

Algeria's legislative and operational mechanisms for the prevention and control of the drug scourge

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Abstract:

Drug crime is one of the greatest threats to societies' security and safety as cross-border crimes. In order to prevent the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which have become particularly acute in Algeria, the Algerian State have taken a number of measures to prevent and combat the scourge of narcotic drugs by enacting preventive and deterrent legislation and mobilizing human resources at both the formal and informal levels.

Based on this vision, **our study aims to detect** what drugs are, by investigating their causes, and thus starting to address the phenomenon, in addition to exploring drug residues and dangers,

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in order to identify the national strategy for drug prevention and control in both legislative and operational areas.

Key words: drugs, addiction, crime, legislative mechanisms, operational mechanisms.

Introduction:

Drugs and drug addiction are a global problem, becoming one of the greatest dilemmas and problems that the nations and societies of the world can scarcely do without. The threat of this phenomenon hangs over the entity of these communities at local and global levels, which is reflected in the figures and statistics available from national and regional bodies and international organizations that show the development and spread of the phenomenon and, terribly, it is no longer confined to a particular segment, but rather a problem that affects all segments of society at all levels.

The scourge of drug addiction and drug trafficking is complex, due to the many reasons behind it; among these are those linked to the psychological aspect of the addict and those linked to the social or economic aspect, these and other causes have inflicted damage and effects on the individual addict, as well as on society and the economy.

The scourge of drugs has become one of the preoccupations of the world's nations in general, including Algeria, where it is considered one of the most widespread crimes and the second economic market to enter the international arena after the arms trade. New dimensions of this problem have emerged and become increasingly serious at international and national level, threatening the security, stability and development of states,

which is why the nations of the world have pursued preventive and dissuasive strategies to combat the phenomenon.

Thanks to its geographical location, the length of its border strip and its surface area, Algeria, which in the recent past was a privileged transit zone for quantities of drugs bound for Arab and European countries, was confronted, during the black decade, with other challenges threatening its youth, who are increasingly consuming drugs and giving cause for concern. Faced with this situation and the new challenges posed by the scourge of drugs, Algeria has adopted a national strategy to prevent and combat drugs, which calls for the intervention and cohesion of various ministerial sectors, state institutions and civil society organizations.

With this in mind, **the importance of the present study lies** in the growing phenomenon of drug abuse and trafficking, which has become a threat and a danger to societies. Indeed, the largest group in terms of drug consumption and use is young people, who have become an obstacle to progress and development. Drug addiction is also a complex problem, with multiple causes. It is an area in which a whole range of social, psychological, economic, religious and educational factors are superimposed. Algeria has adopted a national strategy to prevent and combat drugs, in response to the worrying and terrible increase in this phenomenon.

In order to ensure that the study stays on track, we have raised a series of questions that can be answered by achieving the objectives, which are formulated as follows:

- **Firstly**, what are drugs and what are the causes of addiction?
- **Secondly**, what are the damage and effects of the scourge of drugs?

- **Thirdly**, what legislative and operational mechanisms have been adopted in Algeria to prevent and combat the scourge of drugs?

SECTION I: Conceptual reading of the term drug and addiction

Numerous studies have shown that ancient societies and civilizations were familiar with the use of drugs, originally predominantly for medical purposes. Today, drug use is traded illicitly for prohibited purposes, posing a major risk to societies and threatening to bring them to the brink of collapse due to the increasing volume of their production, abuse, addiction and trade for large profits.

In this research, we explore the concept of drugs and the effects of their consumption and production.

First requirement: The concept of drugs

In this requirement, we will determine what is meant by "drugs" and what is meant by "addiction", indicating the reasons for their promotion and abuse in such a terrible way that rapid intervention is necessary to limit their harmful effects.

Paragraph 1: Definition of drugs and drug addiction

The definition of narcotics is important for understanding and studying the phenomenon of drug addiction and drug trafficking. There are many different definitions. From a variety of points of view, the definition is linked to the substance of the narcotic, as is the scientific and legal definition

A- In terms of the drug substance: It is a substance whose use leads to a state of total or partial anesthesia, with or without loss of consciousness. This substance gives a false sense of euphoria and happiness while escaping the realm of reality to enter that of the imagination, or it is a crude or conjured

substance containing revealing or palliative gases if used for non-medical and industrial purposes aimed at leading to a state of habit and addiction, thus harming the individual physically, psychologically and socially (Abu Ali, 2003, p. 21)

B. Scientific definition: A drug is a chemical substance that causes drowsiness, sleep or unconsciousness accompanied by pain (Abu Ali, 2003, p. 22).

C. Legal definition: Legal definitions of narcotics have been varied, and on the whole, they are a group of substances that poison the nervous system and are prohibited from circulation, cultivation or manufacture except for purposes authorized by law, Law no. 04-18 on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the repression of illicit use and trafficking, as amended by law no. 23-05, defines narcotics as follows: "Any natural substance that is or is synthetic or any natural product listed in Schedule I, II, III or IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and any substance that is manufactured domestically as a narcotic."

Psychotropic substances are "any man-made natural substance or natural product listed in Schedule I, II, III or IV of the 1971 Conventions on Psychotropic Substances and any substance manufactured domestically to produce a mental effect."

D. Procedural definition: Drugs can be defined as follows

They are any natural or artificial substance that affects the human nervous system, whether partially or totally, and whose frequent consumption leads to dependence resulting in poisoning of the nervous system, causing damage to the individual and to society, and drug crime derives its legitimacy from laws established by the legislator and defined in legal texts.

With regard to the definition of drug addiction, the World Health Organization (WHO) has defined addiction as a state of temporary or chronic anesthesia resulting from the repeated use of a natural or synthetic substance, as well as drug dependence : is the frequent use of psychological or psychotropic substances to such an extent that the user reveals a severe attachment to the use, an alteration, refusal or modification of his or her use and presents withdrawal symptoms if he or she stops using, and that the addict's life is under the control of the use to the point of subjugation of all other activity (AlMouchrif, Aljawari, 2011, p. 35).

This brings us to two types of addiction:

-Physical addiction: this is a purely genetic phenomenon, in which frequent use of a substance alters the body's physiological reactions as it adapts to the new molecule. The resulting cessation of consumption creates an imbalance in the rehabilitating user, who waits several days, often in pain, before re-establishing the initial state of equilibrium.

-Psychological addiction: This is linked to the pleasure the user derives from the drug. From birth, the mind is a limb that learns to save warning signals by receiving a reward (Nicole Maestrachi, 2004, p. 15).

Paragraph 2: Causes of drug addiction

The causes of addiction to narcotic substances are manifold and can be summarized as follows:

- 1- The drug:** This is the first key factor in the problem of drug addiction, and its use is subject to many factors, including:

- ✓ The availability and accessibility of the drug makes its price accessible to the greatest number of people, thus allowing the opportunity to use it.
- ✓ The method of drug use, such as oral or olfactory use, is easily addictive, while injection reduces the risk of addiction and, moreover, the number of times the drug is taken.
- ✓ Society's view of the narcotic substance was regarded with some tolerance for such an incorrect reason as the belief that Islam was the sanctuary of alcohol and did not exclude drugs because they were not mentioned in the Koran or the year and were wrong.
- ✓ The chemical and biological properties of drugs have been scientifically proven and each drug has its own characteristics and effects on the human person. It has also been established that anyone who uses different types of drugs is not obliged to prefer one category and become addicted to it, because there is a certain compatibility between the drug and its effects, on the one hand, and the person's personality, on the other.

2- The human being: The human being is made up of a body and a psyche that interact so constantly that it is difficult to separate them. Consequently, factors affecting the psyche are superimposed on factors affecting the body (Almouchrif, Al-Jawadi, 2001, p. 87):

A- Physical factors: these are limited to heredity, acquired factors, medical therapeutic errors and, finally, the biological causes of addiction, known as neurotransmitters.

B- Psychological factors: these play a role in abuse and addiction:

- ✓ Reduce tension.
- ✓ Achieve autonomy and a sense of self.

- ✓ A distinctive social attitude and access to a comprehensible life.
- ✓ A feeling of strength, elegance and the satisfaction of love and recognition.
- ✓ A sense of belonging to a group other than one's own.
- ✓ Overcoming feelings of inferiority.
- ✓ Overcoming disturbing ideas and breaking out of traditional life patterns (adventure).

C- Social factors:

- ✓ the problem of drug abuse and addiction, like other social problems, involves many important and influential social factors that vary from one society to another, but also from one individual to another. According to researchers Ghanim and Afifi, these factors can be found in: (**Almouchrif, Al-Jawadi, 2011, p. 68**)
- ✓ Drug use by one or both parents.
- ✓ The influence of a group of friends.
- ✓ A person's deviant behavior and degree of incrimination.
- ✓ Presence and availability of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- ✓ Mass media.
- ✓ Dominant culture and socio-economic level.
- ✓ Family relationships, lack of family awareness of the seriousness of drug use, absence of family warnings, existence of family conflicts and family disintegration (**Abu Ali, 2003, p. 62**).

Requirement 2: Effects and harm of addiction

The effects of drug addiction are damaging and dangerous for the individual, society and the economy. It is a terrible disease that kills the individual, the family, society and the economy in every

respect and can be mentioned as follows: (**Ahmed Abdelaziz, 2012, p. 14**)

Paragraph 1: Health risks

Health risks are many and varied, and can be divided into two categories:

1- **Physical damage:** The effects of drug use on the individual vary according to the type and quantity of substance consumed. This physical harm is summarized in the table below:

- ✓ Acquired immune deficiency (AIDS) and hepatitis B.
- ✓ Cancer.
- ✓ Incidence of overdose deaths.
- ✓ Anorexia resulting in severe weight loss.
- ✓ Bone joint, eye, gum and human infections.
- ✓ Severe fainting and loss of physical balance.

2- **Psychological damage:** Psychological damage can be far more serious than physical damage:

- ✓ Insomnia, anxiety and hallucinations.
- ✓ Weak mental faculties and their deterioration to the point of insanity.
- ✓ Impaired perception of time, estimation of distances and vertigo.
- ✓ Lack of control and extreme fear.
- ✓ Depression, aggressiveness, convulsions and fainting.
- ✓ Laziness, lethargy, introversion and isolation.

Paragraph 2: social and economic damage

Substance abuse and addiction cause significant damage to society, including : (**Ahmed Abdelaziz, 2012, p. 15**)

- ✓ The inability to fulfill one's duties to one's family and community.
- ✓ Increased delinquency and crime.
- ✓ Children's religious awareness is low due to the absence of good role models.
- ✓ Increased risk of family crime, altercation and theft.
- ✓ Susceptibility of family and community members to drug abuse.
- ✓ Family disintegration.
- ✓ Non-compliance with functional obligations.

The phenomenon of drug addiction causes economic damage, whether to the individual, the family or society:

- ✓ Depriving the family and its members of their material income and spending on drugs.
- ✓ When the user is incarcerated, the family loses its source of income.
- ✓ The prevalence of drugs in a society increases unemployment and poverty.
- ✓ Fighting and controlling the phenomenon entails financial costs.
- ✓ The cost of treating drug addiction is high for the state.

SECTION II: Legislative and operational mechanisms adopted in Algeria to prevent and combat the scourge of drugs

Algerian legislation deals with the criminalization and punishment of drug-related offences under Act No. 04-18, as amended and supplemented by Act No. 23-05 on the prevention and control of narcotics and psychotropic substances in all its aspects, thus reflecting the country's criminal policy and, by the same token, the international obligations arising from the ratification of the relevant conventions on combating illicit drug trafficking.

This study was devoted to demonstrating the legislative and operational mechanisms adopted in Algeria to deter drug-related crime.

First requirement: positive legislation as a mechanism for preventing and combating drugs

The Algerian legislature has turned its attention to drug-related crime, which has become increasingly dangerous due to its persistence among human beings of all generations, genders and social classes. As a transnational nation, Algeria has put in place a criminal justice policy to deal with this issue.

Paragraph 1: Algeria's criminal law policy on drug-related offences

Act No. 04-18 on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as amended and supplemented by Act No. 23-05, sets out Algeria's criminal policy on the suppression of offences under the legislation on narcotics and psychotropic substances and the suppression of the illicit use of and trafficking in narcotics. The law comprises five chapters as follows:

Chapter I (General provisions) : From Article **01** to Article **05**, Chapter I defines the purpose of this law and the definitions of the most important terms contained in and specific to the different types of drugs. The legislator also defines all acts relating to narcotics and psychotropic substances, such as drug addiction, trade, agriculture and production. It lays down provisions for licensing the use of certain plants and medicinal substances.

As stated in this chapter, the last amendment classified certain substances as psychotropic substances in accordance with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs as amended, with all the articles contained in the four schedules of the United Nations

Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In particular, there were certain psychotropic substances that were difficult to adapt, such as pregabalin, because they were not included in the four schedules following the application of law 04-18, which was corrected by the last amendment.

Chapter I bis, entitled "**Preventive measures**", was introduced by law 23-05 and contains articles 5 bis to 5 bis on the role of the State in developing a national strategy for the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances through prevention and raising awareness of the risks of drugs and the mechanisms for combating drug addiction among young people, and the protection of educational and training establishments, with the need for international cooperation and coordination of efforts with international organizations and identity.

Emphasis is placed on the role of the Office in coordinating the work of all the sectors involved in preparing and implementing the draft national strategy for the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances.

Chapter II (Remedial measures): From article 06 to 11 of the law, where the legislator has pursued a penal policy according to which public action will not be brought against persons who have complied with the medical treatment prescribed to suppress and follow the poisoning to its end. In the case of minors, by exempting them from criminal prosecution when they continue the treatment, they are exempt from punishment if they prove by medical expertise that they continue the medical treatment that has been exhausted for the poisoning until its end .Article 7 of the law provides for investigative powers. The competent judicial authority (investigating judge or juvenile court judge) may order the placement of the accused drug addict in a therapeutic institution to eliminate the effects of

addiction and poisoning, it being understood that the order may only be made after the conclusion of the investigation and that article **8** of this law stipulates that the competent judicial authority may require the persons mentioned in the previous article to undergo treatment to suppress the poisoning, If the drug addict is subject to the provisions of article **7** paragraph 1 and article **8** of this law, the competent judicial authority shall exempt him/her from the penalties provided for in article **12** of the same law. If the drug addict is subject to the provisions of article **7**, paragraph 1, as well as article **8** of the present law, the competent judicial authority shall exempt him/her from the penalties provided for in article **12** of the same law.

Chapter III (Penal provisions): from article **12** to article **31**:

Article **12** stipulates that anyone who illegally consumes or possesses narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances for personal use is liable to a prison sentence of between two months and two years and a fine of between DZD **20,000** and DZD **50,000**.

Article **13** also stipulates that the illegal supply or delivery of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is punishable by two to ten years' imprisonment and a fine of between DZD **10,000** and DZD **50,000**. The penalty is doubled if the product is presented in schools, educational, health and social establishments or public bodies and given to a minor, a disabled person or a drug addict.

Article **14** also makes it an offence to obstruct or prohibit law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. Article **14** also provides for the offence of hindering the illicit use of narcotics and psychotropic substances, whether by providing the place for this purpose or by providing the means, as well as the placing of drugs in drinks or foodstuffs without the knowledge of the consumer.

Article **16** of the Act makes it a criminal offence to prescribe or make available a recipe containing psychotropic substances without a prescription, or to attempt to obtain such a recipe in order to trade in it, with a penalty of between **05** and **15** years' imprisonment and a fine. **500,000 DZD** to **1,000,000 DZD**

Act no. 23-05 makes it a criminal offence to attempt to obtain or obtain narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances by means of threats, violence or insults. The legal provision of article 16 bis thus strengthens the criminal law protection of doctors and pharmacists.

Article 16 bis adds another criminal provision that punishes anyone who intentionally promotes narcotics and psychotropic substances by any means whatsoever. The penalty is increased when the offence is committed by exploiting a minor, a person with special needs or a person undergoing addiction treatment; or when the promotion takes place in educational, training, health or social centers or within public bodies or institutions open to the public. The legislator has therefore remedied the shortcoming of law no. 04-18, thereby achieving the objective of public and private dissuasion.

Penalties of up to **20** years' imprisonment and fines of up to **DZD 5000000** for the offences of production, manufacture, possession, acquisition and purchase with a view to sale, storage, extraction, preparation, brokerage, distribution, or even dispatch and transport, are increased when committed by an organized criminal group.

The penalty is 20 to 30 years' imprisonment when the above-mentioned acts are committed by a public official whose employment facilitated the commission of the offence or by a health offender, a pharmacy, a pharmaceutical industry, a user of an establishment specializing in the treatment of drug addiction

or a member of an association active in the prevention of the illegal use of and trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances. Thus, the status of the perpetrator constitutes an aggravating circumstance.

The legislator also decided to impose life imprisonment for certain drug-related offences in Articles **18** to **21** : Anyone who illegally manages, regulates or finances the production, placement, possession, offer, sale, storage, distribution, brokerage, shipment or transport in transit of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and who illegally exports or imports narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, Those who illicitly cultivate opium poppy, Those who illicitly cultivate opium poppy, coke or cannabis plant, manufacture, transport or distribute precursors, material or equipment intended for use in the illicit cultivation, production or manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, knowing that the precursors and material or equipment will be used for this purpose.

Articles **22** and **23** also provide that incitement, encouragement or inducement to commit the offences referred to in Law no. **18/04** is punishable by the same penalty as that provided for the offence or act committed, and that the accomplice to the offence or any preparatory act is punishable by the same penalty as the original offender.

Thus, the partner's sentence is influenced by the personal circumstances of the initial offender and by the substantial circumstances of the offence, which would be the mitigation or aggravation of the sentence, an issue that we do not favour, for example, it would be illogical for the partner to benefit from the commutation of the sentence following the mitigating excuse of the initial offender. Furthermore, what has been approved by this law is a derogation from the general rule contained in article 44 of the Penal Code, which provides for the partner's sentence to be

borrowed from the sentence laid down for a felony or misdemeanor, which we support by enshrining it even in the law on the prevention of drug addiction, which is the most meritorious of all.

The law on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances establishes the criminal liability of legal persons for the offences provided for by law, thereby increasing the penalty of the fine imposed on them for making quick profits by illicit means and increasing the penalty according to the sheer seriousness of the damage.

In addition to the initial penalties, the law provides for supplementary penalties in article 29 of the law on the prevention of drug addiction for individuals convicted of one of the offences provided for in this law. And according to the linguistic indication of the content of the text of the previous article, the legislator has not determined whether the first supplementary penalty is mandatory or optional, unlike the other supplementary penalties considered permissible, which are subject to the judge's discretion.

The first additional penalty is deprivation of political, civil and family rights for five (5) to ten (10) years.

The other authorized complementary penalties are as follows:

- Disqualification from practicing the profession in respect of which the offence was committed for a period of at least five (5) years, disqualification from residence in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Code, withdrawal of passport and driving license for a period of at least five (5) years, disqualification from holding or carrying an authorized weapon for a period of at least five (5) years.

Whichever measure is imposed on the offender, it is intended to

prevent recidivism, particularly when it is established that there is a link between a conviction for a drug offence and the measure in question.

-Confiscation of objects used or intended for use in the commission of the offence or objects resulting therefrom, closure of any hotel or furnished house, accommodation centre, bar, restaurant, club, exhibition venue or any place open to or used by the public where the operator has committed or participated in the offences referred to in articles 15 and 16 of the Drug Prevention Act. Closure will be for no more than 10 years.

If a foreigner is convicted of one of the offences provided for in this law, he or she may also be subject to a "ban on residence or for a period of at least ten years" (10). Under the law, a ban on residence on Algerian territory entails the expulsion of the convicted person from the country upon expiry of the initial sentence.

The importance of providing for such an additional penalty for foreign convicts involved in drug offences is emphasised in view of their increasing involvement in this type of offence.

Chapter four (Procedural rules): From Article 32 to Article 36a 1, this chapter contains a set of procedural rules that relate primarily to the work of the judiciary. These include regulatory measures relating to the confiscation of seized plants and materials with a view to their destruction or delivery to legitimate users, as well as the confiscation of movable and immovable property and facilities used to commit these offences or obtained as a result of them.

Paragraph 2: National Drug Control and Addiction Office:

After the public authorities had identified the widespread phenomenon of drug addiction among segments of society through surveys and statistics from security institutions, in addition to recommendations from international bodies tasked with combating the phenomenon, the Algerian authorities set up a national committee affiliated to the Minister of Health in accordance with Executive Decree No. **92-151** dated **11 Shawwal 1412**, corresponding to **14 April 1992**, which includes the creation of a national committee to combat drug addiction and dependence. In addition to the Minister of Health, this committee includes representatives from the various ministries, with the aim of monitoring and developing national programmes to deal with the phenomenon of drug addiction in Algeria. However, this body has not been very successful, due to its lack of a legislative framework defining the tasks of each ministry. Participation in this body obliged the government to create the National Office for Combating Drugs and Drug Addiction.

❖ **ONCDT NATIONAL OFFICE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS AND ADDICTION** pursuant to the executive decree no. **97-212** of **4 Safar 1418** corresponding to: **8 June 1997** and set up on **02 October 2002 (Bouhania Qawi, 15)**. This reflects the State's determination to make it a national body with full powers to carry out its functions. As a public administrative body with legal personality and financial autonomy, in **2006** its supervision was transferred to the Ministry of Justice by Presidential Decree no. **06/181** of **31 May 2006**.

Functions of the National Office for Combating Narcotics and Drug Addiction: The Algerian legislator has, for the first time, explicitly defined the Office's duties under articles 5 bis 1 and 5 bis of law 23-05 amending and supplementing the law relating to the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the repression of illicit use and trafficking. The Office is responsible for cooperating with the sectors concerned in the development and implementation of the draft national

strategy for the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances, once it has been ratified by the government.

It also collects and concentrates information on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances with the various ministerial sectors and civil society players. The Office is responsible for drawing up and analysing indicators relating to the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances, with guidelines to help identify those most exposed to narcotics and psychotropic substances, and for preparing and presenting an annual report to the President of the Republic on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances in Algeria.

Second requirement: police services' measures to prevent and control drugs

Let's start by highlighting the preventive role played by the police in the fight against drug-related crime, before turning to the operational role of these forces.

Paragraph 1: The Role of Police Services at Preventive Level: (Kassoum Djamel, 2017, 19)

The preventive role of the Directorate General for National Security is essentially community policing, through which it works in the service of public safety, based on the treatment of recurring minor problems and the security and systemic needs of delinquent and targeted society, which are at the heart of the close relationship between police institutions and civil society, based on trust and credibility. The Directorate General of National Security has also adopted mechanisms to prevent the threat of drugs, as described below:

A- Listening and preventive activity units: set up in 2004 and operating nationwide, 48 listening and preventive activity units aim to bring the police closer to the public and build trust between them. Without losing sight of the need to take care of children and adolescents, in particular against the risks of drug addiction and various other social ills, programmes are drawn up at the beginning of the year and implemented in the field to raise public awareness.

B- Community partnership: a preventive policy (awareness-raising) in coordination with various social partners such as the National Office for Combating Drugs and Drug Addiction, the Islamic Scouts of Algeria, and representatives of civil society.

C- Communication with citizens and the media: The doors of all police services are open at all times and under all conditions throughout the country to receive reports and complaints from citizens. A hotline has been set up for citizens 1548 and other means of reporting illegal acts, including social media sites.

In addition to these mechanisms, the police services carry out awareness-raising activities that can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Organization of awareness-raising days at various types of educational establishments, university halls of residence, youth centers and vocational training and qualification centers.
- ✓ Participation in various events organized by the social partners.
- ✓ Holding open days in public squares and working-class neighborhoods to target the broadest possible cross-section of society.

- ✓ Scheduling sessions with parents' associations to inform them about the characteristics of drug addicts and direct them towards actions to help the group of young people avoid falling into the drug trap.
- ✓ Receive young drug addicts (beginners and professionals) at the unit to listen to their concerns by competent managers and psychologists and direct them to specialized centers for treatment, while ensuring complete confidentiality in the process.
- ✓ Organize sports courses for young people in local neighborhoods, focusing on working-class areas, to open up their knowledge and fill the void in order to keep them away from the various social scourges.

Paragraph 2: The role of police services at the operational level

In addition to the specialized teams in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking, which are distributed among the state departments of the judicial police across the country, the Directorate General of National Security has strengthened the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances through the central interest of the Judicial Police Directorate and other regional interests. This role is based on the activities of interests specializing in the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances: research and investigation teams, criminal teams, juvenile teams, etc.

As part of corrective measures to deter and combat narcotics and psychotropic substances, the legislator introduced article 6 bis of law no. 23-05, which stipulates that any minor likely to be

under the influence of narcotics or psychotropic substances may be subjected to medical analysis in the presence of his or her legal representative or lawyer, with notification of the public prosecutor.

It also highlights the important role played by the police's control interests through the forensic and technical police laboratories, where specialists carry out various analyses and forensic tests on all types of drugs seized.

Conclusion:

The aim of the national drug prevention and control strategy is to achieve two fundamental objectives: the first is to reduce the demand for drugs by implementing the preventive aspect of Law 23-05 amending and supplementing the law on the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the repression of the illicit use and trafficking of narcotics, which strengthens the participation of civil society in the development and implementation of the national strategy and sectoral and joint programmes for the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Programmes have been launched and addiction treatment centers have been set up throughout the country. The national strategy also aims to reduce the supply of drugs by setting up specialized teams to combat illicit drug trafficking in all the country's states. In addition to the forensic laboratories, where specialists carry out various analyses and forensic tests on all types of narcotics seized, all these efforts are backed up by substantial logistical support for the various operational teams and specialized national and international training courses for managers and investigators.

In the light of the above, we have come up with a series of proposals which can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ The efforts of all the social players in the family, schools, the media, security institutions and health institutions must be joined by social workers and psychologists as part of a community partnership to tackle the phenomenon.
- ✓ Develop more in-depth counter-strategies. It is not enough to tackle the phenomenon after falling into it; it is necessary to anticipate it before falling into it.
- ✓ Media education, using specialists in the field to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs.
- ✓ Activate legal deterrence by establishing strict deterrent laws against people convicted of drug-related offences.
- ✓ Introducing drug-related risks into educational programmes in schools helps to prevent the dangers of crime.

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