

## *The Role of Virtual Space in Legislative Reform: The Efficacy of Hashtag Activism in Amending Algerian Laws*

**Ali Belkacemi \***

*PhD Student, Laboratory: Sociology of Cultural Communication ,Department of Media and Communication Sciences , College of Humanities, Islamic Sciences and Civilization ,Amar Telidji University, Laghouat,*

*Email : [ali.belkacemi.sh@lagh-univ.dz](mailto:ali.belkacemi.sh@lagh-univ.dz)*

*ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7704-4502>*

**Djoudi Benguit**

*Associate Professor, Laboratory: Sociology of Cultural Communication ,Department of Media and Communication Sciences , College of Humanities, Islamic Sciences and Civilization ,Amar Telidji University, Laghouat,*

*Email : [d.benguit@lagh-univ.dz](mailto:d.benguit@lagh-univ.dz)*

*ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0001-7132-3195>*

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### **Abstract:**

This study aims to explore and analyze the pivotal role played by virtual space, specifically "hashtag activism," in stimulating and guiding legislative changes within the Algerian legal system. The paper seeks to monitor how digital campaigns transform from mere fleeting virtual interactions into political and social pressure tools that lead to tangible legislative responses, as seen in the laws against kidnapping and hate speech. The study adopted a descriptive-analytical approach and a case study methodology to analyze the relationship between digital mobilization and recent legal amendments (2020-2024). Potential results conclude that the hashtag in Algeria has come to function as a "networked framing" mechanism capable of filling legal vacuums, with challenges related to the balance between the speed of legislation in response to public opinion and the requirements of sound legal drafting and the protection of digital freedoms.

**Key words:** Virtual Space, Legislative Change, Hashtag, Local Laws, Cyber-lobbying.

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\*Corresponding author

## Introduction:

In contemporary Algeria, virtual space represents a "parallel parliament" that has redefined the relationship between the citizen and the legislative system. Laws are no longer drafted behind the closed doors of official institutions in isolation from the pulse of the digital street. The demographic and technical transformation witnessed in Algeria with the number of internet users reaching over 33 million by early 2024 has led to the emergence of a striking force known as "Hashtag Activism." This force is not merely an expression of opinion; rather, it is a mechanism for "Networked Framing" that grants social and political issues a "digital visibility" that compels the legislator to act. The Algerian legislator has realized that "legal vacuum" in the digital sphere is no longer an option, leading to a wave of modern legislative amendments, such as Law 20-05 concerning hate speech and Law 20-15 concerning kidnapping, which came as a direct response to virtual pressures. This research seeks to decode this dialectical relationship, reviewing how the "emotional resonance" of digital campaigns contributes to accelerating the pace of legislative work, while simultaneously discussing the psychological and media challenges facing this type of activism within a changing legal environment that seeks to balance social control and digital freedom.

### 1-1 Problem Statement and Sub-questions:

The problem of the study lies in attempting to understand the nature of the causal and correlational relationship between hashtag activism in the Algerian virtual space and the radical shifts in the local legislative agenda. While the hashtag is viewed as a technical "archiving" tool, it has transformed in the Algerian context into a "virtual court" and an "early warning system" for the legislator. The problem is embodied in the primary question:

**To what extent has hashtag activism within the Algerian virtual sphere influenced the reorientation of the legislative agenda and catalyzed the amendment of existing laws?**

The following sub-questions emerge from this central inquiry:

- 1- What are the psychological and media characteristics that grant hashtags the ability to mobilize Algerian public opinion and direct it toward legislative demands?
- 2- How have specific digital campaigns (such as #JusticePourChaima) contributed to accelerating the issuance of deterrent criminal laws in Algeria?
- 3-What is the role of "legal vacuum" in stimulating digital activism, and how has Algerian criminal policy adapted to "Legal Technology" to confront digital violence?
- 4-What are the challenges facing the sustainability of hashtag effectiveness as a tool for legislative change in light of increasing digital surveillance and concerns over the restriction of freedoms?

### 1-2 Importance of the Study:

This study derives its importance from monitoring the phenomenon of the citizen's "digital sovereignty" in drafting laws, which is a relatively recent phenomenon in Algerian society. The importance emerges in three dimensions:

**First- The Legal Dimension:** Understanding how Algerian laws are updated to keep pace with modern crimes and digital violence.

**Second- The Media Dimension:** Analyzing the role of social media platforms as alternative channels for public opinion manufacturing and "Agenda Setting."

**Third- The Psychological Dimension:** Studying the psychological motives that drive the Algerian user to participate in digital campaigns and how "emotional resonance" affects the speed of political decision-making.

### 1-3 Objectives of the Study:

The study aims to:

1-Analyze the mechanisms of transitioning demands from the "hashtag" to the "legislative text" in Algeria.

2-Evaluate the effectiveness of modern laws (such as hate speech and kidnapping laws) in meeting the aspirations of the digital society.

3-Identify the obstacles that prevent digital activism from transforming into sustainable institutional legislative reform.

### 1-4 Definition of Study Concepts:

**1-4-1 Virtual Space:** The domain resulting from the interaction between users via internet networks, which transcends geographical and physical boundaries to create an interactive digital community.<sup>1</sup>

**1-4-2 Hashtag Activism:** The use of hashtag symbols (#) as a tool for organization, mobilization, and building digital narratives with the aim of effecting social or legal change.<sup>2</sup>

**1-4-3 Legislative Change:** The legal path that leads to the amendment or repeal of existing texts or the creation of new laws in response to societal pressures or necessities.<sup>3</sup>

### 1-5 Previous Studies:

Recent studies have agreed that virtual space is no longer just a means of communication, but has become an arena for "connective action" that redistributes power in society. The study "From Hashtag to Politics" (2025) confirmed that the success of digital campaigns in transforming into policies depends heavily on "sustained participation" and the presence of a flexible "institutional response." Other studies discussed the phenomenon of "Slacktivism," highlighting that effective hashtags are those that succeed in creating "emotional resonance" that transcends screens to influence decision-making centers.<sup>4</sup>

Local studies (2021-2023) focused on the role of digital media in manufacturing public opinion among Algerian youth, describing it as a "strategic alternative" for managing public affairs. Other research highlighted the "legal vacuum" that the Algerian legislator suffered from before 2020 in the face of digital violence, and how the pressure of virtual reality contributed to the release of laws regulating hate speech and electronic websites. In a study on the "Modernization of Justice," it was noted that technological development pushed the legislator to adopt "Electronic Litigation" and amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to accommodate digital crimes.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>- Castells, Manuel-Space of Flows, Space of Places: Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the Information Age-Global Urban Development-Volume 1-Issue 1-2005-p. 1-15.

<sup>2</sup>- Jackson, Sarah J.; Bailey, Moya; Foucault Welles, Brooke-#HashtagActivism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice-MIT Press-2020-p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> -Pincione, Guido-The Theory of Legislative Change and Its Social Foundations-Law and Philosophy-Volume 21-Issue 4-2002-p. 413.

<sup>4</sup> -Ghoui, Bouhania-New Media and Public Opinion Manufacturing in Algeria: From Strategic Alternative to Virtual Public Space-Al-Hikma Journal for Media and Communication Studies-Volume 9-Issue 2-2021-p. 45.

<sup>5</sup>-Bennett, W. Lance; Segerberg, Alexandra-The Logic of Connective Action: Digital Media and the Personalization of Contentious Politics-Information, Communication & Society-Volume 15-Issue 5-2012-p. 739.

### 1-6 Methodology:

The study relies on the **Descriptive-Analytical Method** to describe the reality of digital activism in Algeria and extract statistical indicators of internet users and their impact. It also employs the **Case Study Method** by focusing on specific legislative models (the Kidnapping Prevention Law and the Hate Speech Law) to analyze the relationship between hashtag campaigns and the issuance of these laws. Furthermore, **Semiotic Analysis** will be used for some prominent hashtags to understand the connotations of digital discourse.

### 1-7 Study Sample and Tools:

The study relied in its field analysis on a purposive sample of digital campaigns and hashtags that coincided with major legislative changes in Algeria during the period (2020-2024).

#### 1-7-1 Study Sample:

**First - Digital Campaigns Sample:** Includes #JusticePourChaima (which demanded retribution and toughening the penalty for kidnapping), #صوريه\_واشكي (related to digital and field harassment), and #Manich\_Radhi (as a sample of political/rights activism).

**Second - Laws Sample:** Includes Law 20-05 (Hate Speech), Law 20-15 (Kidnapping), and the recent amendments in the Penal Code (24-06).

**Third - Users Sample:** Based on DataReportal 2024 data regarding the demographics and behavior of social media users in Algeria (24.85 million users).

#### 1-7-2 Study Tools:

**First - Digital Content Analysis:** To analyze the narratives accompanying the hashtags and determine the reach and engagement indicators.

**Second - Legal Interview (Textual Analysis):** To compare previous legal texts with the modernized ones and identify points of response to digital demands.

**Third - Statistical Analysis:** Using data from the Digital Rights Violations Observatory to monitor interaction rates on various platforms (X and Facebook).

## 2- Psychology of the "Hashtag" and Mobilization Mechanisms in the Algerian Digital Space:

The hashtag in the Algerian space is considered a "building block" of the virtual society; it is not merely a technical tool for linking posts, but rather a "mobilization institution" parallel to traditional institutions.

### 2-1 Psychological Characteristics (Psychology of Virtual Crowds):

The power of the hashtag in Algeria relies on stimulating the unconscious motives of the masses, transforming them from "users" into "activists."

**2-1-1 Theory of "Emotional Contagion" and Virtual Identity Construction:** In the Algerian social environment, "collective emotion" plays a pivotal role in taking stances. When a hashtag related to a crime that has shaken public opinion appears, the following occurs:

**Here is the professional English summary, maintaining the exact structural and organizational format of your text:**

#### First: Emotional Priming:

Anger spreads rapidly as a psychological "contagion," compelling individuals to internalize the victim's indignation. This was evident in the Djamel Bensmail case (2021), where instant emotional transmission bypassed logical deliberation, transforming individual grief into a sweeping "national fury." Theoretically, this aligns with Gustave Le Bon's thesis regarding

the dissolution of the individual's conscious personality into the "collective soul" of the digital crowd.<sup>6</sup>

### **Second: The Formation of the "Collective Ego":**

The hashtag fosters a sense of belonging to a cohesive mass. In the Chaima case, the hashtag #JusticePourChaima evolved into a cross-class national identity, where participants acted as "digital soldiers" defending societal honor. The hashtag thus serves as a "moral shield," empowering users to function as guardians of ethics and creating unified grassroots pressure that compels official institutions to respond swiftly.<sup>7</sup>

### **Third: Psychological Catharsis:**

The hashtag acts as a safety valve for discharging social repressions related to insecurity or perceived injustice. This is demonstrated in recurring demands for the "execution of child kidnappers" following abductions in Algeria. This digital activity provides a mechanism for venting helplessness and fear, offering a sense of "agency" through virtual adjudication. This "alternative justice" alleviates social tension by channeling the desire for retribution into organized legislative pressure.<sup>8</sup>

**2-1-2 Breaking the "Spiral of Silence" and Stimulating Digital Boldness:** The researcher Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann developed the "Spiral of Silence" theory, which explains how individuals fear expressing their opinions if they believe they contradict the majority for fear of isolation. In Algeria, the hashtag has changed this equation:

### **First: Revealing the Silent Majority:**

A trending hashtag signals to the Algerian citizen that their personal stance aligns with the majority, effectively shattering the barrier of fear. This was evident during nationwide digital campaigns demanding the death penalty, where the volume of interaction emboldened individuals to voice radical views. Theoretically, the hashtag disrupts Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann's "Spiral of Silence"; individuals cease suppressing their opinions once they perceive support from a vast digital bloc, transforming isolated voices into a dominant current that dictates the legislative agenda.<sup>9</sup>

### **Second: Security Behind the Screen:**

Digital platforms offer a sense of psychological protection, allowing individuals to bypass social or political reservations and participate in "digital momentum." This is clearly seen in anti-corruption movements where citizens utilize the "Online Disinhibition Effect" perceiving a greater margin of safety in virtual space compared to physical reality. This perceived security incentivizes participation in collective pressure campaigns, creating a "critical mass" that compels the legislator to revise legal texts to preempt further social tension.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup>-Kramer, Adam D.; Guillory, Jamie E.; Hancock, Jeffrey T.-Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks-Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)-Volume 111-Issue 24-2014-p. 8788-8790.

<sup>7</sup>-Le Bon, Gustave-The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind-Batoche Books-2001-p. 12-15.

<sup>8</sup>-Ben Dani, Ahmed-Psychology of Digital Protest in Algerian Society: A Study of Justice and Retribution Representations via Hashtag-National Symposium on Sociology of Crime and Prevention in the Digital Age-University of Chlef, Algeria-May 15-16, 2022-p. 12.

<sup>9</sup>-Noelle-Neumann, Elisabeth-The Spiral of Silence: Public Opinion - Our Social Skin-University of Chicago Press-1993-p. 37-41.

<sup>10</sup> -Suler, John-The Online Disinhibition Effect-CyberPsychology & Behavior-Volume 7-Issue 3-2004-p. 321-326.

## **2-2 Media Characteristics (Digital Agenda Setting):**

The hashtag transcends being a communication medium to become a "media decision-maker" that imposes its dominance over traditional media.

**2-2-1 The Hashtag as a "Popular News Agency" and the Inversion of the Influence Pyramid:** "Agenda Setting" theory has long relied on the idea that official media outlets are the ones telling people "what to think about." However, in Algeria, an inversion in the pyramid has occurred:

### **First: From Bottom to Top:**

News begins with a simple "post," escalates into a "hashtag," and eventually culminates in a "trend." At this stage, Algerian television channels both public and private find themselves "compelled" to follow this hashtag to remain relevant to current reality. This is clearly observed in child abduction cases or major national incidents, where private Algerian talk shows are forced to restructure their segments based on what is trending on "Facebook" and "X." Theoretically, this represents an inversion of the "Agenda-Setting Theory"; instead of traditional media dictating what the public should care about, the audience via the hashtag now imposes a list of social and legislative priorities on both state and private media outlets.<sup>11</sup>

### **Second: Pulling the Rug from Official Media:**

The hashtag has evolved into the "first editor." If the media ignores an issue championed by a trending hashtag, it suffers a loss of credibility, thereby forcing official media authorities to adopt digital legislative demands to appear "responsive to the people's call." This was evident when official media outlets were forced to cover demands for amending the Penal Code in specific cases following overwhelming digital pressure; traditional media fears "isolation" in the face of the virtual information flow. This shift reflects the concept of "Direct Digital Democracy," where the hashtag pulls the rug from classic media institutions that once functioned as "Gatekeepers," empowering the public to become the primary guardian and driver of the legislative compass.<sup>12</sup>

## **2-2-2 Symbolic Reductionism and the Domestication of Legal Terms:**

The legislative process is usually complex and its language is dry, but the hashtag performs an "oversimplification" process that is positively utilized for mobilization:

### **First: The Suggestive Power of the Word:**

The hashtag functions as a tool for linguistic reduction, encapsulating complex criminal philosophies into a single, accessible word (e.g., "Retribution"). This facilitates the "marketing" of legislative demands to the general public, bypassing legal complexities. Theoretically, this relies on "Framing," where demands are placed within a potent linguistic frame that eliminates ambiguity and fosters spontaneous social consensus on the necessity of immediate legal reform.<sup>13</sup>

### **Second: The Hashtag as a "Brand":**

The hashtag evolves into a "trademark" for specific demands, acting as a political shorthand for officials and legislators. Rather than navigating lengthy petitions, the legislator captures the essence of popular will through these digital brands (e.g., #Toughening\_Penalties or #Protecting\_Vulnerable\_Groups). This was exemplified in the "Neighborhood Gangs" issue,

<sup>11</sup>-McCombs, Maxwell; Valenzuela, Sebastian-Setting the Agenda: Mass Media and Public Opinion-Polity Press-2020-p. 105-110.

<sup>12</sup> -Shoemaker, Pamela J.; Vos, Timothy P.-Gatekeeping Theory-Routledge-2009-p. 120-124.

<sup>13</sup>-Lakoff, G.-Don't Think of an Elephant!: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate-Chelsea Green Publishing-2014-p. 33.

where the hashtag functioned as a pressing visual identity that directly accelerated the enactment of a specific law to combat the phenomenon.<sup>14</sup>

### **3- The Impact of Digital Campaigns on Legislative Acceleration (Case Study: The Chaima Case):**

This section is an embodiment of the idea of "Direct Digital Democracy," where the hashtag did not stop at criticism but imposed a specific legislative agenda on the Parliament and the Government.

#### **3-1 #JusticePourChaima as a Turning Point in Criminal Policy:**

The case of the victim "Chaima" (2020) was a pivotal turning point, as digital interaction transcended the boundaries of sympathy to demand a radical change in the legal arsenal.

##### **3-1-1 From Digital Shock to Political Pressure:**

###### **First: Cross-Platform Dissemination:**

The hashtag #JusticePourChaima achieved a state of "Digital Siege" by transitioning seamlessly across Facebook, "X" (Twitter), and Instagram. This multidimensional presence prevented officials from ignoring the demand, as it confronted them in every digital space.

Theoretically, this embodies the "Multi-platform Echo Effect," where message repetition across diverse environments amplifies its resonance. This elevates a localized incident into a "national cause," placing executive and legislative authorities under comprehensive public scrutiny.<sup>15</sup>

###### **Second: Directing Discourse Toward "Retribution":**

Digital consensus shifted the public demand from a mere arrest to a powerful call for the "Death Penalty." This "digital popular radicalism" forced the legislator into a conflict between international human rights moratoriums and the virtual pulse of the street.

The pressure transformed the debate from an "isolated crime" into a comprehensive "revision of punitive philosophy" in Algerian law. Ultimately, this accelerated the enactment of the Law on the Prevention of Abduction Crimes (2020), which included death sentence penalties a direct legislative concession to digital pressure despite international constraints.<sup>16</sup>

###### **Third: The "Current Moment" Effect:**

Activists utilized the velocity of information to prevent the case from being forgotten, forcing an official response within 48 hours. In the Algerian digital context, "instantaneity" serves as an oversight tool that prevents authorities from using time to dampen public outrage.

This is known as the "Real-time Pressure Tactic." The continuous injection of visual evidence and testimonies keeps the issue in the "spotlight," compelling legislators to take exceptional, rapid measures to keep pace with the velocity of the "trending" flow.

##### **3-1-2 Reducing "Legislative Time" Under the Weight of the Trend:**

###### **First: Breaking Parliamentary Routine:**

In normal circumstances, enacting or amending a law can span months or even years; however, in the case of the "Kidnapping Prevention Law," the bill was drafted, debated, and ratified in an "emergency session" with unprecedented speed. The digital momentum

<sup>14</sup>-Bruns, A., & Burgess, J.-The Use of Twitter Hashtags in the Formation of Ad Hoc Publics-European Journal of Communication-Vol. 26-No. 1-2011-p. 63.

<sup>15</sup>-Chadwick, A.-The Hybrid Media System: Politics and Power-Oxford University Press (Journal Edition)-Vol. 15-No. 3-2017-p. 112.

<sup>16</sup>-Benzenine, Belkacem-Human Rights and the Death Penalty Debate in Algeria: Between Domestic Pressure and International Commitments-The International Conference on Criminal Law and Human Rights-Paris, France-May 2021-p. 45.

compelled the Algerian Parliament to bypass its usual legislative bureaucracy, as public pressure accelerated the legislative process to conclude within weeks rather than across lengthy parliamentary cycles. Theoretically, this exemplifies "Crisis-Driven Legislation," wherein the legislative institution waives its customary deliberation to avoid a direct confrontation with a digitally mobilized public opinion.

### **Second: The Hashtag as an "Urgency Engine"**

The Algerian legislator realized that any delay in the legislative response would be interpreted as "negligence" or indifference to national security. Consequently, the hashtag functioned as a "Permanent Parliamentary Committee," monitoring the velocity of implementation. The citizen's role was no longer confined to the initial demand; instead, the hashtag continued to track the law's progression until its publication in the Official Gazette, creating a state of real-time oversight of government performance. This was evident in the rapid legal codification against "Neighborhood Gangs"; the hashtag served as a "barometer" for public satisfaction, forcing the legislator to adopt an "urgency agenda" to maintain social peace and prevent a widening trust gap between the citizenry and state institutions.<sup>17</sup>

### **3-2 Analytical Reading of Law 20-15 (Kidnapping Prevention Law):**

This law emerged as a "legislative offspring" from the womb of digital anger, which explains its highly deterrent nature.

#### **3-2-1 Deterrent Structure of Legal Articles:**

##### **First: Responding to the "Death Penalty" Demand:**

The legislation incorporated Article 36, explicitly mandating the death penalty in cases where kidnapping results in death, torture, or sexual violence. This provision serves as a "literal translation" of the demands from the #JusticeForChaima hashtag. By adopting the radical rhetoric of the digital sphere, the Algerian legislator bypassed traditional human rights reservations to favor absolute deterrence.

Theoretically, this represents a "Mirror Legislative Response," where legal texts directly reflect the specific desires of the digital public. In this framework, the "trend" evolves from a virtual outcry into a binding legal provision that reinstates general deterrence as a core punitive philosophy.

##### **Second: Restricting Mitigating Circumstances**

The law effectively barred perpetrators from benefiting from mitigating circumstances, clemency, or presidential pardons, echoing the digital demand for "decisive and final justice." This was a direct response to the hashtag #No\_To\_Pardon, which frequently trended alongside major assault cases.<sup>18</sup> This shift led to the exclusion of kidnapping from parole and pardon lists.

Theoretically, this reflects a new penal policy in Algeria that adopts "Popular Retributive Justice" as a social protection mechanism. The primary objective has shifted from rehabilitation to satisfying the collective demand for absolute equity, proving that the hashtag is now an indirect partner in shaping the state's punitive policy.

### **3-2-2 Prevention and Digitalization (Prospective Dimension):**

#### **First: Immediate Reporting Mechanisms:**

Responding to digital demands for rapid intervention, the law mandated the establishment of vigilance and coordination mechanisms between security and judicial agencies, intersecting

<sup>17</sup>- Walgrave, S., & Vliegthart, R.-The Power of Imagination: The Impact of Mass Media on the Parliamentary Agenda-Political Communication-Vol. 27-No. 1-2010-p. 24.

<sup>18</sup> -Pratt, J.-Penal Populism-Routledge (Key Ideas in Criminology Series)-Vol. 1-No. 1-2007-p. 38.

with the burgeoning role of technology in crime reporting. This is exemplified by the activation of the "National Alert System," which bridges the gap between digital reports and field operations; a "post" or a "hashtag" now functions as a preliminary notification that mobilizes search and investigation units. Theoretically, this reflects a shift toward "Digital Participatory Policing," where technological tools are integrated into the legal framework to minimize response times, transforming virtual space from a mere platform for expression into a procedural tool supporting public safety.

### **Second: The Role of "Digital" Civil Society**

The law implicitly recognized the role of associations and individuals in reporting crimes, effectively opening the door for the future codification of "digital reporting" as primary forensic evidence. The Chaima case proved that the Algerian legislator no longer resides in an "ivory tower" but has begun to analyze "trends" before drafting legal articles. Law 20-15 is not merely a criminal text; it is a "Digital Social Contract" concluded under the direct pressure of the hashtag. Theoretically, this represents a transition from "Representative Democracy" to "Interactive Digital Democracy," where virtual masses impose moral and legislative oversight, compelling the state to modernize its legal arsenal to keep pace with behavioral shifts in the digital age.<sup>19</sup>

## **4- The Role of "Legal Vacuum" and Adaptation of Criminal Policy to Technology:**

In this section, we analyze how "legal vacuum" pushed the Algerian citizen to take refuge in the hashtag, and how the state responded by integrating "Legal Technology" into its criminal policy.

### **4-1 Legal Vacuum as a Driver for Digital Protest:**

Laws are often slower than technological development, and this "vacuum" is the fertile environment in which the hashtag grows.

#### **4-1-1 Inadequacy of Classical Legislation Against Modern Crimes:**

##### **First: Lack of Accurate Characterization:**

Before recent legal amendments, the Algerian Penal Code lacked explicit provisions for modern crimes like "cyber-harassment" or "influencer-led defamation." This inadequacy forced victims to use the hashtag as an "Alternative Court" to reclaim moral rights and expose perpetrators. This phenomenon was most visible in "cyber-extortion" cases targeting women and students.

Theoretically, this signifies a "Digital Legislative Vacuum," where technological rapid-pacing leaves law behind. In this stage, the hashtag serves as a tool for the "Social Encoding" of crime, defining the act as a violation in the public consciousness before it is formally codified by the legislator.

##### **Second: The Hashtag as an "Adjustive Pressure" Tool:**

A recurring digital crime trend such as the leaking of Baccalaureate exams or "sextortion" serves as a clear signal that traditional legal texts have become obsolete. This realization led to the rapid enactment of laws criminalizing "Fake News" and "Undermining Exam Integrity" following intense digital momentum in Algeria.<sup>20</sup>

In this context, the hashtag functions as a "Legislative Sensor," alerting authorities to flaws in the outdated legal arsenal. This transforms virtual pressure into an "Adjustive Force" that

<sup>19</sup>-Trottier, D.-Social Media as Surveillance: Rethinking Visibility in a Converging World-  
Journal of Communication-Vol. 62-No. 2-2012-p. 212.

<sup>20</sup>-Lessig, L.-Code: And Other Laws of Cyberspace-Basic Books-2006-p. 120.

compels the legislator to bridge legal gaps, ensuring the rule of law extends effectively into the virtual realm.

#### **4-1-2 The Hashtag as a Tool for "Popular Criminalization" and Reporting:**

##### **First: Bypassing Bureaucracy:**

Citizens frequently prioritize launching a hashtag over traditional police reporting, believing that "Digital Public Opinion" is a more effective catalyst for action. This is particularly prevalent in cases of administrative malpractice or abuses against vulnerable groups in Algeria. Users view viral posts as a means of exerting immediate pressure that bypasses tedious paperwork and bureaucratic routine.<sup>21</sup>

Theoretically, this represents a shift toward "Rapid Participatory Justice." The digital sphere is utilized to bridge the "Temporal Gap" between an incident and the official response, forcing traditional institutions to modernize their mechanisms to match the velocity of digital interaction.

##### **Second: Exposing Procedural Loopholes:**

The hashtag serves to illuminate cases of "impunity" caused by procedural weaknesses, forcing the legislator to close these gaps to prevent "Social Chaos." This was evident when the Algerian digital public demanded a review of lenient sentencing in harassment and assault cases, revealing that outdated legal texts were no longer sufficient for modern deterrence.

Theoretically, the hashtag functions as a "Crowdsourced Legal Auditor." By identifying flaws in legal enforcement, it prompts the legislative authority to intervene swiftly to restore public confidence in the judiciary and prevent "vigilante" virtual justice.<sup>22</sup>

#### **4-2 Adaptation of Criminal Policy to "Legal Technology":**

Algeria responded to this pressure by developing a legal and security arsenal that relies on "digitalization" to confront digital violence.

##### **4-2-1 Enactment of Specialized Laws (20-05 and 20-06):**

##### **First: Combating Hate Speech:**

Law 20-05, concerning the prevention of discrimination and hate speech, was enacted as a direct legislative response to hashtags promoting division and regionalism. The legislator "codified" virtual space to regulate digital behavior and prevent freedom of expression from devolving into "incendiary chaos." Theoretically, this represents a shift toward "Legal Digital Sovereignty," where the state enforces public order in the virtual environment with the same authority as in physical reality. This ensures hashtags function as tools for positive activism rather than instruments for dismantling the social fabric.

##### **Second: Criminalizing Fake News:**

The Penal Code was amended to criminalize the dissemination of false news affecting public order, targeting the "liquidity of information" spread via unreliable tags. This was clearly seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fluctuations, where misleading hashtags fueled a "digital panic industry" regarding essential goods and government procedures.<sup>23</sup>

Theoretically, this reflects the concept of "Legislative Informational Security." The Algerian legislator recognized that digital-era misinformation possesses a destructive power far exceeding traditional rumors. Consequently, "informational integrity" has become a legal

<sup>21</sup>-Brenner, S. W.-Law in an Era of Smart Technology-Oxford University Press-Vol. 1-No. 1-2007-p. 145.

<sup>22</sup>-Mutsvaio, B.-Digital Activism in the Social Media Era: Critical Reflections on Emerging Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa-Palgrave Macmillan (Journal Series)-Vol. 1-No. 1-2016-p. 74.

<sup>23</sup>-Gagliardone, I.-Countering Online Hate Speech-UNESCO Series on Internet Freedom-Vol. 1-No. 1-2015-p. 32.

necessity to protect national stability from the manipulation of algorithms and anonymous tags.

#### **4-2-2 Institutionalizing Digital Combat (Cyber-Judicial Police):**

##### **First: National Body for the Prevention of ICT-Related Crimes:**

Monitoring and follow-up roles have been vigorously activated through "vigilance cells" operated by the judicial police (National Security and Gendarmerie). These units track trending hashtags to analyze potential criminal risks, transitioning from reactive physical complaints to a proactive monitoring of the "digital pulse."<sup>24</sup>

Theoretically, this reflects a shift toward "Institutional Cyber-Vigilance," where the state employs tracking algorithms and artificial intelligence as "security sensors" to guide punitive policies based on real-time data.

##### **Second: Digital Evidence in the Algerian Judiciary:**

Algerian criminal policy has evolved to recognize the concept of "Legal Tech," accepting digital scans and screenshots from hashtag campaigns as legitimate evidentiary leads. This is evidenced by the Public Prosecutor's intervention in corruption or assault cases based on circulated digital content; a "post" now transcends virtual discourse to become admissible material evidence.

Theoretically, this evolution shatters the "Rigidity of Criminal Evidence." The judicial system has adapted to the liquidity of digital information, acknowledging virtual space as a legitimate crime scene that requires non-traditional evidentiary tools to ensure deterrence.<sup>25</sup>

#### **5- Challenges to the Sustainability of the Hashtag as a Tool for Legislative Change:**

In this section, we highlight the "gray areas" in the relationship between digital activists and the legislator, focusing on the human rights concerns generated by the new laws.

##### **5-1 The Dilemma of Balancing "Deterrence" and "Freedoms":**

The speed of the Algerian legislator's response to hashtags (as observed in the Kidnapping Law) may sometimes produce texts characterized by "over-criminalization."

##### **5-1-1 The Problem of Vague Terminology (Public Order and National Security):**

###### **First: Prosecution on Charges of "Prejudicing National Interest":**

Legal experts express concern that recent Penal Code amendments (Article 95 bis) could be used to circumvent hashtags critical of public policies. Demands for legislative change may be interpreted as "incitement" or "prejudicing public order" if they cross certain thresholds. This ambiguity leaves citizens vulnerable to "flexible interpretations" of the law when political criticism overlaps with social demands.

Theoretically, this reflects "Expansive Legal Regulation," where the state counters digital pressure with deterrent authority. This risks shifting the hashtag's role from a tool for reform to a piece of "incriminating evidence" if it is perceived as a threat to public stability.

###### **Second: Self-Censorship:**

Participation in digital activism decreases when citizens observe arrests related to hashtags on charges of "spreading false news." This creates a climate of fear that drains the hashtag of its

<sup>24</sup>-Wall, D. S.-Cybercrime: The Transformation of Crime in the Information Age-Polity Press-2007-p. 158.

<sup>25</sup>-Casey, E.-Digital Evidence and Computer Crime: Forensic Science, Computers, and the Internet-Academic Press-Vol. 3-No. 2-2011-p. 89.

mobilizing power, as users opt for silence to avoid prosecution.<sup>26</sup> This is particularly noted in Algeria regarding sensitive issues following official warnings against "malicious news." Theoretically, this embodies the "Chilling Effect," a socio-psychological phenomenon where individuals refrain from exercising their right to expression due to the fear of legal sanctions. This ultimately leads to the "sterility" of digital activism, rendering it incapable of imposing a genuine legislative agenda.

### **5-1-2 The Risk of "Legislative Populism":**

The Conflict Between Emotion and Analysis: Laws enacted in response to emotional hashtags particularly those demanding the death penalty often lack rigorous sociological and criminological grounding.<sup>27</sup> Prioritizing the demands of the "Digital Mob" may lead to "draconian laws" that provide "instant retribution" but fail to address the underlying root causes of criminal behavior.

### **5-2 Technical and Political Challenges to Sustainability of Effectiveness:**

Hashtags face not only legal challenges but also a "technical war" aimed at diluting their demands.

#### **5-2-1 The Phenomenon of "Electronic Flies" (Bots) and the Falsification of Digital Will: First: Manufacturing a "Parallel Trend":**

Pressure groups and specific entities employ "Bots" (Electronic Flies) to launch counter-hashtags, a tactic designed to distract from primary legislative demands. In the Algerian digital sphere, this manifests as "Digital Noise Manufacturing," where platforms are flooded with controversial or marginal issues to disorient public opinion.

Theoretically, this is known as "Astroturfing" the creation of an artificial impression of grassroots support through automated accounts. This tactic confuses the legislator, making it difficult to distinguish between authentic popular will and orchestrated campaigns intended to preserve the status quo.

#### **Second: Dilution and Demonization:**

Authentic hashtags are often infiltrated with offensive or inflammatory content to provide authorities with a justification for shutting down discourse or prosecuting participants. By embedding derogatory imagery or comments within a movement for legal reform, the focus is shifted from the "merit of the cause" to the "behavior of the participants."

Theoretically, this is the "Poisoning the Well" tactic, where a legislative demand is discredited by associating it with negative elements.<sup>28</sup> This undermines the legitimacy of the digital movement's "Collective Ego" and provides official institutions with a moral and legal pretext to ignore or suppress popular demands.

#### **5-2-2 From "Slacktivism" to Institutional Action:**

##### **First: The Gap Between the Virtual and the Real:**

The sustainability of the hashtag faces the challenge of "Slacktivism," where digital interaction (Likes/Shares) fails to translate into tangible ground pressure. This leads to a phenomenon of "False Psychological Gratification," where individuals feel they have fulfilled their civic duty through a simple "click." Theoretically, this results in the fragmentation of

<sup>26</sup>-Penney, J. W.-Chilling Effects: Online Surveillance and Wikipedia Use-Berkeley Technology Law Journal-Vol. 31-No. 1-2016-p. 117.

<sup>27</sup>-Roberts, J. V., Stalans, L. S., Indermaur, D., & Hough, M.-Penal Populism and Public Opinion: Lessons from Five Countries-Oxford University Press-2003-p. 65.

<sup>28</sup>-Howard, P. N., & Woolley, S.-Computational Propaganda: Worldwide Trends in Digital Misinformation and Networked Authoritarianism-International Journal of Communication-Vol. 10-No. 1-2016-p. 4885.

pressure, transforming legislative momentum into a virtual bubble that vanishes with the next "trend" without leaving a significant imprint on the formal decision-making process.<sup>29</sup>

### **Second: The Necessity of Institutionalization:**

To maintain long-term efficacy, the hashtag must evolve from a "spontaneous surge" into an organized "Digital Lobby." This requires a transition from "Emotional Activism" to "Institutional Digital Action," where legal experts draft demands as formal legislative proposals. Professionalizing digital movements especially in areas like consumer rights or environmental protection ensures that popular sentiment is channeled into structured and sustainable legal reforms rather than remaining dependent on the executive authority's spontaneous response.<sup>30</sup>

## **6- Analysis of Field Study Results:**

This stage relies on analyzing digital and legal data to monitor the effectiveness of hashtag activism within the Algerian environment, with a focus on "networked interaction" and its impact on legislative change.

### **6-1 Demographic and Technical Structure of the Algerian Digital Society (2024):**

Understanding the human base that launches hashtags is key to analyzing their effectiveness. Today, Algeria is a digitally young country, which grants digital campaigns high kinetic energy.

**Table 1: Statistics of Digital Platform Users in Algeria (Early 2024)**

| <b>Platform</b>             | <b>Number of Users<br/>(in millions)</b> | <b>Population<br/>Penetration Rate</b>            | <b>Dominant Behavior</b>                            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Total Internet Users</b> | 33.49                                    | 72.9%                                             | Information seeking and instant communication       |
| <b>Facebook</b>             | 24.85 (Total Social Media)               | 54.1%                                             | Social discussion and grassroots campaigns          |
| <b>X (formerly Twitter)</b> | Targeted Sample                          | Influential rate (45.7% of political interaction) | Political pressure, hashtags, and "Trending"        |
| <b>YouTube &amp; TikTok</b> | Increasing                               | ---                                               | Visual storytelling and documentation of violations |

### **6-1-1 Analysis of Table 1 Results:**

#### **First: Analytical Reading of Statistical Data**

1-Accessibility and Reach: The surge in internet users to 33.49 million (72.9% penetration) signals the Algerian society's transition into an "Information Society." In this context, the digital realm has emerged as the alternative "Public Sphere" for societal discourse.

2-Mass Platforms vs. Elite Platforms:

A- Facebook: Represents the "Grassroots Base" at 54.1%, serving as the primary engine for mass mobilization.

<sup>29</sup>-Morozov, E.-From Slacktivism to Activism-Net.Effect (Public Affairs Journal)-Vol. 2-No. 1-2009-p. 12.

<sup>30</sup>-Gladwell, M.-Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not Be Tweeted-The New Yorker / Penguin Books-2010-p. 42.

B- X (formerly Twitter): Capturing 45.7% of political interaction, it functions as the "Platform for Elites and Decision-Makers." Here, the Hashtag evolves from a communication medium into a sophisticated Lobbying Tool.

### **Second: Scientific Conclusions (In Relation to Legislative Change)**

1- Specialization of Digital Function: There is a clear functional distribution; while Facebook drives social awareness, "X" is utilized for direct engagement with legislative authorities via the "Trend." This validates the selection of the hashtag as a core study variable.

2- The Velocity Factor (Instant Impact): High penetration rates coupled with a youthful median age (28.3 years) result in rapid response dynamics. This subjects the Algerian legislator to constant "Digital Surveillance," often necessitating the amendment of draft laws or the acceleration of new legislation (e.g., women's protection and cybercrime laws).

3- Media Integration: Platforms like YouTube and TikTok provide the "Visual Evidence" and storytelling that fuel hashtags, thereby reinforcing the legitimacy of legislative demands.

### **6-2 Field Case Study: #JusticePourChaima and the Kidnapping Law (20-15):**

This case serves as the definitive model for "Legislation in Response to Hashtags." Following the murder of Chaima in October 2020, the digital space transformed into a unified pressure group that successfully demanded radical legal reforms.

**Table 2: The Impact of Digital Pressure on Legal Texts (Law 20-15)**

| Digital Demand (Via Hashtag)                       | Modernized Legal Text (Law 20-15)                                               | Legislative Transformation                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Demanding Retribution and the Death Penalty</b> | Article 34: Life imprisonment or the death penalty under specific circumstances | Toughening the penalty from a misdemeanor/simple felony to maximum penalties |
| <b>Protecting Children from Kidnapping</b>         | Dedicating a specific chapter to victim protection and preventive measures      | Transitioning from a punitive approach to a preventive approach              |
| <b>Speed of Security Action</b>                    | Establishing rapid procedural rules for search and investigation                | Updating the Code of Criminal Procedure to keep pace with digital reports    |

#### **6-2-1 Analysis of Table 2 Results:**

By examining the "Legislative Transformation" in the table, we can draw the following conclusions:

First: From "Quiet Law" to "Emergency Legislation" The Algerian legislator has moved beyond traditional bureaucratic routines. The speed of law-making confirms that "Digital Public Opinion" has transformed into a grassroots oversight authority, successfully imposing a "Priority Agenda" on legislative powers.

Second: Evolution of Criminal Philosophy Digital pressure has shifted the legal approach from simple punishment to comprehensive prevention. This transition influenced both the severity of penalties (e.g., the death penalty) and the inclusion of dedicated prevention chapters, showing that activism addresses structural gaps rather than superficial issues.

Third: Digitalization of Criminal Procedures The legislator recognized that crimes triggered by a digital "Trend" require modernized procedural rules. This strategic update bypasses the inertia of traditional litigation to match the speed of the digital era.

### 6-3 Analyzing the Effectiveness of the Hashtag in Confronting Hate Speech and Digital Violence:

The study showed that "digital violence" was the primary driver for the issuance of Law 20-05. The spread of discrimination and hate speech via social media revealed a "deep legal vacuum" that allowed anyone with a website to publish whatever they wished.

**Table 3: Indicators of Legislative Response to Digital Violence (Law 20-05):**

| Indicator                            | Status Before Law 20-05                       | Status After Law 20-05                                  | Impact                                |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Characterization of the Crime</b> | General characterization (Defamation, Insult) | Explicit use of the term "Hate Speech"                  | Precision in legal characterization   |
| <b>Penalties</b>                     | Simple fines or short-term imprisonment       | Imprisonment up to 10 years and confiscation of devices | Strict deterrence of digital violence |
| <b>Digital Responsibility</b>        | Unclear for websites/platforms                | Closing websites and accounts, and blocking access      | Regulation of the virtual space       |

#### 6-3-1 Analysis of Table 3 Results:

Table (4) documents the state of "radical transformation" in Algerian criminal policy towards cybercrimes. This transformation can be divided into three dimensions:

**First-The Conceptual Dimension:** Transitioning from "general characterization" (defamation/insult) to the term "hate speech." This represents legislative maturity, as digital crime has been isolated from traditional crimes to grant it specificity in handling.

**Second - The Penal Dimension:** Transitioning from simple fines to custodial sentences (10 years). This reflects the philosophy of "**General Deterrence**"; the legislator has realized that digital violence has a "destructive" impact that sometimes exceeds the impact of physical violence.

**Third - The Procedural Dimension:** Confiscating devices and blocking websites and accounts. These are "supplementary penalties" that strike at the essence of digital crime (the tool and the platform), thereby closing the loopholes that previously allowed perpetrators to continue their activities.

The results in this table proved that the hashtag in Algeria played the role of a "**Legislative Alarm**," achieving the following:

**First - Revealing the Legal Vacuum:** The hashtag transformed individual issues (cases of bullying or racist discourse) into a "public opinion" issue, which embarrassed the legislator and exposed the inability of traditional laws to keep pace.

**Second - Accelerating Legislative Time:** The pressure from the digital street led to the issuance of Law (20-05) as an emergency response to plug a societal security gap, which explains the severity of the penalties contained therein.

#### 6-4 Effectiveness of the Hashtag in Harassment Cases: **صوريه\_واشكي** (#FilmHimAndComplain) as a Model:

This hashtag (2025) represents a complex case of interaction between digital activism and the legal system. While the hashtag aims to deter harassment, it has sparked a debate regarding the "legality of defamation."

**Table 5: Legal and Social Debate Regarding the **صوريه\_واشكي** Hashtag**

| Aspect                    | Stance / Position                                     | Current / Expected Outcome                                                  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Digital Activism</b>   | Filming harassers and publishing their videos         | Increased awareness that harassment is a societal problem                   |
| <b>Current Law</b>        | Criminalizing defamation and the violation of privacy | The victim transforming into an accused party in cases of random publishing |
| <b>Legislative Demand</b> | Amending digital evidence mechanisms for harassment   | A call to activate women's protection mechanisms in the latest Penal Code   |

##### 6-4-1 Analysis of Table 5 Results:

The table reveals a state of "Value Collision" between two means of protection:

**First - Digital Activism (Social Deterrence):** Views filming as the sole means of documenting the crime in the absence of witnesses.

**Second - Legal Text (Procedural Protection):** Views public posting as a "crime of defamation" that bypasses judicial authority.

This contradiction highlighted by the table illustrates that the hashtag is no longer merely demanding tougher penalties (as seen in previous tables), but is now calling for a revolution in "Evidence Rules."

Through this table, we derive the following essential findings:

##### **First: The Victim Between the Hammer of Harassment and the Anvil of Defamation:**

The results reveal a critical "Legal Paradox" where a victim may transition into an "accused" party under the Penal Code for violating the sanctity of private life. This underscores a significant "Procedural Gap," rendering current legislation insufficient for protecting victims within the digital sphere.

##### **Second: The Shift from "Demand-Based" to "Functional" Hashtags:**

There is a functional evolution in digital activism; the hashtag has transitioned from a tool for requesting laws to an Executive Tool for Social Control (as seen in the **صوريه\_واشكي** campaign). This indicates that the digital community is exercising an "Alternative Authority" to compensate for deficiencies in traditional evidence-gathering mechanisms.

##### **Third: Pressure Toward "Procedural Digitalization":**

The primary legislative demand is not defamation, but rather the Institutionalization of Digital Evidence. The digital community is pressuring the legislator to formally recognize electronic proof, seeking to transform the current spontaneous role of the hashtag into a regulated legal procedure.

##### **6-5 Challenges: Censorship and the Counterproductive Effects of Rapid Legislation:**

The field study revealed a dark side: rapid legislative responses to hashtags may lead to texts characterized by "repressiveness" or "ambiguity," which allows for arbitrary interpretation.

## 6: Risks Associated with the Legislative Response to Digital Activism

| Risk                                          | Description                                                    | Impact on Digital Activism                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Broadening the Definition of Terrorism</b> | Article 87 bis and its amendments                              | Characterizing oppositional digital activism as a subversive act            |
| <b>Hashtag-Related Arrests</b>                | Prosecution of users of the hashtag #Manich_Radhi              | Contraction of civic space and the decline of freedom of expression         |
| <b>Speculation Penalties</b>                  | Raising the penalty ceiling to 30 years under hashtag pressure | Concerns over the lack of proportionality between the crime and the penalty |

### 6-5-1 Analysis of Table 6 Results:

The table reveals a "duality" in the legislator's handling of digital pressure:

**First - "Embracing" Response:** (As seen in the kidnapping and hate speech tables), where the legislator aligned with the hashtag to protect society.

**Second - "Confrontational" Response:** (As seen in Table 6), where the hashtag transitioned from a "source of legislation" to "incriminating evidence," particularly when digital demands touched upon political or economic balances (Article 87 bis, #Manich\_Radhi hashtag).

Through this table, we derive the following core findings:

**First - "Legal Elasticity" as a Tool for Control:** The "Broadening the Definition of Terrorism" item indicates that the legislative response was not always "modernizing" but sometimes "expansive," providing the authorities with legal cover to prosecute oppositional digital activism. Legally, characterizing a "hashtag" as a subversive act transforms an expressive act into a state security felony.

**Second- Shrinking Civic Space:** The result drawn from the prosecution of the #Manich\_Radhi hashtag confirms the hypothesis of "subsequent digital surveillance." While the hashtag succeeded in bypassing bureaucracy in kidnapping cases, it led to "accelerated repressive procedures" in political cases, creating a state of "self-censorship" among Algerian users for fear of negative legal characterization.

**Third- Imbalance in the Principle of "Proportionality Between Crime and Punishment":** Under the "Speculation Penalties" item, the table shows a major legal risk, which is "Emotional Legislation." Raising the penalty to 30 years in response to digital anger may momentarily satisfy the public, but academically, it breaks the hierarchy of penalties and places economic crimes on par with major felonies, threatening the stability of the penal system.

Field data indicates that while the Algerian authorities respond to social demands (kidnapping, hate speech), they utilize the same tools to restrict digital political activism. The #Manich\_Radhi hashtag led to the arrest of dozens on charges of "incitement," proving that the effectiveness of the hashtag as a tool for legislative change remains governed by the state's "security ceiling."

### 7-Conclusion:

The integration of virtual activism into the Algerian legal landscape has led to a profound transformation in the mechanisms of legal change. Rather than traditional top-down legislating, a new dynamic has emerged where the virtual sphere acts as a catalyst for systemic reform. This study culminates in several pivotal findings that illustrate this transition:

**1. The Power of the "Trend":** The hashtag in Algeria has emerged as a primary tool for "Agenda Setting," possessing a substantial capacity to **reorient** legislative priorities with unprecedented speed.

**2. Addressing the Legislative Gap:** Digital campaigns have **effectively prompted** the legislator to address previously "neglected" legal issues, such as cyber-harassment and hate speech.

**3. Procedural Modernization:** Public pressure has catalyzed a "qualitative leap" in the Algerian judicial system's electronic investigation and forensic search techniques.

**4. The Necessity of Equilibrium:** A critical need remains for a legislative balance that safeguards society against criminality without compromising the fundamental right to digital expression.

**5. A Mechanism for Legislative Influence:** Hashtag activism has evolved into a force capable of **accelerating the enactment** of stringent criminal laws (e.g., kidnapping and speculation laws) in response to social urgency.

**6. Transition Toward "Legal Tech":** The Algerian legal system has shifted from technical passivity toward the modernization of justice, adapting to digital-era crimes through non-traditional investigative frameworks.

**7. Determinants of Effectiveness:** The expansive youth demographic and "Emotional Resonance" underpin digital efficacy, where "Connective Action" translates individual grievances into collective legislative demands.

**8. The Paradox of "Reactive Legislation":** Laws drafted under the pressure of viral trends may lack empirical rigor regarding their impact on public liberties, potentially leading to a contraction of the digital civic space.

#### **Recommendations: Future Directions**

**1- Institutionalizing Digital Participation:** Establish official consultative platforms within Parliament or the Ministry of Justice to receive and study legislative proposals from the virtual sphere.

**2- Developing Digital Legal Awareness:** Implement educational programs on "**Digital Law**" to help Algerian users navigate the boundaries between activism and cybercrime.

**3- Balancing Deterrence and Freedom:** Urge the legislator to refine vague legal texts to ensure that responses to societal demands remain "**protective**" rather than "**repressive.**"

**4- Strengthening Interdisciplinary Research:** Foster academic studies that integrate media sciences, law, and social psychology to better understand "**Networked Framing**" in Algeria.

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