

Law No. 84-02 of January 2, 1984, establishing the National Order of Merit.

The President of the Republic,

Having regard to the Constitution, in particular Articles 111-18, 151-26 and 154 thereof;

Having regard to Ordinance No. 66-156 of 8 June 1966, as amended and supplemented, establishing the Penal Code, in particular Articles 244 and 245 thereof;

Having regard to Ordinance No. 71-28 of 22 April 1971 establishing the Code of Criminal Justice, in particular Article 298 thereof;

After adoption by the National People's Assembly; promulgates the law the text of which follows:

CHAPTER I

CREATION - PURPOSE

Article 1. - The purpose of this law is the establishment of a national order of merit.

Article 2. - The decoration of the National Order of Merit is awarded to reward outstanding services rendered to the country in a civil, public, or military function and exceptional services rendered to the Revolution.

This decoration is also awarded to reward the merits of citizens who, through their creative talent, have contributed to enhancing the country's prestige.

Article 3. - The President of the Republic is, by right, Sadr of the National Order of Merit. He has final jurisdiction over all matters concerning the National Order of Merit. He presides over the Council of the National Order of Merit whenever he deems it necessary.

Article 4. - A Council of the National Order of Merit is hereby established: its organization and operation shall be governed by regulations.

Article 5. - The National Order of Merit comprises ranks and distinctions. The ranks, of which there are three, are: Achir, Djadir, and Ahid. The distinctions, of which there are three, are: Athir, Amid, and Sadr.

CHAPTER II

NOMINATION - PROMOTION

Article 6. - The President of the Republic, Sadr of the Order of National Merit, shall, by decree, upon the proposal of the Minister, determine the number of nominations or promotions that the head of the central structure of the National Liberation Front Party and the ministers are authorized to submit over a period of five years, for the ranks as well as for the Minister when it concerns the dignity of [illegible].

Article 7. - Nominations and promotions within the Order are pronounced by decree.

Nominations may be made posthumously.

Article 8. - No one may be a member of the Order unless they are an Algerian citizen.

However, the dignity of Athir may be conferred and the ranks awarded, respectively, to foreign Heads of State and to foreign civil and military figures. Their conferral is pronounced by the President of the Republic, independently of the normal rules.

Decorations awarded to foreign citizens are the subject of a separate decree.

SECTION I

Initial Nominations

Article 9. - Initially, in order to allow the establishment of the order, the appointment of dignitaries and ranks will be made by decree.

Article 10. - A list of names for the dignity of Athir, names for the rank of Ahid, names for the rank of Djadir, and names for the rank of Achir of the order will be established jointly with the responsible members of the central structure of the National Liberation Front Party.

SECTION II

Nominations and Promotions Under Normal Circumstances

Article 11. - For each name it is necessary to prove:

Firstly, for the rank of Achir of the order at least 10 years of service or activities as provided for in Article 2 above.

Secondly, to the rank of Djadir, with five more years' service in the rank of Achir.

Thirdly, to the rank of Ahid, with three more years' service in the rank of Djadir.

Article 12. - Only those members of the order who have been in their rank for at least three years can be elevated to the dignity of athir of the order.

Article 13. - All advancements in the order, as well as all elevations to the dignity of athir, must reward merit and not seniority in the grade.

SECTION III

Nominations and Promotions Under Exceptional Circumstances

Article 14. - Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 11, 12 and 13 of this law, appointments or promotions may be made by decree on an exceptional basis without any time limit, upon the proposal of the Council of the Order of Academic Merit.

Article 15. - The decree appointing or promoting an individual shall specify the merits rewarded in each category.

SECTION IV

Administration of the Order - Procedure for Nomination and Promotion

Article 16. - Regulatory texts will establish the statutes of the Order of Merit, the remuneration system for permanent staff, and the conditions for submitting proposals to the Chancellery for review by the Council of the Order. See V. Effects of Appointment to the Order.

SECTION V

Effects of Nomination to the Order

Article 17. - Members of the Order are appointed for life.

CHAPTER III

INSIGNIA AND PATENTS

Article 18. - The decoration of the national medal is the highest national decoration. The insignia of the dignities and awards of the order of the medal are worn before any other national or foreign decoration.

Article 19. - The technical characteristics of the patented decorations, as well as the corresponding insignia and ribbons for each of the grades and dignity of the National Order of Merit, will be determined by the Order's authority.

CHAPTER IV

SANCTIONS

Article 20. - Membership in the Order is lost upon conviction for a crime or a prison sentence of at least one year for any offense.

Article 21. - For less serious convictions, the Council of the Order may pronounce against a member either permanent exclusion or a temporary suspension.

Article 22. - Any recipient of the decoration who publicly wears a foreign decoration without authorization is liable to temporary suspension. having been previously authorized.

Article 23. - Suspension for a fixed term entails, for its entire duration, the suspension of the right to display the decoration of the order as well as all other decorations and insignia of the order.

Article 24. - Under penalty of the provisions of the penal code and the code of military justice, it is forbidden to publicly wear, without the right to do so, the decorations and distinctive insignia that are the subject of this present article.

Article 25. - Any public insult or offense committed against one of the members of the order displaying their decoration exposes the perpetrator to legal proceedings. The perpetrator is liable to imprisonment from five days to six months and a fine of 500 to 1,500 DA or to one of these two penalties only.

CHAPTER V

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26. - The procedures for awarding and the conditions of precedence for wearing the decorations of the National Order of Merit and the distinctive insignia pertaining thereto, shall be established by decree.