Fall / Winter 2016 Volume 20, Issue 2

### Tayect Tamaziyt

Tasyunt n Tiddukla Tadelsant Tamaziyt deg Marikan



## **Editorial**

#### BY AREZKI BOUDIF

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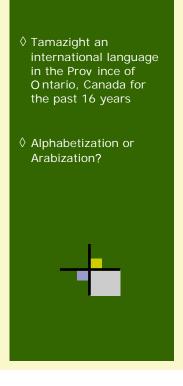
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t turned into a habit that our editorials digress to other fields instead of keeping focused on the traditional Amazigh issues, which is the primary dedication of this newsletter. Thus, from time to time, too often perhaps, we are forced, pushed away from what should be a pivotal center, towards fields with steep slopes and oceans with abyssal depths. We often find ourselves wandering and drifting among the debris of political storms. Why can't we reach some sort of consensus on an important matter such as "Which graphic system to use to transcribe our language"? Let's take this example. For some time, we thought we made a choice to write our language, Tamazight, using the Latin script, and we had an argument to defend it. The Latin script is the most appropriate one because it would enable us to do gigantic strides towards the development of our language, and also because generations of our most honorable scholars have dedicated a lot of efforts and ingenuity to bequeath us their treasure.

Today, however, we are on the verge of losing the battle of our choice: Governments of North African states are making every effort to deprive us from the right to choose a graphic system for our language. Does the danger come only from that front? Not Only Everyone who watches the programs of a private television channel speaking mostly in Tamazight may have noticed that it granted itself the authority or a mandate to promote another graphic system for its generics and subtitles. What kind of luck is this? Even the rules of business dont seem to be in our favor. Does the management of that TV channel know that 90% of their viewers, who paid their fair share to watch their program, can't read that script?

We have the right and the duty to let this TV Channel know that they are crossing their prerogative as a broadcasting company. I remember the time when hundreds of sympathetic Imazighen, here in North America, have pitched in to save them from closing. It is legitimate to ask them, today, in return, a due respect and consideration in the name of our shared cultural heritage.

Here is a good opportunity to stress the need for an independently organized Body, where our best specialists, linguists, writers, scientists,

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#### The Amazigh Voice

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## News ISALLEN News

## A Doctorate thesis on Tamazight honored at the University Of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Ramdane Boukhrouf, a graduate student at the Department of Amazigh Language and Culture, School of Arts and Languages of Mouloud Mammeri University in Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria, has recently defended in Lausanne a PhD thesis on Tamazight, under the title: "The Textual Organization of Anaphores in Berber", jointly advised by Prof. Noura Tigziri and Prof. Jean-Michel Adam. This research work has been selected among the best theses of the academic year 2015-2016 at the University of Lausanne. This achievement puts the Amazigh scholar on a list for an award that honors him as much as the University of Tizi-Ouzou.

Thank you for your contribution Ramdane, and congratulations. Don't we say that "Large Rivers are made of small streams?"

Source: Newspaper Liberte, Algerie 1 / 6/2 16

Amazigh Voice



## Madjid Boutemeur, Physicist, A hopeful Candidate for the Nobel Prize

Madjid Boutemeur is a doctor of nuclear physics and particle physics,



and University professor. He is part of the world elite of researchers in this field and is optimistic about his chances of winning the Nobel Prize one day. He works at CERN in Geneva, the "Large Hadron Collider" (LHC), the most powerful particle accelerator in the world. located under the Franco-Swiss border. Madjid was born in 1962 in Tazmalt, a village on the heights of the Djurdjura Mountains in Kabylia, Iwaquren. After secondary studies at the Middle School Mouloud Amrouche then at the polyvalent High School of Bouira, he obtained his Baccalauréat (High School Degree) in 1980 with very high honors (an overall average of 17/20 and a 20/20 in mathematics). He then went on to study at the Université Mouloud Mammeri in Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria. The granting of a scholarship allowed him to continue his graduate studies at the Université de Grenoble. France, where he prepared a doctoral thesis in collaboration with CERN. At the end of his thesis in 1987, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize. He then prepared and defended another

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# Nabile Farès The Loss of a Great Man, A Legacy Projected into the Future

## BY FAZIA AITEL TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY HSEN AT UAMRAN

t all happened at the Université Paris VIII, in France. Nabile Farès was teaching a hard-won course on Amazigh civilization. I will always remember this first and magical course dedicated, among other things, to Jugurtha, the ogress of the Kabyl tales, Keblout from Kateb Yacine's Nedjma, Freud, as well as the Koran and the Bible. We had before us a passionate mind that was bubbling with activity and creativity. The blackboard was gradually filled with concepts, drawings, diagrams, Amazigh characters, arrows and connections, so much so that a person that would have unexpectedly entered the room would have thought it was a meeting of a secret sect or Kabbalistic study session. I was a student in English and I had taken Fares'course just for personal interest. As we say in the US, it was an elective. This class, however, was going to change the direction of my life. The Amazigh language and culture were taught in the Department of minority languages and cultures in the same way as Quechua, Nahuatl, and Breton languages. Given Basque marginalization of Tamazight even in terms of its study at the university level, I took the course as a way of taking a stand, hoping to deepen my meager knowledge about the history of my native culture. But the course was not about laying a claim for the amazighness of North Africa, neither was it a course on Amazigh culture and civilization, as I imagined. At that time and even today, Tamazight as an object of study was stuck in an intellectual impasse where reflection existed almost exclusively through protest discourse, with its list of grievances, claims and complaints against oppression and marginalization. This discourse, as important as it might be, must be heard in conjunction with, in parallel to, or even independently of a critical reflection on language, history and civilization rather than replace it. What Farès did in that first class and the others that followed is decompartmentalize Tamazight, get it out of this glass prison that shielded it, where we complained for it and

defended it. Tamazight (in all its dimensions) became central, instead of being marginal. It became the object of intellectual inquiry, not of complaint, projection, and discord; it became modern, contemporary and dynamic, not anchored in the past and stuck in tradition. Fares had set free the reflection on Tamazight (its language, its history, its alphabet, myths, etc.) from its « straitjacket » to invite

F ares had released the reflection on Tamazight ( its language, its history, its alphabet, myths, etc.) from its « straight j acket » to invite it to the table of the great discussions of the moment, in psychoanalysis, anthropology, religious studies, linguistics,

it to the table of the great discussions of the moment, psychoanalysis, anthropology, religious studies, linguistics, history, etc. Thus, Tamazight (its history, contradictions, fantasies, complexes, traditions...) came to flourish in contact with these disciplines while informing and

irrigating them. They were still operating in isolation. Tamazight was taking part in what Glissant called the « rustle of the world ».

I was at a point in my life where I felt that I had to choose between two passions: one that I felt for American literature and the other which was my visceral attachment to the Amazigh language which I did not know what to do with; these two passions also seemed as incompatible as the two faces of Janus. Farès was curious and his curiosity spread to his students, which distinguished him from his peers. Gentle, affable and generous with his time, he willingly grabbed a cup of coffee with his students. He also knew how to listen, and he listened with his heart. I was not surprised to learn, much later, that

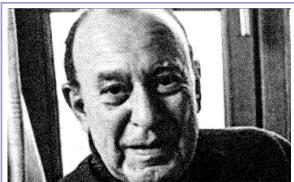
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he left his teaching position to practice psychoanalysis. He had an innate sense of listening coupled with self-sacrifice, availability and intellectual vigor rarely found together in the same individual. Farès opened a path for me. The path was new and salutary: the combination of English Studies and Tamazight. It was on his advice that I started looking into the works on the Tamazight issue that were written in English. I was happy to discover, years later, that Farès, who never mentioned it to me, had already made that very connection in his novel A *Passenger from the West* where he featured the famous black American writer James Baldwin whom he had met in Paris. This novel, like all novels by Farès, is dense, complex and a vast literary wealth.

Passenger of the West was published in 1971, just before the advent of postcolonial studies in the US that will affect Europe much later. This movement is generally associated with the work by Edward Said, Orientalism (1978) and its consolidation with the publication in 1989 of The Empire Writes Back (Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin). This is mainly to study and question the interactions between ex-colonial nations and former colonies deconstruct concepts such as the West. In his novel A Passenger from the West, Farès features a narrator (kind of alter ego) who is, as the title suggests, a passenger of the West, who crosses this space and its borders while diving into a deep introspection, thereby embodying the idea of the empire that « counter-writes », a concept that will later become so popular, and of which we find the last romantic incarnation in Meursault, contreenquête, the latest novel by Kamel Daoud.

While the West was built on the mummification of the Other who remained stationary and unchanged which in turn allowed the traveler of « the East » to create itself and the Western philosophy to articulate, in the novel of Farès, it is the turn of the non-Western to build, through his physical mobility in a fixed and determined West.

The passenger of the West opens with a meeting between the narrator and James Baldwin and their disturbing conversation on the situation of blacks in the United States. Incidentally, the narrator makes very sharp reflections on American literature, and hence on American society, while identifying the omnipresence of blacks: « what makes the quality of the white American novels is that they are written by whites, and that, through the pages, the black is everywhere. » Farès' discernment here is noteworthy because it occurred 20 years before the noted study by American writer Toni Morrison *Playing in the Dark* where she explores the presence of black Americans in the white imagination of his countrymen. Empathy, humanity, and active solidarity the narrator displays towards Baldwin and his people are not one-way. They exist in reciprocity and it is in this co-birth project that



Nabile Farès

the narrator offers James Baldwin a copy of his first novel, *ahia pas de chance*. During a meeting with James Baldwin, who was accompanied by one of his friends, the friend asked about the origin of the narrator. The latter replied: « In a peninsula I was born, surrounded by water, in Lower Kabylia, in Collo. A subtle reflection follows on the place of Kabylia in the Algerian nation and in its psyche:

« [...] If you were beyond the peninsula and said to an Algerian you encountered: «I am Kabyl», what do you think he/she would answer ... he/she would tell you: «you're wrong, you are Algerian before being Kabyl,» which is unthinkable for us historically. Algeria came after Kabylia. This is a fact because Algeria is a recent creation of the rights of peoples to self-determination. And if people have the right to self rule, we the inhabitants of the peninsula do not understand why the inhabitants among these people would not have the right to self-determination. Being Kabyl does not mean I am not Algerian, but simply that as Algerian, I am first Kabyl. There isn't much to fuss about unless

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#### (Continued from page 4)

Kabylia is the caesura of national consciousness [...] »

Who better than Farès in this last line could express with such brevity and depth the malaise of Algeria with Kabylia, a malaise that continues to haunt it? The fineness of spirit, discernment and love that Farès had for literature, he also had it for philosophy, psychoanalysis, poetry, theater, and people. Undoubtedly, Fares belongs to the lineage of Jean Amrouche, Mammeri and Feraoun. He bequeathed us a rich and varied work, kneaded with questionings, introspection, humor, humanity and wisdom we have yet to explore. Without really knowing it, and because Farès was as much misunderstood as he was humble and discreet, it is all of Kabylia, Algeria, and all humanity that have lost a great man. Farès, however, has left behind a fabulous legacy that is projected into the future

## Dda Lwennas Yeǧǧa-yaɣ Lounes Kheloui Passed Away *Sɣur Muḥend Lεid Deflawi*

nce again, Kabyl art is in mourning; Consternation is at the highest in Kabylia following the passing of Lounès Kheloui on November 3, 2016 who suffered from a long lasting illness. He sure has left an enormous vacuum in the Kabyl art landscape. Late Lounès Kheloui was born in 1950 in Taddert Tamuqrant, a village in the Aarsh of Ihesnawen, the same birthplace as his idol, the child prodigy of Ihesnawen: Ccix Lhesnawi.

Lounès Kheloui embraced the art of singing during the 70s. Since then, he delighted his fans with his unusual low pitch voice on melodies of the "chaabi or pop" genre and Kabyl poetry. Using lyrics from an inspiring poetry together with authentic musical compositions, he has produced more than a dozen albums that included several masterpiece songs in which he tackled diverse themes such as life, love, the disappointments of youth, the Amazigh identity issue, exile, the turbulence of society, etc. In addition to the perfect mastery of his art, Kheloui was a humble and generous artist, very close to the poor, the youth and the most vulnerable. Thus, he often took part in those charitable galas.

The huge homage that Kabyls have paid to him during his funerals is a clear indication that his fans and the people of Kabylia in general have placed him high in the pantheon of unforgettable artists. Didn't they elevate him during his lifetime to the rank of Chikh, or Master, with all the meaning of wisdom, knowledge, and respect that the word infers? But, True Artists never die. So, ciao Artist!

The editing team of The Amazigh Voice wishes to present their sincere

condolences to the Kheloui family and assure them of our solidarity in these difficult times

Translated from French by Amazigh Voice.



Lounès Kheloui during one of his concerts

# The Script and Teaching of Tamazight (Algeria /Morocco): The Central Issue<sup>1</sup>

## NACIRA ABROUS\* TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY LAK AMARA & AREZKI BOUDIF

#### Introduction

Herein, I wish to report on the graphic or scriptural issue inherent to teaching of the Berber Language, Tamazight, in a comparative approach between Algeria and Morocco. I will discuss the implementation of the different types of scripts through the analysis of the administrative measures, and of the didactic tools developed during the current teaching experience. In view of the respective contexts, and based on continuous observation, I will focus on the impact of those institutional interventions on sociolinguistic realities related to some developments aiming at integrating the Berber language into the institutional and social environment in both countries.

I have mainly relied on the evidence gathered in academic literature published by specialists in the field of Berber studies. I have also included a comprehensive works of conceptualizing the development of the Berber language in all its aspects: S. Chaker (1982, 1996a, 1998); G. Camps, H. Claudot-Hawad, S. Chaker and D. Abrous (1996); A. Bounfour (1995, 2004, 2008); A. El Mountassir (1994) and K. Naït-Zerrad (1995, 2002, 2009), on the synchronic and diachronic viewpoints in the context of language planning and / or political anthropology.

The historical paths of the two processes taken as an example are reflecting on the conditions in which the language planning has been carried out, and how they have been associated with sociolinguistic data that had tremendous significance in the standardization of the language, or even its codification, including the choice of the script system. This latter will be the first benchmark

test that will determine the total or partial intervention of the administration on the basis of a linguistic ideology.

# Implementation of the teaching of Tamazight and its logical supports: the choice of a transcription system

#### Early Steps

Taken from the outer

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the subject matter in

education.

Taken from the outer side, the issue of script appears as being more problematic in Algeria because of the use of multiple script systems (Latin, Arabic and Tifinagh scripts) and its non-compulsory status in the education system. However, in the case of Morocco, this choice has seen

many unexpected outcomes that have revealed some distortions and this requires a thorough review.

When inaugurated Algeria: respectively in 1990 and 1991, the Departments of Berber Studies at the Universities of Tizi-Ouzou and Bgayet, in Kabylia, did not receive recommendations as to which script to use. The Latin script was accepted de facto because of a traditional use of this script by researchers in the field of Berber studies in the extra-institutional academic spheres as well as among groups of activists and cultural associations. It is worthwhile to mention that only courses dedicated to the practice and the writing

of the language are taught in Berber, the rest of the curriculum is taught in French, which left open the codification question<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, when the experimental classes were launched in 1995, in a sort of emergency political context, the question of the script has not been raised, neither was it the subject of any official statement or debate, including in academic circles (N. Abrous 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Aspect partially addressed in an article of the REB, 9, 2 14, p. 11-37: "Berber education in Algeria / Morocco: some comparative elements"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The forerunners of Dahbia Abrous at Bgayet and Mohand Ouamar Ousalem at Tizi-Wezzu.

And, due to the high proportion of Kabyl speakers in the first training session among the trainee-teachers organized in Ben Aknoun, on the heights of Algiers, the script used for the formal education since then (1995 for experimental classes) was done predominant in the Latin script. Nevertheless, a "Multiple graphic system" was a reality for the minority of Tuareg teachers who used Tifinagh script and Chaoui and Mozabite teachers who used Arabic script.

In Morocco: At the time when IRCAM<sup>3</sup> was instituted, the debate on the choice of a script for the Berber language was relatively intense but was quickly evacuated: the choice of Tifinagh was made, ending the controversy (see Akhiate, 2012, and Bounfour, 2003), and the heated arguments between the proponents of Latin script (labeled as Latinists) and those of Arabic script (also known as Arabists") was put out with little publicity; this latter faction is an emanation of the conservative Baathist and/or Islamist circles (Pouessel, 2008), and more widely from Moroccan left wing political parties, etc.

IRCAM has not only formalized the choice of the Tifinagh alphabet, for the character part, but it also opted for a phonological writing, just like when Latin scripts were used (materializes with the suppression of the "neutral" vowel "e").

Salem Chaker (2004), addressed the transcription system choice as follows: "On a more technical point of view, for any serious scholar in the field of Berber studies who has tried to address this issue, there should be no doubt, and there is none to me, and I gave my reasons 20 years ago: The development of the Berber language on a larger scale will necessarily go through the use of the Latin script for three main reasons:

- ♦ The bulk of the available scientific literature is written in this script,
- A significant work and effort has been dedicated to the development of this system for at least 50 years,
- The bulk of literary production for the general public (associations' newsletters , literary production), in North Africa as well as in Europe, uses this script. "

But according to Ahmed Boukous (2010): "The approach adopted in the development of the standard Tifinagh alphabet is in fact dictated by the need for the arrangement of this alphabet in order to adapt it to the phonological system of the Moroccan Amazigh language standard. For this reason, it was necessary to make few amendments which led to the modification of the form of certain characters borrowed from the notations of the neo-Tifinagh."

By emphasizing the historic and authentic aspects of Tifinagh characters, IRCAM has found the most powerful argument for its needed balancing position. The Royal Institute was somehow helped by the shyness of the proponents of the Latin script, although very numerous, to assume publicly their choice in the face of such a symbolically powerful argument. It is important to notice that the opposition did not come from the "traditional" users of Arabic scripts because the use of the different scripts in Morocco was diverse and rather fluctuating, with strongly anchored use of Arabic characters in the Sous. Nevertheless some Academic voices have confirmed that the "subjective" and/or ideological criterion may have pushed towards this choice.

Bounfour (2008) argues that "It is clear that this notion of "historicity" does not allow an individual to make a strictly technical evaluation of the three alphabets. It is just a trick that was used to place on top the alphabet they wanted anyway. Nevertheless, this raises a question: What motivations, other than technical, the actors of the Berber field put forward to justify their preference of this or that type of scripts?"

#### First Rebounds

In Algeria: Very quickly, the situation is derailing, signs of obvious instability are observed. In 1997, the Ministry of Education published the first official textbook for the Amazigh language, *Lmed Tamazight* (Learn Tamazight) intended for the 7th grade, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of middle school in the schooling system of that time known as "Fundamental School". It was a collection of contributions of mostly anonymous authors , including all the four Algerian variations of the language and using the three transcription systems (Latin, Tifinagh, and Arabic). The texts were followed by instructions for transcription. In fact, the textbook has never been used for the intended

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> French acronym for the Royal Institute for Amazigh Culture (Institut Royal pour la Culture Amazighe).

purpose. Attempt to analyze the situation brought us to formulate two hypotheses:

- ♦ A position of non-management which could lead, *a poteriori*, to an intervention against Latin characters?
- ♦ An "insidious" recognition of the diverse reality on the field with regard to scripts' tradition, and somehow creating a situation in which "a geographical variety is associated with a transcription", and through it an institutionalization of the multiple script?

Starting in 2003, published textbooks in Tamazight phased out the Tifinagh script as much as in the official didactic area and this through three steps:

- ♦ The "first" textbook of 1997: Tifinagh appears as a teaching "object / activity": c h a r t s , d i r e c t e d transcription activity, etc.
- Until 2006: the titles of the textbooks are transcribed in the three scripts. Tifinagh appears only on the front cover.
- ♦ 2007-2009: only the Latin and Arabic scripts are present.

The administration and the various governing bodies do not seem to engage openly in the debate on intra-dialectal and inter-dialectal language rearrangement, and more widely on graphical coding.

Paradox ically, however, there is a fairly broad scope of opportunities created for the use and the promotion of Arabic characters, websites of the TV channels and radios, generics and subtitles on the TV channel-4 in Tamazight, to mention a few.

The textbooks examined are divided into two parts, Latin and Arabic. The teachers who have developed these materials under the responsibility of the Algerian Ministry of Education were only solicited for the "Latin in Kabyl" version and have not been associated with the "retranscription" in Arabic scripts. They were not associated with the elaboration of materials for other dialects that were not represented in the working groups. The recipients of the textbooks are now in front of a choice with two options only (Latin / Arabic scripts), which excludes the Tifinagh option as the third path, and whose exclusion has already been ratified. No media debate took place around that question. This is an indication of a conflict, real and structured, between a well-anchored and predominant use of Latin scripts in literary

productions, but stigmatized by the choices made by the administration, and on the other side Arabic scripts, emanating from the Algerian Institutions and their executives.

The Aurès region is the most dramatically involved in this tug-of-war as the three graphic systems are in use in that region. As for the "implicit" positioning of the HCA<sup>4</sup> on this subject, it confirms the non-homogeneous positioning of the government as a whole: astonishingly, a large number of literary and scientific, regular and good quality articles have been produced under the umbrella of the same HCA, edited in a perfectly mastered Latin script, in the continuity of the extra-institutional academic tradition. Unfortunately, our observations reinforce our assumptions on the non-management and/or poor management of this

issue, and this leads us to make the following remarks:

- ♦ The lack of coordination and consultation between the different stakeholder bodies inside the Administration, each of them positioning itself in an autonomous manner, probably in search of a specific balance between the internal influent forces;
- ♦ The administration and the various governing bodies do not seem to engage openly in the

debate on intra-dialectal and inter-dialectal language planning, and more widely on graphical coding. Paradoxically, however, there is a fairly broad scope of opportunities created for the use and the promotion of Arabic characters such as websites of the TV channels and radios, generics and subtitles on the TV channel-4 in Tamazight, to mention a few.

**In Morocco:** Tifinagh is the official script.

All textbooks and other didactic tools have been developed in IRCAM's version of the Tifinagh alphabet, including those developed in "independent" settings. Rachida El Berkani (2010: 375-376), has highlighted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> HCA: French acronym of Haut Commissariat à l'Amazighité (High Commission for Amazighness)

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in her doctorate thesis "the problem of the reference to the Latin script was not a concern in the classrooms [....] In the training of teachers and in a segmentation activity, it has been noticed that teachers would refer to the Table of equivalence Tifinagh-Arabic or Arabic-Latin characters because of their poor knowledge of the Tifinagh alphabet, and would make Tifinagh / arabic correspondence or Tifinagh / French to decipher a text, and only then they would be able to segment it according to the meaning of words. For example, a teacher would rewrite the text to be segmented in Latin characters to define the graphical words and then apply the spelling rules to transcribe it using Tifinagh scripts. "

The communication activity is placed at the beginning of each teaching unit and the time and space devoted to it are important. This activity linked to how the language operates (grammar, conjugation and lexicon) takes in consideration the established linguistic structures. The observation and surveys we have conducted have led us to findings, which deserve to be consolidated:

- ♦ Textbooks devote two thirds of their units to penmanship, which is quite ordinary because they are intended, in theory, to students who are not familiar with hand writing in general. However, it has been pointed out that in some schools the teaching of Berber starts only at the second or third grade.
- Because some teachers are non-Berber-speakers, "Graphic" activities are particularly important and are even exclusive in some cases. This was confirmed by the testimony of teachers and by El Hocein Farhad's doctorate thesis (2012) in which he emphasized that "teaching Tamazight does not mean teaching the Tifinagh script".

#### **Did You Say Alphabetization?**



The Algerian government, faithful to its Arab-Islamic ideology, has undertaken its ultimate phase of Arabization and depersonalization of Kabylia. Indeed, the initiative taken in collaboration with the mobile phone company Ooredoo-Algerie, a subsidiary of the Qatari Ooredoo, shows its determination to carry out to the end its Machiavellian campaign of alienation and destruction of the Kabyl society, one of the last strongholds of Amazigh language and culture in Algeria.

When interviewed on September 8th, 2013, the President of the association IQRAA (Read in Arabic) for the province of Tizi-Ouzou, Khelid Hocine, spoke loud and clear: Open as many classes of "literacy" as possible through the villages and counties of Kabylia. To meet his sinister goals, he even suggested revising, downwards, the current number of "students" required for the opening of a new class."

The common sense would have dictated, if the objective was indeed to educate women in Kabylia, already expert practitioners of their first language, Taqbaylit, to supplement their knowledge by introducing them to the writing of their language, and to allow the creation of jobs where they can use those language skills. But, in view of the weird costumes worn by "Student" Kabyl women shown in the picture above, it is clear that the business is a concomitant sale, some sort of Trojan Horse, Arabization-salafization of Kabyl women.

Nevertheless, should we start the easy game of finger pointing at those women that frustration of illiteracy has pushed into the laps of some "Kabyl-de-Service" ready to do anything to serve their masters? Should we continue to wait until a new brainwashing class, another salafization mosque, or a radio of indoctrination are opened to scandalize?

Let's shake it up! Let's learn to give back to our communities, our villages, our neighborhoods in our cities. Let's dedicate some of our time to help our people in need. As far as we know, there are enough educated people in Kabylia to educate those who have not had the chance to go to school. No one will do it for us. So what are we waiting for?

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In a contribution based on observation in a didactic context, El Mountassir (2008) has stressed that the main difficulty of the languages which have recently been integrated into school systems, such as the Berber language in Morocco, is to find a balance between oral usages (variations) and a standard language to be taught at school. And, the problem remains the same whether it is the development of a standard language, to be the basis for teaching or the standardization of a graphic system in Tifinagh.

Analysis of the data that have been collected show that most of the teachers have learned the Tifinagh alphabet during the initial training, while those who have been

members of cultural associations were already familiar with it without having used it systematically. Additionally, the Tifinagh alphabet is seen by some teachers as the genuine script of the Berber language, their language, while for others, because they are non-Berber speakers, it is a very initial learning, "an activity they need to integrate into their class".

If we consider the current practice among certain cultural academic environments Morocco, they rather show revitalization of the use of Latin characters, in the literary and associative production.

## From a didactic learning environment to a sociolinguistic reality

In Algeria: From the didactics and educational point of view, there is no standard evaluation. The non-compulsory status of the subject does not allow it. Therefore, the evaluation remains symbolic. The absence of a national competency assessment very likely reflects a refusal of the governing body (the Ministry of Education) to be dragged into "Ruling" on all aspects related to the codification and regulation of this matter, notwithstanding the number of students attending the Berber language courses (208,996 in 2013), of which 90% in the region of Kabylia, where Latin script is used exclusively.

In Morocco: Out of the natural extension of the school life, which is the immediate environment represented by the city/village and the family circle, there is practically no youth literary production using the Tifinagh script. Unfortunately, the situation is not about to get better. Indeed, if we consider the current practice among certain cultural and academic environments in Morocco, they rather show a revitalization of the use of Latin characters,

in the literary and associative production, in particular in the Rif, the Sous, and the South East regions.

Furthermore, the appropriation of Tifinagh script does not seem to be effective among learners within the "horizontal and vertical generalization" scheme announced in 2003. For example, in 2011<sup>5</sup> we found a relatively dense distribution in the Sous-Massa-Draa region (1600 schools: 256,420) while Meknes-Tafilalt accounts for only 418 schools, 177,533 students. One can also note with astonishment the weak integration in a region such as the Rif spreading over the Eastern part of Morococo and Taza-Taounat-Al Hoceima; add to it the quasi-symbolic number of schools teaching Berber in the regions of Doukala and Oued Dhab-Lagouira.

Moreover, some data reflect a discontinuity in the institutional chain; some administrations and public bodies, political parties, associations, use Tifinagh for their signs on buildings or headers in their documentation: the language and its spelling, however, are often wrong and not

mastered, inaccurate translations, lack of segmentation, etc. Our most plausible explanation to this phenomenon is a lack of coordination between the various Departments and Agencies. Such implementations are deemed to be framed by specifications reflecting the legislative texts and an administrative follow-up. It is interesting to note the absence of reactions from the most prominent defenders of Tifinagh script. As for the use of Arabic characters, it now seems almost marginal despite a long tradition anchored among the educated individuals of Chleuh communities, which is a true disruption with the practices observed so far.

As a summary, one can say that through the choice of Tifinagh to transcribe the Amazigh language, Morocco seems to confirm its traditional representations with regard to the Berber language and culture: Priority is given to the symbolic versus the scientific pragmatism, in the detriment of efficiency and experience capitalized in the Berber academic world.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Non-public figures of the Moroccan Ministry of Education .

#### Conclusion

Language planning in the Berber domain and its integration into the cultural and political environment continues to assert itself in the academic institutions, which undoubtedly ensure the sustainability of a progressive intervention on the language (the corpus), but maintains a situation of fragmentation and dispersion, which favors the stigma and the failure of the institutions in charge to take into account independent proposals. Thus, the apparent indecision, whether voluntary or not, on the question of the scripts in Algeria and the weak implementation in Morocco, is an indication of the inadequacy of the Institutional choices, and probably testifies of the inability or lack of will from the States to design concrete tools for real implementation. Institutional processes therefore present serious inertia and will produce a low impact as long as radical implementations are not considered at every levels of life of the citizens

\* At the time when this article was drafted, Nacira Abrous was a PhD candidate. She was working at IREMAM, Université Aix-Marseille, France.

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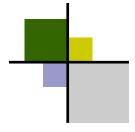
### **Editorial**

#### (Continued from page 1)

poets, etc., would debate all issues related to the Amazigh language and make recommendation or, why not, legislate and decide. I know it would take a lot of dedication, of egos left aside; a lot of planning and conviction; a lot of humility and transcending minds; some money too. But, don't you think it's worth a try!

In this issue, who knows, it may inspire us, we want to tell you about an epic battle that resulted in the admission of Tamazight as an international language in the Provincial State of Ontario, Canada...16 years ago. To illustrate the issue we evoked in the previous paragraph, Nacira Abrous is reporting on a comparative study she conducted on the teaching experiences of Tamazight in Algeria and Morocco, and the crucial issue of graphic system for Tamazight as it is implemented in the two countries. We also continue to bring you the second chapter of the novel written by John Steinbeck "The Pearl", translated to Tagbaylit, and also a selection of poetry from Muh Laid Deflaoui's book "Nnig N Usirem" (Beyond hope). Finally, Fazia Aitel is delighting us with an homage to Nabile Farès, a Kabyl intellectual who recently died in Paris, France. Her moving testimony allows us to discover a witty mind, a generous heart, and a memorable teacher.

You will also find in this issue a tribute paid to another great artist who recently passed away: Rest in peace, M. Lounès Kheloui



# In the Canadian Province of Ontario, Tamazight became an International Language...16 Years Ago

## BY A.T. TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY AREZKI BOUDIF

sixteen years ago, the Ontario regional government added Tamazight to the list of international languages taught in school. In its long and difficult journey towards a legitimate consecration, the Amazigh language has gone through stages - some are painful, others on the verge of euphoria. This is a language, spoken since the early times, which has found itself through history, ancient and contemporary,

disenfranchised, at times even threatened with disappearance within its natural space, the countries of North Africa. Thanks to a strong sense of resistance, its speakers have preserved it, especially in Morocco, Algeria, and to a lesser extent in Libya.

This was not the case, however, in the Canary Islands and Tunisia. Thus, after long and hard peaceful struggles, its advocates have propelled it into the constitutional arena of their respective countries, Morocco and Algeria. Even if scientific and pedagogical advances are difficult to formalize in order to meet the expectations of its speakers, the status of this language has evolved positively in recent

years. And, as the Amazigh Diaspora installed in Europe and the Americas grew stronger and better organized, it has engaged in a leading role aiming at preserving their culture and identity.

The story of the events we are about to tell came to us from outside of the North African region. Unfortunately, at that time, it was not easy to spread such good news in the media. True, it is not fresh dating, but it was so comforting It was 16 years ago, the regional government of the Province of Ontario in Canada, had added Tamazight on the list of international languages taught in schools.

Indeed, since December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the school system of this regional state offers this language all the attributes of

a school discipline; meaning that the grades obtained by a student during tests and quizzes in the Amazigh language are counted in the grading to grant the high school degree.

It's worthwhile to mention that a final Exam in the type of the French Baccalauréat that a student would take at the end of High School does not exist in the North American schooling system.

Indeed, since December 8 th, 2 0 0 0, Indeed, since December 8 th, 2 0 0 0, the school system of this regional state offers this language all the attributes of a school discipline; meaning that the grades obtained by a student during tests and quizzes in the Amazigh language are counted in the grading to grant the high school degree.

At a first consideration, somewhere in North Africa, an observer would say: "It's absolutely incredible" And yet, the regional State of Ontario did make that decision.

Don't be mistaken, this minirevolution is not the result of intense diplomatic negotiations that would have involved a North African State, as one would be tempted to believe. It is the culmination of tenacious work and unshakable will of a handful of Kabyl residents of Ottawa, the federal capital city of Canada.

Such a thing would not have happened if the regional state of Ontario had engaged in a language

policy of exclusion and isolationism. Instead, and in order to ensure the coexistence of the numerous communities that live there, the political establishment has rather instituted a living together policy through the promotion of the various mother tongues.

Moreover, science came to the rescue and pleaded in favor of this policy: Indeed, to become a good bilingual, the individual must first have a mastery of his/her mother tongue. And, according to recent studies, conceptual intelligence increases by 15 to 20% in bilingual children compared to monolingual children. By implementing these two universal principles (living together and positive

(Continued on page 14)

#### (Continued from page 13)

bilingualism upon entering school), the Ontario regional government has made its schooling system a success. However, the status of an international language is not given on a simple request. It is strictly framed because of the large number of communities that live together in the country - a hundred at a time, each with its own language.

#### The Craftsmen of the Miracle

By what miracle because it is one - has the Amazigh language made its way in the midst of well-established languages such as German, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Japanese, Arabic, etc.?

This is a true story that we must narrate. It deserves to be known to our Amazigh communities: A narrative with a human dimension, with its twists and turns, its moments of hope, but also of doubt. It all started in September 2000. A Kabyl couple moved to Ottawa after a stay of more than 10 years in a city in the far west of Canada. The husband is an Oil Engineer; the wife is a teacher in the Public School. Their arrival in this city came at a time when the eldest of their three children, a six-year old boy, is about to register for his first year of schooling. The mother starts the registration process at the closest school to their residence.

After the administrative formalities, he is given the schedule. And there, the mother marked a stop when she was prompted to make a choice among the international languages listed on the document. The young student must learn Spanish. She returns home and reports the puzzling fact her to husband. Together, they decided to refuse the of choice Spanish.

" Our policy is to encourage the teaching of mother tongues"

Regional
Minister of
Education of
the Province
of Ontario

With the same voice, they

asked this question: "What if we ask that he learns Tamazight?" The next day, they bring to the principal of the school their concern and managed to voice their request regarding Tamazight language. Right away, he directed them to the Ministry of Education of the Regional State.

In the offices of the regional ministry in charge of school affairs, there is a surreal dialogue that the husband, Mr. Mohand Ould-Chikh, has reported to us exclusively: "This is the first time that I am telling the story of the events, our fight to register Tamazight in the school system of Ontario as an international language."

Here are the highlights of his first meeting with the Minister.

#### The regional minister:

Our policy is to encourage the teaching of mother tongues. But there are four conditions that must be met in order for a language to become an international language:

- 1- The language community should be organized as a cultural association;
- 2- A person in charge of dispensing the courses should be appointed;
- 3- An educational project upon which the teaching is based should be defined;
- 4- Textbooks for each level of education must be available.

#### Mr. Ould-Chikh:

And once these four conditions are met, what is the exact role of the regional ministry?

#### The Minister:

In this case, we are responsible of the following provisions: to offer you the facilities, to pay for the teaching expenses, namely the salary of the teacher, the purchase of books, and to include the language in the official school curriculum.

#### Are you ready for this challenge?

Considering the huge opportunity offered to Tamazight, Mr. Ould-Chikh answers with no hesitation: "es, Sir. Tamazight satisfies all the conditions you require. We will prepare the filing."The minister gave them a period of thirty days for handing over the file.

At the end of the hearing, the couple looks dumbfounded. They have just realized that meeting the minister's requirements is out of reach. Freshly settled in the city, they do not know any fellow Amazigh living in Ottawa. Mrs. Ould-Chikh remembers a relative living in Montreal, Quebec, who one day, has told her about a Kabyl family living in Ottawa. In fact, the person was Mr. Rachid Benguenane, computer engineer and resident of the city. Without delay, Mr. Ould-Chikh contacted him.

Rachid happens to be a fervent activist of the Amazigh cause. He accepted to take on calling the Kabyl community in the region for a meeting. About fifty people - men and women - gathered in a restaurant rented for the occasion. At the end of the meeting, the first Amazigh Cultural Association of Ottawa-Hull (ACAOH) was created, thus fulfilling the first condition on the requirements' list. However, finding the teacher, developing the curriculum, and finding the text books remain the most difficult tasks. Mr. Arab Sekhi, a University Professor, for whom theater in Tamazight was a hobby, volunteered to put his knowledge of the Amazigh language and its grammar at the service of the students. For the program and the textbooks, fruitful contacts were quickly made with some University Professors in Algeria and in France, specialists of this field who accepted to help. Finally, the file is prepared, and ACAOH's Board of Directors went to submit the filing at the Regional Ministry of Education.

A month later, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Mr. Mohand Ould-Chikh, the first president of ACAOH, was invited by the Minister himself, who even had some good words on the "dossier" and talked about the amount of useful information on the Amazigh language that he had gathered through his consultations. Following this epic battle, the Minister of Education has delivered the verdict: "The State of Ontario has taken all the necessary steps to grant Tamazight the status of an international language."

Since then, and for 16 years, the children of the Amazigh community living in Ottawa and its suburbs have been learning the language of their ancestors, and seem to be mastering the language as well as their friends in the country of origin. It is also satisfying to notice that since the inception of the class of Tamazight, the fervor of the students, the support of the parents, and the dedication of the teachers have not decreased. On the contrary, a few years later, ACAOH has expanded its activities and developed further; it gave birth to a Foundation: the foundation *Tiregwa* (The streams, in Tamazight) whose founders are the pioneers of Tamazight teaching in Ottawa.

In addition to teaching, multiple activities are scheduled during the school year (a choir, theater, exhibition of Amazigh heritage etc.). These continuous and regular activities are rather developing over time. Indeed, ambitious projects related to the production of didactic tools in Tamazight are envisioned Clearly, the missions of the Amazigh Cultural Association of Ottawa-Hull (ACAOH) and the *Tiregwa* Foundation have challenged the old-school ideas of those opposed to the teaching of mother tongues. The teaching of their Mother language provided the students with an invaluable and dual benefit: a harmonious integration into the Canadian society, and more importantly, outstanding achievements at school. None of the involved parties have flinched so far. The parents are happy for two important reasons: 1) Their children are on the way of preserving the language of their ancestors 2) The children seem to present all the signs of good health and balanced personalities, positively integrating the heritage of a rooted Amazigh culture and identity.

From this beautiful love story between a mother tongue and its speakers, we can learn two lessons. One is political. It highlights the virtues of local democracy that empowers elected bodies at local and regional levels, especially in the cultural and educational fields. Canada is a federal state (administered as Regional Provinces) committed to preserving social cohesion and living together among its citizens from different cultural backgrounds. The second lesson is for the "guardians of the temple" of the one-dimensional-thinking and conscience, proponent of linguistic and cultural interchangeable dictatorships. Their whims will only reinforce their dive into the abyss of mediocrity.

How can we not acknowledge the heroism of this handful of Amazighs in Ottawa for allowing us to know about such a moving and instructive event: the 16th anniversary of the granting to Tamazight of the status of an international schooling language? Through this epic, they have paid tribute, in the best way ever, to the pioneers of the Amazigh cause, some of whom are no longer of this world. Hats off!

Source: Liberté 14/12/2 16

## Tameywant Seg Yillel

## JOHN STEINBECK TASUQILT SI TENGLIZIT N "THE PEARL" SYUR AREZKI BOUDIF

#### Ahric wis 2

amdint tezga-d yef yimi-nni ahrawan ansi i yettmiri wasif yer yillel, iyerban n yexxamenis i d-yezzin i teftist bnan s kra n ssiman d awray iyef zrin ayen-din d aseggas. Dya din yef teftist, tiflugin i ysebyen s umellal d uzerwal, i dyekkan seg Nayarit, tura ha-tent-ad ttusetfent berra n waman. I yettharaben yef wesyar-nsent achal d tasuta d tissi n weslay i yettarran aman, amzun d ajeylal ieuras, iwumi ișeggaden Ibadna ssnen wamek ittwaxdam. Tiflugin-a d tifessasin, d tislayanin, wennsent, s tedmert inegren akken ad tsami aman, ver deffir d taxellalt n tenhart ma di tlemmast d tiflit anida izmer ad intu ujeggu i yreffden abehnuq.

Ijdi n teftist-nni iruḥ s tewreɣ amaɛna ɣer yiri n waman yugar-it wefrur n ijeɣlalen akked wadal i d-yessufuɣ yillel. Tifiraɛqsin akken d timecṭuḥin la teggent tičuffiḍin, la d-ssusufent seg temrujin-nsent ijdi, anida akken ur ileqqay ara yillel, ibukacbaren d imezyanen la keččmen teffɣen seg tefratin ggan s iceqqufen n tjeɣlalin akked izra. Lqaɛ n yillel ileɣɣu s tudert n wayen ittmuruden, ittɛummun, neɣ s yemɣan. Kra n wadal d aqahwi ittruḥu ittuɣal s ttawil akken teddun waman, kra n taggayt n wadal icban aṣennur yettemlellay deg waman, la yetthuzzu ayyisen n yillel iskucberen s traṭṭiwin-nsen ɣer taɣmiwin-is. Kra n weslem aberbac bu ssem yers ɣef wussu n wadal-nni icban iṣennuren, dɣa ha-tt-a yiwet tfiraɛqest tareqmant tɛumm-ed akken nnig-sen.

Deg teftist, iqejjan imelluza akked yilfan imelluza la ttawin ttarran, ttnadin yef kra n weslem immuten i dissufey yillel ney kra n wefrux immuten i d-yufraren mi dyuli yillel.

Xas akken tafrara mačči aţas aya segmi i d-lul, ibda iṛeq uzal. Azwu terkeb-it tawla, amzun d iraggen seg waman iḥemmun, kra n tyawsiwin banent-d amzun rnant deg webley, tiyyaḍ ur fṛizent ara, tiyyaḍ nniḍen ggant amzun jguglent nnig Umeynuj-nni, tamuyli texreb armi ur iḍmin wemdan d acu yettwali. Tafat tessay lberr terna illel armi teddukel temlel n tilawt akked uwlelles n targit. Imi akka, ahat lyaci n Umaynuj-agi ttamnen ugar s wayen i d-

ittxeṭtir wallaɣ-nsen, s wayen i d-issagan wallaɣ-nsen, ur ttkalen ara ɣef wallen-nsen akken a sen-mlen azal n imeccaqen neɣ talɣa n tɣawsiwin neɣ daɣen anefren n tmuɣli. Agemmaḍ akkin i yimi n wasif, yiwet n tegzemt n isekla tbedd aǧaǧbi, s izuran-nsen yentan deg waman, banen-d i tmuɣli ulamma jlan, ma d isekla nniḍen zgan-d deg yiliz-nni issewlellisen tamuɣli i ten-yerran d kra n wewlul n tzegzewt d tebrek. Yiwen wemḍiq akkin agemmaḍ ittban-d amzun d kra n lexyal ilman deg waman. Ur yezmir wemdan ad iḍmen tamuɣli-s, ulac ttbut d akken ayen ittwali wemdan illa s tidet neɣ ulac-it. At Umeɣnuj-agi lemmer ufin imeḍqan akk ad ggen am wa, yerna ur ten-iceddeq kra. Tagut n ḥemmurga tejgugel nnig waman, iṭij n tafrara m'i d-yewwet ɣur-s yessergagay-itt armi yessexrab tamuɣli.

Tisecciwin-nni n işeggaden zgant-d wexxerent cwiţ yef yiri n teftist, yef yidis ayeffus n temdint, dya yer zdat n wemdiq-a i d-ssufuyen tiflugin. Kino akked Juana udren-d s ttawil yer teftist, yer wanida tella teflugt n Kino. Ala taflugt-a i yesea d ayla-s di ddunit-a. D tagdimt, d jeddi-s i tt-id-yewwin si Nayarit, iğğa-tt-id i baba-s, tura tegra-d yer Kino. Deg-s d ayla, deg-s d ttawil n tmeddurt, acku argaz ilan taflugt izmer ad idmen i tmeţţut-is tagella. D agadir mgal laz. Ihi, yal aseggas ittbeddil-as aslay-nni ittuyalen amzun d ajeylal, am akken i s-isken baba-s. Ha-t -an tura ver tama n teflugt-is. Afus-is islef i tedmert-is iwenneen, allen-is zzint-as-d s tmuyli talemdit am akken ixeddem yal tikkelt. Issers yef yejdi yer tama n teflugt azru-nni swiyes iyettes, tagecwalt-is akked sin imurar. Idebbeg dayen taferşadit-nni yines u yessa-tt i lgaɛ n teflugt.

Juana tezzel Koyotito yef tferşadit-nni u teddel-it s lizar-is akken ur t-yettawed ara wuryu n yiţij. Tura issusem, ma d azzug deg tayet-is ikemmel armi yuli yer wemgred-is akked ddaw umezzuy-is, yerna udem-is ičuffed u deg-s tawla. Juana tcerree deg waman s tikli am win ittnadin kra. Tuyal tejmee-d kra n wadal aqahwi i d-yettemyin deg yillel u tegga yis tajbirt i teubbej yef tayet-nni ibezgen n Koyotito. Tenna deg yiman-is d akken tajbirt-a ahat tif kra n ddwa ar a d-yekken seg umejjay. Acu kan ddwa-ya tban-as-d am akken txuş-itt laenaya acku ur yur-s kra n wazal

s wedrim, yerna d tayawsa tamsarit. Ar tura, timeḥkit ur tuy ara Koyotito. Ahat Juana tsumm-d akkw ssem-nni u tessufey-it-id send ad yekcem s telqey di tfekka n Koyotito, acu kan teggumma a d-tessufey aybel i tt-izedyen yef umenzu n tasa-s. Dya temmekti-d d akken ur tessuter ara seg Ugellid Ameqran akken ad iḥlu llufan-is — ɛad tessuter deg-s akken a d-afen tameywant n yillel swiyes ar a xelleṣen amejjay ar a yesseḥlun llufan, temmekti-d aya, acku allayen n medden, dagi, ttefriwisen amzun d uzwu-nni n Umeynuj ur nerkid.

Kino d Juana la jebbden tura taflugt-nsen yer waman, dya akken ḥulfan tufrar, tneggez Juana yer daxel, ma d Kino issekcem taxellalt n tenhart deg teflit-is u icerres deg waman deffir-s armi i d-tufrar akken iwulem u tebda tettefriwis seg lemwaji-nni timectuḥin i tt-id-ikkaten yer yidisan. Dya, s yiwen usillef iwumi tewlen, yal wa igger deg waman ameqdaf-nni bu snat n tfelwin, taflugt tcerres deg yillel u semmal qeddfen semmal trennu di tyawla. Iṣeggaden-nni n tmeywanin, acḥal aya segmi ffyen. Imir-kan akka banen-as-d i Kino amzun d ccama deg tagut, la ttɛummun yef umazul n yillel anida lqaɛ issa s yeylalen deg i d-ttafen timeywanin.

Tafat ssazdegen waman tluḥeq yer lqaɛ n yillel deg i rsen yeylalen s yiran-nsen yeflalin amzun ttuzewwqen, isențeden iman-nsen ver yezra. Di Igae-a n yillel amzun d afus i yezzuzren timharin n yeylalen immuten akked icegfan-nsent. D Igae n yillel-agi i yessulin Agellid n Spanya armi yuyal d anezmar di Uruppa deg iseggasen yezrin, deg-s i d-yekkes azal swiyes ixelleş imennuyen-is, sya i ruḥent tmeywanin izewwgen timezgida i yernan ccisa i yisem-is. Deg yeylalen-a llan kra deg-sen d iberzegzawen, udmawen-nsen n berra yur-sen inedfisen amzun d tasafa, llan dayen wid-nni yef i nettdenent tegrurin n teylalin timectuḥin akked izemzumen n wadal i d-yemyin yef tsafa-nsen, am akken dayen llant kra n tfiraegsin timekrayin ittalin fella-sen. Ulamma iylalen-a ddurin deg Iqae n yillel, derrun-asen kra n yemxixen. Izmer a sen-yekcem yejdi yer yendfisen n weksum daxel ujeylal-nsen w ad ibdu idebber deg-sen. Ihi, akken ad ssegdelen iman-nsen, a s-dellun i tyawsa-ya taberranit kra n talayt talegyant taseflalayt, tissi deffir tayed. Akalaya ur ittbedda alamma yuyal uɛeqa-nni n yejdi d tameywant ar a suffyen waman m'ar a yehcer yillel ney arma yemmut weylal deg i tella.

Acḥal n iwinsen aya segmi ttadren imdamen yer uɛebbuḍ n yillel akken a d-senčwen iylalen-nni wa ten-ldin s zzur u ssaramen ad afen deg-sen kra n uɛeqa n yejdi i wumi tettudla talayt taseflalayt. Din dya i ttidirent tegrurin n yiselman i yettrağun seg işeggaden m'ar a d-deggren iylalen-nni ildin akken a sen-ččen aksum-nni amellal aleqqaq. Maca, iylalen i deg tella tmeywant d imexda, ala win isean zzher ar a ten-id-yafen, ma ira a s-d-yefk afus Ugellid Ameqran ney At igenwan ney ma ran akken ma llan.

Kino yur-s sin imurar, amezwaru iqqen yer yiwen wezru d azayan ma d wayed yer tqecwalt. Ha-t-an tura issensel aserwal-is akked tebluzt-is yerna dayen issers tamdelliwt-is yer lqaɛ n teflugt. Illel yers amzun d zzit. Iţţef azru deg yiwen ufus taqecwalt deg ufus nniden, dya yenser d akwsar s idarren-is d imezwura, yewwi-t wezru-nni azayan yer lqaɛ n yillel. Tičuffidin n uzwu ulint-d deffir-s, armi uyalen rekden waman i yezmer Kino ad iwali. Yer tamaţ ufella, udem n yillel igga amzun d lemri iberrqen ittebruqqulen, iban-as-d lqaɛ n teflugt am kra n tyawsa i d-iflan udem-nni.

Kino la iteddu s ttawil akken ur d-isluyu yara amdiq-nni s imilus ney ijdi. Issewhel adar-is deg yiwet n teckindewt deg wemrar-nni iqqnen yer uzru dya ifassen-is bdan la xeddmen s tyawla, la d-yessenčaw deg yeylalen, tikwal s yiwen, tikwal akken d ikunta. M'i d-yekkes kra a tenyessers deg tqecwalt-nni yines. Llan imukan anida iylalen nettden wa yer wa, ihi ulac akwerfa deg wayen i d-yekkes.

Tura, agdud n Kino yur-s tizlit yef yal tayawsa ney yal tadyant idran. Yursen tizlatin i yiselman, i yillel mi yehcer ney mi yehda, i tafat ney i tillas, i yiţij ney i waggur, yerna tizlatin-a ha-tent-ad yakkw deg tilawt n Kino d wegdud-is kra n tezlit i d-snulfan seg wasmi i d-tekker yemma-s n ddunit, ula d tid yettwattun. Tussa-t-id yiwet n tezlit m'akken i d-ittačar taqecwalt-is s yeylalen, anya-ines d igiren n wul-is mi yekkat m'akken issudur oksiğen n uzwu swiyes yeččur turin-is, ma d şda-s d aman-nni iberzegzawen d iyersiwen-nni imecţaḥ ittredwin akked tegrurin n yiselman mi zerweden ruhen. Maca deg tezlita deg-s yiwet n tezlit nniden tamecţuht tagensant tabadnit, iwumi ur ihulfa ula yiwen, amaena tezga din, d tazidant, d tabadnit yerna d tin i wumi issetbaɛ iman wemdan, txuşem şşda-nni tunşibt, ta d "Tizlit n Tmeywant i Yzemren ad Tili", acku deg yal yiwen deg yeylalen yellan deg tgecwalt-nni tezmer ad tili deg-s tmeywant. S tin n tseggar, ulac asirem, amaena ma byan At Igenwan akked kra n zzher ma yella, asirem mazal-it idder. Yerna, Kino izra d akken deg teflugt, nnig waman,

(Ittkemmil deg usebter 18)

#### (D akemmel n usebter 17)

Juana tsebbeb s tawalt n ttaszima d ddaswat, teşfeḍ kra n tenfalit ma tella ɣef wudem-is u tesqezber ifadden-is akken a s-ternu afud i zzher, a t-id-yekkes gar ifassen n At Igenwan, axaṭer teḥwaǧ aṭas n zzher i tayet-nni n Koyotito ibzegen. Acku ha-ten-ad deg tizi n lɣila, yerna tuwwlin tmeqqer, ṣṣda-nni tamecṭuḥt n "Tmeɣwant Yezmeren Ad Tili" tennerna taṣebḥit-a. Imeslayen-is ttasen-d akken d tiwinas kemlent feṣḥent s lehdu deg Tezlit-nni n Ddaw Waman.

Kino, deg tezmert d temzi i deg illa, akked dayen kra n ţţenx, izmer ad iqqim uksar ddaw waman azal n snat n dqiqat war ma yerra-d nnefs, ihi yur-s akud akken ad difren wid imeggren gar iylalen-nni. Acku ttuhewwejen s dderz n tikli d ushillef, iylalen tura zemmemen imi gar snat n tfelwin swiyes ittwaley ujeylal-nsen. Akkin ciţţuḥ, yer yidis ayeffus illa yiwen wegraraj ddlen kra n yeylalen imezyanen ur newwid i tukksa. Kino yuz akkin yer yidis n wegraraj, dya din yer tama-s, ddaw yiwet n tesqift, iwala yiwen weylal annect ila-t izzel din iman-is, ulac atmatenis imecţuḥen inţeden yur-s. Aylal-a amegran mazal-it ildi acku tasqift-nni tesduri-t-id yef ayen ihewwejen wiyyad, dya din yef kra ucerdud n weksum di tfekka-s tban-as-d i Kino ticci d tamellalt send ad yemdel iman-is weylal-nni. Ul-is isseyşeb ahbak dya şşda-nni n "Wahat Tella Tmeywant" teččenčen-d deg yimezzuyen-is. S ttawil, issenser-d aylal-nni u iḥerz-it yer yedmaren-is. Issenser-d dayen adar-is seg teckindewt-nni n wemrar icudden yer wezru dya yunef i yiman-is sulin-t-id waman. Yuz-d yer teflugt u yessers aylal-nni di Iqae-is.

Syin akkin, Juana tesserked taflugt akken ad d-yali Kino. Allen-is berreqent acku ifat melmi ar a yeldi aylal-nni, maca izwar issuli-d azru-nes, yuyal yerna-d taqecwalt ideg llan iylalen-nni i d-igmer. Juana tfaq s lḥerna irkeben Kino, amaɛna terra iman-is tettmuqul aniyer nniḍen. Dirit ma tesbaneḍ-d d akken tebyiḍ nezzeh tayawsa. Tikwal ismuṣṣuḍ. Issefk a tt-tebyuḍ kan azal-is, yerna yessefk ad truḥeḍ s ttawil m'ar a tessutureḍ tayawsa-nni seg Ugellid Ameqran ney seg At Igenwan. Tura Juana teṭṭef nnefs.

S laɛqel, Kino yeldi-d afru-nni yines. Immuqel yer tqecwalt-nni iččuren d iylalen s tmuyli n win ittɛaraḍen ad d-ifru kra n temsaɛreqt. Inna deg yiman-is ahat axir ma yunef-as bnadem i weylal-agi d aneggaru. Iddem-d yiwen weylal d amecṭuh si tqecwalt, igzem aftil-nni imeddlen tifelwin n weylal, inuda gar ineḍfisen n weksum ma yella kra din yuyal iḍegger-it yer waman. Yuyal imuqel yer weylal-nni ameqran dya teḍra-yas amzun d tikkelt tamezwarut i fuǧent fella-s wallen-is. Ar deqqal, iqqim di

lqaɛ n teflugt, iddem-d aylal-nni u yebda la t-itthekkir. Iran-is ttaken-d ticci d taberkant, d taqahwit, yerna ala kra n temharin-nni timecṭah i yenṭeḍen fella-s. Yuyal Kino ixuyel a t-ildi. Ayen akken iwala lina, iẓra, tezmer ad tili d kra n ticci, ney ahat d kra n teclemt iberṛqen n weylal i wwin waman yer daxel, ney ahat d tamuyli-s kan i t-iyedṛen. Deg umeynuj-a i-deg tafat testelwic allen, ugaren ineylan tilawt.

Amaɛna Juana teggumma a d-tekkes allen-is fella-s, tugi ad teṛǧu. Tessers afus-is ɣef Koyotito iwumi teddel aqerruy s ccac. "Ldi-t", i s—tenna s taḍat d tarqaqt.

S usillef n win itewlen, issekcem Kino afru-ines gar tfelwin n weylal. Seg wefru-nni iḥulfa-yas mi yennekmac s zzur akken ad ixaṣem alday. Amaɛna, Kino isseqdec afru -yis i wnegzum n weftil-nni isdukkulen tifelwin yerna am tenhizt akken a tent-yefreq, dya yal ta teyli yer yidis. Aksum-nni icban acenfir ibaɛnneḍ tikkelt taneggarut yuyal yers. Kino irfed-d aksum-nni s tqamumt n wefru, dya din amzun d tamellalt deg teqduḥt, tameywant annect ila-tt, tewzen am waggur. Amzun tluqec-d yakkw tafat yellan, temḥeṣ-tt, tuyal terra-tt-id s ticci n tziri. Annect n tmellalt n tsekkurt. Tugar kra n tmeywant illan yakkw deg umaḍal.

Juana mazal teţţef nnef-is terna tnuzeɛ-d kra. Ma ɣer Kino, ṣṣda n tezlit-nni n "Ahat Tella Tmeɣwant" tura tuɣ yakkw allaɣ-is, tusa-d d taḥlawant, d tufṣiḥt, tessaẓqel ulis s tfulkin-is, tessaɣ tafat yeflalin, tugar-itent yakkw. Udem n tmeɣwant-nni yufraren yefka udem i tirga n Kino. Iddem-itt-id seg weɣlal-nni issufuɣen taṛwiḥt, issers-itt ɣef idikel ufus-is yuɣal issegrurec-itt akken ad izer amek tekkwernenni. Juana tqeṛreb-d yakan akken ad temmuqel ɣur-s akken deg ufus-is, dɣa d afus-nni swiyes ifka tiyita i tewwurt-nni n beṛra n wexxam n umejjay, ma d afeddix-nni ɣef iḍudan-is tura ilma deg waman n yillel.

War ma tmeyyez, Juana tuz yer wanida izzel Koyotito yef tfersadit-nni n baba-s. Tnuqel-d tajbirt-nni n wadal u temmuqel tayet-is. "Kino", i d-tuzzaf.

Kino ikkes-d allen yef tmeywant-nni u yemmuqel metwal llufan, dya iwala d akken azzug inqes deg tayet-is, ihi ssem-nni la iteffey deg tfekka n llufan. Yuyal Kino ijmeɛ-d idudan-is yef tmeywant-nni dya tseyleben fella-s Iḥulfan-is, iraq. Irra-d kan tamuyli-nes yer zdat-s, ibren allen-is d asawen yerna isqezber iftilen n tfekka-s akken ma llan dya isuy s ttelq ugerjum-is. Irgazen-nni i yellan deg

(Ittkemmil deg usebter 22)

# Meet the Saghru Band A Music Group from Morocco

#### **DIHYA TAGLIT**

rn on December 9,1982 in the small village of Malaab, Errachidia located in the south east of Morocco, Mbark Oularbi became a talented Amazigh (Berber) singer and song writer. He was noted for his talented, uniquely inspiring music. Known as N'ba, he lived most of his life in Malaab where he attended the village's elementary school. He moved to another city to attend high school because his village did not have a high school. After his graduation, he then had to travel even further to attend the University of Sultan Moulay Ismail in Meknes where he

obtained two degrees, one in political science and the second in French studies.

N'ba discovered a passion for art at a very young age. His interests were painting, playing guitar, writing songs and poems, and drawing cartoons. His home environment and his contact with other artists introduced him to his early artistic expression. Influenced by Berber artists such as Mallal, Lounes Matoub, and Idir, and the world renowned artists such as Bob Dylan and many others, he pursued his musical ambitions by composing and singing with his brother Khalid Oularbi and friends at school events and cultural association festivities.

In 2007 N'ba founded Saghru band and started to play a unique and modern music style called "Amun", which is a blend of Amazigh (Berber) lyrics with a Western modern music style. Within three years, N'ba and his band faced many challenges but finally achieved recognition for their work, releasing three albums: Moha, Telilli, and Awssi Tala (Letter to Obama). In them, they sang about love, freedom, humanity and the status of Imazighen (Berbers) in Morocco. In his song title "Abridinu (my journey), N'ba tells about willing to leave and becoming a stranger in Europe since he felt the same in Morocco.

The dust covers my face and stones in the streets have cut it. Sheltering me from the sun is no longer sweet
Because I am leaving.
I swore to change my path to make my life better
Spain or France would not matter

Because I am already a stranger.

Hard times are my shadow and with my voice I scream. I will overcome theses hard times or make them even worse. Some were killed by guns other by swords and the others drowned. The youth who refused oppression died in the Rif or Atlas

The rulers put us under custody and closed the doors. They stole our dreams. All we have left is leaving. The poor migrants died drowning and eaten by sharks. The government did not empathized with them, Nor did the parliament.



In 2011 Saghru released their fourth album "No borderlines" that includes songs in Berber, French and English. In it, the singer laments the suffering of Berber and the Moroccan people in general, their thirst for freedom, dignity, education, and respect.

N'ba died on January 9, 2011 at the age of 27. His death remains a mystery. Some have claimed that he died from a rare disease, but others have claimed that he was poisoned. The now popular Saghru band is led by Khalid Oularbi, N'ba's youngest brother. Like his brother, Khalid is extremely talented and passionate about music. He is also a song writer and one of the fundamental elements of Saghru Band. Khalid plays more than three instruments and remains faithful to his brother's poetry themes of love, exile, beauty and freedom. With his strong voice and unique style of singing, he has been able to 'melt' many hearts

## Ammud N Isefra

#### MUḤEND LEID DEFLAWI

## Iminigen n tfekka

Yeffey wallay seg uqeṛṛu Yekmen yebya ad yebbuḥru Ad yissin ayen ur yessin

Yeffey yesya deg uqerru Zun d imyi i yesyan deg uzu Yerğan igenni akin

Yeffey yezzi-d s aqeṛṛu Ur yuhwan¹ yid-s beṭṭu D yiwen ma llan di sin

Dduklen rewlen ruḥen Eebban εyan drewcen Deg lewhayem n tallit-a

Dduklen am yemnayen Di tnila n yitij-nsen A s-d-rren ṛruḥ i tfekka

Dduklen akken ad tefren Asirem n targit zeglen Vas igli ur iban ara

Unagen zzayet tfekka Yeccemlex weglim tekna D ul fell-as kan d aɛessas

Unagen ur d-zzin ara Yewwi-ten ṛruḥ n trewla Aṛaju issimyur layas

Unagen ur ttun ara Ugur, tikli n tmara Gan i tuyalin tilas

Wissen ṛruḥ anda i d-yegra M'iwala aqeṛru yenna: Celxey tissi n umenṭeṛ

Wissen ahat yefra-tt yeḥla

Yettef-it lxiq n tfekka Yeyli weyrab n uḥebber

Wissen abrid-nni n tirga Ma tegra-d deg-s lğerra S axxam ur yettali nnger...

1. Yuhwan: yuklalen



### **Tayri**

Ileqqeḥ-d tura lğerḥ-im Vas yeqqur wul ad yefsi Neffi-d isem-im seg idim Nektal ṛṛuḥ s usmekti Teṛṛiḍ-ay-d zzman aqdim Anda-kem a tayri n temzi

Ur yelli wayen ifuten Vas neğğa-t ur t-nettu ara Ur yelli wayen iruḥen Vas nettu-t ur t-neğği ara Dayen kan i d ulawen Ur şşismiḍen isufa

Yas laɛmer yezwar yelḥa Mazal yettelqiq lebyi Yas ulamma lqedd yekna Ur tenfi deg-ney tayri Yer yuṛ-s i nettaf ddwa Ma tṛuḥ acemma ur d-igri

S kra n win yettun later-is Yekcem di lebḥer n usteqsi Yettawi lewhi s wallen-is Aḍar-is teffey-it tikli Uḍan-is am ussan-is Teqqel-as targit d anadi

Taqṣiḍt ad tt-neḥku ad tt-naru

Tayri deg-s ad tay azar Ad tt-nweccem d asefru Ur d as-nettcuddu lesrar Ad yizdig wul ad yecbu Tezdeg n tm urt n idurar



#### Reffu

Ass-a ad d-berney s ucennef Ad nneftiy² am waṭṭan Yeččur wallay izeqqef Vef wayen i d-wwin wussan Dhan-d akk tura i wseglef Mi ara yezzif-it wuḍan Neqqar ahat d ashitref Ziy iwtal cban iḍan

Neyreq seg tsusmi n leḥya Alarmi i yettel yiles S leḥya i nuy nniya Ilmi nessendef iyes Tura neḥṣel di tlufa Ur d-tegri lbenna n udyes Yas necfa ur s-nḥulfa I waṭṭan yenfan idles

Ula d win yezran yeyra Yedda d lḥemla n lfani Isneğla tura tussna Igga aberwaq³ i tmusni Yekcem deg tirga n tgerfa Yuyal d amedya ur d-inni Yerra asluččex d tasekla Tura d netta i d leflani

D acu ara nerğu deg ufellaḥ Meskin di ṭṭlam yer ṭṭlam Tiyimit-is d umeddaḥ Yexḍa i tmuyli n leqlam Dya mi negren lerbaḥ Yeɛreq di zzedwa n yiqumam Izeggir iṭij n ṣbeḥ Ilmi iccedha nadam

D aya kan tura i nwala Yeyreq yisey di lemḥan Tamurt trekkeb-itt tawla Mačči d yiwet i day yerḥan Ziy d ṣṣeḥ ulac tameẓla Ger win iwten d win iwehhan Ur begsen rnan tuẓla Ahlil ma d ayen i yelhan.

- 2. Ad nneftiy: Ad uyaley d atas.
- 3. Aberwaq: D imyi i tezzun akken ad ggen yis tilisa.



#### Timanit

Asmi i teğğuğeg Tmazya Tuy azar tezga treşşa Ur tufi iriz d acewwiq

Vas tamurt tezza terya Di yal tama d tagrawla Leḥzen terra-t d acewwiq

Agdud d Amaziy yeşfa Di ddel izmer i tlufa Izuzer asirem deg ddiq

S nnif d yisey i yufa Iḥuza-d akk Taferka D amagday yerna ittirriq

Ulac w'ur d-izdimen ara Deg ttlam ney tafrara Yelha wakal anaşli

S tdukli ur d-qqimen ara Nessufey-iten s tmara Ilmi nyil agdug d isli Lferḥ ur idum ara Nettu isyi yer taggara Yesluy aman n tlelli

Yesreq ur d-iban ara Yessexreb-ay ula d tira Yekkes-ay ula d iḍelli

Ma d tura ad nekfu asteqsi Ad tefru qbel imensi Ass-a ad d-nɛiwed talalit

Neεya deg uraju n ukersi I γ-icudden tikersi I d-yeqqimen d timanit.



## Allay D Wul

Tedderwez teswiet tuyal tcekkel, asigna yefka afud i twayit. Di Tmeddit n wass d ṭlam, akka d timura n Ugafa. Leqrar n usteqsi d asefru. Yendeh wul yer wallay yenna-yas:

Ay allay xerben lewqat Nerwa azemmi deg lmertat D aya kan i y-d-iṣaḥen

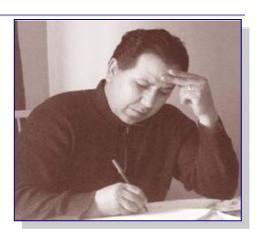
Ur nuklal neqqar ahat yas akken d nekkni i d tifrat D aya kan i y-d-iṣaḥen

Ayen kan I d-nefka d tafat Nemger-itt-id d rregmat D aya kan I ɣ-d-iṣaḥen

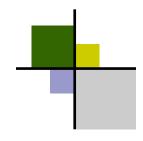
Allay yeeya deg uqerruy yemerğeğğin, iḍaq almi i yebya ad yexreb, yerra-yas tiyri i wul:

Lasmer uyaley d abhim Akken i refdey agelzim Ar a refdey asefru

(Ittkemmil deg usebter 22)



Muḥand Leid Deflawi ilul di Tmezrit, di Temnadt n Bgayet. Di tlemmast n yiseggasen 90at i dyeffey seg Tesdawit n A. Mira n Bgayet s ugerdas di Tussna n Takrura Tamgurant (Chimie industrielle). Deg useggas n 2002 yewwi abrid n yinig yer Quebec, Canada, anida yettidir twacult-is. Tamedyazt tekcem-as ul seg wasmi yur-s 16 iseggasen di laemer-is. Yis, akked ccna i ykemmel timuynest-is yef yedles Amaziy. Ammud amezwaru issufey-it-id di 2014 yer tezrigin El -Amal, Tizi-Wezzu, s wezwel " Nnig n Usirem". Kra deg yisefra-ya ttwakkesen-d seg-s.



#### (D akemmel n usebter 21) - Allay d Wul

D lebḥer-iw i d agelmim Ulayyer celxey afzim Mazal zgiy d amaru

Reşşay yef talsa d amqim Akken ibyu yazzel yeqqim Win yenfan deg-ney ferru

Ul yettihriw yef wayen i as-d-yenna wallay, dya yuyal-as-d rruh;

Nekk yidek i nuy ttexmam Nedzey deg yiwen n uxxam Ad as-nefk iswi i taggara

Ma d kem nedda di lğerra-m Ad d-nessekfel tanaya-m S tayri d lehrara Yiwen ur as-iqqar d leḥram D tira-inem i d ṣṣifa-m A tutlayt n tafrara

Akka i yezger wallay atas n wuguren axater, yesnerna-yas wul deg ccan s tayriwin i as-d-yessekfel. Dya allay yeddem tigawt yessefruri-tt d awalen:

D kečč kan i d taswint-iw Ineğren targa i wass-iw Yettaf ṛṛuḥ uzekka

Yas reglen iyuraf-iw Aḥulfu-inu d tarusi-w Ur yessexlaq tawekka

D lebyi-k kan i d lebyi-w Tamuyli-nney tettihriw S ṣṣfa n laɛqel d trika



teflugin nniden refden-d iqerray-nsen, wehmen d acu yedran, d√a bdan la d-qeddfen metwal taflugt n Kino ■

#### **AMAWAL**

Taftist: a beach/une plage

Abeḥnuq: Used with the meaning of " a sail/une

wile".

Abukacbar: a shrimp/ une crewette. Tifratin/Tifrit: ifri amecţuḥ/ a small caw Ayyis n yillel: sea horse/ hippocampe

Abley: volume

Awlelles: Blurry/le flou, l'imprécision

Ssugen: to imagine/ Imaginer Anefren: accuracy/ la précision

Ju/yejla/ ur yejli: Etre loin; Nnejli: partir loin,

s' expatrier/to go far away

Sewlelles: vibrate blindingly/ assombrir, render flou ou

imprecise.

Awlul: a blob/ une masse sans forme

Ila/ilan = to own/ who owns/ posséder/qui possède

Alemdi/talemdit: tendre/ tender. Ici, proposition d'élargissement du champ sémantique pour inclure les émotions.

Adal: an algea/ une algue

Eubbej: to apply craftly/appliquer avec soin.

Amsari/tamsarit: simple Asillef: gesture/ un geste

Aylal: oyster or clam/ animal marin à coquille comme

les huitres, coquilles Saint-Acques, etc.

Ssizdeg: to filter/filter, purifier.

Amekray/ imekrayen/tamekrayt/ timekrayin: dworf/

Nain(s)/ naine(s)

Dber: to irritate/irriter, écorcher, blesser.

Gdel: Etre protégé. Ssegdel: to protect oneself/se

protéger.

Akala: a process/un processus

Awines/iwinsen: century (ies)/ Siècle(s)

Anya:a rythm/ un rythme.

Igir/igiren: heart beats/battement(s) ...du cœur.

Suder/ ur issuder/ issudur/asider: to consume, to use/

consommer.

S tin n tseqqar: Chances, odds/ En termes de probabilité.

#### ISALLEN News ISALLEN News ISALLEN News

#### (Continued from page 2)

PhD thesis at Yale University in Connecticut, USA, where he set the world record for spin polarization at very low temperatures. And according to him, he was also on a short list of potential Nobel Prize winners for 2016.

Despite his scientific success, his acquaintances with the most eminent physicists of the world, of which he is a part, Madjid has remained a very approachable person, close to his community, practicing his language, Taqbaylit, which he perfectly masters, and proud of his life experience in Kabylia.

Madjid, we are proud of you. We look forward to the day when your name will be announced as the winner by the Nobel Prize. It will be a tribute to your efforts first, and to our Amazigh people who have given so much to knowledge and science since antiquity under different banners

Amazigh Voice

#### A New Amazigh Language TV

CANADA -Launch of a New Amazigh Language Television Channel: Tamazgha Monde TV



(D akemmel n usebter 22) - AMAWAL

Tizi lyila: urgency/Une situation d'urgence, de

besoin.

Tuwwlin: a desire/ un désir. Hewwej: to disturb/ déranger.

Ineylan: illusions



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