

PRESS RELEASE

Elaine Mokhtefi granted Algerian nationality The nation's tribute to a figure of the Revolution and anti-colonial struggles

Algiers, July 29, 2026 — It is with profound pride and deep emotion that the team of the Algiers International Film Festival (AIFF) welcomes the official granting of Algerian nationality to **Elaine Mokhtefi**, née Klein, by presidential decree of July 23, 2026, published in the Official Gazette No. 55.

An early anti-colonial activist, writer, journalist, and translator, Elaine Mokhtefi is an inseparable figure of the living memory of independent Algeria. From the darkest hours of the Liberation War, she committed herself body and soul to the Algerian cause in New York, within the mission of **the National Liberation Front (FLN)** to the United Nations and the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA). Upon independence in 1962, she chose to settle in Algiers to put her talent, her mastery of languages, and her fervor at the service of the young Republic in the making.

Beyond her political commitment, Elaine Mokhtefi has left her mark on the cultural history of the capital. In 1969, she played a crucial role in organizing the **First Pan-African Cultural Festival of Algiers (PANAF)**, a founding event that established Algiers as the "capital of liberation movements." She provided logistical and linguistic coordination with international delegations, notably facilitating the stay and exchanges with representatives of the Black Panthers — a memorable epic captured by the lens of filmmaker William Klein. Her famous autobiographical book, *Algiers, Capital of the Revolution* (published by La Fabrique and Editions Barzakh in 2019), remains to this day an essential testimony to this Third World effervescence.

The Algiers International Film Festival had insisted on paying an exceptional tribute to **Elaine Mokhtefi** during its 12th edition, organized in Algiers from December 4 to 10, 2025, by welcoming her as a guest of honor.

This tribute, championed in particular by **Ahmed Bedjaoui, honorary president and founding member of the Festival**, gave rise to a particularly moving moment with the celebration, in the heart of the capital, of the 97th birthday of this great militant and emblematic figure of international solidarity with the Algerian Revolution. Surrounded by filmmakers, intellectuals, cultural figures, and a deeply moved public, Elaine Mokhtefi received a vibrant testimony of gratitude for her unwavering commitment to Algeria and peoples in struggle.

Through this tribute, the Festival reaffirmed its vocation to preserve and transmit the memory of the women and men whose commitment has marked the political, cultural, and cinematographic history of Algeria.

Ahmed Bedjaoui, honorary president and founding member of the Algiers International Film Festival, Mehdi Benaïssa, commissioner of the festival, as well as **the entire AIFF team**, extend their most sincere congratulations to **Elaine Mokhtefi**. They salute a fully deserved recognition for a woman whose exceptional journey embraces the history of independent Algeria and reaffirm their attachment to the values of memory, humanism, and solidarity between peoples that she consistently embodies and that the Festival strives to bring to life through cinema.

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