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In Algeria, relatives of the "disappeared" hold photographs of their missing loved ones at a weekly demonstration held on their behalf in Algiers.
(c) 1998 Agence France Presse

In February 2002 the prosecutor summoned me and asked if I had any new information about Riad. I replied, "No. But it is not my job to conduct the investigation into a person who 'disappears.' It is your job."

The prosecutor opened Riad's file and said, "I see that your son is a terrorist."

I replied, "Of course he's a terrorist – to you, anyone who 'disappears' is a terrorist. But this country has a judicial system. If someone is a terrorist let him be put on trial."

Since then, there have been no traces of Riad. Still, I will never stop looking for my son, until my last breath.

Human Rights Watch interview, Algiers, October 25, 2002.

TIME FOR RECKONING: ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES AND ABDUCTIONS IN ALGERIA

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