

**PREPARATION FOR THE ALGERIAN WAR OF LIBERATION IN THE DAHRA
REGION AND THE
ROLE OF THE MARTYR OMAR BERJI IN ORGANIZING REVOLUTIONARY
ACTIVITY (1945–1954)**

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Abstract

This study aims to highlight the role of the Dahra region in the preparation for the Algerian Liberation Revolution during the period between 1945 and 1954, as well as the role of the martyr Berji Omar in organizing revolutionary activity and preparing for armed struggle. The Dahra region witnessed intense nationalist activity following the events of 8 May 1945, as activists of the national movement contributed to spreading political awareness and mobilizing the local population against French colonial policy.

The Special Organization (OS) played a central role in training militants, organizing clandestine cells, and collecting weapons and material resources necessary for preparing the revolution. The years 1953 and 1954 witnessed intensified political and military preparations in the Dahra region through secret meetings, the expansion of communication networks, military training, and the collection of funds and supplies, thereby creating favorable conditions for the outbreak of the Liberation Revolution.

In this context, Martyr Berji Omar emerged as one of the most important local cadres in the region, contributing to the structuring of militants and the expansion of organizational activity within both the national movement and the Special Organization. He also participated in receiving and implementing directives from the revolutionary leadership.

Berji Omar played a significant role in preparing for the attacks of 1 November 1954 by supervising revolutionary cells, leading the Welles sector, and taking part in military operations targeting colonial facilities. He continued his revolutionary activity after the outbreak of the revolution until his martyrdom alongside his brother Berji Kada on 22 December 1954, following a heroic confrontation with French colonial forces.

The success of the Liberation Revolution in the Dahra region was the result of cumulative political, organizational, and military efforts in which many national activists participated, foremost among them Berji Omar, who represents a model of a militant who combined political awareness, organizational work, and sacrifice for the nation in the struggle against brutal French colonialism.

Keywords: Algerian Liberation Revolution; Dahra region; martyr Berji Omar; Special Organization (OS) ; preparation for the revolution; 1 November 1954; revolutionary activity.

Introduction

The Dahra region occupied a distinguished position in the history of the Algerian national movement and the War of Liberation, owing to its strategic location and geographical characteristics, which made it a favorable environment for the activities of nationalist militants from the early stages of the emergence of national consciousness. Since the end of the Second World War, the region witnessed increasing political dynamism associated with the growing activities of nationalist parties, particularly the Algerian People's Party (PPA) and the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (MTLD), both of which worked to disseminate nationalist ideas and mobilize the population in preparation for confronting the French colonial project.

The May 8, 1945 massacres constituted a decisive turning point in the course of the Algerian national struggle. Nationalists came to realize that the colonial authorities would not respond to legitimate political demands, leading many activists to become convinced that armed struggle was the only viable path toward achieving national independence. In this context, the Special Organization (OS) emerged as the organizational and military framework responsible for preparing for the revolution through the training of militants, the collection of weapons, and the establishment of the clandestine structures necessary for launching armed action.

The Dahra region was among the areas that experienced intense activity by the Special Organization and nationalist militants. It gradually became a fertile ground for clandestine operations and for the political and military preparation of the Algerian Revolution. The region also witnessed the emergence of several militants who played pivotal roles in mobilizing the population and organizing revolutionary cells, foremost among them the martyr Omar Berji, who is regarded as one of the leading pioneers of revolutionary activity in the region.

Accordingly, this study seeks to answer the following research questions:

How did the Dahra region contribute to the preparation of the Algerian War of Liberation? What was the nature of the role played by the martyr Omar Berji in organizing revolutionary activity and preparing for the outbreak of the armed revolution?

First: The Beginnings of Preparation for the Algerian War of Liberation in the Dahra Region

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the Dahra region experienced growing political activism linked to the development of the Algerian national movement and the expansion of its popular support base. The May 8, 1945 massacres played a significant role in deepening nationalist sentiment among the population of the region, especially as the French colonial authorities' promises regarding political and civil rights for Algerians proved to be illusory.

Within this framework, a number of nationalist activists were active across various villages and centers of Dahra, including Taji Abdelkader, Ben Zait Abdelkader, Ben Moumen Abdallah, Boudida Ben Ali, Hassani Mustafa, Belkdim Boualem, Berji Omar, and his brother Kadour. They began holding secret meetings in remote areas away from the surveillance of the colonial administration, with the aim of raising awareness among the population about the reality of

colonial policy and urging them to uphold their right to freedom and independence (Kiass, 2008, p. 47).

Several of these activists were arrested due to their political activities; however, the promulgation of the general amnesty law on 16 March 1946 allowed many of them to resume their nationalist activism, which contributed to the revival of nationalist political organizations in the region.

With the establishment of the Special Organization, the process of preparation for the Liberation Revolution was strengthened. This organization played a fundamental role in framing, training, and organizing militants into clandestine cells, in addition to collecting weapons and securing the communication and logistical means necessary for the success of revolutionary action (Revue 1er Novembre, 2008, p. 51)

Members of the Special Organization also contributed to spreading the idea of armed struggle within popular circles and convincing activists of the necessity of moving from political demands to armed revolution, especially after the failure of various reform projects proposed by the colonial authorities.

This activity led to the emergence of a wide network of militants and sympathizers of the nationalist movement in the Dahra region, which created favorable conditions for the launch of practical preparations for the revolution in the following years.

Second: Political and Military Preparation for the Liberation Revolution in the Dahra Region (1953–1954)

During the years preceding the outbreak of the Liberation Revolution, the Dahra region witnessed intensified political and organizational activity, linked to the development of the Algerian nationalist movement and its entry into a new phase characterized by actual preparation for armed struggle. These preparations took place in the context of the crisis of the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties, which led many activists to the conviction of the need to overcome political divisions and move toward direct revolutionary action.

Archival French documents indicate that political activity in the Mostaganem region, including Dahra, increased significantly from 1953 onward, as activists of the Algerian People's Party and the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties intensified their secret meetings and organizational contacts. These activists adopted various methods to evade colonial surveillance, organizing small, limited gatherings held periodically in isolated places far from the eyes of French security forces (A.N.O.M., 1953, pp. 1–2).

These documents reveal that meetings were generally held in small groups characterized by a high degree of secrecy, during which participants discussed the general political situation, debated the future of the nationalist movement, and examined possible means of transitioning to armed struggle. These meetings contributed to expanding the base of activists and preparing the individuals who would later assume responsibilities in revolutionary organization and leadership.

Starting in April 1953, nationalists exploited various social and religious occasions to disseminate nationalist ideas and broaden communication with the population. Weekly markets,

weddings, family gatherings, religious celebrations, and funeral assemblies became spaces for political awareness-raising and the spread of national consciousness among different segments of society (A.N.O.M., 1953).

These activities contributed to strengthening the idea of revolution among the population, particularly in rural areas that constituted the human backbone of the nationalist movement in the region. Activists also worked on selecting individuals who demonstrated discipline, courage, and the ability to maintain secrecy, in preparation for their integration into emerging revolutionary organizations.

In this context, activists' activities were not limited to the political dimension alone, but extended to the psychological and moral preparation of the population by explaining the nature of the coming phase and the sacrifices it would require, as well as mobilizing the masses to provide moral and material support for the anticipated revolution. They also began collecting financial donations and supplies, ensuring various forms of logistical support necessary for the success of revolutionary action.

French reports confirm the continuation of these organizational activities throughout 1953, as French gendarmerie services recorded numerous meetings attributed to the Algerian People's Party and the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties. These gatherings were presented outwardly as religious or educational meetings; however, the colonial authorities were aware of their connection to clandestine political activity and preparations for armed struggle (A.N.O.M., 1953, p. 1).

On the military level, practical preparations for the revolution began to take a clearer form. Activists in the region started organizing night training sessions in various mountainous and forested areas of Dahra, taking advantage of the rugged terrain and the difficulty of access for colonial forces. These trainings included the use of small arms, marksmanship practice, methods of concealment and clandestine movement, as well as instruction in the manufacture of explosives and hand grenades (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 03)

.These trainings were supervised by several activists who had gained military experience during their compulsory service in the French army or through participation in World War II and the Indochina War. This experience enabled the transfer of basic military knowledge to young activists, contributing to the formation of an initial nucleus of local military cadres capable of leading armed action in the future (Testimony of the mujahid Djilali Boumediene).

Members of the Special Organization were also tasked with collecting funds and contributions from activists and supporters of the national cause. These resources were used to purchase weapons and ammunition and to secure the logistical needs of the clandestine organization. This financial activity constituted one of the most important factors in providing the minimum resources necessary for the outbreak of the Liberation Revolution (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 03)

Thus, it becomes clear that the Dahra region witnessed, during 1953 and 1954, a decisive phase of political and military preparation characterized by intensified clandestine organizational

activity, the expansion of communication networks, the training of activists, and the mobilization of material resources required for armed struggle. These efforts laid the groundwork for receiving the revolutionary leadership and for the final preparations leading to the outbreak of the Revolution of 1 November 1954.

Fourth: The Martyr Berji Omar: Formation, Political Development, and Engagement in the National Movement and the Special Organization (1923–1954)

The martyr Berji Omar is considered one of the most prominent national figures who contributed to the preparation of the Liberation Revolution in the Dahra region. He combined early political awareness, organizational experience, and field activism, which earned him a distinguished position among the activists of the national movement in the region. His name is closely associated with the various stages of the national struggle that preceded the outbreak of the Liberation Revolution, whether within the Algerian People's Party (PPA) or the ranks of the Special Organization, culminating in his direct involvement in the preparations for the Revolution of 1 November 1954.

The martyr Berji Omar, son of Miloud and Belqra Khira, was born in 1923 in the douar of Ouled El Hadj, currently belonging to the municipality of Ben Abdelmalek Ramdane in Mostaganem Province. He grew up in a rural environment, which—like many other Algerian regions—was marked by difficult social and economic conditions as a result of colonial policies that deprived Algerians of their most basic political, economic, and social rights.

Berji Omar attended the French primary school in his hometown in 1929, where he continued his studies until the end of the primary level. However, the prevailing colonial conditions, which limited educational opportunities for Algerian children, prevented him from continuing his education. Consequently, he was forced to enter the labor market at an early age to support his family and meet daily living needs.

In 1937, he began working on the estate of the French settler “Billot,” where he came into direct contact with the social and economic conditions experienced by Algerian workers on colonial farms. This experience contributed to the development of his awareness of the discrimination practiced by the colonial administration between settlers and the indigenous population, thereby strengthening his national consciousness and rejection of the colonial system.

With the outbreak of World War II, he was conscripted in 1942 into compulsory military service in the French army, where he was assigned to the French naval forces in Sidi Yahia, Tunisia. This period constituted an important stage in the formation of his personality, as it allowed him to observe the political and military conditions of the region and acquire knowledge and experience that he would later benefit from in his revolutionary activity.

After completing his military service, he immediately joined the Algerian People's Party (PPA), which at that time represented the leading political framework of the Algerian national movement. From the early years, he demonstrated remarkable activity and strong organizational engagement, which earned him the trust of party leaders and the respect of activists in the Dahra region.

Due to his organizational competence and political awareness, he was appointed in 1944 to oversee party activities in the Dahra region, where his responsibilities extended across various villages and settlements. He worked on establishing new party cells, recruiting young people into the national movement, and spreading political awareness among the population, emphasizing the justice of the national cause and the necessity of struggle for liberation from French colonialism.

His home in the douar of Ouled El Hadj became a center of political and organizational activity, hosting numerous clandestine meetings that brought together activists to exchange ideas, discuss the situation of the national movement, and develop plans to expand its presence in the region. This house played an important role in ensuring the continuity of nationalist activity despite the surveillance imposed by the colonial administration on activists.

With the establishment of the Special Organization in 1947, Berji Omar joined its ranks as the secret military wing of the national movement. He participated in establishing its first cells in the Dahra region alongside several activists, including the martyr Hamo Boutlilis and the late Fertas Mohammed. His entry into the Special Organization marked a new stage in his revolutionary trajectory, during which he transitioned from political activism to direct involvement in the preparation for armed struggle.

Within his activities in the Special Organization, he contributed to recruiting qualified national elements for clandestine work, as well as participating in training operations, organizational structuring, and the collection of funds and assistance required to finance revolutionary activity. During this period, he demonstrated a strong ability to operate under conditions of secrecy, which enabled him to maintain the continuity of his activities despite intensified colonial surveillance of nationalist activists.

Following the discovery of the Special Organization in 1950 and the large-scale arrests of its members that ensued, Berji Omar was forced to reduce his public activities in order to avoid falling into the hands of the colonial authorities. However, this did not prevent him from continuing his political and organizational activities in secrecy, as he maintained contacts with various nationalist activists in the Dahra region and other areas of western Algeria.

He also participated in the electoral campaigns held in the early 1950s, using these occasions to strengthen the presence of the nationalist movement and expand its popular base. His continuous activity contributed to preserving the cohesion of the national organization in the region during a period marked by turmoil and divisions within the Algerian nationalist movement.

As the date of the Liberation Revolution approached, Berji Omar became one of the most prominent revolutionary organizers in the Dahra region, playing a fundamental role in receiving and implementing directives from the revolutionary leadership. He also contributed to creating the appropriate conditions for the successful preparation of armed struggle. His organizational position and militant experience made him one of the key figures relied upon by Abdelmalek Ramdane in implementing the revolutionary preparation program within the region.

Thus, it can be said that the militant trajectory of the martyr Berji Omar was not the result of the moment the Liberation Revolution erupted, but rather the outcome of many years of political

activism, organizational engagement, and clandestine work within the ranks of the national movement and the Special Organization. This experience qualified him to become one of the most important contributors to the preparation of the Liberation Revolution in the Dahra region and one of its field leaders during the first days of its outbreak.

Fifth: The Role of Martyr Berji Omar in the Direct Preparation for the Revolution of 1 November 1954 and the Organization of Revolutionary Activity in the Dahra Region

With the approaching outbreak of the Liberation Revolution, nationalist activity in the Dahra region entered a new phase characterized by direct and practical preparation for armed struggle, as the national movement shifted from political and organizational mobilization to field preparation for revolution. During this phase, martyr Berji Omar emerged as one of the most important national cadres responsible for organizing revolutionary activity and coordinating efforts between different cells and activists in the region.

Historical sources indicate that the actual preparation for the Liberation Revolution in the Mostaganem region in general, and the Dahra region in particular, began to take an organized form from 1953 onward. Activists started holding secret meetings, collecting weapons and ammunition, and preparing clandestine hideouts in mountainous and rural areas far from the surveillance of the colonial administration (A.N.O.M., 1953)

Berji Omar played a pivotal role in this stage, benefiting from his long organizational experience within the Algerian People's Party and the Special Organization, as well as his extensive network of relationships with activists across Dahra. Thanks to his position within the national movement, he became one of the key figures relied upon by the revolutionary leadership in implementing the armed struggle preparation program.

With the arrival of Abdelmalek Ramdane in the region in 1954, revolutionary activity intensified significantly. Berji Omar was among his closest collaborators and one of the most prominent activists involved in implementing the directives issued by the revolutionary leadership. Available testimonies indicate that his home in the douar of Ouled El Hadj became a true center for clandestine meetings, hosting organizational gatherings that brought together cell leaders and activists responsible for preparing the revolution (Kiass, 2008, p. 47).

Berji Omar actively contributed to recruiting qualified national elements for armed action, selecting activists known for their discipline, courage, and ability to maintain secrecy. He also worked to raise their awareness of the importance of the historical stage Algeria was undergoing and the necessity of preparing to endure the sacrifices required by revolutionary action.

At the military level, he participated in organizing secret night trainings conducted in forested and mountainous areas across Dahra. These trainings included the use of small arms, marksmanship techniques, methods of movement and concealment, as well as training in carrying out limited military operations planned for the initial phase of the revolution (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 03)

He also contributed to fundraising and collecting donations to support revolutionary activity, whether through contributions from activists or assistance provided by sympathizing local

populations. This financial activity constituted one of the key elements that helped secure the necessary resources for the ongoing preparations.

As part of the final preparations for the revolution, Berji Omar participated in secret meetings held by Abdelmalek Ramdane with regional revolutionary leaders. These meetings were dedicated to assessing the situation of activists, defining military objectives, and drawing up the plans to be executed on the night of 1 November 1954. They also provided an opportunity to inform activists of the decisive decisions taken by the revolutionary leadership regarding the launch date of the armed struggle (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 03).

These meetings were of particular significance because they represented the final stage of preparation for the revolution, marking the transition from theoretical planning to the development of military operational plans and the allocation of responsibilities among the various sectors and branches. A number of prominent militants attended these meetings and were entrusted with leading revolutionary activities throughout the different areas of the Dahra region (Kiass, 2008, p. 48).

During one of the decisive meetings held shortly before the outbreak of the revolution, Abdelmalek Ramdane informed those present of the decision to designate the night of 1 November 1954 as the official date for the launch of the armed revolution. The meeting also focused on establishing a general plan for the scheduled attacks and defining the operational responsibilities of each revolutionary sector in the region (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 4).

Within this framework, the Dahra region was divided into several revolutionary sectors and subdivisions, with officials appointed to supervise them. Martyr Berji Omar was assigned command of the Willis sector, while his brother, Berji Kadour, was appointed as his deputy. This appointment reflected the prominent position Berji Omar held within the revolutionary organization and the considerable confidence placed in him by the leadership responsible for preparing the revolution.

The Willis sector was tasked with carrying out several military operations against French colonial interests on the night of 1 November 1954, most notably attacks on the forest guard station and the local power station (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 5). The execution of these operations required meticulous preparation, including the selection of militants, the planning of movement and withdrawal routes, and the maintenance of strict secrecy until the designated hour of action.

Berji Omar also participated in preparing arrangements for the post-operation phase. Agreements were reached regarding assembly and rendezvous points following withdrawal, as well as the procedures to be followed in the event that militants were pursued by colonial forces. These measures demonstrated the advanced level of organization and discipline achieved by the revolutionary cells in the region on the eve of the revolution.

Various testimonies and historical documents indicate that the role played by Berji Omar during this period extended far beyond a limited local contribution. Rather, it formed part of the broader efforts undertaken by the nationalist movement to ensure the successful launch of the

Algerian War of Independence. He contributed actively to mobilizing militants, organizing revolutionary cells, securing communications, and participating in military planning, making him one of the principal architects of the direct preparations for the Revolution of 1 November 1954 in the Dahra region.

Accordingly, it can be argued that Berji Omar was one of the key figures who helped transform nationalist activity in Dahra from political and organizational engagement into armed revolutionary action. His contribution to the direct preparation of the revolution constitutes one of the most significant chapters in the history of the national struggle in the region and paved the way for its active participation in the Algerian Revolution from its very first hours.

Sixth: The Participation of Martyr Berji Omar in the Attacks of 1 November 1954 and His Martyrdom

The night of 1 November 1954 marked a decisive turning point in modern Algerian history, as the nationalist movement transitioned from the stage of preparation and organization to that of organized armed struggle against French colonial rule. The Dahra region was among the areas that actively participated in this historic launch, thanks to the organizational and military efforts undertaken by its militants during the preceding years, foremost among them Martyr Berji Omar, who was one of the principal figures responsible for carrying out revolutionary operations in the region.

Following the completion of the final preparations and the distribution of responsibilities among the various sectors, Berji Omar was assigned command of the Willis sector, while his brother, Berji Kadour, was appointed as his deputy. Together, they were entrusted with supervising the execution of operations targeting several installations belonging to the French colonial administration, most notably the forest guard station and the local power station (Report of Mostaganem Wilaya, 1955–1956, p. 5).

These operations formed part of the general strategy devised by the revolutionary leadership in the region, which sought to launch coordinated attacks against colonial interests and demonstrate both the existence of the revolutionary organization and its capacity to engage in armed struggle. Despite the scarcity of resources and the limited availability of weapons and ammunition, the militants displayed remarkable determination in carrying out their assigned missions, motivated by their belief in the justice of the national cause and their commitment to restoring national sovereignty.

On the night of 1 November 1954, Berji Omar led the group assigned to execute revolutionary operations within the Willis sector. The planned attacks were successfully carried out in accordance with the operational plan established beforehand. Upon completing their mission, the members of the group withdrew to the neighboring forested areas, following previously prepared instructions designed to prevent their capture by colonial forces.

After the operations had been completed, the regional commander ordered most militants to return to their previous positions in order to preserve the integrity of the organization and ensure the continuity of revolutionary activities. However, Berji Omar and Berji Kadour remained in the

area awaiting further instructions from the revolutionary leadership, which exposed them to continuous pursuit by French military and security forces that intensified efforts to locate and apprehend them following the outbreak of the revolution.

From the earliest days of the uprising, the colonial authorities recognized the important role played by the Berji brothers in organizing revolutionary activity in the Dahra region. Consequently, substantial resources were devoted to tracking and arresting them. During the second week of November 1954, the occupation forces, acting on information they had obtained, succeeded in capturing Berji Kadour. Nevertheless, through his resourcefulness and courage, he managed to mislead his interrogators by providing false information before ultimately escaping from colonial custody and returning to clandestine activity.

Faced with the failure of repeated attempts to suppress revolutionary activity in the region, the colonial administration intensified its surveillance networks and increasingly relied on informants and collaborators in an effort to identify and capture local revolutionary leaders. This policy particularly targeted Berji Omar, who had become one of the most influential field commanders in the Dahra region.

Local accounts indicate that the colonial authorities employed several collaborators to monitor the movements of Berji Omar and his brother and established numerous ambushes in areas they were believed to frequent. Despite these efforts, the two militants successfully evaded arrest for a considerable period thanks to their thorough knowledge of the region's terrain and their reliance on an extensive network of revolutionaries and sympathizers.

However, the growing security pressure and the expansion of search operations gradually made their movements increasingly difficult. In late December 1954, following an act of betrayal, colonial forces succeeded in identifying the location where the two brothers were hiding in a forested area near the douar of Ouled El-Hadj.

On the morning of 22 December 1954, French forces launched a large-scale military operation involving units of the gendarmerie, police, and special forces. A tight cordon was established around the location where the two militants had taken refuge. As colonial forces advanced toward the hideout, an armed confrontation erupted between the two sides.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation and seeking to protect the revolutionary organization, the two brothers immediately destroyed the documents and papers in their possession to prevent them from falling into colonial hands. They continued to resist and defend their position despite the overwhelming numerical and military superiority of the attacking forces.

The confrontation continued until colonial forces resorted to the use of grenades to force the two militants out of their shelter and eliminate them. The battle ended with the martyrdom of Berji Omar and his brother Berji Kadour on 22 December 1954, following a heroic resistance that embodied the spirit of sacrifice and devotion characteristic of the first generation of architects of the Algerian Revolution.

The martyrdom of Berji Omar holds particular significance in the history of the Algerian Revolution in the Dahra region because it occurred during the first months of the armed struggle,

a period when the revolution was in urgent need of experienced cadres and organizers. Nevertheless, his death did not bring revolutionary activity in the region to a halt. On the contrary, it contributed to strengthening popular support for the revolution and reinforced the conviction among local inhabitants that the struggle must continue until the achievement of national independence.

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among local inhabitants that the struggle must continue until the achievement of national independence.

The martyr Berdji Omar represented a model of the nationalist militant who combined political awareness, organizational work, and armed struggle. He devoted his life to serving the national cause from his early involvement in the nationalist movement until his martyrdom on the battlefield. Therefore, his name remained closely associated with the preparatory phase of the Liberation Revolution and its early beginnings in the Dahra region, as he was one of the most prominent figures who contributed to laying the first foundations of revolutionary action in the area.

Accordingly, studying his militant career reveals an important dimension of the history of the Algerian Liberation Revolution in western Algeria and highlights the scale of the sacrifices made by the people of the Dahra region in the struggle to liberate the homeland and restore national sovereignty.

Conclusion

This study shows that the Dahra region occupied an important place in the process of preparing for the Algerian Liberation Revolution, due to the geographical and human conditions that enabled it to host nationalist activity and clandestine organization during the years preceding the outbreak of the Revolution. Since the end of the Second World War, the region witnessed increasing political activity led by members of the nationalist movement, who worked to spread national awareness and mobilize the population against French colonial policy.

The study also shows that the establishment of the Special Organization constituted a fundamental turning point in the course of the nationalist struggle in the region, as it contributed to the formation of revolutionary cadres, the preparation and training of militants in clandestine and military work, as well as the provision of organizational means that paved the way for the transition to armed struggle. This was reflected in the intensification of organizational activity in the Dahra region during 1953 and 1954, through the multiplication of secret meetings, the collection of funds and weapons, the preparation of hideouts, and the expansion of communication networks among militants.

On the other hand, the study reveals that the martyr Berdji Omar was one of the most prominent nationalist figures who contributed to the preparation of the Liberation Revolution in the Dahra region. His activity was closely linked to the various stages of the national struggle since his early involvement in the Algerian People's Party and later in the Special Organization. He played a central role in supervising militants, organizing nationalist cells, and participating in training operations and political and military mobilization, which made him trusted by the revolutionary leadership in the region.

The study also confirms that the contribution of the martyr Berdji Omar was not limited to the preparatory phase, but extended to his direct participation in the revolutionary operations of the night of 1 November 1954, through his supervision of the Willis sector and his leadership of the group assigned to carry out attacks against colonial targets. He continued his revolutionary

activity after the outbreak of the Revolution despite intense persecution by the colonial authorities, until he was martyred alongside his brother Berdji Kaddour on 22 December 1954 after a heroic confrontation with French forces.

These findings highlight that the success of the Algerian Liberation Revolution in its early stages was not a spontaneous event, but rather the result of many years of political, organizational, and military preparation carried out by the Algerian nationalist movement. This effort was supported by local figures who played decisive roles in mobilizing society and preparing militants, among them the martyr Berdji Omar, who represents a model of the nationalist activist who combined political awareness, organizational work, and sacrifice for the homeland.

Accordingly, studying the history of the Dahra region and its figures remains a scientific necessity for understanding the various dimensions of the Algerian Liberation Revolution. It also helps highlight the contribution of rural regions and local leaders to the success of the national liberation project, thereby enriching Algerian historiography and restoring recognition to local actors who played a major role in shaping the modern history of Algeria.

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