

Pensioners: OSRA denounces the government's contempt



The National Council of the Algerian Pensioners' Trade Union Organisation (OSRA) was held on Saturday, February 10, 2024. He had been summoned by the national office to decide on the action to be taken to respond to "the government's policy of contempt and ignorance towards CNR pensioners (press release from the national office)".

The work of the National Council reflected the discontent, concern and incomprehension of millions of pensioners at the contempt shown by the government, and the leaders of the CNR, by their discriminatory policy in violation of the constitution and the laws of the Republic.

The members of the National Council unanimously denounced the discriminatory policy initiated in 2023 consisting of a small increase in retirement pensions for certain categories of retirees and denying it to all others. This measure was aimed at pitting pensioners against each other, while they all suffer from the same living conditions, in particular

from the uncontrolled galloping inflation on the prices of basic necessities.

The members of the National Council unanimously believe that this policy will continue in 2024 and worsen. On 1 January, all pensioners were excluded from the increase promised by the President of the Republic, while senior civil servants, managed by the FSR, were increased without exception for the simple reason that they benefit from the indexation of their retirement pensions to the salaries of active civil servants. On the other hand, for CNR retirees, this benefit is denied.

- **For the government, there are two colleges of retirees.**

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The members of the National Council unanimously noted that the high cost of living is hitting their meagre budgets hard, a meagre that they share with all workers. Their purchasing power has plummeted. This has been measured through real-life examples: purchases of the same food products and in identical proportions, strictly necessary weekly, cost 11,000 dinars in July 2023, now cost about 18,000 dinars; school supplies have increased by 100 to 300%; Red meat has gone from 950 dinars to 3000 dinars in one year. It is therefore clear that the official inflation set at 10%, which is already significant, is underestimated by the official bodies authorized for this purpose. In view of the whole situation described, the National Council unanimously decided:

1) to maintain and strengthen the demands of pensioners in order to:

- **increase the minimum retirement pension to 60,000 dinars, which leads to an immediate increase of 40,000 dinars in all retirement pensions;**
- **the future indexation of the retirement pension to inflation and to the wages of working people;**
- **The abolition of IRG for all pensioners:**
- **increase the retirement pension from 80% to 100% for 32 years worked.**

2) to organize **a united national rally** to publicly demand the needs of pensioners.

and (3) to call for the participation of all trade union organizations, including the FNTR, affiliated to the UGTA, and pensioners' associations.

(4) to form a delegation from the National Council to consult with them, in particular on the date on which the rally could be held.

5) to form a commission to energize the local committees of OSRA in order to structure OSRA and thus to succeed in the unitary and combative national rally.

and (6) to reformulate the platform of demands. A member of the National Council has been designated to present a report at the next meeting of the National Council.

The work of the National Council took place in the presence of the delegates of Sonatrach pensioners who have been fighting for their rights as mutualists for years.

The National Council gave its unanimous support and active solidarity to their struggle and affirmed that it stands by them in the fight they are waging against the repression that affects one of their comrades.

OSRA reminds us: "We are retired from work and not from the trade union struggle".

For the National Office, Ahmed Badaoui, Secretary General