

Position Paper

Committee: united nation human rights council(UNhrc)

Country-Algeria

Agenda: Deliberating the Human Rights Implications of Mass Digital Surveillance During Political Protests and Civil Unrest

Introduction

The delegation of Algeria recognizes the growing global challenge of balancing national security with the protection of fundamental human rights. In an era where digital technologies play a major role in governance and communication, surveillance has become a powerful tool—but one that must be handled responsibly.

Understanding the Issue

Mass digital surveillance during protests can help governments prevent violence, terrorism, and instability. However, excessive or unchecked surveillance risks violating privacy, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly. This creates tension between maintaining order and preserving democratic rights.

Country Stance (Algeria)

Algeria has faced serious security threats in the past, particularly during the civil conflict of the 1990s, which shaped its strong focus on national stability. Therefore, Algeria supports the controlled and lawful use of surveillance tools to prevent extremism and maintain public order.

At the same time, Algeria acknowledges that:

Surveillance must not be arbitrary or abusive

Citizens' constitutional rights must be respected

Measures should be temporary, necessary, and proportionate

Algeria emphasizes that protests should remain peaceful, and any digital monitoring should aim only to prevent violence—not suppress dissent.

Existing Measures

Algeria has taken steps such as:

Implementing cybersecurity and anti-terrorism laws

Monitoring digital threats to prevent extremist activities

Maintaining state oversight on communication networks during sensitive situations

However, Algeria also recognizes the need for greater transparency and accountability in such practices.

Proposed Solutions

The delegation of Algeria proposes the following:

Clear Legal Frameworks

Establish internationally guided laws defining when and how surveillance can be used.

Judicial Oversight

Ensure surveillance activities require approval from independent judicial bodies.

Transparency Mechanisms

Governments should provide public reports on surveillance use during protests.

Protection of Peaceful Protesters

Surveillance must not target individuals exercising their legal rights peacefully.

International Cooperation

Countries should work together to prevent misuse of spyware and regulate digital surveillance technologies.

Conclusion

Algeria firmly believes that security and human rights are not opposing goals, but complementary ones. A safe nation must also be a just nation. By implementing responsible surveillance practices with proper safeguards, the international community can ensure both stability and freedom are preserved.