

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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On the passing of Maître Mahmoud Khelili of Algeria

On behalf of all my colleagues at Human Rights Watch, I wish to express my sorrow at the passing on March 6 of Mahmoud Khelili and convey our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Me. Khelili nobly served the cause of human rights in Algeria through his defense of clients before the courts, through the frequent bulletins that he sent to the news media and to civil society organizations, and through his voluminous documentation of human rights violations.

He persisted in his devotion to the cause despite great pressures exercised against him and members of his family, and in disregard for the increasing fragility of his health.

I feel honored to have known Me. Khelili, and fortunate to have been graciously received by him as recently as November 2002, at his law office in el-Harrach.

The human rights community has lost one of its pillars.

Eric Goldstein
March 13, 2003