

2_ The phenomenon of drug abuse in society

Lying at the crossroads between Africa, Europe and Asia, Algeria has been a key African country of remarkable transit for all types of drugs and their continental distribution. The situation has got bit by bit further complicated in favour of drug spreading among the Algerian ordinary population, in spite of the major endeavours displayed by security forces against illegal drug trafficking. Huge amounts of drug tons are daily seized by the police, customs, gendarmerie and military authorities who also constantly dismantle criminal drug networks; yet, Algeria is still continuously moving from a restricted drug-taking space to a more importantly drug-consuming country. Cities, villages, (primary, middle, high) schools and even universities are all, with no exception, witnessing the presence of psychotropic substances obtained from the Algerian market that is ever more immersed by cannabis, cocaine, heroin, opium, pills, and countless other drugs.

One of the main drug data references in Algeria is the National Office for the fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction (ONLCDT) whose statistics, in fact, demonstrate that we have gone from eight tons of cannabis resin seized in 2003 to achieve one hundred and nine tons in 2016. In the meanwhile , more than seventy four tons of this substance was seized in 2009 against one hundred fifty seven tons in 2012. In 2013, over two hundred eleven tons of cannabis resin was caught in the country by the agencies in charge of drug traffic. We notice in spite of the bigger quantities of cannabis resin held between 2003 and 2016 that the state intervention succeeded relatively in diminishing the mass seized in 2016. It should on the other hand be mentioned that the quantities of psychotropic pills detained by the security services are perpetual and, too, important. 1072394 tablets in 2016 are recorded against 1175974 tablets in 2013 and against 571138 tablets in 2003. The numbers are visibly between rise and fall according to the same office (ONLCDT).