EXECUTIF D98-245 [final]



## **RESOLUTION ON ALGERIA**

## Adopted by the Executive Committee, 3-5 April 1998, Vilnius, Lithuania

Algeria is going through the worst moments of its history. Hundreds of Algerians go on dying in bomb attacks, car bombings and wide-scale massacres, the horror of which cannot be described. No cause can justify such horrors; no religion can be used as pretexts for these crimes against humanity.

The option of maximum security and integral repression chosen ever since the interruption of the democratic process in January 1992 has only created generalised insecurity in the country.

To the crimes committed by armed groups, the answer has been implacable repression: tortures, extra-judiciary executions, kidnappings, etc. The massive distribution of arms done by the military power can only generate chaos and make a war of everybody against everybody irreversible.

Since last summer, massacres of unprecedented scale and violence are following one another. The general confusions, lack of information and impunity can only benefit to the perpetrators, whoever they are. They only worsen the violence and decrease day by day any chance for peace and reconciliation. Young people have a key role in the democracy movement and the emerging civil society. As young Europeans, we express our solidarity with the Algerian youth in this difficult time.

The International Community must clearly state that the solution to war is not always more war, but the opening of a true peace process.

The Youth Forum calls on the International Community to clearly review its position on this civil war and the urgent problems it creates.

We call upon the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations:

- to support the initiatives of NGO's in favour of an international inquiry commission in order to shed a light on the massacres and determine who is responsible;

- to take strong actions for a mediation that favours peace and a political situation which would involve all the forces that reject violence and terrorism.

The return to peace and the respect of human rights must be the top priority.

The Youth Forum commits to politically support the work of its member organisations working in this area.