these events are:
  - ✓ Attempt to Amend the Constitution: The authorities' decision to amend the constitution to enable the president to run for a fifth term sparked popular anger and was considered an attempt to extend the rule of the existing regime.
  - ✓ Deteriorating Health of the President: The deteriorating health of the former president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, raised questions about his ability to manage the country's affairs and increased divisions within the ruling system.
  - ✓ Excessive Force Against Protesters: The authorities resorted to using force to disperse protests, increasing the intensity of anger and leading to an expansion of the circle of participants in the movement.

### **Thirdly: The Relationship between the Popular Movement and Criminal Policy**



The relationship between the popular movement and criminal policy is characterized by complexity and intertwining, as each influences the other directly and indirectly. The popular movement, as an expression of popular will and aspirations, pushes political and legal decision-makers to review many laws and policies. In turn, the authority seeks to use its legal tools in dealing with this movement.

### **1- Effects of the Popular Movement on Criminal Policy:**

- ✓ **Amending Criminal Legislation:** The popular movement represents a catalyst for reforming legal systems, especially in the criminal field. Popular pressure pushes legislators to reconsider existing laws, whether by abolishing those that restrict freedoms or by adding new legislation that enhances the protection of rights, as seen in demands to amend laws on protests and associations, and to enact anti-corruption legislation. Studies confirm the impact of the movement in shaping criminal policies and changing their priorities, shifting the focus from riot crimes to combating corruption and human rights violations. The Tunisian revolution showed how a movement can lead to judicial reforms and strengthening the rule of law. Human rights organizations such as Amnesty International point to the role of social movements in raising awareness and protecting rights<sup>(iv)</sup>.
- ✓ **Changing the Priorities of Criminal Policy:** The popular movement contributes to reordering the priorities of criminal policy by focusing on specific types of crimes. Instead of focusing on riot and protest crimes, criminal policy may shift towards combating corruption and holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable. Studies indicate that movements lead to fundamental shifts in legal systems by placing citizens' issues at the core of decision-makers' concerns.
- ✓ **Reforming the Judiciary:** The popular movement often calls for reforming the judiciary, ensuring its independence and integrity, and holding judges who commit violations accountable. It also calls for enhancing the role of the judiciary in protecting rights and freedoms.
- ✓ **Developing Dialogue Mechanisms:** The popular movement contributes to developing dialogue mechanisms between the state and civil society, leading to a change in legal culture and increased awareness of human rights.

### **2- Effects of Criminal Policy on the Popular Movement:**

- ✓ **Suppressing the Movement:** Authorities sometimes use criminal policy to suppress the popular movement, by applying harsh laws to protesters, such as laws combating riots and unauthorized gatherings. Many studies indicate that these strategies contribute to restricting freedoms and intimidating protesters, leading to a decline in the popular movement.
- ✓ **Protecting the Movement:** In some cases, criminal policy can play a role in protecting the popular movement by providing legal protection for peaceful protesters and holding officials accountable for violations. Research confirms that the existence of a legal



framework protecting the right to peaceful expression and assembly contributes to the success of popular movements in achieving their goals.

- ✓ **Shaping Legal Awareness:** Regardless of the intentions for which criminal policy is used, it contributes significantly to shaping citizens' legal awareness. Through interaction with the law, whether through participation in protests or by following legal cases, citizens gain a deeper understanding of their rights and duties, enhancing their participation in public life<sup>(v)</sup>.

The relationship between the popular movement and criminal policy is interactive and dynamic. The movement influences the formulation and application of laws, while criminal policy influences the course of the movement and its interaction with the authorities.

## **Chapter Two: The Impact of the Popular Movement on Criminal Policy in Algeria**

The popular movement in Algeria is a multifaceted phenomenon that has left deep effects on various aspects of life, including the legal system and criminal policy. This section aims to analyze the complex relationship between the popular movement and criminal policy in Algeria, by reviewing the movement's demands in the criminal field, how the government responded to these demands, and the legislative changes that occurred in the legal system as a result of the movement.

### **First: The Demands of the Popular Movement in the Field of Criminal Policy**

The popular movement in Algeria marked a turning point in the country's history, presenting a set of radical demands aimed at reforming the judicial system. These demands, which emerged from the streets, reflect the depth of the crisis facing the Algerian judiciary and address multiple aspects related to justice. The movement called for ensuring the independence of the judiciary from the executive and legislative authorities. This requires the separation of powers and avoiding any political interference in judicial work. To achieve this goal, constitutional and legal amendments are necessary to protect judges from pressure or threats, granting them the freedom to make independent decisions according to the law.

The movement also called for accountability and transparency in the judicial system. It emphasized the necessity of holding judges involved in corruption cases accountable and applying the principle of transparency in judicial work. This includes publishing judicial rulings and facilitating access to them, in addition to providing effective mechanisms for filing complaints against judges and reducing litigation duration. Researcher Nasser Jabi notes that "achieving transparency and accountability in the judicial system is one of the fundamental demands of the popular movement."<sup>(vi)</sup>

Moreover, the movement demanded the modernization of procedural laws, calling for updates to criminal and civil laws to ensure swift resolution of cases and protect defense rights. This requires simplifying judicial procedures to make them more effective and faster. Additionally, the importance of training judges on the latest legal methods and respecting human rights was emphasized. A suitable work environment for judges should be provided to enhance their capabilities and assist them in performing their duties efficiently. The movement also called for



diversifying the sources of judges' appointments to ensure representation of different segments of society within the judiciary. This diversity could contribute to enhancing trust in the judicial system and reflect Algeria's social and cultural diversity.

### **Second: The Algerian Government's Response to the Demands of the Popular Movement and Its Impact on Criminal Policy**

The popular movement in Algeria marked a significant turning point in the country's history, presenting a set of radical demands aimed at reforming the judicial system. However, the Algerian government's response to these demands has been varied and inconsistent, significantly affecting the course of judicial reforms.

1. **Nature of Government Response:** The government's response to the demands of the movement can be divided into several stages:
  - ✓ **First Stage: Continuation of Some Old Policies:** At the beginning of the movement, the government resorted to repression and violence to disperse protests, arresting many activists and politicians. For example, about 300 activists were arrested in the early weeks of the movement. The government attempted to ignore the demands of the movement and offered vague promises of reform. Researcher Nasser Jabi explains that "Algerian authorities relied on repression as a means to control protests, which exacerbated the situation"<sup>(vii)</sup>
  - ✓ **Second Stage: Partial Reforms Related to Justice:** After increasing public pressure, the government began to take some measures that could be considered partial reforms related to justice, such as releasing detainees; in 2020, 60 activists were released after public pressure. Furthermore, amendments to the law on gatherings and protests were introduced, reducing penalties for participating in peaceful demonstrations by up to 30% in 2021. Amendments to the media law in 2020 aimed at increasing press freedom, despite some restrictions impacting freedom of expression concerning certain criminal issues. Restrictions on associations were eased through amendments to the laws governing their establishment, potentially affecting the right to organize related to certain crimes. Penalties for some crimes related to expression and opposition were softened, with reduced penalties for actions related to expressing opinion and opposition that might fall within the scope of criminalization. Additionally, a Youth Advisory Council was established in 2021 to empower youth participation in decision-making.
  - ✓ **Third Stage: Attempts to Restore Stability:** Over time, the government began to procrastinate and delay implementing the radical reforms demanded by the movement. It focused on making superficial changes that did not affect the essence of the system. For example, in 2022, the formation of a new government was announced, but the ministers were mostly from the same old political elite, which caused discontent. According to Dr. Ahmed Toufik, "the superficial changes made by the government were not enough to appease the protesters."



2. **Impact of Government Response on Criminal Policy:** The criminal policy in Algeria has been noticeably affected by the government's response to the demands of the popular movement. The impacts resulting from this response include a loosening of the security grip, as the government took steps to ease restrictions on public freedoms. For example, some laws restricting freedom of assembly and protest were amended, leading to an increase in peaceful demonstrations. Several activists were released, reflecting the government's response to street pressures. This step helped ease tensions between the government and society, according to Dr. Abdelkader Bouzid, who stated, "the release of detainees had a positive impact on the relationship between the government and citizens, as it helped reduce tensions."<sup>(viii)</sup> "Improvements in some laws were also made, as amendments were made to laws such as the media law and the associations law, giving the impression of political openness and an improvement in the rights climate. Researcher Nasser Jabi notes that "the amendment of laws reflects the government's response to popular demands and enhances freedom of expression."<sup>(ix)</sup> Additionally, the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council helped enhance youth participation in politics, reflecting the government's recognition of the importance of involving different segments in decision-making. However, there are still clear negatives. Despite partial reforms, old laws remain in effect, allowing for continued violations. These laws, such as those regarding political crimes, are sometimes used to suppress opposing voices. According to reports from human rights organizations, around 300 cases of arrest of protesters and activists were documented between 2019 and 2021, reflecting the continuation of repression despite some reform measures. Even with the release of some detainees, data indicates that arbitrary arrests continue. According to Human Rights Watch reports, over 100 people were arrested merely for participating in peaceful protests in 2023. Many of the announced reforms were superficial and did not significantly affect the essence of the system. Changes in the government were largely a repetition of the same political elite, causing dissatisfaction among many citizens. Polls show that about 70% of citizens believe that the reforms implemented were insufficient. The need for genuine and comprehensive reforms remains to ensure justice and human rights in Algeria, reflecting a general sense of discontent.
3. **Legislative Changes After the Popular Movement:** Algeria witnessed profound political and social transformations following the popular movement, which directly reflected on the legal landscape. Although the changes were varied in quality and impact, they represent steps towards responding to the people's demands. Among the areas of legislative change, regarding public freedoms, some laws that restrict freedom of expression, assembly, and protest were amended. For example, the law on gatherings was amended in 2021, reducing penalties imposed on participants in peaceful demonstrations. According to reports from human rights organizations, the number of peaceful protests increased by up to 30% after these amendments, reflecting a relative improvement in freedom of expression. Dr. Boumediene Bouzid indicates that "the legal amendments regarding freedom of assembly



reflect the government's response to street pressures." <sup>(x)</sup> In terms of anti-corruption laws, the government issued new laws in 2020, such as the anti-corruption law aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability. This law includes new procedures for reporting corruption and protecting whistleblowers, reflecting a response to the movement's demands for accountability of those responsible for corruption cases. According to reports from Transparency International, Algeria saw a slight improvement in the corruption index, with its score rising from 36 in 2019 to 38 in 2021.

Regarding election laws, the electoral law underwent partial amendments in 2021 aimed at increasing political participation and expanding representation. A new system for women's representation was introduced, allocating 30% of seats to women in local councils, reflecting the government's commitment to achieving some balance in political representation. As for the penal code, some amendments were made to penalties related to crimes of opinion and expression. In 2021, penalties for some political crimes were softened, reflecting the government's response to the pressures of the movement. According to reports from human rights organizations, there were cases of releasing some detainees who were prosecuted on politically charged charges, showing a relative improvement in handling freedom of expression issues.

Furthermore, the media law was amended in 2020 to ease restrictions on press freedom, with amendments reducing penalties imposed on journalists and providing more opportunities for private media, responding to the popular movement's calls for deep reforms in the media system. Despite these amendments, challenges to media freedom remain, as some media outlets face censorship. <sup>(xi)</sup> The associations law was also amended in 2021, facilitating the procedures for registering associations and easing restrictions on social and political activities <sup>(xii)</sup>. This amendment reflects the government's attempt to expand civil liberties, although actual implementation remains limited. Additionally, amendments were made to several laws related to human rights, such as the child protection law and the law on the rights of persons with disabilities, aiming to enhance the rights of marginalized groups. In 2023 <sup>(xiii)</sup>, amendments were introduced to labor law to provide better protection for workers, including improving working conditions and increasing the minimum wage <sup>(xiv)</sup>.

### **Chapter Three : Challenges and Future Prospects of Criminal Policy in Algeria under the Influence of the Popular Movement**

After reviewing the changes that have occurred on the political and legal scene in Algeria as a result of the Popular Movement (*Hirak*), it is essential to address the challenges that still face the reform process and the future prospects awaiting the judicial system.

#### **First: Achievements Realized**

The Popular Movement was able to achieve several tangible results at the level of criminal policy, which can be summarized in the following points:



- ✓ Increased Awareness of Human Rights: The movement contributed to raising citizens' awareness regarding their rights, especially political and civil rights. This growing awareness enhances the ability of individuals to demand their rights.<sup>(xv)</sup>
- ✓ Expanding the Margin of Freedoms: We have witnessed a relative expansion in the margin of freedoms, particularly freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. This resulted from the amendment of certain laws that previously restricted these freedoms, leading to increased political and social activity.
- ✓ Strengthening Transparency: Steps have been taken to enhance transparency within judicial institutions, such as publishing certain judicial rulings and making public information available. These steps boost citizens' confidence in the judicial system and help combat corruption<sup>xvi</sup>.
- ✓ Initiating a National Dialogue: The movement opened the door for national dialogue regarding political and judicial reforms. This dialogue reflects the community's desire for effective participation in decision-making, which could lead to comprehensive reforms that strengthen political and legal stability.<sup>(xvii)</sup>

## **Second: Challenges in Implementing New Criminal Laws**

The process of implementing new criminal laws in Algeria face several complex challenges. These challenges go beyond the mere issuance of legal texts to include deeper applied and structural aspects.

### **1. Structural Challenges:**

- ✓ Institutional Weakness: Judicial and legal institutions suffer from a lack of trained human resources and modern technologies. For instance, courts may lack a sufficient number of qualified judges, leading to delays in case resolutions<sup>(xviii)</sup>.
- ✓ Pervasive Corruption: Corruption remains a major obstacle to the implementation of laws. Corrupt actors can<sup>(xix)</sup> exploit legal loopholes and influence to evade punishment. For example, in cases of financial corruption, defendants might be acquitted due to political interventions.
- ✓ Multiple Interpretations of Laws: The absence of clear and unified interpretations of new laws may lead to discrepancies in their application by judges and lawyers. This variance weakens citizens' trust in the judicial system, making some feel that justice is not applied equally.

### **2. Cultural Challenges:**

- ✓ Legal Culture and Social Legacy: The prevailing legal culture tends to reinforce state authority at the expense of individual freedoms. This may hinder the application of laws that expand freedoms.<sup>(xx)</sup>
- ✓ Security Context: Security concerns may lead to a narrow interpretation of laws by security agencies, limiting their application. Protest laws might be used to restrict freedoms rather than promote them.<sup>(xxi)</sup>

### **3. Political Challenges:**



- ✓ Political Pressures: The application of new laws can be subject to political pressure from various parties, which may distort the course of justice.
- ✓ Absence of Political Will: Political will may lack the necessary strength to drive the reform wheel forward, undermining the objectives of new laws.

### **Third: Future Prospects for Criminal Policy in Algeria**

Just as the Popular Movement formed a decisive turning point in Algerian history, it created a "seismic shift" in the justice and legal system, opening new and controversial horizons.

#### **1. Factors Influencing Future Prospects:**

- ✓ Continuity of Demands: The impact depends on how long citizens continue to pressure the government for serious legal amendments.
- ✓ Political and Economic Developments: Economic crises may shift government priorities toward reforms aimed at improving social conditions and social justice<sup>(xxii)</sup>.
- ✓ Social Values and International Standards: Changes in public perception of human rights and international pressure from organizations play a role in guiding national criminal legislation.<sup>(xxiii)</sup>

#### **2. Potential Future Scenarios:**

- ✓ Radical Reform Scenario: The authorities respond fully to the movement's demands, modernizing laws to meet international standards, ensuring judicial independence, and reforming security institutions.<sup>(xxiv)</sup>
- ✓ Gradual Reform Scenario: The authorities implement partial, incremental reforms responding to some demands without a comprehensive system overhaul. (Currently considered the most likely scenario).<sup>(xxv)</sup>
- ✓ Slow Change Scenario: Fundamental reforms are delayed due to resistance from traditional institutions or a lack of sufficient political will.
- ✓ Stagnation Scenario: No fundamental changes occur, and existing problems persist due to political instability or the dominance of special interests.

### **Conclusion:**

Following an in-depth and multifaceted analysis of the complex interactions between the popular movement and legislative developments in the field of criminal policy in Algeria, a number of conclusions of both theoretical and practical significance can be drawn.

- ✓ The popular movement demonstrated its capacity to stimulate reform dynamics within the judicial system, leading to legislative amendments affecting various aspects of criminal law. However, these amendments proved insufficient to achieve profound and structural reforms.
- ✓ The implementation of these reforms faces multiple and interrelated challenges, ranging from institutional weakness within the judiciary and widespread corruption to political influences that hinder judicial independence. These challenges reflect the depth of the crisis



affecting the Algerian judicial system and underscore the need for comprehensive and radical reforms.

- ✓ Achieving substantive reform of the Algerian judicial system requires strong political will and a genuine commitment to the principles of the rule of law and human rights. It also necessitates the establishment of an effective partnership between the state and civil society to ensure meaningful citizen participation in the reform process.
- ✓ It is essential to reconsider the prevailing legal culture in Algeria and to work toward entrenching the principles of justice, equality, and respect for human rights. This also requires strengthening the institutional capacities of judicial bodies and providing them with the necessary resources to fulfill their functions effectively.
- ✓ The findings of this study indicate the need for further in-depth research to assess the real-life impact of these reforms on citizens, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and propose practical solutions to the challenges encountered.

### **Recommendations:**

The popular movement in Algeria has opened new horizons for reform in the field of criminal policy; however, achieving such reform requires sustained and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders. Building a fair and transparent judicial system is a fundamental prerequisite for establishing a democratic state that respects human rights and upholds the rule of law. To this end, the following recommendations are proposed:

- ✓ Strengthening judicial independence through the separation of powers and the protection of judges from political interference.
- ✓ Combating corruption by enforcing strict anti-corruption laws and ensuring accountability for corrupt practices.
- ✓ Training legal professionals by providing specialized training programs for judges and lawyers.
- ✓ Enhancing the role of civil society by supporting human rights organizations and involving them in monitoring and evaluation processes.
- ✓ Reviewing legislation through a comprehensive reassessment of criminal laws to ensure their consistency with international human rights standards.

The implementation of these recommendations would contribute to building a state governed by the rule of law that respects human rights and guarantees justice and equality for all citizens. This research also opens new avenues for future studies in this field and may be further developed through individual case studies, analysis of the impact of reforms on different social groups, and evaluation of the role of the media in promoting human rights awareness.

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