Schrijfactie Guatemala: 6 jaar cel voor journalist

De 68-jarige José Rubén Zamora uit Guatemala is een zeer gerespecteerde journalist die corruptie aan de kaak stelde. Daar betaalt hij nu een hoge prijs voor. Hij werd in juli 2022 opgepakt en kreeg 6 jaar cel voor valse aanklachten van witwassen en chantage. Alles wijst erop dat dit een poging is van de regering om hem het zwijgen op te leggen.

Wat kun jij doen?

Schrijf vóór 1 oktober 2025 een brief aan de openbaar aanklager van Guatemala. Roep haar op de aanklachten tegen Zamora in te trekken en hem vrij te laten.

Terug de cel in na korte periode huisarrest

In oktober 2024 kwam Zamora vervroegd vrij nadat hij meer dan 800 dagen had vastgezeten. Maar afgelopen maart draaide een rechter deze beslissing ineens terug. Zamora moest weer de cel in. Zijn veroordeling en gevangenschap hebben een afschrikwekkend effect op andere kritische mensen. Veel van hen durven zich niet meer uit te spreken. En dat is precies de bedoeling van de regering.

Schrijfactie: Algerijnse dichter en activist \*in de cel\*

Op 20 januari 2025, slechts vier dagen na zijn arrestatie, werd de bekende Algerijnse dichter en activist Mohamed Tadjadit door een rechtbank in Algiers veroordeeld tot 5 jaar gevangenisstraf. Het proces verliep overhaast en oneerlijk. Zijn misdrijf? Kritische berichten op sociale media over de politieke en economische situatie in Algerije. Onlangs werd zijn straf teruggebracht naar 1 jaar gevangenisstraf.

Het is niet de eerste keer dat Tadjadit het doelwit is. De Algerijnse regering heeft hem sinds 2019 meerdere keren gestraft voor zijn uitlatingen.

Wat kun jij doen?

Schrijf **vóór 1 oktober 2025** naar de Algerijnse president. Roep hem op om Mohamed Tadjadit onmiddellijk en onvoorwaardelijk vrij te laten.

Gezicht van protestbeweging

Tadjadit staats bekend als ‘de dichter van de Hirak’. De Hirak-protestbeweging ontstond in 2019, met massademonstraties tegen de toenmalige president van Algerije. Sinds zijn vertrek blijft de beweging zich inzetten voor de democratie, politieke hervormingen en meer vrijheden.

Mrs. María Consuelo Porras Argueta

Attorney General and Chief of the Prosecutor’s office

Ministerio Público, Oficina de la Fiscal general

8o Nivel, 15 Avenida A 15-16

Cdad. de Guatemala

Guatemala

Veldhoven, September 2025

Dear Mrs. Consuelo Porras Argueta,

I am writing to express my concern over the conviction and continued detention of 68-years-old journalist José Rubén Zamora. He had been under house arrest for four months when on March 4, 2025 an appeals court partially annulled the process and overturned the house arrest decision. Zamora was unjustly detained between July 2022 and October 2024 for more than 800 days as a result of two unfounded criminal proceedings brought against him. In June 2023 he was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison for trumped-up charges.

I urge you to drop all the charges against Zamora and ensure his immediate release as he is detained solely for his journalistic work investigating and denouncing corruption.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Embassy of the Guatemala

H.E. Ana Cristina Rodriguez Pineda

De Ruijterstraat 36

2518 AS Den Haag

E-mail: embpaisesbajos@minex.gob.gt

**This is a copy of the letter sent to:**

Mrs. María Consuelo Porras Argueta, Attorney General and Chief of the Prosecutor’s office

Ministerio Público, Oficina de la Fiscal general

Veldhoven, September 2025

Dear Mrs. Consuelo Porras Argueta,

I am writing to express my concern over the conviction and continued detention of 68-years-old journalist José Rubén Zamora. He had been under house arrest for four months when on March 4, 2025 an appeals court partially annulled the process and overturned the house arrest decision. Zamora was unjustly detained between July 2022 and October 2024 for more than 800 days as a result of two unfounded criminal proceedings brought against him. In June 2023 he was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison for trumped-up charges.

I urge you to drop all the charges against Zamora and ensure his immediate release as he is detained solely for his journalistic work investigating and denouncing corruption.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

President of the Republic of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Presidence de la republique

Place Mohammed Seddik Benyahiya, El Mouradia,

Alger 16000

Algérie

E-mail: President@el-mouradia.dz

Veldhoven, September 2025

Your Excellency,

I write to you to urge you to ensure that all charges against peaceful renowned activist Mohamed Tadjadit, known as the “poet of the Hirak”, are dropped and that he is released immediately.

Police arrested Mohamed Tadjadit on 16 January 2025 and held him in custody for three days without visits from his family or a lawyer. On 20 January, the Rouiba Court in Algiers sentenced to five years in prison and a fine. Authorities tried Mohamed Tadjadit in expedited proceedings without sufficient time to prepare his legal defense, thus undermining his right to a fair trial.

Since 2019, the Algerian authorities have detained and prosecuted Mohamed Tadjadit in at least six separate cases, all related to his peaceful activism and expression of dissenting views.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

H.E. Ms. Salima Abdelhak

Van Stolklaan 1-3

2585 JS Den Haag

E-mail: ambalg1@ziggo.nl

**This is a copy of the letter sent to:**

President of the Republic of Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Veldhoven, September 2025

Your Excellency,

I write to you to urge you to ensure that all charges against peaceful renowned activist Mohamed Tadjadit, known as the “poet of the Hirak”, are dropped and that he is released immediately.

Police arrested Mohamed Tadjadit on 16 January 2025 and held him in custody for three days without visits from his family or a lawyer. On 20 January, the Rouiba Court in Algiers sentenced to five years in prison and a fine. Authorities tried Mohamed Tadjadit in expedited proceedings without sufficient time to prepare his legal defense, thus undermining his right to a fair trial.

Since 2019, the Algerian authorities have detained and prosecuted Mohamed Tadjadit in at least six separate cases, all related to his peaceful activism and expression of dissenting views.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,