

The Strategy to Close the Chapter on Algeria's National Tragedy: The Choice of National Reconciliation and Bypassing Transitional Justice

¹Rahal Saci, ²Chetioui Ali

University of El-Oued

Received: 10/04/2025 Accepted: 21/06/2025 Published: 25/09/2025

Abstract:

In the late 20th century, Algeria experienced a grave national tragedy that threatened to undermine the very foundations of the state. This crisis arose following the emergence of armed groups opposed to the political regime and all those associated with it. These Islamist armed groups adopted change through force after the electoral process was annulled at the beginning of 1992. Faced with this situation, the People's National Army and all security agencies declared that they would not remain passive while the state was exposed to destabilization and aggression, on the basis of their pivotal role in maintaining public security and combating acts of sabotage and terrorism. The State also recognized early on the necessity of establishing an appropriate legal framework in order to create an effective strategy for combating the phenomenon at both the national and international levels, through the enactment of national legislation consistent with its constitutional system and in accordance with the applicable international standards and rules. It therefore moved rapidly to bring its legal and judicial systems into greater conformity with these standards in order to achieve the objectives of combating the phenomenon. The State also resorted to peaceful solutions in stages in order to contain and resolve the security crisis and restore stability and social security, beginning with the Law of Mercy, then Civil Concord, and finally reaching the policy of National Reconciliation as the final and radical solution to the security crisis experienced by the country.

Keywords: terrorist phenomenon; Law of Mercy; Civil Concord; National Reconciliation; transitional justice; national tragedy; security and stability.

Introduction

Algeria experienced a serious national tragedy at the end of the last century that almost undermined the entity of the State. This occurred after the emergence of armed groups opposed to the political regime and to everyone moving within its orbit. These armed Islamist groups relied on change through force after the electoral process was annulled at the beginning of 1992. In the face of this situation, the People's National Army and all security agencies announced that they would not remain with their hands tied while the entity of the State was subjected to disturbance and aggression, based on their pivotal role in preserving public security and combating acts of sabotage and terrorism (Behloul, 2015, pp. 151–158; Karbouche, 2016, pp. 142–164).

The State also recognized early the need to establish an appropriate legal framework in order to create an effective strategy for combating the phenomenon at both the national and international levels through national legislation consistent with its constitutional system and with the applicable international standards and rules, and it rapidly sought to bring its legal and judicial systems into greater conformity with them in order to achieve the objectives of combating the phenomenon.

The State resorted to peaceful solutions in stages in order to contain the security crisis, remove its effects, and restore stability and social security, beginning with the Law of Mercy, then Civil Concord, and finally the policy of National Reconciliation as the final and radical solution to the security crisis experienced by the country (Karbouche, 2016, pp. 142–164).

Research Problem

To what extent can the strategy of closing the chapter on the national tragedy in Algeria, based on the choice of National Reconciliation, be considered an alternative to and a way of going beyond the traditional mechanisms of transitional justice?

Research Questions

1. What do National Reconciliation and transitional justice consist of?
2. What are the reasons for adopting the option of National Reconciliation, and what are its main manifestations?
3. How was going beyond transitional justice embodied in the texts, legislation, and field practices for closing the chapter on the national tragedy?

Research Methodology

This study relies on established scientific approaches—the descriptive-analytical approach, the historical approach, the comparative approach, the legal approach, the institutional approach, the systems approach, and the case-study approach—because the study addresses the Algerian experience in order to examine the practical trajectory of reconciliation, in view of its importance and effectiveness in enriching the subject, revealing its depths, and overcoming the difficulties and problems that interrupt the research. Through these approaches, it is possible to reach findings that may be generalized and adopted as a basis for comparison.

Research Plan

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Part One: The Conceptual and Theoretical Framework of National Reconciliation and Transitional Justice

Section One: The Nature of National Reconciliation as an Alternative for Managing Post-Conflict Crises

Introduction

Conceptually, National Reconciliation is a value-based, political, and legal system aimed at ending armed conflicts and civil wars and rebuilding social ties by closing the chapter on the past, revealing the truth, and repairing the harm suffered by victims, without resorting entirely to traditional trials (Rouabhi & Kesri, 2023, pp. 1–13).

National Reconciliation is defined as “a long-term political, societal, and legal process aimed at ending the state of polarization and armed conflict and re-establishing the social contract between the components of the nation

and the State through mechanisms of de-escalation, reparation, and conditional or comprehensive amnesty” (Ben Abdelaziz & Abdelkrim, 2019, pp. 275–292).

It extends to the following dimensions:

- Political dimension: reintegrating active forces and renewing the legitimacy of constitutional institutions.
- Legal and human-rights dimension: enacting exceptional legislation that reconciles law enforcement with the preservation of life and mutual concession.
- Psychological and societal dimension: addressing the behavioral residues of violence, rebuilding social trust, and caring for victims and rights holders.

National Reconciliation draws on the literature of the Institute of Peace and conflict resolution, particularly Johan Galtung’s theses on negative and positive peace and John Paul Lederach’s work on sustainable peacebuilding (Galtung, 1996; Lederach, 2001).

- Negative peace: the absence of direct armed violence and the cessation of internal fighting through urgent security and legal measures.
- Positive peace: dismantling the structural causes of conflict, achieving social justice, and consolidating a culture of institutional coexistence and the rule of law.

Section Two: The Concept of Transitional Justice and Its Theoretical and International Dimensions

Transitional justice is one of the most important contemporary legal and political concepts. It emerged strongly during the second half of the twentieth century, especially in countries that had experienced authoritarian regimes or internal armed conflicts. The importance of transitional justice lies in its being a comprehensive framework for addressing the legacy of grave human-rights violations and achieving a balance between the demand for justice on the one hand and the requirements of social peace and political stability on the other. Transitional justice is also a set of judicial and non-judicial processes and mechanisms adopted by States to deal with the heavy legacy of grave human-rights violations, with the aim of achieving accountability, revealing the truth, repairing harm, and achieving National Reconciliation (Cherkaoui, 2020).

Transitional justice is not limited to the judicial dimension alone; it also includes political, social, and psychological dimensions seeking to heal the wounds of the past and build a future based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The subject is particularly important in Arab countries that have witnessed profound political transformations during recent decades.

Transitional justice means the set of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and measures adopted by States emerging from periods of conflict or authoritarian rule, with the aim of addressing human-rights violations that occurred in the past. These measures include trials, truth commissions, reparation programmes, and institutional reform.

The United Nations has defined transitional justice as “a set of processes and mechanisms associated with society’s attempts to settle the legacy of widespread violations in the past, with the aim of ensuring accountability, achieving justice, and reconciliation.”

The roots of transitional justice go back to the Nuremberg Trials after the Second World War, which constituted the first international experience in holding those responsible for grave crimes accountable. The concept then developed during the 1970s and 1980s, particularly in Latin American and Eastern European countries, as they moved from military or totalitarian regimes to democratic systems (Cherkaoui, 2020).

With the end of the Cold War, the use of transitional justice expanded to Africa, Asia, and the Arab world, and it became part of the international discourse on human rights and peacebuilding.

Objectives of Transitional Justice

- Revealing the truth about grave human-rights violations.

- Doing justice to victims and repairing the harm inflicted upon them.
- Holding those responsible for crimes and violations accountable.
- Achieving National Reconciliation and building trust between the State and society.
- Ensuring that violations are not repeated in the future.

Basic Principles of Transitional Justice

- The principle of combating impunity.
- The principle of victims' right to truth and redress.
- The principle of the rule of law and judicial independence.
- The principle of balancing justice and stability.

Mechanisms of Transitional Justice

- Truth and reconciliation commissions: Truth commissions are among the most prominent mechanisms of transitional justice. They are tasked with investigating previous violations, collecting testimonies, documenting facts, and publishing official reports that contribute to preserving national memory.
- Criminal accountability: Criminal accountability includes prosecuting those responsible for grave violations, whether before national or international courts. This mechanism is necessary to achieve deterrence and strengthen the rule of law, despite the political and security challenges it raises.
- Reparation: Reparation aims to compensate victims materially and morally and restore their standing through financial compensation, psychological and social rehabilitation, and guarantees of economic and social rights.
- Institutional reform: Institutional reform focuses on restructuring security, judicial, and administrative bodies to ensure respect for human rights and prevent violations from recurring.

International Experiences in Transitional Justice

Many countries have experienced truth-seeking and reconciliation commissions, in more than forty countries worldwide during the past four decades. Among the most important are the National Commission for the Investigation of Missing Persons in Bolivia (1982); the National Commission on Disappeared Persons in Argentina (1983); the Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes and Violations Committed by President Hissène Habré in Chad (1990); South Africa against the apartheid regime after President Mandela came to power; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Congo (2004); Chile (1990); the Truth Commission in Ecuador (1988); the National Truth Commission in Brazil (2011); the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia (2014); the Truth and Reparations Commission in The Gambia (2017); and others.

The following table presents the most prominent transitional-justice commissions during the past forty years and the extent to which the objective of National Reconciliation was achieved.

Table 1. Truth Commissions Established Since the Beginning of Transitional Processes

No.	Country	Date of Commission Establishment	Beginning of Transition	Elapsed Period (Years)	Founding Document	Reconciliation Objective Achieved
1	Argentina	December 1983	October 1983	0.2	Decree	No
2	Uruguay (1/2)	April 1985	November 1984	0.4	Law	No
3	Chile (1/2)	May 1990	December 1989	0.4	Decree	Yes
4	Chad	December	December	0.1	Decree	No

		1990	1990			
5	Germany (1/2)	May 1992	August 1990	1.8	Law	No
6	El Salvador	July 1992	January 1993	0.5	Peace Accord	Yes
7	Guatemala	June 1994	June 1994	0	Peace Accord	No
8	Haiti	April 1995	July 1994	0.8	Decree	Yes
9	Germany (2/2)	June 1995	August 1990	4.8	Law	No
10	South Africa	December 1995	April 1994	1.7	Law	Yes
11	Ecuador (1/2)	September 1996	August 1996	0.1	Ministry of Security	No
12	Nigeria	June 1999	February 1999	0.4	Decree	No
13	Sierra Leone	February 2000	July 1999	0.6	Peace Accord	Yes
14	Uruguay (2/2)	November 2000	August 1984	15.8	Decree	No
15	South Korea (1/2)	October 2000	June 1987	12.3	Decree	No
16	Panama	January 2001	December 1989	10.2	Decree	No
17	Peru	November 2001	June 2001	0.6	Decree	Yes
18	Ghana	January 2002	January 1993	9	Law	Yes
19	East Timor	February 2002	August 1999	2.5	United Nations Mission	Yes
20	Congo	July 2003	December 2002	0.6	Peace Accord	Yes
21	Chile (2/2)	September 2003	December 1989	13.8	Decree	No
22	Paraguay	October 2003	February 1989	17.7	Law	No
23	Morocco	April 2004	July 1999	4.8	Royal Decree	Yes
24	South Korea (2/2)	May 2005	June 1987	17.9	Law	Yes
25	Liberia	February 2006	August 2003	2.3	Peace Accord	No

26	Ecuador (2/2)	May 2007	January 2007	0.4	Peace Accord	Yes
27	Solomon Islands	August 2008	October 2000	7.8	Law	Yes
28	Kenya	October 2008	December 2002	5.8	Peace Accord	Yes
29	Togo	February 2009	February 2005	4	Decree	Yes
30	Honduras	April 2010	October 2009	0.5	Decree	Yes
31	Thailand	October 2010	December 2007	0.6	Decree	Yes
32	Côte d'Ivoire	July 2011	April 2011	0.3	Decree	Yes
33	Brazil	November 2011	October 1988	22.1	Law	Yes
34	Tunisia	2014			Law	Yes

Source: Adapted by the researcher from NAWAAT, "Transitional Justice in Tunisia and the Danger of Exception," October 28, 2015; translated into Arabic by the researcher in the original study.

Challenges and Problems Associated with Transitional Justice

Transitional justice has faced several challenges, the most prominent of which are:

- Conflict between justice and political stability.
- Difficulty in holding influential officials accountable.
- Weak confidence in judicial institutions.
- Sharp social divisions.

From the preceding table, the inability and ineffectiveness of transitional-justice commissions can be observed through the tabulated statistics:

- Most commissions are recent; that is, the mechanism of establishing transitional-justice commissions is a recent process.
- Approximately half of the cases did not succeed through transitional-justice commissions.
- In countries where truth commissions were established more than once (Chile, Ecuador, and Uruguay), the objective of National Reconciliation was not achieved.

Part Two: The Trajectory of National Reconciliation in Algeria for Resolving the Security Crisis

Section One: The Legislative and Historical Development of the National Reconciliation Trajectory in Algeria

The treatment of the security and political crisis in Algeria proceeded through an ascending legislative trajectory that reflected the maturity of the political approach to resolving the security dilemma:

- The Law of Mercy (1995): under Ordinance No. 95-12, its objective was to open the door to repentance and reduce penalties for those who had been misled, provided that they had not committed mass killings or used explosives.
- The Law on the Restoration of Civil Concord (1999): Law No. 99-08 aimed at bringing thousands of armed individuals down from the mountains, granting exemption from judicial prosecution under conditions, and dissolving armed terrorist organizations.

- The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation (2005): following the referendum of September 29, 2005, and then Ordinance No. 06-01 (2006), its objective was to consolidate amnesty, close the file of missing persons through compensation and recognition, care for victims of the national tragedy, and consolidate stability.

Algeria was not the first country to adopt the concept of National Reconciliation to emerge from its security crisis. Many countries had experienced a transition from closed societies marked by conflicts and political and ethnic strife to civil and democratic societies, particularly in some South American and African countries. Samuel Huntington, the author of **The Clash of Civilizations**, estimated that this transition involved more than forty countries. This transition occurred through the mechanism of National Reconciliation with the end of the colonial period experienced by those countries, the launch of reform, the consolidation of citizenship, and the activation of the role of judicial institutions and the rule of law (Abdel Nasser, 2005, p. 8; Bouricha, 2016, p. 14).

The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation (*Charte pour la Paix et la Réconciliation Nationale*), which came as a complementary initiative to the Civil Concord effort, focused on a number of basic ideas contained in the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation issued on August 14, 2005, which was approved by the people by an absolute majority in the referendum held on September 29, 2005, with a percentage of 97.38% (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 2005a, 2005b).

Section Two: Practical Mechanisms and Field Measures for Resolving the Security Crisis

The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation provided for the establishment of peace through the activation of the following procedures:

- A. Annulment of judicial proceedings against individuals.
- B. Amnesty in favour of individuals.
- C. Replacement of penalties or exemption from part of them.
- D. Treatment of the file of persons dismissed from their work.
- E. Preventive measures to prevent the recurrence of the national tragedy.
- F. Care for the file of missing persons.
- G. Care for the families of terrorists.

In order to achieve these objectives, consolidate these values and principles, and realize the philosophy of National Reconciliation, the Algerian legislator issued Ordinance No. 06-01, which contained the implementation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. The purpose of this Ordinance was to implement the provisions of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which expressed the sovereign will of the Algerian people and embodied the Algerian people's determination to complete the policy of peace and National Reconciliation necessary for the stability and development of the nation (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 2006).

Presidential Decrees and Compensation Measures

- Presidential Decree No. 06-93 of February 28, 2006, concerning compensation for victims of the national tragedy. A financial budget of more than 22 billion Algerian dinars was allocated, and an account was established for this purpose called the "Special National Solidarity Fund." During 2006, the wilaya committees processed approximately 11,000 files concerning families of terrorists, in addition to settling 100 files concerning children born in the mountains, aged between 5 and 12 years, and they succeeded in establishing the filiation of 40 children after the registration of customary marriages (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 2006).
- Presidential Decree No. 06-94 of February 28, 2006, concerning State assistance to deprived families affected by the involvement of one of their relatives in terrorism. An amount of 6.6 billion Algerian dinars was paid as compensation to the families of missing persons, whose number reached approximately 8,023 missing persons.

- Presidential Decree No. 06-95 of February 28, 2006, concerning the declaration provided for in Article 13 of the Ordinance implementing the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation.
- Presidential Decree No. 06/421 of March 27, 2006, determining the procedures for the reintegration or compensation of persons who had been subject to administrative dismissal from employment because of acts connected with the national tragedy.

The foregoing clearly shows that the Algerian experience is not confined only to the legal frameworks specific to combating terrorism in the field, but also involves an approach centred on human security that combines fair law with the conditions of social and economic integration of terrorist actors (individuals, groups, organizations, ideas, culture, political and partisan orientations, etc.), while valuing the role and sacrifices of those who stood up and confronted them, including security forces, the army, and loyal citizens, in preserving the republican character of the State and eliminating terrorist groups and centres of sabotage and violence.

The usefulness of political solutions is to move out of the crucible of violence, insecurity, fear, and panic, and then stagnation, unemployment, underdevelopment, and so forth, toward a state of stability, security, trust, and consequently development, progress, justice, education, and welfare (Mansouri, 2009/2010, pp. 155–180).

By adopting the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation and the measures taken to implement it, the State sought to defuse the security crisis, remove the legitimacy cover from armed action, and restore social harmony by recovering the shaken trust between members of the population and State institutions. It also sought to refute the false claim that Islam was represented by a particular party or particular group and to restore its breadth and mercy for all people. In addition, it extinguished the flames of hatred and resentment resulting from conduct and actions arising from confrontations, mistakes, and misjudgment at times, because the circumstances through which the country passed involved critical periods requiring speed and precision in taking positions, sometimes even before all information and evidence had been assembled (Mansouri, 2009/2010, pp. 155–180).

Part Three: Political and Security Stability and Going Beyond Transitional Justice

Section One: Outcomes of the Reconciliation Option in Achieving Security Stability and State Sovereignty

Measures for Completing the National Reconciliation Process

- Political measures: undertaking institutional reforms; accelerating the lifting of the state of emergency; ratifying regional and international laws and regulations condemning terrorism and seeking to combat it; joining international instruments to promote and protect human rights; praising the National Reconciliation policy preceded by the policies of Mercy and Civil Concord; modernizing public administration; democratizing political life; and expanding electoral participation.

Economic measures: introducing transparency into administrative and financial transactions, particularly through digitization and information technology in various operations and services (registrations, competitions, promotions, recruitment, etc.).

Measures taken in the field of justice and prisons:

4. Implementing digital justice.
5. Enabling citizens to obtain administrative documents easily through a recognized digital mechanism, whether for citizens inside the country or for the diaspora abroad.
6. Adopting a central information system for the automated processing of data relating to judicial activity.
7. Developing methods of managing the judicial administration by adopting an electronic system for managing administrative and judicial documents, as well as civil-status registers maintained at the judicial councils, with a view to making optimal use of the sector's archive and contributing to the implementation of the principle of electronic administration (Karbouche, 2012, pp. 98–108).

Strengthening individual rights and freedoms:

- Establishing a central genetic fingerprint service.

- Establishing a biometric information system based on exploiting biometric fingerprint characteristics.
- Establishing an automated system aimed at combating the phenomenon of child abduction.

Measures Taken in the Field of Prison Reform

These reforms were embodied through the following measures:

8. Readapting the legislative and regulatory system to national transformations and international standards.
9. Improving detention conditions and supporting prisoners' rights.
10. Strengthening rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for prisoners.
11. International cooperation in developing the qualifications of prison-sector employees.

These measures were accompanied by the following legal and regulatory instruments:

- Law No. 05-04 of February 6, 2005, containing the Law on the Organization of Prisons and the Social Reintegration of Prisoners, and Law No. 18-01 of January 30, 2018, supplementing it.
- Executive Decree No. 05-429 of November 8, 2005, determining the organization, functioning, and tasks of the joint ministerial committee for coordinating prisoner rehabilitation and social reintegration activities.
- Executive Decree No. 05-430 of November 8, 2005, determining means of remote communication and the procedures for their use by prisoners.
- Executive Decree No. 05-431 of November 8, 2005, determining the conditions and procedures for granting social and financial assistance to indigent prisoners upon release.
- Executive Decree No. 06-109 of March 8, 2006, determining the procedures for organizing and operating penal institutions.
- Executive Decree No. 06-284 of August 21, 2006, concerning the organization and operation of the General Inspectorate of Prison Services and its tasks.
- Executive Decree No. 07-67 of February 19, 2007, determining the procedures for organizing and operating the external services of the prison administration and their tasks.
- Executive Decree No. 10-312 of December 13, 2010, establishing and organizing the National School for Prison Administration Employees and determining its functioning.
- Joint ministerial decision of December 12, 2005, determining the schedule of rates for the financial allowance received by prison labour.
- Joint ministerial decision of October 13, 2009, determining the procedures for organizing specialized training, its duration and programmes, and the conditions for admission to it for certain ranks belonging to the special corps of the prison administration (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Ministry of Justice).

Measures Directed toward Families, Associative Movements, Zawiyas, and Traditional Organizations

Encouraging and praising the activities of Sufi orders (Tijaniyya, Qadiriyya, Rahmaniyya, Shadhiliyya, Balqaydiyya, etc.), and indeed supporting them and benefiting from their relations, particularly in Africa and different regions of the world. The State also created the position of presidential adviser responsible for zawiyas, religious associations, and shrines.

Religious Measures

The work undertaken by Algeria in the field of combating terrorism, as manifested in restoring and strengthening the adopted religious reference framework, was based on several initiatives:

- Attention to the religious aspect of citizens' lives and control of the vocabulary and foundations of religious discourse through the adoption of the Maliki school and the Warsh recitation from Nafi' as a reference for the Algerian State, and consideration of the mosque as one of the institutions of the State.

- Improving the training of imams and raising their scientific and educational level in order to manage mosques and perform the mission of Islam in the best possible manner.
- The study states that the State tolerated and remained silent about the growing expansion and spread of the Wahhabi Salafi current, which calls for not rebelling against the ruler, devoting oneself to worship and knowledge, and adhering to what was brought by the Prophet and what the Companions did during the first three centuries. The study notes that one of the most prominent features of this current is the outward appearance of its members, similar to the appearance of the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front, while in its ideas it opposed the Front and went as far as declaring it unbelieving and warning its followers against joining, supporting, or even sympathizing with it.
- Subjecting all occupations to training before beginning work.
- Working to establish a national observatory for combating religious extremism, analysing phenomena related to extremism, and proposing appropriate solutions.

Measures Taken to Promote Employment and Combat Unemployment among Youth

The essence of the National Reconciliation policy is to address the concerns of youth at all levels, including:

- Exempting those who reached the age of 30 from performing national service.
- Opening service windows of youth-support and employment agencies in various trades and professions and facilitating financial-support procedures from banks and accompanying them.
- Supporting sports, cultural, and recreational activities by materially and morally encouraging sports teams and constructing sports facilities in different regions.

Measures Taken in the Field of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation at the Regional and International Levels

This consists of the extent of the Algerian State's contribution outside its borders at several levels: at the regional level, the neighbouring countries represented by the Arab Maghreb countries and the Mediterranean Basin, particularly its northern and eastern parts, and the Sahel countries, especially Mali, Mauritania, and Niger; at the African level, the African continent, particularly through the African Union; and at the Arab and international levels, which the study states will be addressed in detail in the following chapter.

Section Two: Dimensions of the Algerian Model in Going Beyond Traditional Transitional Justice

Article 46 of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation provided that the wounds of the national tragedy should not be revisited and that anyone who digs into its events is subject to imprisonment and a financial fine. The mandatory and deterrent character of the Reconciliation Charter is considered necessary to protect the gain of restoring civil peace from advocates of division and the continuation of conflict. This was expressed by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the statement cited in the original study (Ben Cheikh, 2009, p. 10).

National Reconciliation achieved the success sought by the State and the aspiration of the citizen, as the procedures and conditions of civil peace stopped the bloodshed that had affected all segments of Algerian society for a decade, and this was achieved throughout the national territory (Council of the Nation, 2011, pp. 13–14).

Among the most important reasons for the success of the Charter for National Reconciliation was its coincidence with the increase in oil revenues from 1999 to 2010. The price of a barrel of oil in 1999 was \$17.44, whereas in 2008 the price of a barrel of oil rose to \$140. The State used oil revenues to finance the National Reconciliation project by providing material compensation to those affected (Katouche & Ben Loukil, 2017, p. 12).

Another factor in the success of the National Reconciliation effort was its obtaining the support of figures from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front for its political project, domestically and abroad.

One of the fruits of National Reconciliation was the abolition of the state of emergency, which had been imposed in Algeria on February 9, 1992 for one year, but because of political and security circumstances its

application continued for 19 years, and the state of emergency was lifted on February 23, 2011 (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 1992, 2011).

Conclusion

The study of the trajectory of National Reconciliation in Algeria demonstrated its going beyond the procedures and requirements of transitional justice, as the file of the national tragedy was closed in one stroke. With the strictness of the political system in closing the security-crisis file, it initiated deep reforms that particularly affected citizens' daily lives and largely eliminated their daily concerns (employment, housing, welfare, security, ease of obtaining administrative documents, improved conditions of prison inmates, improved infrastructure in the country, provision of the necessities of life under modern civilization—electricity, water, gas, the Internet, roads, means of transportation, leisure spaces, etc.), in addition to political reforms and the involvement of different segments of society within parties or as independents, especially by requiring candidates to include significant proportions of women and young people under forty.

After nearly twenty years from the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, speaking about it has become a matter of the distant and forgotten past; among young people in their twenties and even thirties, the events have become unknown to those who do not know or understand their causes and consequences, within the security, stability, and financial prosperity in which they live.

The comparative study also showed that transitional-justice experiences differ in effectiveness and outcomes. Some countries succeeded in using this process to strengthen National Reconciliation and build civil peace, while other countries adopted partial approaches focused on reparation without effective accountability. In the Tunisian case, the experience revealed the fragility of transitional-justice processes in the presence of sharp political divisions and the absence of national consensus.

Accordingly, it can be said that the Algerian State presented a successful model in going beyond the issue of transitional justice and closing it from the outset. It indeed achieved stability and security, and the masses of citizens forgot the wounds of the tragedy, which became buried in the past with all its joys and sorrows. The security crisis, its consequences, repercussions, and causes were closed, and everyone turned toward development and the achievement of national stability and security—may God forgive what has passed (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 1992, 2011).

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