

**Meriem Belmihoub Zerdani (Algeria)**

Ms. Meriem Belmihoub, married name Zerdani.

Lawyer, Court of Algiers.

Lawyer at the Supreme Court of Algiers and the Council of State.

Law offices: 29, Rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers.

Married/mother of three children — all lawyers.

Husband Mr. Zerdani Abdelaziz.

Lawyer at the Supreme Court and Council of State.

Former minister and former deputy.

I completed my primary and secondary education in Algiers and Paris.

University studies in Paris, Algiers and Geneva.

Member of the National Liberation Front and the National Liberation Army (FLN-ALN) since May 1955.

Maquisard of the ALN in 1956.

Detained for four and a half years in jails in Algeria and France (in seven prisons).

Sentenced to imprisonment by the Permanent Tribunal of the Armed Forces of Algiers in April 1957.

Deputy of the National Constituent Assembly from 1962 to 1964 which provided Algeria with its first constitution.

Member of the Bureau of the National Constituent Assembly.

Member of the Commission for Education and Culture of that Assembly.

Degree in public law, 1964.

Holder of two certificates in educational psychology from the Institut Piaget, Geneva, 1961-1962.

Lawyer at the Court of Algiers in 1964.

Lawyer at the Supreme Court in 1974.

Assistant lecturer at the faculty of law for three years from 1964 to 1967.

Preparation of two doctorates in law in 1966, 1967 and 1968.

Member of the Bureau of the National Union of Algerian Women, 1963-1965.

Member of the Algiers Bar Council, 1972-1976.

Founding member of the National Association to Combat Illiteracy in 1964.

President of the constituent assembly of the Algerian Family Planning Association (AAPF) in 1989.

Women's rights activist.

Member of the Civil and Penal Code Amendment Commission to the Ministry of Justice.

Head of the delegation of women received by the President of the National Assembly in 1984 to present a list of complaints and an alternate draft text of the Family Code.

Minister Counsellor to the head of Government on legal and administrative affairs, 1992-1993.

Member of the Council of the Nation (Senate), January 1998 to January 2001.

Chair of the Group of Independent Members of the Council of the Nation (Senate).

Member of the Justice Reform Commission established by the President of the Republic in 1999.

Elected as an expert to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in August 2002, with a mandate until 2006. Vice-President of the Committee since January 2005, New York.

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