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We, as Members of the European Parliament, would like to express our concern on the case of Dounia Filali and Adnane Filali and to show them our solidarity and support.

Ms Filali and Mr Filali are two Moroccan journalists, human rights defenders and political refugees benefiting from UNHCR protection (under strict mandate Articles 5 and 6 of the 1951 Geneva Convention) due to persecution they suffered and are still suffering at the hands of the Moroccan regime and its intelligence services.

The Moroccan regime persecutes them in response to their journalistic and human rights work. Since 2020, the Moroccan regime has been using immoral, illegal, and inhumane tools to stifle their voices and to persist in its cross-border repression and persecution. In May 2021, people affiliated with the Moroccan secret services and the Moroccan embassy attacked them at their homes in China with the intention of finishing them off. In July 2021, after these serious events, in panic, they decided to leave China and to get to France.

Since then, they are in French territory, and they have been living in constant danger.

The French authorities, for two years, refused to recognize their status as a political refugees, officially for spurious reasons and unofficially to maintain good bilateral relations between Morocco and France.

Some examples of the persecutions they suffered on French territory:

- Threats from newspapers close to Moroccan security apparatus that they got via some government institutions in France
- They were discriminated by OFII (French office for immigration and integration). All their political and human refugee rights were taken away (care, housing, financial aid...)
- They are not allowed to work to sustain themselves
- Rejection of all legal complaints (on defamation, threats of beheadings, death threats...) in less than 48 hours for no reason. All their requests for a lawyer in these cases were also denied
- Moroccan newspapers close to the regime's security services publish on their movements in France and private information
- The use of defamatory Moroccan newspaper articles by some French state bodies as an accusation against them
- They do not have the right to the protection of the police despite the threats and spinning (and despite the complaints filed and the evidence provided)

After 2 waiting years, in great precariousness and risk, France has illegally refused to recognize their political asylum. They have confidential and official documents proving that the decision to reject their asylum status is purely political, and that their presence in France risks harming bilateral Franco-Moroccan relations. They recall that these documents and the exchange of e-mails clearly show that the decision was taken long before the refugee office met with them. These confidential documents signed by high state officials clearly elaborate on illegal acts against them. Several international journals have published and analyzed some of these documents.

Dounia and Adnane are outraged to see that a European country like France violates human rights and persecutes two journalists to please Morocco, a country known for imprisoning and torturing journalists. Their lives are in no way safe on French territory.

In light of all this we, as Members of the European Parliament:

- Claim their right to resettlement in a safe country as political refugees has to be respected, as well as European and international law
- Denounce any attempts from the French Government to expel Dounia and Adnane to Morocco, since they obtained political asylum fleeing from this country
- Claim an investigation should be opened to shed light on the actions from both French and Moroccan Governments

Sincerely,

Miguel Urban, MEP, THE LEFT  
Cornelia Ernst, MEP, THE LEFT  
Jose Gusmão, MEP, THE LEFT  
Marisa Matias, MEP, THE LEFT  
Ozlem Demirel, MEP, THE LEFT  
Clare Daly, MEP, THE LEFT  
Mick Wallace, MEP, THE LEFT  
Idoia Villanueva, MEP, THE LEFT  
Ignazio Corrao, MEP, Greens/ EFA  
Ana Miranda, MEP, Greens/ EFA  
Diana Riba I Giner, MEP, Greens/ EFA