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Statement

The National Committee for Environment, Forests and Climate (COSYFOP), expressing the voice of the independent environmental movement in Algeria, strongly condemns the continuation of random hunting (poaching) operations and extermination campaigns against wild animals of all kinds—including rare, protected, and endangered species—across the national territory for two and a half decades. This situation exposes the wild animal kingdom to the risk of mass extinction. All these transgressions occur before the eyes of the concerned authorities in flagrant violation of national laws, relevant ratified treaties, as well as ethics, human values, and the values of Algerian society, which condemn mutilation and cruelty towards living beings, as well as the hunting of rare species during breeding seasons and periods of acute drought.

The Committee also condemns the state of legal impunity for individuals and groups who have been—and continue to be—involved in crimes of poaching, mutilation, and trafficking of wild animals. The National Committee (COSYFOP) has monitored cases of stalling and negligence in intervening to stop teams practicing hunting during breeding seasons in several regions: Constantine, Guelma, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Setif, Tiaret, Skikda, Bejaia, and others, cited here as models and samples.

The Committee further denounces the campaigns of demonization and defamation targeting the leaders and activists defending wildlife within the Committee (COSYFOP)—who are civil volunteers—orchestrated by parties deliberately attempting to exclude them from the scene. This constitutes a clear violation of the Algerian State's obligations to involve all active and independent stakeholders, regardless of special interests, lobbies, and influence groups.

The Committee also condemns the intentional leaking by certain parties of the names of whistleblowers (Committee activists) reporting poaching crimes, with the intent of endangering them and attempting to silence them through these methods that violate the laws of the Algerian State and its commitments to protect whistleblowers of corruption and its perpetrators.

Therefore, the National Committee for Environment, Forests and Climate (COSYFOP) demands the following:

- A ban on hunting for a period of no less than five years to save wild animals from the risk of mass extinction, ensure biological rest, and provide environmental rehabilitation across the entire country.
- Strict application of the Hunting Law, laws regarding rare species, and animal welfare clauses.
- The creation of a national "Green Number" (Hotline) dedicated to reporting transgressions by the wealthy and influential who exploit their wealth and relatives to practice poaching and escape punishment.
- A halt to wild boar extermination campaigns across the national territory, as they are based on baseless claims.
- Action against cross-border gangs threatening the wild animal kingdom in the Steppes and the Sahara, in flagrant defiance of national laws and international/UN treaties regarding the protection of wildlife in arid and semi-arid zones and the integrity of ecosystems in our country.

Measures to tackle random hunting must also include: Hunting with traps and clamps spread in fields and forests; the extermination of birds using nets and adhesive materials (glue); hunting in ponds and water sources; the theft of bird eggs from their nests; hunting porcupines for meat trade; and hunting goldfinches and falcons for trade.

The Committee also calls for a ban on the sale of toxic and chemical substances in stores for the purpose of exterminating wild animals.

Based on all the above, we call upon the loyal forces in Algeria to show courage in taking measures to save our country's wild animals from the danger of poaching.

Protecting our wildlife is our collective responsibility. This statement was prepared for public review.

