

Leila Alaoui to Be Honored at Second Biennial of Contemporary Arab World Photographers

by **mwn** — Sep, 06, 2017

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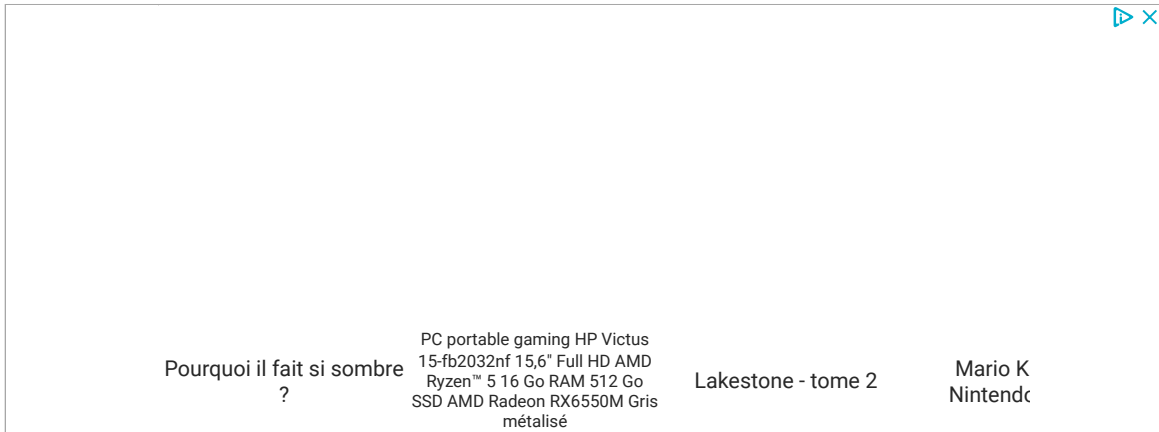
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Rabat – *After a successful first edition in 2015, the **Biennial of Photography in the Contemporary Arab World** is coming back September 13 to November 12, paying a special tribute to the late French-Moroccan photographer **Leila Alaoui**.*



Alaoui was a victim of the terror attack that struck the heart of Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou, in January 2016.



The 33-year-old photographer, who was severely wounded and passed away because of her injuries, had previously exhibited her portraits of Moroccans in the first biennial the year before.

The organizers of the 2017 biennial have decided to focus on two countries, Tunisia and Algeria, emphasizing the artistic diversity of Maghreb region and the importance of cultural diversity through the perceptions of art.

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Many exhibitions on various themes and in different styles will be displayed by photographers from the Arab world, such as Hicham Benohoud (Morocco), Farida Hamak (Algeria), the dual Mustapha Azeroua(Morocco) and Sara Naim (Syria), as well as foreign photographers who have witnessed and reported on Arab countries like Russian-Swedish photographer Xenia Nikolskaya and the French photojournalist Michel Slomka.

This edition will be held simultaneously in eight Paris locations: the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, (MEP), the Cité Internationale des arts, the 4th arrondissement town hall, the Galerie Thierry Marlat, the Galerie Photo12, the Galerie Clémentine de la Féronnière, and the Galerie Binome.

Tags: 2017 Biennial, Biennial of Contemporary Arab World Photographers, Leila Alaoui, Photography, Share

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The French-Moroccan photography Leila Alaoui

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Detained Rif Activist Leaders Willing to Hold

Hirak Detainees Satisfied Over Officials' Sacking, Hope to Be Released

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Rabat – ***Leading detained activists of the Hirak Rif protest movement have said they are willing to engage in dialogue to put an end to the tension and deadlock in the region.***

The announcement was made by a civil society initiative advocating for the Rif, known as Al Mobadara, in a statement on Monday.

Al Mobadara said that the detained Hirak leaders called for “rebuilding trust” between the region and the government and for decreasing the prison population in the Rif.

Mohamed Neshnash, Al Mobadara’s spokesperson, told Morocco World News that this is not the first time leading activists of Hirak have shown that they are ready to end the crisis, pointing to their calls on other fellow protesters in the region to not hold any demonstrations on the occasion of the Throne Day in late July.

He also brought up the detainees’ agreement to call off their hunger strike as another example showing they are willing to engage in dialogue and help calm the reigning tension in the region.

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Neshnash explained that the leading activists currently in prison have expressed their faith in King Mohammed VI, who they said showed concern for the social and economic demands of the local population when he ordered an investigation into the delay of development projects in the region.

Getting the government to meet these demands had been the primary driver behind local residents’ months of protests.

Al Mobadara’s spokesperson said that the detainees are only asking for a guarantee of the projects’ completion and a timetable for when this will occur.

The main demand of the Hirak leaders and the local population outside of prison remains the release of detainees. Around 250 people remain in custody for their involvement in protests in Rif.

“Leaders of the Hirak are ready to go to trial,” said Neshnash. For the rest of the detainees, the leaders ask for their gradual release, explained the veteran human rights activist.

Al Mobadara also asked for the release of the detainees, among whom he said were students. As the school year begins, “it will a good gesture that helps calming down the situation and serves the homeland as a whole if these detainees are released,” said Neshnash.

The human activist said he found it illogical that “boys under the age of 17 are detained in the name of preserving the state’s authority.”

Neshnash said he is hopeful the Moroccan state will act with reason, stating the ongoing detention of Rifian activists is not helping Morocco’s image as a stable country aspiring to move towards democracy.

Tags: [Civilian Initiative for Rif](#) [Leading Rif activists](#) [Mohamed Neshnash](#)

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