

Pensioners' Organization joins the action



The Trade Union Organization of Algerian Retirees (OSRA), pending approval since February 26, 2021, joined the autonomous unions of the public service on Monday, calling on retirees in the Algiers region and its surroundings to participate in the rally held on May 1 to denounce the deterioration of the living conditions of the majority of retirees, galloping inflation and the collapse of their purchasing power.

The opportunity, says OSRA, to express its dissatisfaction with the lack of consideration of those responsible for pensioners who have devoted their entire lives to the development of the country, denouncing what it describes as "injustice", which harms all CNR pensioners.

Contacted by the *Young Independent*, the representative of OSRA at the level of the wilaya of Algiers, Chayeb Madani, said that the retirees participated in the rally in solidarity with the various autonomous unions of the public service.

It is also an opportunity, he says, to express their anger at the social situation of pensioners in particular and to demand above all the recognition of OSRA as a union in its own right. "We filed a proper file and we had a refusal as a response," he regrets. He explains that "the Ministry justified its refusal by Law 90-14 governing the modalities of exercise of the right to organize, which stipulates, in article 2, that only employers and workers are likely to

create a union. This is in contradiction with the Constitution, the fundamental law that guarantees the right to organize to all citizens."

The representative of OSRA also welcomed the success of the union gathering and the spontaneous participation of retirees to express their solidarity with public service workers.

In a press release made public, OSRA recalled, on the occasion of May 1, its right to obtain an approval formalizing its activity, while reiterating its demand for the rectification of increases relating to pensions to more than 50,000 DA. "We are stepping up our activism to ensure that all labour rights and freedoms and conventions are implemented in practice instead of remaining empty words," the document said.

OSRA expresses its regret to see that all the letters addressed to the President of the Republic, the Ombudsman of the Republic, the Minister of Labour and even the Director of the CNR have so far remained unanswered.

It should be noted that OSRA continues to fight on three hot issues of the day, namely on the subject of the 400,000 pensioners deprived of increase in January 2023, its registration receipt as well as on the two laws relating to the modalities of trade union exercise, the settlement of labour disputes and the right to strike that the organization rejects.

Thus, the trade union organization affirms its determination to continue to fight for its registration receipt, recalling that letters have been sent to the President of the Republic to this effect, in particular to denounce what it describes as a "scandal" concerning the statements of the Director General of the CNR and the Minister of Labour who, "in their statement to the press, have openly stated that these increases do not concern pensions of more than 50,000 DA," says OSRA.

The OSRA demands the revision of the pension increases applied in January 2023 and which deprived 400,000 pensioners of them without acceptable reasons, the increase in the rates of revaluation of retirement pensions in line with inflation which is above 15%, the abolition of the IRG for retirement pensions, the unification of all pension funds and the revision of the SNMG to 60,000 DA.

Pensioners are also demanding the payment of pensions on the basis of the best year of work and at 100% of salary, the indexation of retirement pensions to salaries in the image of pensioners of the Special Pension Fund

(FSR) and the revaluation of the CNR retirement pension rate to 100% instead of 80%, like the FSR pensioners.

OSRA demands an automatic revaluation of annual pensions on the basis of real inflation that includes all the elements for a dignified life and does not weaken the purchasing power of the pensioner and the pensioner.

To enable pensioners to live in dignity, OSRA believes that pensioners should benefit from free vaccinations, all existing modern medicines and therapies. It also requires the construction of homes for the elderly, old people's homes, institutions for the severely disabled, for the mentally ill, exclusively public and free of charge, with adequate staff and equipment.

Finally, on the occasion of International Workers' Day 2023, OSRA wishes to convey its warm, militant and class-oriented greetings to all workers and pensioners in struggle and to all militant unions who tirelessly and resolutely lead the daily struggle for dignity and for the satisfaction of the demands of pensioners and workers. It calls on pensioners to remain mobilized and vigilant around their organization to win all their rights.