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**French colonial repression during the massacres of May 08, 1945
AD - The crimes of European militias in Guelma region as a model-
La répression coloniale française lors des massacres du 08 mai 1945 - Les crimes
des milices européennes dans la région de Guelma comme modèle**

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Abstract:

The Algerian historical memory preserves the date of the eighth of May 1945 in the city of Guelma and its vicinity due to the magnitude and atrocity of the crimes committed against the unarmed people of Guelma by the French administration, with the help of the European militias that were formed to defend the settlers and the city following these incidents - according to their claims - which committed genocide in all its forms (mass murder, theft, burning of property and people, physical liquidation), leaving thousands of innocent victims.

This study, following the analytical approach of the newly opened archival documents for researchers aims to monitor the extent of terrorist violence and inhumane crimes committed by these militias under the tutelage of the French administration, to prove through the French sources themselves the magnitude of the crime, which took the character of a war crime and a crime against humanity. We affirm that colonial France has never abandoned the dream of French Algeria.

Key words : Incidents of May 8, 1945, European militias, French crimes, settlers.

Résumé

La mémoire historique algérienne conserve la date du 8 mai 1945 dans la ville de Guelma et ses environs en raison de l'ampleur et de l'atrocité des crimes commis contre la population désarmée de Guelma par l'administration française. Et avec l'aide des milices européennes qui se sont formées pour défendre les colons, qui ont commis un génocide sous toutes ses formes (meurtres de masse, vols, incendies de biens et de personnes, liquidation physique), et la ville à la suite de ces incidents - selon leurs affirmations - , ils ont commis des milliers de victimes innocentes.

Dans cette étude, et en suivant l'approche analytique des documents d'archives nouvellement ouverts pour les chercheurs, nous allons tenter de mettre en évidence l'ampleur de la violence terroriste et des crimes inhumains commis par ces milices sous la tutelle de l'administration française, pour montrer par les sources françaises elles-mêmes l'ampleur du crime, qui a pris le caractère d'un crime de guerre et d'un crime contre l'humanité. Nous soutenons que la France coloniale n'a jamais abandonné le rêve de l'Algérie française.

Mots-clés : Incidents du 8 mai 1945, milices européennes, crimes français, colons.

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Introduction:

May 08, 1945 is still a remarkable day in the Algerian historical memory, as it is linked to the most heinous human crimes to which advocates of freedom and equality have subjected Algerians. Revealing their colonial brutality, by turning peaceful demonstrations on the occasion of the victory over Nazism into genocide to advance these events into a humanitarian crime by all standards.

This happened after the European militias participated in the problem in the city of Guelma¹- which witnessed the incidents - along with the police and the army and mastered the revenge against the people of Guelma. The most heinous human crimes were committed against them under the tutelage of the French colonial administration, and under legal protection, which dropped their penalties with fake trials and investigations that end with the preservation of files and the dropping of charges against them to delude world public opinion with French justice.

However, the partial and conditional opening of the archive related to this human crime, revealed the extent of the ugliness and brutality of what thousands of innocent people were subjected to, and presented some of the facts that occurred on that day and in the aftermath of May - June 1945 AD-. Which the French state sought -and until today- to hide in order to preserve its image in international public opinion.

This study aims to reveal the involvement of European settlers and their militias in this humanitarian crime, whose manifestations varied between murder of all kinds, theft and burning of property, kidnapping crimes and mock trials that claimed the lives of thousands of innocent inhabitants of Guelma and its suburbs, by answering the following questions:

What is the extent of the contribution of the European militias to the massacres committed on the eighth of May 1945 in the city of Guelma and its vicinity? What are the most horrific crimes committed against the population in this region? Are these crimes considered a crime of genocide against humanity and a war crime under the tutelage of the French colonial administration?

This will be done through studying and analyzing the contents of the documents contained in the archive boxes. Especially the newly available which for decades has been banned, such as the following cans² :

¹ . The city of Guelma has known several names, some of them attribute it to the legend of "water found", which remains a legend only. Sotol, Malaca, Calama, and Guelma are different names throughout the ages for a single city, which ancient name is not mentioned in any of the maps of ancient routes and sources, perhaps the name of the city of Guelma according to the researcher A. Judas and Chabot JB. It is generally represented in the reading of the name Malaca by the Latins from right to left, i.e. C/Kalama). knowing that it is related to the monarchy (Royauté) in the Punic language based on the root - MLK - which is read from right to left as in the Semitic languages and without writing vowels like what is in all the Punic inscriptions, the Phoenician malaka is kalama in Latin speech, as it is one of the royal cities such as Annaba "Hipporegos". But the French archaeologist S. Kazzal believes that there is no scientific basis for this thesis. It is a city located in eastern Algeria, about 537 square kilometers from the capital Algiers.

² . I was able to see some of the cans that were recently opened during my visit to the Aix-en-Provence`s archives in 2016, where the phrase -communicable- is written on the box.

- 9 Cab/147 : évènements de Guelma, disparus pillages, rapport de police, fiche des renseignements.
- 8 Cab/870 : Guelma, répression des émeutes, rapport de police d'administrateurs 1945-1946.
- 8 Cab/59, 8 Cab/88, 8 Cab/166 et 8 Cab/97.

These documents have revealed the involvement of European settlers and their militias in this humanitarian crime, whose manifestations have varied between murders, theft and burning of property, kidnapping crimes and mock trials, which have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent inhabitants of Guelma and its suburbs, which I will address in this study.

1. The French occupation of the city of Guelma and the organization of its territory :

After the French seized the city of Algiers and its vicinity on 05/07/1830, the attention of the occupation turned to the capital of Beylik east of Constantine. which was stated by the French General de Rovigo « 1831-1833 » " that France can not in any way establish its feet on the land of Algeria without controlling Constantine and the Algerian east in general " (Julien, 1964 : 93). And after the failure of the first campaign led by General Cluzal in November 1836, the second campaign was prepared under the command of General "Damrimon", during which he was killed as a result of the strong resistance of the Dey Ahmed Bey, but his successor, General Valee, managed to occupy Constantine on 13/10/1837 (Ibid : 133).

And because Guelma is located on the road linking Annaba and Constantine, it was occupied in 1837 through Guelma city and the municipality of Majaz Ammar in the direction of Constantine and the plain of Sibous. This was when the French army led by General Damrimont " Charles-- Denys de Damrémont (1783-1837) "(anonyme, 1887 : 429) directed the second campaign to occupy Constantine through Guelma, immediately after its occupation the department of Guelma was established on November 1, 1838 by Sylvain-Charles Valée (1773-1846) (yver, 1949 : 1). After the issuance of the decree of December 9, 1848 (collot, 1987 : 41) relating to the general organization of Algeria, which defined the territories of the three provinces of Algeria, Oran and Constantine as regions from among the three original provinces (Constantine, Bonn (Annaba) and Philippeville (Skikda)). But the department of Constantine developed very quickly to 4, then 6 and finally 7 arrondissements, and the province of Guelma was the first of these provinces : Created by imperial decree on October 13, 1858, Guelma originally had only three municipalities : Guelma, Souk Ahras and Duvivier. The Guelma region, reconstituted by decree of July 27, 1875, constitutes a territory within the jurisdiction of the justices of the peace of Guelma and Souk Ahras, and at that time consisted only of municipalities with Extensive powers: Guelma, Klauzel, Galliani, Bou Sabaa Castle, Heliopolis, Melizimo and Souk Ahras.

After the establishment of the institution of mixed municipalities almost attendant, which logically applies to the province of Guelma : three mixed municipalities were created in the years that followed, Oued Charef in 1876, Safia in 1880, and finally Souk Ahras in 1884. Then the

municipality of Petit and Kellerman in 1886, a system that hardly changed for three quarters of a century. It is the common administrative organization in all regions of Algeria, between fully-fledged municipalities and mixed municipalities, consisting of colonization centers and parts of the indigenous population, which consisting of tribes and douars³. It quickly affected the Guelma region.

Guelma was annexed after a long time as a department of Constantine to the province of Annaba (Bône) by the law of August 7, 1955 and the decrees of August 23, 1955 and January 11, 1956. - The prefecture of Guelma, already in existence, is now departed from the department of Constantine, part of the province of New Bonn.

Guelma saw its area split in half after the establishment of the new Souk Ahras area, which is its jurisdiction, which extends over the eastern part of the former Guelma region, with the lands covered by the previous section mixed municipalities in Safiya and Souk Ahras. After 1956, it became the Guelma region. It comprises 22 municipalities, created to replace the old administrative units – colonization centres, roundabouts and mixed municipalities – with the same responsibilities as in the main regions of France.

2. The settlement movement in the city of Guelma and its surroundings :

Since the French occupation of the city on November 15, 1836, the department of Guelma (l'arrondissement de Guelma) - similar to the districts of the province of Constantine - has witnessed a wide settlement movement starting in 1851 (Duval, 1859: 263).

The settlers began to reach Guelma in 1848, led by the convoys of republicans from Lyon and settled in the Heliopolis area north of Guelma. who seized large lands until they were called "voracious" (les voraces), then successive influx of different nationalities to Guelma and its territory to become the demographics of the region consists of Germans who settled in the municipality of the castle of Bousbaa and the Maltese and the population coming from southern Italy.

These waves of settlers heading to settle in the province of Guelma due to the specificity of the region in terms of climate and enormous natural resources, led to the increase of small settlement centers in Heliopolis, Millesimo, Guelaat Bou Sbaa, petit and Clauzel. While the rest of the city territory was a military territory administered by the Arab military office of Guelma, which lasted until the establishment of the civil regime in 1870.

Suffice it here to point out through some statistics about the development of the number of European settlers from year to year, which confirms that Guelma was an attraction for them, especially after identifying its natural potential, diverse wealth and important location (Féraud, 1871 : 236).

³ . Archives of Algeria, wilaya of Constantine (region), manuscript monograph of the mixed commune of Guelma, Constantine, 1884.

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Evolution of the number of settlers in Guelma during the years (1884 – 1921 - 1943).

Indigènes(natives) ⁴ number	Number of Europeans	Years
71400 ⁵	4021	1884
149646(Kateb, 2010 : 176)	11213	1921
16000 indigenes in Guelma city (peyroulou, 2009 : 61)	4500 in Guelma city only	1943

Table prepared by the researcher

This confirms that the stability of settlers, especially in municipal headquarters (les chefs lieu), was significant and notable in Guelma city.

3. Distribution of Indigenes to all municipalities of both types (full powers and mixed):

According to 1943 statistics, the majority of Europeans settle in municipalities with full powers (communes pleins exercices). And with the lowest density in mixed municipalities. The following is a simple definition of the most important of these municipalities, which were the scene of the events of 8 May 1945.

- Guelma City (municipality with full powers) (Bérard, 1858 : 481) :

A historical city that sources differed in the origin of its name, it was subjected through stages of time to the occupation, where the Romans left their mark in the region and then became a French colony with the arrival of the French to it on November 15, 1836, and its final occupation was on September 30, 1838. By the decision issued on November 1, 1838 Guelma was the commune center, A decision issued on January 20 , 1845 granted 1,500 hectares to 230 families of Colonists to become an agricultural settlement in 1855. After that, the decrees come to organize life in the city followed by the establishment of the police station and the public administration. Guelma became a department of the prefecture of Constantine in 1858.

- Millesimo currently called Belkhir :

It is located 4 km from Guelma. It became an agricultural settlement by the decision of September 1848 and then became a municipality with full powers by decree of July 10, 1868 (Bouregghda, 2008 : 04). . Its population in 1858 was 209 Europeans and 82 indigenes (natives).

⁴ . Indigènes (natives) : The original inhabitants of Algeria before the advent of the occupation (Indigènes in french).

⁵ . G.G.A, Tableau général communes de pleins exercices mixtes et indigènes des trois départements de l'Algérie, 30 septembre 1884. p.360.

- Héliopolis :

Located 3 km from Guelma. It became an agricultural settlement by the decision of September 1848 and then became a municipality with full powers by decree of July 10, 1868. Its population in 1858 was 310 Europeans and 133 indigenes (natives) (Bérard, op cit : 411).

- Petit currently called Boumahra Ahmed :

8 km from Guelma city, first , it was called Millesimo II (Ibid : 412) and then by the decree of July 23, 1850 it became named Petit of the French Colonel Petit, who was killed in Beskra on October 9, 1849 .

In 1858, the number of Europeans reached 213, and the number of residents reached 174 people, in addition, it became a municipality with full powers by decree of March 15, 1871.

- Guelaat Bou Sbaa :

Founded in 1853, 10 km from Guelma, it became a municipality with full powers by decree of July 5, 1875 (Meddour, 2006 : 88).

- Henchir Reayen (Clauzel) :

It became a municipality with full powers in 1874.

- Henchir Elsaid (Galliani) :

It became a municipality with broad powers by decree of December 10, 1868.

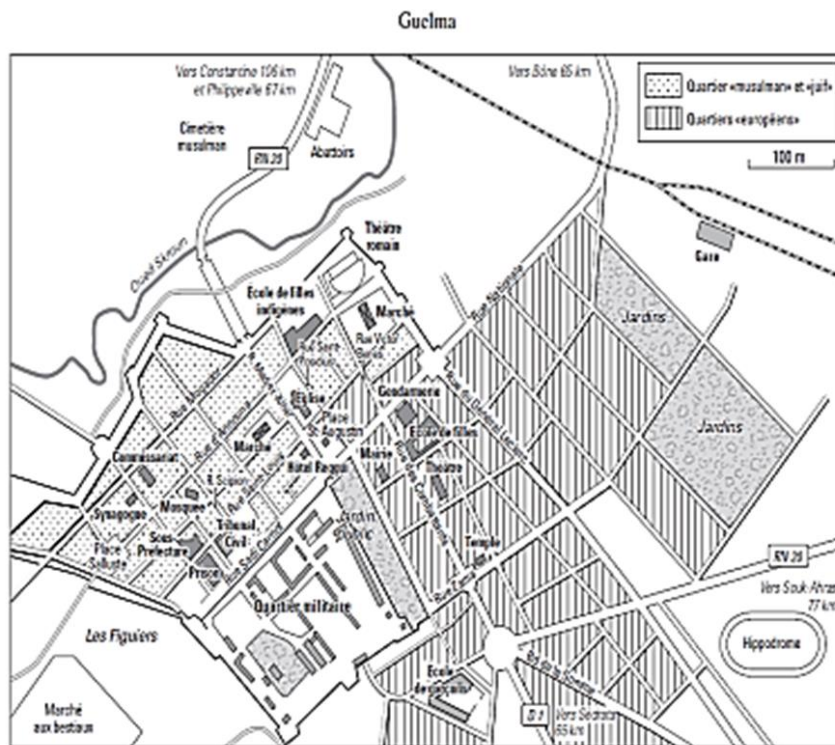
- oued touta (Kellerman) :

Established in 1853, an area rich in wealth, especially zinc mines, became a municipality with full authority by decree of 12/07/1886, after it became by decree of February 1858 a sector belonging to the municipality of Guelma (Bérard, op.cit : 414).

This briefing on the different regions (municipalities) of the Guelma region was necessary in order to enable the reader to understand and visualize the course of the horrific French massacres that these areas were the scene of during the eighth black day of May 1945.

The following is the city plan at the time of the massacres :

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D'après Guide vert Michelin Algérie-Sahara, 1956 et J.-L. Planche, *Sévil* 1945, Paris, 2006.

4. The formation of European militias in the city of Guelma :

With the arrival of sub-prefect André Achary⁶ to the city of Guelma on March 22, 1945, and due to his training in the security services, he took security measures as part of what he called a "Guelma protection scheme" (Un plan de protection de Guelma). Especially after being briefed on the increasing activity of citizens of the activists of (AML) in the city of Guelma, as in the rest of Algeria's territory⁷ (Golzeiger, 2002 :152). These armed groups or the so-called European militias (Les milices civiles) were established on April 14, 1945. Under the pretext of maintaining order in the Guelma department and dropping this task from the army units, which were insufficient due to the stage of the war in which France participated, and the mission of these militias continued until the end of June.

It is noteworthy that the resort to this type of militia was not for the first time in Guelma, but rather a revival and renewal of what was in the years 1880-1890 AD, when the so-called "civil defense militias" (Les milices d'autodéfense informelles) (peyroulou, Op.cit : 132) were established.

The feeling of danger and insecurity on the part of the settlers was quickly responded to by the Achiary administration, moving very quickly to provide full protection for the vital centers in

⁶. He studied at high school in the city of Algiers, holds a license's degree in law, succeeded in the competition of a police inspector in 1934 and was appointed to the security services in the city of Algiers in 1935 and after practicing various tasks, he was appointed on March 22, 1945 "sous-préfet" to the city of Guelma by the Governor General of Algeria Yves Chatino, see :
Dictionary of sensagert le parisien /André /20 Achiars.

⁷. Sources indicate that Farhat Abbas, Secretary-General of the Ahabab Al-Bayan Movement, estimated the number of activists of the Ahabab Al-Bayan and Freedom Movement at 500 thousand since its formation on March 14, 1944.

the city of Guelma in particular. The settlers' efforts and the speed of their movement have combined in forming these militias -despite their different political orientations and currents- , and It was organized into groups with a collective leadership to manage(Ramadan Boureghda, Op.cit:06). The number of militias registered on the lists reached 280 people, distributed according to their political affiliations as follows :

Political or trade union affiliations of members of civilian militias during the massacres of May 1945	
Number	affiliation
35members	CGT (The General Confederation of Labour)(La Confédération générale du travail)
16 members	Sifo (French Section of the Workers' International)(Section française de l'Internationale ouvrière)
06 members	PCA (The Algerian Communist Parti)(Le Parti communiste algérien)
08 members	fight (combat)
06 members	Radical - Socialists (Radicaux-socialistes)
43 members	Republican Left (Gauche républicaine)
12 members	Pétainists (pétainistes)
76 members	Moderate (Modérés)
48 members	Republican Jews (Juifs républicains)
18 members	No opinion (Sans opinion)

(peyroulou, 2009 : 129).

What is also noticeable about the composition of these civilian militias is that they included in their ranks all groups of colonial society in the city of Guelma, where their average age ranged between 30 and 50 years, and their jobs differed. So we find workers and peasants, merchants and craftsmen, workers in the public and private sectors, and even lawyers and judges, industrialists and almost all segments of society, including the unemployed. Which confirms the desire to avenge these and behind them the French colonial administration. which responded in a quick response on a demonstration by a group of Gualmi residents in a peaceful manner, the most horrible response and repression lasted for weeks and even months in the genocide of thousands of Gualmi in the villages, towns, roundabouts and municipalities forming the Guelma district.

The following table shows the most important sectors and professions to which members of the European militias belong in the city of Guelma in 1945 :

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Professional Sectors (Secteurs professionnels)	Number	%
Agricultural Workers (Ouvriers agricoles)	03	1.5
Settler Farmers (Agriculteurs colons)	12	6.2
Craftsmen and workers(Artisans et ouvriers)	52	26.9
Traders (Commerçants)	35	18.1
Private and public sector employees (Employés du privé et du public)	41	21.2
Teachers(Instituteurs)	04	02
Magistrates and lawyers (Magistrats et avocats)	07	3.6
Executives in the private sector(Cadres du privé)	08	4.1
Traders & Industrialists (Négociants et industriels)	10	5.1
Retirees and annuitants (Retraités et rentiers)	5	10
Diverse (Divers)	3	06
No profession (Sans profession)	3	06

(peyroulou, op-cit : 128).

As the historian Jean - Pierre Peyroulou pointed out in this recent and important study, which came under the title “Guelma 1945 AD French sabotage in colonial Algeria, that 78 members of these militias were armed with military weapons, including guns (Fusils mitrailleurs) placed in the center of the city. And 21 of them were killers (les tueurs), who participated in the genocide of the unarmed people of Guelma, where the number of victims was estimated in the hundreds-according to the previous source - in Guelma city, Petit (Boumehra), Heliopolis and Millesimo (peyroulou, Op.cit : 130). French reports have indicated that these horrific crimes against innocent unarmed people were encouraged and covered up by the aforementioned mayors.

5. The most important crimes of the European militias in Guelma and its surroundings:

The crimes of the European militias in the city of Guelma and its surroundings have varied to paint a gruesome picture of what the French colonial machine has committed with all brutality and inhumanity towards innocent and defenseless people. We did not pronounce this judgment on what happened for a continuous week, starting from May 8, 1945, which fell on Monday, until we saw a set of documents proving it⁸. Various French reports have confirmed that European militias and French security services carried out mass executions to terrorize the people of Guelma who were accused of participating in the demonstrations, and even those innocent people who had nothing to do with the events.

⁸ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, the can 9 cab/147.

The same reports did not simply mention the most heinous killings, whether by firing squad (mass execution) (collective execution) or by burning the bodies. It also referred to the practice- particularly militia- of all kinds of terrorism from theft of property, burning of farms and houses without forgetting abductions acts.

Therefore, I wanted to focus on some of these crimes after I classified them by reviewing the archival documents that became available, including the box (9 cabins /147), which contains important details about a moral and humanitarian scandal committed by these militias.

a. Murder and genocide :

The reports of this box -a series of investigations opened by the French administration through the judicial police- confirm that European militias have carried out illegal executions, because most of the operations are individual or collective reprisals (Report to the Governor General of the commission)⁹. Which are many, as evidenced by the number of complaints and petitions submitted by the people of the Guelma to reveal the fate of their relatives of the victims of these incidents. As the week was a "bloody week" as described by the historian Jean-Pierre Peyroulou (peyroulou, Op. cit :131).

i. Genocide on the farm of YeKhlef :

A special report from the judicial police of the Guelma city (police judiciaire) proves that the so-called "Judi Ben Larbi Ben Taher" submitted a petition -complaint- to the prosecutor of the city requesting the opening of an investigation to uncover the circumstances of the killing of his wife, two sons and a group of indigenes (about 16 people) by the militias¹⁰. The petitioner details the reasons for the attack, stating that the brothers "Zara", respectively, "Charles Quinza and Dillo", came to the farm with unknown gendarmes on 22 different trucks loaded with tanks, machine guns and ammunition, and they opened fire, and after the completion of the killing, these elements carried out extensive burning and looting.

The report finally confirmed that the investigations with the person concerned by the judicial police had concluded with the denial of the facts mentioned by the complainant, denying all the allegations he made about him, and denying every word that the public secretary of the city of Guelma, called "Wartsi Al-Zein". Especially with regard to tanks and trucks loaded with ammunition, and confirmed -the report- that the interrogation of the complainant ended up confirming only the killing of his family, as for the burning operations, he does not know its source.

⁹ . General Tibar has tried to confirm the hypothesis of individual actions on what the militia members have done against Guelma`s people under the pretext of protecting the property of Europeans from repeated attacks by indigenes, The detailed report can be found :

-Report to the Governor General of the commission charged with carrying out an administrative inquiry into the events, which took place in the department of Constantine on 8 May 1945 and the following days : <http://www.henripoulet.fr/spip.php> .

¹⁰ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence the can 9 cab/147, Special Report of the Chief Inspector, July 9, 1948. (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, 9 juillet 1948).

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The investigations with the public secretary, according to the same report, confirm that the aforementioned facts were dictated to him by the municipal councilor, Chtibi Saleh, who is elected to the list of Dr. Lakhdari.

It should be noted that these investigations end with the denial or minimization of the events and the reduction of the number of victims.

Mass murder in Millesimo, Boumahra, Heliopolis, Clauzel, Gounod ... :

They are summarized in the following table :

Examples of mass murder in Millesimo , Boumahra , Heliopolis , Clauzel , Gounod

Victims (the result of the assault)	Place and date	The assault
The so-called Majaldia Saleh and his family were killed and his house was burned and destroyed	Mashta Hger Gir (garden) in Millesimo at the end of May 1945	European militias (mentioned by name) and 4 Italian prisoners of war
Airstrikes on the Mashta and its surroundings. Dozens of victims and attacks on the population from 8 to 20 May 1945	Mashta Dwakha (garden) in Petit on May 9, 1945	European militias and aircraft bombardment
Mass killing of 8 Muslims from Mashta ¹¹	Mashta Ain Zitouna (garden) on May 17, 1945, in Clauzel	03 Gendarmerie Men
Some Muslims were placed in small collective pits (tens, hundreds, or maybe more have not been identified)	Kef el bouma in Heliopolis	Small collective pits by Le garde champêtre

Table prepared by the researcher

b. Arsonist and theft of property :

Not only did the civilian militias, especially in the city of Guelma, Boumahra, and Millesimo commit their heinous crimes of indiscriminate and sometimes selective killings motivated by revenge against unarmed innocents. However, they went even further when they practiced their favorite hobby imbued with the spirit of revenge against the people by stripping them of their property, by either burning or stealing and looting, to make them homeless.

¹¹ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, the box 9 cab/147 , Special report of the chief inspector, disappearance , during the riots of May 1945 , of the named Kouarta brahim , Kirat Salah , Zaidi boudrera .17 May 1945. (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, disparition, au cour des émeutes de mai 1945, du nommé Kouarta brahim , Kirat Salah , Zaidi boudrera .17 mai 1945) .

What is certain is that what the population has been subjected to is a continuation of the series of crimes of individual or mass genocide, and a type of terrorism practiced in a heinous way against the property of innocent people.

To paint a picture of the hatred practiced by settlers against unarmed civilians, we give examples through the French reports, which clearly and accurately mentioned these acts, as these documents prove without ambiguity the crimes of these terrorist groups.

Examples of some of the crimes of theft, looting and murder committed by European militias during the massacres (through documents)

Facts of the crime	Crime scene	Type of crime and perpetrator
The arrival of the Moroccan column and the gendarmerie elements to the residence of the concerned and stripping him of an amount estimated at 350.000 francs	Mashta Ain al-Ghoul(garden) Municipality of Wadi al-Sharif May 1945, The Concerned Ben al-Sheikh al-Hadi ¹²	Theft of jewelry and money -The Moroccan column and the elements of the gendarme of Ain Amara
Attack by 20 militiamen, including the brothers Zara, Antoine Dilou, and Dimac Lulu, who stole the animals of the concerned, including 6 livestock, 8 goats, then the Moroccan column looted 44 sheep and 43 goats.	Mashta Mdjez Amar Municipality of Guelma on May 12, The Concerned Hadri Abd Errahmen Ben Taher	Theft of movable items and burning of houses (les gourbis)
Theft of money estimated at 150.000 francs	Train Station, Guelma, The Concerned Boutamin Mohamed	Money theft
A group of Moroccan columnists with the help of the guard (G. Champetre) and the head of the gendarmerie squad (cerdan) looted and burned the house of the concerned and stole 170.000 francs	Mashta Ain al-Ghoul(garden) Municipality of Clauzel, The concerned Daghman Belkacem Ben Ismail ¹³	Looting , stealing money and burning houses

Table prepared by the researcher

¹² . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, the box 9 cab/147, Special report of the chief inspector, theft of jewellery, livestock, effects and household objects during the riots of May 1945, to the detriment of Ben Sheikh Hadi . (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, vol de bijoux, cheptel, effets et objets mobiliers lors des émeutes de mai 1945, au préjudice de ben cheikh Hadi).

¹³ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, boîte 9 cab/147, special report of the chief inspector, theft of various property, during the riots of May 1945, to the detriment of Djemam belkacem ben smail. (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, vol de divers biens, lors des émeutes de mai 1945, au préjudice de Djemam belkacem ben smail).

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These examples are only samples of what these militias and their supporters have done in terms of burning and destroying countrysides and meshtas (gardens).

c. Kidnapping crimes (missing persons) (les disparus) :

The phenomenon of kidnapping was the favorite crime of the militias in the Guelma region and its vicinity after the incidents of May 1945, which extended for a long time (the end of June). Where the security services (police, gendarmerie), especially terrorist groups (militias) imbued with the spirit of revenge to carry out successive operations of kidnapping and taking innocent people to unknown destinations so that they disappear forever¹⁴ (Vallet, 1948 : 163-212).

The documents proved that the relatives of these people filed complaints demanding an investigation into their fate¹⁵ and provided accurate testimonies about the identity of the abductees¹⁶ However, the collusion of the various security services (gendarmerie, general intelligence police, army...) with European militias ended in deep and long investigations, which is a deceptive method to obscure the truth as a result of not determining the fate of the missing or identifying the killers.

Because the fate of these people is unknown, it will inevitably be added to the list of victims (martyrs) of these crimes, as the bodies of these people remain unaccounted for until today.

Although the French administration opened what it called investigations into the cases of missing persons after the issuance of the amnesty law on March 9, 1946, the latter ended without result because it was nothing more than attempts to conceal the well-planned truth, which is the tragic end of these kidnapped .

For example, but not limited to, the following are examples of abductions in which investigations were opened by the prosecutor at the Guelma court based on complaints filed by the victims' families, which are derived from official archival documents such as police reports, the mobile gendarmerie of the city of Guelma and the judicial police.

The first model :

The Complainant : Hasnaoui Nouna from the municipality petit

The Disappeared : Ben Za'ara Omar bin Taher on May 10, 1945 .

¹⁴ . Some French sources and references tried to transform the settlers and behind them the European militias from the role of executioner to the role of the victim and monitored in return the attacks on the settlers' material and animal property and the killing of some colons who own major properties in the vicinity of the city, such as petit, Millisimo, and described the natives in the ugliest pictures.

¹⁵ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, the box 9 cab / 147, special report of the chief inspector, intentional homicide, asks the Attorney General in Algiers to open an investigation into the disappearance of Ayaicha Lamri, on 10 / 01 / 1947. (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, homicide volontaire, demande a m. le procureur général à Alger d'ouverture une enquête au sujet de la disparition de nommée Ayaicha Lamri, le 10 / 01 / 1947).

¹⁶ . A.N.O.M, Aix en Provence, the box 9 cab / 147, Special Report of the Chief Inspector, Intentional Homicide, on 11 / 01 / 1946. (Rapport spécial de l'inspecteur principal, homicide volontaire, le 11 / 01 / 1946).

- A complaint was filed with the prosecutor in Guelma demanding an investigation into the disappearance of her husband, Ben Zaara Omar Ben Taher, during the demonstrations of May 1945, who works for the mayor of petit (now Boumahra). Mr. Brisseo : brussiau. A peasant in the municipality of Buti, the kidnapped never returned.

The second model :

The Complainant : Haddad Ali the husband of the disappeared.

The Disappeared : Ziad Guermieh.

In a petition written by the public secretary of the city of Guelma, called "Wartsi Zein", and addressed to the prosecutor at the Guelma court, the complainant Haddad Ali accused the following persons:

- Cheymol Édouard
- Gerbaulet lucien
- Faucheux réné
- Muscat Charles
- Crespot François

According to the complainant, this group of people killed his wife, Ziad Guerrier, along with 17 other people – a mass murder – in addition to the robbery where the victim was robbed of 25,000 French francs and 12 bags of wheat and then burned the house.

On the other hand, the members of this militia denied these accusations to the police, and confirmed that they had nothing to do with these operations and that they were present at their residence during the incident.

Third model :

The Complainant : Namoushi Aisha bint Bashir

The Disappeared : Boujemaa Messaoud Ben Ammar

A complaint was filed with the prosecutor at the Guelma court, and a copy was sent to the director of the newspaper Al-Hurriya in Algeria demanding an investigation into the disappearance of the husband Boudjemaa Messaoud Ben Ammar, accusing the so-called Gozillon Camille of kidnapping the so-called Boujemaa, who works in a workshop for Goiran Louis, where he took him on a truck to Kaf El Boumba in the municipality of the police and shot him.

Although the French administration opened what it called investigations on the cases of missing persons after the issuance of the presidential pardon decree on March 9, 1946, these

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investigations ended without result because they were attempts to conceal the truth that was well destined for the tragic end of these kidnapped.

I have been able to see many reports¹⁷ that have proven -issued by French official bodies- that many of the families of the missing have filed a set of petitions and complaints with the aim of investigating the truth of these victims. And I will mention below a group of names of the abductees who have become missing to this day through the documents I have seen¹⁸.

Examples of some missing persons during the massacres.

kidnapping crime date	Municipality	Name and surname
May 16 , 1945	Gounod	Ghazali Abd Allah Ben Sasi
May 17, 1945	Clauzel	Kwarta messaoud
Between 10 - 12 May , 1945	Meshta Ain Far (Garden) -Petit-	Soudani's family (the father and the son).
During May , 1945	Millesimo	Mouassa El Aid
During May , 1945	Guelma	Sahli Seddouk Ben Ali
May 12 , 1945	Guelma	Rahhab Elbavhir Ben El Said
May 25 , 1945	Petit	Staifiya Lehmedi Ben Brahim
May 16 , 1945	Bouhemden	Louchiya Messaoud Ben Taher
May 14 , 1945	Guelma	Boutamin Rabeh Bin Muhammad
May 18 , 1945	Guelma	Alawi Alsaeed Ben Muhammad
May 15 , 1945	Guelma	Ben Khana Abdul wahab Ben Muhammad
May , 1945	Heliopolis	Allwash Rabeh
May , 1945	Oued charef	Triki Mahfoud Ben Ali

Table prepared by the researcher

And the list is still long

Conclusion:

The city of Guelma in eastern Algeria and all its suburbs knew a wide settlement movement after its occupation in 1837, and the influx of European groups of different nationalities to it with the aim of settlement and stability. And this was helped by the appropriate general conditions - climatic and diverse wealth - in addition to the French colonial policy pursued, foremost of which is the economic policy - real estate in particular - which encouraged the colon to settle after enabling them to thousands of hectares and fertile agricultural areas that were stripped of the inhabitants of

¹⁷ . Most of them are in the box 9 cab/147.

¹⁸ . The aim of proving these petitions and complaints in these reports may be that the French judiciary has done its duty and that French justice has taken its course, which France has already tried to convey to the French and international public opinion. But most of these complaints ended with preservation, or the failure to identify the kidnappers or killers who committed the crime.

the region under the legislative system Real estate. whose laws were applied to all major agricultural properties in Algeria, including the Guelma region, such as the law of April 22, 1863, the law of Warnier of July 26, 1873, and other legislations that confiscated the property of Algerians and granted it to the settlers. In addition to other economic resources that the region possessed. Of course, this policy has had serious effects that embodied all the manifestations of economic repression - in addition to political repression - on the public life of the inhabitants of the region, who resisted French political practices and terrible colonial repression. This resistance was translated on the eighth of May 1945 AD as the memorable day in which the people of Guelma and its environs responded to the call for peaceful demonstration and took advantage of the emergence of the colonial regime with its victories over the Nazis to express legitimate demands and reject all forms of colonial oppression that the population rose up to. Large numbers of people from all municipalities of Guelma joined in demanding political demands and others calling for freedom and independence. This prompted the French colonial administration to recruit European militias driven by a spirit of revenge and hatred, which committed all forms of violence and terrorism against the population in most parts of the region without discrimination between groups of society, children, women, the elderly. Committing all kinds of crimes such as looting, robbery, arson, kidnapping, brutal mass murder and mass crematoriums. Like Lime kiln in Kaf Al-Bomba in the municipality of Heliopolis.

This was proven by archival documents - although they were issued by official bodies - which confirmed the terrible crimes committed by European militias under the tutelage of the French administration. These massacres are the complicity of the official authority on the one hand and the colonial lobby on the other, against an unarmed people. This leads us to imagine the horror of the crimes that occurred in the summer of 1945 - Which is still one of the secrets and prohibitions that the French state seeks not to discuss and delve into to this day. It was also keen with all its efforts to hide its crimes and cover up the perpetrators, especially the members of the civilian militias, despite the submission of many families of the victims complaints and petitions to the judicial services to investigate these crimes. The massacres of the eighth of May 1945 in the city of Guelma and its region left thousands of innocent victims of unarmed civilians, whose number is unknown to this day, as they are war crimes and crimes against humanity under the provisions of international law.

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- Illustration

Illustration 1: A picture of European militias in the city of Guelma during the massacres of May 8, 1945.



Illustration 2 : examples of police reports on the families of the missing during the massacres of May 8, 1945 and found in the box (9 cab / 147) .

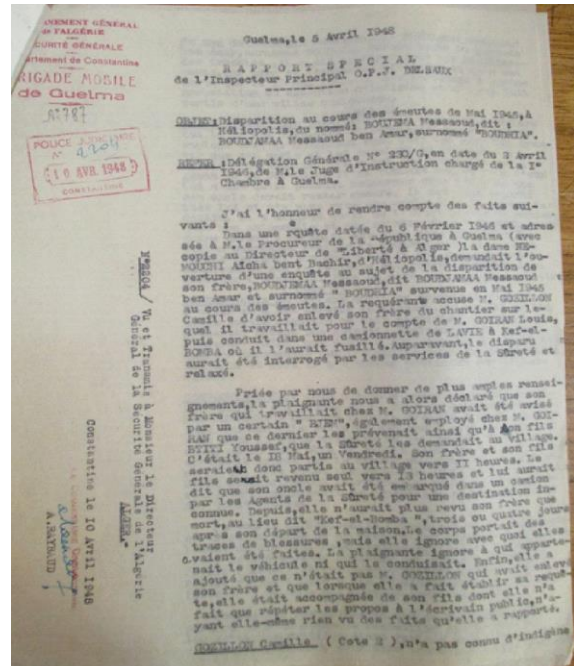
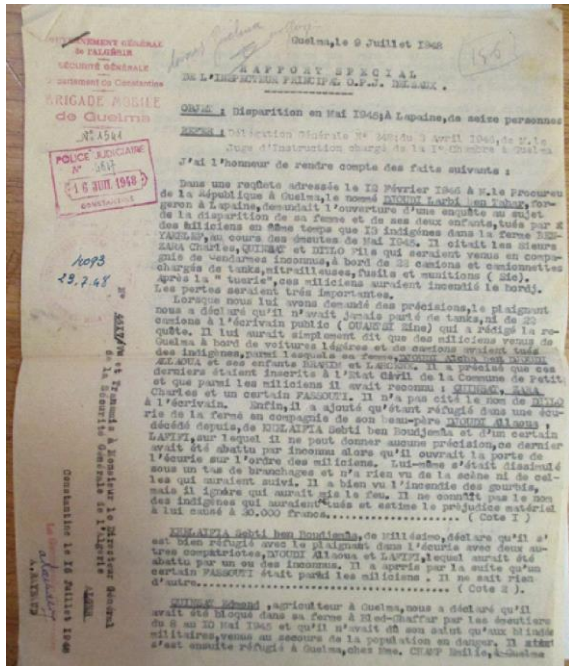
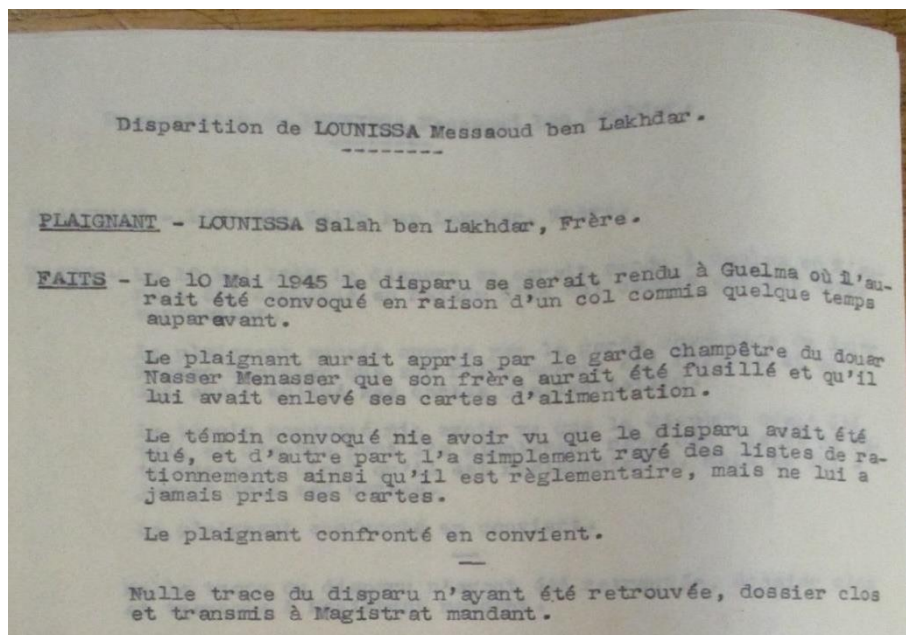


Illustration 03: examples ID card of one of the missing during the massacres of May 8, 1945.



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