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Morocco

# Free the Hirak political prisoners

- News from around the world -

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**The death of Mohcine Fikri - a fish vendor crushed in a garbage truck on October, 28th, 2016 while trying to retrieve his confiscated merchandise in Al Hoceima - has paved the way for the rise of 'Hirak', a popular movement of the Rif that fights for social justice and the right to equal development. Since that date the northern region of Morocco has witnessed a historical turmoil. Despite the militarisation of the region and the state's manoeuvre to discredit the upheaval, Hirak was able to mobilise thousands of demonstrators in the north of Morocco.**

However, the Moroccan state began a wave of repression that has not been seen for decades. Hence, in May and in a context of rising repression against the Movement of the Rif, fifty political prisoners, among them the leaders of Hirak, were transferred to the Oukacha prison in Casablanca. Consequently, and conscious of the difficulties that the families of the detained would face, a committee for the support of political prisoners was established on the 31 May 2017.

The Committee of Support for the Political Prisoners of Hirak [Casablanca] is a collective independent of all political organisations, unions, and associations. It is comprised of militants from different political, associative and union horizons and who defend the cause of political prisoners, and who stand against the criminalisation of social movements. The Committee calls for the immediate liberation of all of Hirak's political prisoners.

The international petition launched by the committee can be seen [here](#)