

The Criminal Treatment of Delinquent Children

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Abstract

Children who commit crimes that violate social order and security are criminals in the eyes of the law, but in reality they are victims, not perpetrators. Algerian legislation, like that of other countries around the world, has enacted specific legislation for children and created a special division for them in the courts that issues judgments aimed at reform and discipline rather than repression and punishment, relying on simplified procedures and closed hearings that are predominantly humanitarian and preventive in nature. The juvenile judge only issues a ruling after a social investigation to help him choose the appropriate punishment or measure for each case brought before him. This has led to the establishment of special institutions that receive this category of society, with the primary aim of educating, correcting, and reforming juveniles.

Article info

Received

December 29.2025

Accepted

February 22.2026

Keyword:

- ✓ delinquent child
- ✓ protective measures
- ✓ juvenile judge

1. Introduction

Juvenile offenders, because of the acts they commit that disturb social order and threaten public security, are regarded as criminals both from a legal perspective and in the perception of society. However, in reality, they are not offenders but rather victims—victims of the social conditions in which they live or of biological and innate deficiencies. It is, by the will of God, the mindset that pushed them toward acts classified by law as criminal, a mindset shaped by their shortcomings in understanding, their weak capacity for perception, their lack of willpower, and their incomplete psychological and social development.

For this reason, legislations of various national systems have established specialized courts dedicated to trying juveniles. These courts rely on simplified procedures and conduct hearings in closed sessions, with an approach that is largely protective, humane, and preventive in nature. Their primary objective is to gain insight into the personality of the delinquent child and to identify the factors that contributed to his deviation, so that the most appropriate form of treatment can subsequently be determined

Chapter One: Judgments Issued Against Juvenile Delinquents

The Algerian legislator has recognized that a delinquent child, even at this more

advanced age, represents only a limited threat. While the child's capacity for discernment may be fully developed and a tendency toward criminal behavior may be emerging, he remains physically weak and immature, both psychologically and socially. Therefore, it is essential to address his behavioral deviations with measures tailored to his personal circumstances and developmental condition, while excluding punitive or deterrent sanctions, particularly when their application could harm the child or obstruct his potential for rehabilitation.

Nevertheless, the Algerian legislator grants the juvenile judge the authority to impose deterrent penalties if the child is judged to have become increasingly dangerous, with deeply entrenched criminal tendencies, making punishment the last resort and the necessary measure to restrain his criminal impulses. At the same time, the law explicitly prohibits the application of the most severe penalties, such as the death sentence or life imprisonment, and instead allows for a custodial sentence that does not exceed twenty years in the most serious cases.

Accordingly, the following discussion will examine the measures the juvenile judge may take when dealing with a delinquent child. It will begin with the rulings issued by the juvenile courts, followed by an analysis of penal sanctions imposed by the juvenile judge as a final recourse against the delinquent child.

Section One: Protection and Rehabilitation Measures Applied to the Delinquent Child

Researchers concur that the social conditions and factors contributing to juvenile delinquency are multifaceted and interrelated. Chief among these is the family, which serves as a model for the child's behavior and identification. Delinquency often arises when the family environment is deficient, including weak parental guidance, family disintegration, marital conflicts, inconsistencies in parenting approaches, or adverse living conditions such as poverty, unemployment, or inadequate housing. Consequently, children who engage in deviant behavior are often victims of the familial and social circumstances in which they are raised.

The principle guiding decisions on disciplinary measures for children stems from the concept of "juvenile delinquency," which was first introduced by the French decree of February 2, 1945. According to Article 2 of this decree, the juvenile court and the juvenile criminal court are responsible, as appropriate, for determining suitable measures of protection, support, and education for juveniles. Additionally, these courts may impose a penal sanction on a juvenile aged 13 or older if the specific circumstances and the individual characteristics of the juvenile justify such action.

These measures were subsequently ratified. In alignment with most comparative

legislations on juvenile justice, the Algerian legislator, in Article 84 of Law No. 15/12 on the protection of the child, provides that: "If the proceedings establish the conviction of the juvenile accused, the juvenile division shall impose protective and rehabilitative measures, or sanctions involving deprivation of liberty, or a fine, in accordance with the procedures outlined in this law." Consequently, we will first examine the nature of protective and rehabilitative measures, followed by a review of their various types.

Subsection One: The Nature of Protective and Disciplinary Measures

Scholars have expressed differing opinions regarding the nature of protective and rehabilitative measures applied to juvenile delinquents. Some view them as punitive, considering them equivalent to penal sanctions similar to those established in the penal code. Others regard them purely as non-penal measures, while a third group interprets them as administrative procedures. These perspectives are discussed in detail below.

First Opinion

Proponents of this view argue that the measures applied to juvenile delinquents' function primarily as instruments of education, reform, and correction, rather than as punitive sanctions. These measures are a societal response aimed at guidance and rehabilitation, without involving the infliction of pain.

Second Opinion

This perspective holds that protective and corrective measures constitute genuine punishments because they pursue goals of discipline and reform, which align with the objectives of both traditional penalties and these measures.

Third Opinion

According to this view, protective and corrective measures—such as placing a juvenile in a reformatory institution for rehabilitation—do not amount to punishments. Rather, they are considered administrative precautionary measures.

However, a careful examination of the provisions of the Child Protection Law Consistent with the criminal policy adopted by most comparative legislations in dealing with juvenile delinquency, we fully reject the second and third opinions and instead endorse the first opinion. Protective and rehabilitative measures are not administrative in nature but are purely judicial, as they are issued by the juvenile court in its capacity as a judicial authority. These measures are not considered punishments, even though some legal systems continue to uphold the concept of criminal responsibility for juvenile delinquents and recognize society's right to impose sanctions. Such approaches, however, must be set aside, as modern legislation no longer focuses on attributing criminal responsibility to children. Instead, the emphasis is placed on reforming and

reintegrating the child. The measures prescribed for juvenile delinquents are fundamentally educational and are determined in a manner that facilitates the juvenile's rehabilitation, entirely distinct from the notion of punishment designed to inflict pain, which is traditionally intended for adults .

Moreover, the purpose of educational measures is fundamentally different from that of punishment. While punishment primarily seeks to achieve general deterrence, educational measures are designed to reform and rehabilitate the offender. Although punishment may also have objectives of reform and rehabilitation, its main aim is to inflict suffering on the offender. In contrast, protective and educational measures focus on guiding and supporting the juvenile, fostering their development, and preparing them for ordinary life .

Subsection Two: Types of Measures Applied to the Delinquent Juvenile

Article 49 of the Penal Code provides that: “No one shall be sentenced if they have not reached the age of ten, except for protective or educational measures.” However, in articles dealing with violations, the minor is subject only to a reprimand, and children aged between 13 and 18 may be subjected either to protective or educational measures or to reduced penalties. Article 85 of the Child Protection Law specifies that, in cases of felonies and misdemeanors, only

the following protective and disciplinary measures may be applied:

Placing the child under the care of a legal guardian, a trustworthy person, or a family member.

Admitting the child to an accredited institution dedicated to child assistance.

Enrolling the child in a boarding school appropriate for juveniles of school age.

Placing the child in a public service organization tasked with providing assistance.

The juvenile judge may also, when appropriate, place the child under a system of supervised freedom, entrusting its implementation to relevant open-environment authorities. This system must be flexible and revocable at any time.

Article 87 of the Child Protection Law further confirms that, if a violation is proven, the court may either reprimand the child or impose a fine in accordance with Article 51 of the Penal Code. For children between the ages of 10 and 13, only a reprimand is allowed, and, if in the child's best interests, supervised release may be imposed. Article 51 of the Penal Code states that, for misdemeanors, minors aged 13 to 18 may receive either a reprimand or a fine.

Based on these provisions, the educational measures established by the Algerian

legislator for juvenile delinquents can be summarized as follows:

First Measure – Reprimand: This entails directing blame toward the child, warning them against repeating the behavior, and encouraging adherence to proper conduct. This measure operates within a framework of reform and guidance, and some view it as a form of moral punishment, since it can inflict a degree of moral discomfort on the convicted child. During a court session, the judge may address the child with a rebuke, which can take the form of a reprimand, expressing blame, and issuing a warning. This reprimand may encompass both blame and warning, or it may be limited solely to a warning, depending on the circumstances.

This measure entails guiding the child by making him aware of the dangers resulting from his unlawful actions, which could potentially lead him further into criminal behavior. This awareness creates a psychological impact on the juvenile, motivating him to avoid repeating such conduct by highlighting the consequences of failing to correct his behavior. The judge has discretion over the choice of words and the method of reprimand to ensure it positively influences the child without causing undue psychological harm. Typically, judges use this approach, particularly for minor offenses, by directly warning the child about the inappropriateness of his actions. For the reprimand to be effective, it must be

delivered in court in the presence of the offender, making it impossible to carry out this measure in absentia. It is important to note that the Algerian legislator has designated reprimand as the sole measure applicable to a juvenile who commits an offense, as outlined in Article 49 of the Penal Code. Specifically, "Only protective or educational measures apply to a minor under the age of thirteen; however, in the case of offenses, the minor is subject solely to reprimand." Nevertheless, Article 87 of the Child Protection Act allows for placing a child aged 10 to 13 under a supervised freedom program if it serves the child's best interests.

Secondly, transferring the juvenile to the care of a legal guardian or a trustworthy individual or family: Placing the delinquent juvenile under the supervision of a legal guardian or a reliable person or family, even if previously unknown to the child, is recognized as one of the corrective measures in most legal systems, particularly in Arab legislations. This approach is reflected in Article 85 of the Algerian legislation. The Algerian legislator implemented this protective measure to ensure that the delinquent juvenile remains within their family environment or is placed under the care of an alternative family, allowing for close supervision of their behavior. Such a measure is widely recognized in juvenile laws, particularly in Arab countries. For instance, it is provided for in Article 9 of

the Egyptian Child Law, Articles 6 and 7 of the Syrian Juvenile Law, Article 8 of the Kuwaiti Juvenile Law, and Articles 21 and 22 of the Jordanian Juvenile Law .

This measure is regarded as one of the most effective and beneficial methods for reforming and disciplining juveniles, as placing them with their family aligns with the natural social order. Families or guardians are typically more familiar with the juvenile's tendencies, show greater compassion, and are more motivated to guide and correct him. Being responsible for his care and upbringing, they are best positioned to undertake his rehabilitation. Importantly, the law does not compel the legal guardian to accept custody of the minor; they are not legally obligated to take him in.

Moreover, entrusting the juvenile to a reliable person or family assumes that the chosen individual or family is genuinely capable of providing proper care and upbringing. The juvenile judge is responsible for evaluating this suitability. However, the person or family is required to accept the responsibility voluntarily, as there is no legal obligation to do so.

It is worth noting that the French legal system also allows placing a minor in the care of a trusted individual as part of protective and rehabilitative measures, while the English system uses an alternative family arrangement. This approach aligns with the United Nations

Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, which state in Rule 18 that no minor should be removed from parental supervision, wholly or partially, unless circumstances make it necessary. In such cases, care may be arranged with a foster family, a community living center, or an educational institution.

Thirdly: The situation under the controlled freedom regime

The situation under this system. This is a corrective measure for delinquent or at-risk juveniles, recognized under Rule 18 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, and adopted by most Arab juvenile laws under various terms such as behavioral monitoring, judicial probation, supervised release, guarded freedom, and social supervision. Despite minor differences in implementation, all these approaches share the goal of rehabilitating the juvenile within his natural environment. They allow him to continue his normal daily life while receiving guidance and support to address the challenges he faces, ultimately preparing him to become a responsible and productive citizen.

The supervised freedom system is designed to treat delinquent juveniles within their natural environment, avoiding detention and strict restrictions on their liberty. Under this system, the juvenile is granted conditional freedom while being supervised and guided by a competent representative—either voluntary or permanent—according to the procedures

and conditions outlined in Articles 100–105 of the Child Protection Law.

This measure seeks to eliminate the harmful psychological effects of punishment, allowing the juvenile to live a normal life while receiving guidance and support to overcome challenges, correct deviant behavior, and reintegrate into society. In Algerian law, supervised release is considered an educational measure because it situates the juvenile within his family environment and provides both educational and social guidance. The system's broader aim is to rehabilitate the juvenile humanely and socially through continuous monitoring and supervision.

Not just anyone can serve as a supervisor in this system. The role requires a unique skill set: the supervisor must earn the trust of the juvenile, his parents, or the entrusted person or institution. This demands specialized knowledge in psychology and education, broad awareness, and sometimes courage. The supervisor carries out the task after thoroughly examining the juvenile's behavior, history, family environment, material and moral circumstances, and the reasons behind the offense. Based on this understanding, the supervisor provides tailored advice and guidance to help correct the situation and support the juvenile's rehabilitation.

Fourthly – Conditions in Child Protection Centers and Agencies:

Juvenile reform institutions, regardless of their designation, require that the young offenders reside on-site and follow a

structured daily routine as part of a comprehensive rehabilitation program. This program aims to reform the juvenile by providing adequate schooling, vocational training, moral guidance, and proper health and psychological care. Nevertheless, these benefits do not eliminate certain drawbacks, particularly the loss of personal freedom and the separation from the child's familiar social environment. According to Rule 19 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, placing a juvenile in a correctional facility should always be considered a measure of last resort and should last only for the minimum period necessary. Modern criminology similarly emphasizes the preference for non-institutional interventions over placement in correctional institutions. Research indicates that institutional placement does not produce significantly better outcomes than treatment outside such facilities. Moreover, the potential therapeutic benefits within institutions are often outweighed by the negative influences to which children are exposed, which are difficult to avoid and to which young individuals are particularly vulnerable. Consequently, if a juvenile judge determines that a delinquent child requires special care, institutional placement is considered only as a last resort. In such cases, the child may be placed in one of the centers or institutions specified in Article

85 of the Child Protection Law, which include:

An accredited agency responsible for assisting children.

A boarding school suitable for school-age juveniles.

A center specializing in the protection of juvenile delinquents.

A public service tasked with providing child assistance.

Additionally, consideration is given to the benefits of maintaining the child in an open environment under a system of supervised freedom. It is important to note that these centers and departments operate under the Ministry of National Solidarity, in accordance with Article 116 of the Child Protection Law, which governs child protection services.

These include specialized centers for the protection of children at risk, centers dedicated to safeguarding juvenile delinquents, and multi-service youth protection centers. In addition, the benefits of an open-environment approach are considered. This measure is regarded as one of the most important interventions for delinquent children because it incorporates an evaluative system that is largely insulated from harmful social influences. The child follows a structured daily program designed to provide moral guidance, develop specific vocational skills, and offer educational support, all aimed at preparing him for responsible participation in society.

When a juvenile judge orders placement in a center, he must specify both the name of the center and its location, in accordance with Ministerial Circular No. 09 dated June 11, 1974, and Ministerial Note No. 719 dated June 6, 1974. Article 85 of the Child Protection Law stipulates that the juvenile's placement cannot extend beyond the date on which he reaches the age of criminal majority.

Regarding the transfer procedures for juveniles subject to placement measures: if the juvenile is detained in the juvenile section of a penal institution, he remains there until all standard appeal procedures are completed. Afterward, the director of the penal institution informs the director of the assigned center, who appoints two educators to transfer the juvenile from the penal institution to the reception center. Security services are not authorized to transfer the juvenile themselves, as specified in Ministerial Note No. 09 dated October 16, 1988. If the juvenile is not detained, there is no legal provision governing the transfer; in practice, the child's father usually brings him to the center with a copy of the placement ruling, and sometimes social workers perform this task.

It is important to note that when deciding on an educational measure, the juvenile court judge must consider factors such as the juvenile's age, prior criminal record, level of criminal dangerousness, and marital status.

Section Two: Penalties for Juvenile Offenders

The penalties for crimes committed by juveniles differ significantly from those for adults. According to Article 49 of the Penal Code, a minor under the age of thirteen is subject only to protective or educational measures, and in cases of minor offenses, only to reprimand. For juveniles aged thirteen and above, if the judge decides to impose a custodial sentence, Article 50 of the Penal Code applies, specifying that:

If the adult sentence would have been execution or life imprisonment, the juvenile shall instead receive imprisonment for ten to twenty years.

If the adult sentence would have been imprisonment or temporary detention, the juvenile shall receive a term equal to half of the adult sentence.

From the above texts, it is evident that when a juvenile judge decides to impose a custodial sentence on a juvenile offender, the provisions of Article 50 of the Penal Code must be applied. However, criminal penalties are not applicable to all juvenile offenders; a distinction is made based on age, specifically between children aged 10 to 13 years and adolescents aged 13 to 18 years at the time of the offense.

Section One: Juveniles aged 10 to under 13 years

According to Article 49 of the Penal Code, a juvenile judge cannot impose traditional criminal penalties on children under the age of thirteen. Instead, only protective or

educational measures may be applied. Article 87, Paragraph 2 of the Child Law specifies that for a child who commits an offense, the appropriate response is either a reprimand or, if necessary, placement under a supervised freedom program. Temporary placement in a penal institution is also possible if required for the child's welfare. Section Two: Juveniles aged 13 to 18 years Article 85 of the Child Protection Law provides that for juveniles aged thirteen to eighteen, the court may impose one or more protective or corrective measures in cases of felonies or misdemeanors. In addition, these measures may be supplemented or replaced with fines or imprisonment in accordance with Article 50 of the Penal Code, provided the judgment justifies such actions.

Examining these provisions, it is clear that the Algerian legislator allows the juvenile judge to either apply mitigated penalties or corrective measures for juveniles aged 13 to 18. The reduction of penalties is structured as follows:

For felonies punishable by death or life imprisonment, the sentence is replaced by imprisonment for 10 to 20 years (Article 50, Paragraph 2).

For crimes punishable by imprisonment or temporary detention, the juvenile is sentenced to half of the period that would have been imposed on an adult. For crimes with penalties of 5–10 or 10–20 years, the sentence is limited to half of the maximum adult sentence (Article 50, Paragraph 3).

For minor offenses committed by juveniles aged 13 to 18, the judge may issue a reprimand or impose a fine under Article 51 of the Penal Code.

It should be noted that any fine imposed on a juvenile is secured by the person who is legally responsible for them. It should be emphasized that any fine imposed on a juvenile is the responsibility of the person legally accountable for them, as the juvenile does not possess independent financial liability. The same principle applies to court costs assessed in the event of the juvenile's conviction.

Furthermore, if a custodial sentence imposed on a juvenile offender becomes final, the juvenile is to be transferred to a facility specializing in the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders, in accordance with Article 128 of the Child Law and Articles 28 and 116 of the Prisons Organization Law.

Alternatively, when required, juveniles may be placed in designated sections within regular penal institutions. It is important to note that a juvenile judge, when issuing a custodial sentence, does not have the authority to designate the specific facility where the juvenile will serve their sentence. The transfer of juvenile offenders is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. Upon receiving notification of a juvenile with a finalized conviction, the Director of the penal institution and the General Directorate of Prisons and Reintegration, through its Sub-Directorate for Juvenile Protection, reviews the

juvenile's criminal record and undertakes the necessary legal procedures, which include the following:

- Juveniles who have not yet reached the age of criminal majority are transferred to a rehabilitation and reintegration center for juveniles if their remaining sentence exceeds three months.
- In contrast, if a convicted juvenile attains the age of criminal majority, they must be referred to the institution's disciplinary and order committee for placement in the section reserved for young adults under the age of twenty-seven.

Finally, it is important to highlight two key points:

Chapter Two: Centers Specializing in Receiving Juvenile Delinquents

The fundamental principle in rehabilitating a delinquent child is to allow him to remain in his natural environment under the care of his legal representative—who, according to Article 2 of the Child Protection Law, may be his guardian, custodian, sponsor, caretaker, or custodian—or to place him under the supervision of a trustworthy person or family. However, if this approach is not suitable, if no responsible person can be entrusted with the child, or if the juvenile's circumstances or personality necessitate it, the judge may order the child to be removed from his natural environment and placed in a specialized center or department.

The Algerian legislator has made a clear distinction between centers intended for juvenile delinquents and those for children

at risk, thereby establishing facilities specifically for the rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders.

Additionally, there are specialized juvenile sections within penal institutions, which serve as facilities for accommodating children who have been sentenced to imprisonment in accordance with the conditions and procedures outlined in Prisons Law No. 05/04. This also includes specialized centers and departments for child protection, as provided under Article 116 of the Child Law, specifically for children subject to protective and disciplinary measures prescribed in Article 85 of the same law

Given the significance of these institutions, they can be discussed as follows:

Section One: Specialized Child Protection Centers under the Ministry of National Solidarity

Order 75/64 of September 26, 1975, established institutions and departments responsible for child protection, creating three types of centers: specialized rehabilitation centers, specialized protection centers, and multi-service youth protection centers. These were residential institutions intended to accommodate juveniles under the age of 18 who were placed there for re-education purposes.

However, with the repeal of Order 75/64, the Child Protection Law (Article 149) provided for the creation of specialized centers and departments under the Ministry of National Solidarity. According to Article

116 of this law, these include: specialized centers for juvenile delinquents, specialized centers for juveniles at risk, multi-service youth protection centers, and the Open Environment Department. While the law refers to regulations that should govern the establishment and operation of these centers, such regulations have not yet been issued. Therefore, in accordance with Article 149, the implementing provisions of Law 75/64 remain applicable, meaning that the centers originally established under Law 75/64 continue to operate under the same framework.

When a juvenile court judge orders the placement of a child in one of these centers, the specific center and its location, including the city, must be identified. According to Article 85 of the Child Law, the placement must be for a defined period, not exceeding the age at which the child reaches criminal majority, i.e., 18 years.

The centers focus on re-education and are organized around three main areas:

First: Observation Department

This department monitors the juvenile, studies their personality, and conducts medical, mental, and psychological evaluations. Notably, Article 116 of the Child Law mandates the provision of special wings for disabled children, a requirement not included under Law 75/64. The department also investigates the juvenile's behavior and personality development to determine the most appropriate corrective measures. This observation phase lasts between three and

six months. At its conclusion, the department submits a detailed report to the juvenile judge, outlining the juvenile's behavior, progress, observations, and a recommendation for the final measure to be applied.

Second: Re-education Department

This department focuses on the educational and formative development of the juvenile. When academic education is not feasible, juveniles are guided towards vocational training suitable to their abilities, alongside intellectual growth and moral guidance. The centers provide a supportive environment by offering resources such as libraries, structured classes, assigned teachers and trainers, and organized sports programs. The objective is to promote the child's social reintegration. Progress reports on the juvenile's development and behavior are regularly prepared and submitted to the competent juvenile judge.

Third: Post-Treatment Department

This department manages the external arrangements of juveniles while awaiting the final decision regarding their case and is responsible for facilitating their social reintegration. The director of the rehabilitation center must submit regular reports to the competent juvenile judge detailing the progress of each juvenile placed in the institution.

Section Two: Juvenile Rehabilitation and Reintegration Centers and Juvenile Wings in Correctional Institutions

These institutions fall under the Ministry of Justice and are governed by Law No. 05-

04, which regulates prisons and the social reintegration of detainees. They are designated to accommodate accused juveniles who are temporarily detained or sentenced to custodial penalties and are under the age of 18.

Article 28 of Law 05-04 specifies that closed environment institutions are classified into general institutions and specialized centers, including those dedicated to juveniles under 18 who are temporarily detained or have received a final custodial sentence, regardless of its duration.

Article 29 stipulates that separate wings must be allocated in preventive and rehabilitation institutions for temporarily detained juveniles, women, and those serving a custodial sentence.

Juveniles in these centers or wings are organized in group settings to prevent isolation, except for health reasons. Their treatment considers age and personality to ensure comprehensive care and preserve dignity.

They are provided with:

- ✓ Balanced nutrition for physical and mental development
- ✓ Appropriate clothing
- ✓ Ongoing medical care and check-ups
- ✓ Daily outdoor breaks
- ✓ Direct, uninterrupted communication with visitors
- ✓ Supervised access to remote communication
- ✓ If a juvenile violates institutional regulations, one of the following disciplinary measures may be applied:
 - ✓ Warning
 - ✓ Reprimand
 - ✓ Temporary restriction of recreational activities
 - ✓ Temporary restriction of access to financial gains
 - ✓ For the third and fourth measures, the opinion of the disciplinary committee must be obtained, and all measures must be reported to the re-education committee.
- ✓ Disciplinary Committee Composition:
- ✓ Each juvenile rehabilitation center or wing has a committee chaired by the director and includes:
 - ✓ Head of the Protection Authority
 - ✓ Psychology specialist
 - ✓ Social worker
 - ✓ Educator
- ✓ In cases of illness, hospitalization, escape, or death, the center or institution director must immediately notify the competent juvenile judge,

the rehabilitation committee, and the juvenile's parents or guardian.

- ✓ The management of these centers is entrusted to qualified directors who give special attention to juvenile delinquents. Currently, Algeria has four such centers:
- ✓ Juvenile Rehabilitation and Integration Center – Males – Quedil, Oran
- ✓ Juvenile Rehabilitation and Integration Center – Girls – El Biar (Châteauneuf), Algiers (closed)
- ✓ Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center for Juveniles – Males – Tidjelabine, Boumerdes
- ✓ Juvenile Rehabilitation and Integration Center – Males – Al Manzar Al Jamil, Setif
- ✓ Shared Departments in These Centers:
- ✓ Reception Department: Juveniles are directed here immediately upon arrival.
- ✓ Observation and Guidance Department: Monitors physical and psychological condition and studies personality.
- ✓ Re-education Department: Provides educational and vocational training, moral guidance, and the development of intellectual and social skills. Lessons and programs are organized according to official curricula, fostering personal responsibility and social reintegration.
- ✓ These centers are subject to monthly supervision by the juvenile judge, as

required by Article 33 of Law No. 05-04.

Conclusion:

The Algerian legislator consolidated regulations concerning delinquent and at-risk children under Law 15/12 on Child Protection (15-07-2015), granting the juvenile judge both judicial and educational roles aimed at protecting, reforming, and correcting behavior before criminal tendencies develop. The law aligns with international standards for child protection.

Key Findings and Recommendations:

Reprimands should never aim to harm the juvenile but should focus on protection and prevention of deviation. Judges must avoid harsh words or actions that could cause psychological harm and undermine rehabilitation.

Fines imposed on juveniles are borne by the person legally responsible, as juveniles lack independent financial liability. In cases where the responsible party refuses payment, the fine should be treated as a debt to the public treasury, enforceable by law.

Legislative gaps exist regarding the authority responsible for implementing juvenile judge orders for placement in centers under the Ministry of National Solidarity. A ministerial directive is recommended to standardize application. Observation and re-education departments should be equipped with sufficient material and logistical resources to carry out their

roles effectively, especially in open-environment programs.

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