

<b>RESEARCH ARTICLE</b>	<b>The Activities of The Struggler Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi In Supporting the Algerian Revolution (1947-1962)</b>	
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<b>Abstract</b>		
<p>Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi, a Libyan by origin and Algerian in spirit, dedicated himself unwaveringly to the Algerian cause. His role in supporting the Algerian revolution cannot be confined to a simple article; entire books could be written about his contributions, and they still would not suffice. His support transcended political, material, military, and cultural domains. Politically, he sent numerous telegrams to Arab and foreign leaders and seized opportunities at Arab and international conferences to internationalize the Algerian cause. Materially, he founded the Libyan Committee to Support the National Liberation Army and collected donations to aid the revolution. Militarily, he facilitated the secure passage of weapons from Egypt to Algeria via Libya, ensuring they reached the Algerian mujahideen. His home served as a safe haven for Algerian fighters and activists. Culturally, his passion for travel was always intertwined with his advocacy for Algeria; wherever he went, he introduced the Algerian cause to the people and authorities. He tirelessly pursued these noble activities until Algeria gained its independence in 1962. As a final testament to his devotion, he instructed his family to bury him in the land of the Algerian martyrs, and his wish was honored. He was laid to rest in the El Alia Cemetery, near the Martyrs' Square, as a tribute to his invaluable efforts and his immeasurable love for Algeria.</p>		
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### Introduction

We often read in history and biography books about many dedicated fighters for the liberation of their countries from the yoke of occupation. We have also heard about national, revolutionary, scientific, and religious persons, each struggling to lift oppression from their homeland, society, and people.

However, we have not often heard about Arab persons who loaded the defense of national, Arab, and Islamic proposition as we have read and heard about the Libyan-origin, Algerian-spirited mujahid, "Al-Hadi Ibrahim Al-Mshirqi," the most prominent Arab person active in supporting the liberation revolution from 1947 until freedom.

Perhaps the reader of this simple preface feels some amplification in describing this man. However, this feeling

disappears after reading about him in most of the sources and references that documented his honorable history.

This man is undoubted, especially regarding his grand efforts in supporting most occupied countries, particularly Algeria, which he considered his second homeland. But also when he was asked during his many travels around the world about his homeland, he would answer without hesitation that his country is Algeria.

This made everyone who knew him realize that the man had a unique secret in his noble work style and his great ability to convince both the individuals and the general public.

For example, the Algerian mujahid, Mr. **"Mohamed Saleh Al-Siddiq,"** who was in charge of media propaganda for the liberation revolution in sisterly Libya, authored a book entirely documenting Libyan support for the liberation revolution titled **"The Brotherly Libyan People in Algeria's Jihad."** The book's cover features a picture of Al-Mshirqi and the daughters of martyrs whom the Libyan committee supporting the liberation revolution took care of raising and educating. Al-Siddiq also spoke extensively about him in his book, and there is no chapter in which the struggler "Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi" is not the most prominent person, as if the author summarized all Libyan support for the Algerian revolution in this man.

It seems that we, like others who read, wrote, and heard about this active personality and his noble activities, are deeply moved to the point of feeling ashamed of ourselves. We learned from him how The Muslim supports his Muslim brother in his war against any assaulting entity.

So, who is the struggler Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi? How did his relationship with Algerian fighters and revolutionaries begin? What are his most important activities in supporting the liberation revolution? And to what extent did he contribute for supporting and aiding the National Liberation Army and Front?

### **Biography of the Struggler Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi:**

Al-Mshirqi was born in Tripoli on January 19, 1908. He was granted Ottoman citizenship with the seal of Sultan Abdul Hamid II.<sup>1</sup> He belonged to a conservative family known for its scholarship and trade. Although he did not receive much formal education, he excelled in trade and became one of Libya's wealthiest individuals. He held a distinguished and prestigious position among businessmen and cultural persons.<sup>2</sup>

The Algerian researcher **"Abdullah Mengalati"** described him as a legend in boundless solidarity, a unique model that no matter how much we say about him, we cannot do him justice.<sup>3</sup>

Also, he described the mujahid "Mohamed Saleh Al-Siddiq" as a man of virtues and stances, admiring his great humility, which set him apart from everyone else. He added that the man possessed two strengths: the strength of wealth, being among Libya's most famous wealthy individuals, and the strength of fame, as his reputation spread across the globe. He was a global traveler who visited approximately 88 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Despite his vast wealth and fame, he employed them for the public good. However, according to the same source, his true strength lay not in his wealth or fame but in a divine spark that God placed within him, which was the secret of his existence and his superiority in life.<sup>4</sup>

Al-Mshirqi's wealth came from his directing to a chain of six hotels in Tripoli, of these the Al-Mahari Hotel and the Grand Hotel. These hotels were available to all revolution leaders. Even his farm, house, and workplaces served as headquarters for meetings and residences of Algerian revolution leaders.<sup>5</sup>

Al-Mshirqi worked with the Algerian fighters since 1947 until the outbreak of the liberation revolution and was a founding member of the Algeria Support Committee in Tripoli, serving as its treasurer. He was entrusted with several highly dangerous tasks and responsibilities by the revolution leaders from the outbreak of the revolution until independence.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Hadi Ibrahim Al-Mshirqi: My Story with the Revolution of a Million Martyrs, Dar Al-Ummah for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, Algeria, 2000, p 5.

<sup>2</sup> Deliouh Abdelhamid: Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi, His Personality and Struggle in the Algerian Revolution (1954-1962), Journal of Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol. 18, Special Issue, Algeria, 2018, p 76.

<sup>3</sup> Abdullah Mangalati: The Algerian Revolution in the Writings of Libyan Elites in Solidarity with It, Article published in the proceedings of the National Symposium: The Algerian Revolution in Arab and Foreign Writings, University of M'sila, 2023, p 220.

<sup>4</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq: The Brotherly Libyan People in Algeria's Jihad, Dar Al-Ummah, 2010, p 177.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p. 20.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p 6.

In his book "My Story with the Revolution of a Million Martyrs," Al-Mshirqi mentioned that he participated in the presidency and membership of many committees, councils, and organizations in service of the Arab and Islamic public well-being. He was solidly elected as a president for the Farmers' Association in 1947, who becoming the first Libyan Arab president of this association, which had previously been dominated by Italians. He was also one of the founders of the National Party and a member of its political bureau since its establishment until its merger with the National Congress. He organized the sending of mujahideen to Palestine, purchased weapons, and collected donations in 1948. He was offered several ministerial, legislative, and parliamentary positions in Libya but he refused them all, stating that he was a man of economics and that such positions were opportunities for exploitation. He remained an independent opposition person.<sup>7</sup>

### **Al-Mshirqi's Relationship with Algerian Fighters Before the Liberating Revolution:**

The mujahid "Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi" was not isolated from what was happening in Algeria before the outbreak of the liberating revolution. In his book "My Story with the Revolution of a Million Martyrs," he mentioned that he became acquainted with Algeria and its fighters during his stay in Tunisia, where France was celebrating the centenary of its occupation to Algeria. This celebration was extended to all its colonies in Africa, including Tunisia. The same source indicates that he worked for Algeria according to his abilities, describing this work as "the effort of an independent man". The Algerian mujahid "Mohamed Saleh Al-Siddiq," who published Al-Mshirqi's book, described this effort as heroic, originated from a personality saturated in manhood and honor.<sup>8</sup>

The mujahid "Mohamed Saleh Al-Siddiq" mentions that Al-Mshirqi visited Algeria in May 1948 as a part of the World Agricultural Conference, leading a delegation from the Tripoli Farmers' Association. There, he met with men from the national movement, such as "Messali El Hadj" and "Alamin Debaghine," and others. He also visited the headquarter of the Association of Muslim Scientists and met with a group of reviviscence, scholarly, and literary persons, discussing with them the situation in Libya and Algeria and their future.<sup>9</sup>

Al-Mshirqi toured Algiers and personally witnessed a people boiling with anger against occupation and desiring for change through a sweeping revolution. From that time, he determined to be a soldier in that revolution once it erupted, dedicating all his energies and capabilities to it, which indeed happened.<sup>10</sup>

Regarding the roots of Libyan support for the liberation revolution, both popular and governmental, former President "Ahmed Ben Bella" (may God have mercy on him) mentioned that he had established secret contacts with the Libyan government and some prominent national individuals from the Libyan people in an early time. Cooperation with them was ongoing, and assistance was actual but provided in absolute secrecy because Libya was still under foreign influence, and the chief of police in Tripoli at the time was British. Ben Bella confirmed that the November 1, 1954, revolution began with a very small quantity of weapons, between 350 and 400 Italian guns, which arrived secretly from Libya via Ghadames to Biskra and remained hidden in Algeria for more than a year before the outbreak of the blessed liberation revolution.<sup>11</sup>

### **Al-Mshirqi's Political and Economic Activities After the Outbreak of the Liberation Revolution:**

After the outbreak of the liberation revolution, Al-Mshirqi undertook sensitive tasks in arming the revolution, particularly contra banding weapons from foreign barracks in Libya and transporting weapons from Egypt to Tripoli, and then to Tunisia.<sup>12</sup>

He spent his own money and the donations he collected to purchase them. He also sought to convince the Libyan authorities to officially declare their support for the Algerian revolution after they had maintained silence for about a year and a half, fearing conflict with Western countries. He did this by sending numerous telegrams to King "Idris Al-Senussi," the Prime Minister, and the Parliament, thanking them for their secret assistance and encouraging them to provide more support. We include here a telegram he sent to the Libyan King as a sample:

"To His Majesty King **Idris I**, may God protect him, I extend to you, with all amazement and respect, my thankful for your noble and enduring efforts for Islam and the Arabs, particularly your denunciation of France's colonial actions against the struggling and fighting Algerian people for their freedom. Our hopes are pinned on you to aid our free

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p 7.

<sup>8</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p. 14.

<sup>9</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p. 179.

<sup>10</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p. 15.

<sup>11</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p. 145.

<sup>12</sup> Abdullah Mangalati: op.cit, p 221.

brothers, and we beg you to expedite assistance to them rapidly. This is in line with your patronizing aspirations and your glorious history, as you are the personification of honor and victory for Muslims."<sup>13</sup>

On the other hand in May 1956, Al-Mshirqi sent a series of telegrams to the presidents and kings of Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia, France, Sudan, as well as the Prime Minister of Libya, the Presidents of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and other officers.

He continued to send telegrams to the kings and presidents of Islamic and major countries, as well as international organizations, improving religious or national occasions and conferences to remind them of the necessity of supporting Algeria's just tying and putting an end to the vicious war led by colonial army multitudes in Algeria.<sup>14</sup>

Perhaps the spark that kindled the spirit of struggle for Algeria among both the exclusives and the general public in Libya was the congratulatory message published by the mujahid "Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi" in the Tripoli Al-Gharb newspaper on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr on May 11, 1956. Al-Mshirqi considered this a tactic to awaken firmness after he had almost lost hope on many occasions.<sup>15</sup>

For the importance of this message as the first actual step toward establishing the Libyan Committee to Support the Algerian National Liberation Army, I prefer it necessary to include its most significant content so that the reader can understand how a simple message mobilized thousands of Libyans to support their Algerian brothers. Meanwhile, today, we read, hear, and see what is happening to our brothers in Palestine, yet we remain largely inactive, except for those whom God has mercy on!

"To the children, mothers, daughters, brothers, sisters, and widows of the free martyrs of our Algerian brothers, we raise our voices loudly to share with them their massive sorrows and tragedies, expressing that we are not in a time of joy but in a time of prolonged anguish for cutting the lives of our dear ones, the children of our sisterly nation. However, this is in the name of honor, pride, and noble jihad... Victory from God and a near conquest... Al-Hadi Ibrahim Al-Mshirqi."<sup>16</sup>

This was the first article published in Libyan newspapers for the Algerian cause, and it faced very positive reactions from various social groups. It also was as a starting point and a license to support the Algerian revolution and to be besides its victorious march with money and lives. It quickly transformed into an organized and was not preceded effort, with the first meeting held at the mujahid "Al-Mshirqi's" house in Benghazi on May 18, 1956.<sup>17</sup>

### **The Libyan Committee to Aid the Algerian National Liberation Army:**

This committee was a voluntary Libyan group dedicated to serving the liberation revolution. It was established by a number of Libyan nationalists, led by the struggler "Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi." The committee included many of intellectuals, writers, and nationalists from various cities and country sides of sisterly Libya. Its goal was to support and assist Algerian mujahideen against French occupation. This committee served as a suitable shelter for the leaders of the liberation revolution during their visits to Libya or Egypt, providing them with housing and meeting places. It also managed to secure the maximum possible donations to support the National Liberation Army both inside and outside Algeria.

According to the book by its author, "Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi," the committee was established on May 18, 1956, under the name "The Libyan Committee to Aid the Algerian National Liberation Army" or "The House Committee." After a time, its name changed without altering its methods or goals. It was also known as the Office Committee, the Supreme Committee to Support Algeria, and the Committee to Championship the Algerian Revolution. The committee was overseen by a president, three assistants, five members, and a donations manager, who changed with time and circumstances.

The first meeting of the group that would form this committee took place on May 18, 1956, at the struggler "Al-Mshirqi's" house. The meeting included several Libyans enthusiastic about the liberation revolution. Ten more meetings followed, both day and night. During the eleventh meeting, Al-Mshirqi noted that the number of attendees had been doubled, and his house could no longer accommodate them.

They selected a group of attendees to represent everyone. This group assumed the responsibility of organizing

<sup>13</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p. 87.

<sup>14</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p. 147.

<sup>15</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p. 94.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p 100.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p p 101-102.

meetings and discussed what could be done for the Algerian matter. They decided to name the gathering "The Libyan Committee to Aid the Algerian National Liberation Army." After the committee's establishment, legations began arriving from all directions, requesting to join and participate in this noble work, each according to their ability.

At the twelfth meeting, they decided to announce the name of the body comprising this group, with the selection and election of its members from among themselves. The attendees raised their voices in support of:<sup>18</sup>

1. Mr. Al-Hadi Ibrahim Al-Mshirqi as Treasurer.
2. Mr. Saad Ali Al-Sharif as Assistant.
3. Mr. Jamil Al-Mabrouk as Assistant.
4. Mr. Al-Hadi Shanshan as Assistant.
5. Mr. Al-Amin Abu Hamed as Member.
6. Mr. Mohamed Al-Najjar as Member.
7. Mr. Saeed Al-Sarraj as Member.
8. Mr. Mohamed Bin Taher as Member.
9. Mr. Mohamed Al-Bahilil as Member.
10. Mr. Ahmed Rassem Bakir as Member and Head of the Donations Collection Office.

A "Finance Committee" emerged from the main committee, as the group recognized the National Liberation Army's need for funds. Crowds then began coming to the committee to donate money. To legitimize the committee, they sent telegrams to state officials, members of legislative and executive councils, explaining the group's facts, goals, and steps taken, and seeking their advice.<sup>19</sup>

No long time passed, till the scope of work expanded, and the number of volunteers doubled. Other groups from tribes and countryside areas began requesting to join this noble work. Al-Mshirqi noted that his house could no longer accommodate them, so they moved to Mr. Saad Al-Sharif's office on Al-Bayda Street. The office, shop, and the entire Al-Bayda Street transformed due to the inflow of delegations and people from all over Libya to donate and support Algeria.<sup>20</sup> This place also became insufficient for the committee's growing activities, so they relocated to a new office in the Awqaf Building on Bab Al-Hurriya Street.<sup>21</sup>

There, a new form was established under a new name, "The Support for the Algerian Revolution Committee," with new members added. The new committee members were:

Mahmoud Abdul Salam Subhi as President, Mukhtar Nasif as Administrative Manager, and eight members: Mohamed Bin Taher, Saad Ali Al-Sharif, Youssef Al-Azabi, Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi, Ahmed Rasim Bakir, Youssef Suleiman Madi, Omar Talouba, and Hamida Al-Hani.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Opening a Current Account in Al-Mshirqi's Name to Collect Donations:**

The first step taken by the committee was opening an account in Al-Mshirqi's name to collect donations, recommended and approved by all committee members. Al-Mshirqi noted that the Libyan authorities' stance at the time was very positive and productive regarding the Algerian matter. He went to the Bank of Egypt in Tripoli and opened an account in his name to gather donations, which received a highly enthusiastic response.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p 103.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Mohammed Wadou: *Libyan Support for the Algerian Revolution (1954-1962)*, Dar Qurtuba, Algeria, 2012, p 93.

<sup>22</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p. 151.

<sup>23</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p 120.

Within a short period, the committee amassed a significant financial reserve at the bank. Al-Mshirqi then began delivering these funds, on behalf of the committee, to representatives of the Algerian revolution who visited Tripoli individually on missions within Libya or in roads to other destinations. This procedure continued until June 1957, when the National Liberation Army Office was established in Tripoli. That the collected funds were transferred to this office's account.<sup>24</sup>

### Sources of Committee Funding

The committee's funding sources were varied, both financially and in-kind. Donations arrived in the form of money, checks, jewelry, clothing, blankets, shoes, medicines, vehicles, electronic devices, and records. Additionally, Zakat funds of various types were contributed,<sup>25</sup> with Libyan scholars and sheikhs guiding these donations through fatwas signed by character such as Sheikh Abdul Hamid Shahin, Sheikh Mahmoud Subhi, and Sheikh Ali Al-Shuwaitir. These fatwas emphasized the obligation to pay Zakat and assistance for Algeria's benefit and stressed that fighting the French in Algeria was, according to Islamic law, more important than performing the Hajj.<sup>26</sup>

On another front, Al-Mshirqi mentions that he held a meeting to support the Algerian revolution with representatives from sports and artistic teams, helpful associations, national theater and cinema assemblies, the Supreme Sports Authority, the Libyan Cinema Company Limited (Trans-Lux), and the Libyan Youth Sports Club. They responded positively and became, in his words, more revolutionary than the Algerian revolutionaries themselves. They began organizing events or offering shows whose proceeds went to support the Algerian revolution. Al-Mshirqi also sent numerous periodic letters to prominent individual in Libya, aiming to make a deep personal connection with the Algerian revolution. These letters reached 300 individuals, with 240 of them responding and donating to the Algerian benefit.<sup>27</sup>

### Al-Mshirqi's Ways to Spread the Committee's Method to Libyan Society:

Al-Mshirqi realized that personal contacts with the public, despite their effectiveness and achievement of desired results, were insufficient. He therefore intended to printing requests directly speaking to both the individuals and the general public. This method was more effective in cities and large gatherings, helping to create a public opinion supporting the Algerian situation. He ensured these calls were brief, clear, and direct, gaining the trust of citizens and motivating them to donate willingly. These calls continued from the first one until the final moments of Al-Mshirqi's activities and after him the Libyan committee.<sup>28</sup>

### The Benefits of Al-Mshirqi's Calls on the Individuals and the General Public:

Al-Mshirqi mentions that the demanded goal achieved through the committee and its public calls for daily recruitment to support Algeria was to guide the ruling authorities toward the right way. He expressed this by saying, "The amounts we collected, despite their size, were not the ultimate goal. From the very beginning of the committee's formation, we aimed for something greater, which we were all certain would enforce itself, and it had been. The echoes reached across the Arab world, making it clear to rulers that any hesitation or reservation in supporting Algeria would only mean one thing: resisting the people, which they could not do. Thus, they joined the popular movement, though with only speeches, words, and minimal material support, with some exceptions, for the sake of historical accuracy."<sup>29</sup>

### Al-Mshirqi's Activity After the Opening of the National Liberation Front Office in Libya (June 1957):

After the office was established in Tripoli, Al-Mshirqi requested the committee to release him of his responsibilities as Treasurer, suggesting they employ a representative from the National Liberation Front Office to be instead of him. This would allow Algerians to directly manage their funds without intermediaries. Indeed, the mujahid "Jilani" prospered him, and the committee expanded its work, forming sub-committees in every village in Tripoli. The office manager, mujahid Ahmed Boda, occasionally visited these branches for supervision and oversight.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Mohammed Wadoue: op.cit, p 94.

<sup>25</sup> Such as Zakat al-Fitr, Zakat of grains, Zakat of oil, and general Zakat. See, Basma Khalifa Abu Lssain: The Libyans and the Algerian Revolution, A Study on the Efforts of the Fundraising Committee to Assist Algeria in the Province of Tripoli (1954-1962), Dar Al-Raid for Books, Algeria, 2010, p. 95.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, p30.

<sup>27</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p 109.

<sup>28</sup> See an example of these appeals in Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi's book: ibid, p 113.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid, p 109.

<sup>30</sup> Mohammed Wadoue: op.cit, p 95.

Al-Mshirqi mentions his reason for moving as Treasurer, despite remaining a committee member, as a desire to follow a higher service. He felt that his role as Treasurer had consumed all his time and energy, requiring full dedication, while he saw the need to engage in multiple areas to serve the revolution. He aimed according to the success in money summation to work with the Temporary Government of Algeria, the National Liberation Army, and the National Liberation Army Office, while also managing his private work, which he relied on, after God, to fulfill his duties and commitments.<sup>31</sup>

### **Al-Mshirqi's Role in Supporting the Liberation Revolution:**

It is impossible to fully cover the role of the struggler Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi in supporting the Algerian revolution in a brief article like this. His role could fill entire books and still not sufficient. However, we will attempt to summarize the most important aspects of his role, dividing it into several branches to clarify the idea, take lessons, and appreciate this exceptional personality who left no way not followed and no measure untaken to support Algeria:

#### **1. Collecting Donations:**

From the beginning of establishing the committee, Al-Mshirqi focused on collecting funds in various forms and delivering them to representatives of the liberation revolution who visited Libya before the establishment of the National Liberation Front Office in Tripoli. The donations collected in 1956 amounted to 19,124,933 Libyan pounds, delivered to the revolution representative, mujahid Ahmed Boda, in Libya under receipt number 578 at the Arab Bank in Tripoli. In 1957-1958, the committee collected 29,628,321 Libyan pounds, while in 1958-1959, this amount nearly doubled to 50,043,860 Libyan pounds. In 1960, the collection reached 56,590,500 Libyan pounds, and by 1962, it reached to 59,843.68 Libyan pounds.<sup>32</sup>

The steady increase in collected amounts each year ensures the continuing spirit of struggle among our Libyan brothers among the liberation revolution's progress until independence. Notably, in 1962, following the summer crisis, the committee took a firm and responsible posture by freezing funds at the Arab Bank under account number 578 because of the political struggle between the revolution leaders. This was done to ensure the funds were used for the noble cause they were intended for. The funds were then transferred to a special account at the Bank of Rome, with committee members Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi and Saad Al-Sharif authorized to manage them. Also, the valuable donations were stored in a special storeroom under the committee's supervision. On July 17, 1962, both members issued a declaration granting either of them the right to act in the other's absence, after consulting with the rest of the committee members.<sup>33</sup>

#### **2. Boycotting French Goods:**

On the other hand, The Libyan Committee to Support Algeria also pressured the French economy by calling for a complete boycott of French goods. For that they delivered a call through radio and newspapers, urging the Libyan people to boycott France. They also met with traders, employers, and work unions to achieve the same goal, setting early 1961 as the official start of the Libyan people's boycott of France.<sup>34</sup>

Despite Al-Mshirqi being in a Frankfurt hospital at the time, he sent a telegram to the conference held in Cairo on January 6, 1961, advocating for a French boycott. He expressed hope for their success in lessening the load of France's attacks on Algerian people. The telegram stated, "...Our hopes are held on you to take positive positions against France by boycotting it in every possible form."<sup>35</sup>

As a result of these efforts, Libyans began an effective boycott of France in January 1961, regardless of the necessity of the goods imported from there. French ships returning from Libyan ports with their shipment, despite France's attempts to disguise them under the Italian flag for many times. A special committee was formed to strictly apply the boycott across all sectors. A "black list" was maintained in their records to identify traders and institutions dealing with French commercial entities in any form. This firm and distinctive position had a profound echo on the Algerian people and significantly influenced the liberation revolution's progress.<sup>36</sup>

### **Al-Mshirqi's Cultural Activities in Support of the Liberation Revolution:**

<sup>31</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, pp 132-136.

<sup>32</sup> Basma Khalifa Abu Lssain: op.cit, pp 31-48.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, p 49.

<sup>34</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p 99.

<sup>35</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: op.cit, p 499.

<sup>36</sup> Mohammed Al-Salih Al-Siddiq, op.cit, p 103.

The struggler Al-Mshirqi's support for the Algerian matter extended beyond political, material, and military domains. His cultural efforts were equally significant, driven by his desire for travel and his unwavering commitment to Algeria. Wherever he went, he advocated for the Algerian matter, even during his visit to Japan he authored a book about this journey titled "A Libyan in Japan," dedicating it to the Algerian revolution and allocating its proceeds to support the mujahideen. In the book's introduction, he wrote:

"To the heroic fighters of Algeria... To my Arab brothers everywhere... To my Muslim brothers in the East and West... To the free Arab mujahideen across the globe... I present this modest book, hoping that by purchasing a copy, readers in homes will enjoy a journey to the Far East, a relaxing tour of Japan, and contribute to the war for Algeria's liberation and the discharge of occupation. This book which I edited for the benefit of mujahideen and fighters- May God grant them victory, success, and guidance to what He loves and is pleased with."<sup>37</sup>

The book was well-received by readers, scholars, and cultural individuals. In response, Mr. Ahmed Tawfik Al-Madani sent a telegram to Al-Mshirqi, expressing his admiration and thankfulness on behalf of the National Liberation Front and Army. He remarked, "I have never seen such a noble act before—supporting jihad by enriching minds! Through this work, you have achieved both goals and earned double the recompense. You have set a good example, and may you receive the reward for it and for those who follow in your footsteps until the Day of Judgment."<sup>38</sup>

The Libyan researcher Basma Khalifa noted in her reading of the book for the resembling between the occupation circumstances in Algeria and Japan,<sup>39</sup> which Al-Mshirqi highlighted. A key focus of his Japanese journey was visiting Hiroshima to witness the upsetting result of nuclear experiments.<sup>40</sup>

#### **Al-Mshirqi's Family and the Liberation Revolution:**

Al-Mshirqi's devotion to the Algerian matter was not solitary neither the last; his wife, Mrs. Adila Al-Mshirqi, and his daughter, Miss Bahija, were a fantastic pattern. Al-Mshirqi was deeply proud of their contributions, considering them a heavenly gift from God for his efforts. He expressed his appreciation, saying, "The Algerian holy matter consumed me entirely, becoming my first and last priority in terms of effort and time.

God rewarded me in a way that matched my dedication and sincerity. It was according to my faithfully duty which Islam forced, and I cannot overstate how this great reward made me content and at peace." My wife and daughter joined the same plan. Mrs. Adila often hosted Algerian mujahidat in her home, providing them with hospitality and companionship. She even offered her entire home to mujahideen and their guests. She accompanied Al-Mshirqi on dangerous tasks across Europe, facing the threats of the Red Hand gangs and French anti-Algerian organizations.<sup>41</sup>

His daughter Bahija, despite her young age, excelled in cultural, media, and propaganda efforts for the Algerian revolution. She wrote articles for newspapers, delivered radio broadcasts, and chose exciting titles and important information to publish. One of her notable articles in the Tripoli newspaper, published in preparation for Algeria Week, was titled, "**Women are half of society... Prepare for Algeria Week.**"<sup>42</sup>

Algeria Week encountered significant participation from Libyan women, who donated their jewelry, no matter how valuable, without hesitation. Between 1958 and 1962, the Libyan committee collected 374 diamond, gold, and silver rings, 753 gold and silver bracelets, 92 wristwatches (including four pure gold watches), 15 gold and silver chains, 780 gold and silver earrings, 36 gold louiza pendants, and one large gold necklace adorned with diamonds, weighing over 200 grams, along with two gold coins.<sup>43</sup>

#### **Conclusion:**

In reflecting on the noble endeavors of this selfless struggler and his tireless efforts to support the Algerian revolution, both materially and morally, we find ourselves ashamed, like students before a teacher who, though not formally educated, imparted profound lessons in jihad, sacrifice, and giving. May God reward him abundantly for his greatness and dedication to serving the Algerian revolution with all his efforts.

<sup>37</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: A Libyan in Japan, Government Press, Tripoli, 1957, p 5.

<sup>38</sup> To view the full text of the telegram, see the same source, p 6.

<sup>39</sup> Basma Khalifa Abu Lssain: op.cit, p 89.

<sup>40</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: A Libyan in Japan, op.cit, p 34.

<sup>41</sup> Al-Hadi Al-Mshirqi: My Story with the Revolution of a Million, op.cit, p 266.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, p 525.

<sup>43</sup> Basma Khalifa Abu Lssain: op.cit, p 114.

Al-Mshirqi lived a long and healthy life, passing away at the age of 99 in Libya, according to what was reported in the Algerian newspaper Al-Raya<sup>44</sup> on Sunday, October 14, 2007. His love for Algeria was so profound that he requested to be buried there, a wish honored by Algeria. Former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika arranged for Al-Mshirqi to be entombed in the El Alia Graveyard, near the Martyrs' Square, alongside Algerian heroes, presidents, and revolutionaries, including Houari Boumediene, Mohamed Boudiaf, Rabah Bitat, Prince Abdelkader, Ben Boulaid, and others. An Algerian plane transported his remains from Libya, and his funeral was attended by former President Ahmed Ben Bella and numerous mujahideen leaders. Thus, Al-Mshirqi remained a bridge between the two brotherly peoples, both in life and in death. May God have mercy on them all and grant them the company of the righteous.

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<sup>44</sup> Mohieddine Amimour: We Will Not Forget Those Who Stood with the Algerian Revolution, Al-Raya Newspaper, Algeria, October 23, 2007.