

## Aspects of Legal Protection of Minors Using Digital Drugs under the Algerian Law

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### Abstract:

This research aims to elucidate the legal protection of minor consumers of digital drugs under Algerian legislation. It aims to expound on the concepts of juveniles and digital drugs, differentiate between digital and traditional drugs in terms of dissemination and impact, and underscore the legal implications for minor consumers of digital drugs in Algerian law. This includes examining the legal status of minor consumers based on the principle of criminal legality and the burden of proof. Additionally, the study will clarify the applicability of relevant legislation related to drug control and child protection laws to minors who consume digital drugs. Our research has yielded results and proposals, one of which involves amending Law 04-18 pertaining to the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the repression of their illicit trade. The proposed amendment entails the incorporation of legal definitions for digital drugs and the criminalization of the utilization, promotion, and sale of digital applications identified as digital drugs, thereby inducing detrimental mental and physical effects on dependent individuals. Additional stipulations encompass legal frameworks for security and therapeutic measures, alongside reduced penalties for minors engaged in the consumption of these substances, with the overarching goal of providing care and facilitating the reintegration of the affected individuals.

**Keywords:** Digital Drugs, Minors, Drug Addiction, Legal protection, Audio tones.

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### Introduction

The advancement of technology in the digital realm has given a new form of drugs known as "digital drugs". This type of drug is particularly dangerous as it spreads rapidly worldwide and targets children and adolescents, who can easily access it via the Internet. Digital drugs rely on specific audio tones to induce psychological and neurological effects similar to those caused by traditional drugs such as injection, sniffing, or smoking.

This study sheds light on a controversial topic that has garnered attention from a wide range of specialists, including researchers, legal and social scholars, psychologists, and doctors. Furthermore, it addresses a topic known to pose a significant danger, especially to juveniles and adolescents. Research has shown that it can negatively affect their morals, mental, and psychological well-being. Although the Algerian legislator has paid significant attention to this group through specific laws such as Law 15-12 related to children, Law 04-18 related to the prevention of drug use, and trafficking, these laws did not clearly address the issue of digital drug use by juveniles.

Based on the above, we raise the following problem statement:

Are the Algerian legal rules sufficient to protect juveniles from the phenomenon of digital drug?

To answer this problem, we relied on the descriptive approach by defining the terms of the study "juvenile" and "digital drugs". Thereafter, we tried to distinguish between digital drugs and real drugs. Also, the study depended on the analytical approach by reviewing the Algerian law on combating drugs and the law on child protection, to show the extent of their applicability to the case of juveniles' use of digital drugs and to show whether there is a legal gap to deal with this digital phenomenon.

The study was divided into two chapters as follows:

- Chapter One: The Conceptual Framework of the Minor Digital Drug Addict
- Chapter Two: Features of Legal Protection for the Minor Digital Drug Addict in Algerian Law

### **Chapter One: The Conceptual Framework of the Minor Digital Drug Addict**

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject of study, it is important to define the concepts and terms associated with it. This will help remove any ambiguity or misunderstanding about the subject and enhance the ability to perceive its effects and repercussions more deeply. In this discussion, we will first clarify the concept of the minor (juvenile) (section one), and then address the concept of digital drugs (section two).

### **Section One: The Minor (Juvenile)**

The category of minors holds significant importance at legal and social levels, drawing the attention of legal, psychological, and social scholars alike. As such, we will start by addressing the linguistic definition of the minor, followed by the definitions mentioned in legislation, and then the definitions set by psychologists and sociologists.

#### **Part One: The linguistic definition of the Minor (Al-Hadath in Arabic)**

The minor -Al Hadath- in Arabic derives its meaning from the verb "to happen", to have boundaries and to have modernity, the opposite of olderness. The happening of something means its beginning. A Hadath-man means a young man.

The word "Hadath" in English means "Minor", the young man or minor, or under the legal age. He is a person under the age of adulthood, which is considered the age of being fully responsible for your actions. In French, it means "Mineur", meaning someone who has not reached the age of majority.

#### **Part Two: The technical definition of the Minor**

In this context, psychologists and sociologists define the "minor" as follows: The minor is defined from the perspective of psychologists as a "young person from birth until he reaches his social and psychological maturity and the elements of maturity and awareness are integrated into him."

According to the aforementioned definition, it is clear that specialists in this matter believe that these stages include development in the physical, mental, emotional and social aspects, and thus their focus is on the influence of the surrounding environment on the child without mentioning the age at which stage full maturity ends.

Psychologists agree that the individual goes through different stages that are difficult to separate due to their intertwining and overlapping. Psychologists have

tried to approximate the psychological division with the legal division by dividing adolescence into three stages. The first one is the stage of focusing on the self. After that, the stage of focusing on others comes. Finally, the stage of psychological maturity is the last stage. These stages overlap with each other, and the process of the individual's transition from one stage to another is gradual and not sudden.

The minor is defined among sociologists as:

"The young person from birth until he reaches social maturity and the elements of adulthood are integrated into him, represented by full awareness. More precisely, maturity is the human being's knowledge of the nature and characteristics of his work and the ability to adapt his behavior and actions according to the circumstances and requirements of social reality surrounding him. For the minor to reach the level of maturity and awareness, a period of his life must be a practice to integrate into society through experience and experiments."

According to this definition, it becomes clear that the minor, in the view of sociologists, does not differ from the previous definition among psychologists, as they see a minor as a person who is in the stage of growth and development. This stage begins from birth until the stage of social maturity, so maturity includes the individual's full awareness. Hence, a minor becomes mature when he becomes able to understand the nature of his work, behaviors and actions in a manner that is consistent with the circumstances and requirements surrounding him.

### **Part Three: The legal definition of the juvenile**

The category of juveniles is the basic nucleus on which society relies and depends in the future. This is what made them the focus of many researchers and scholars, who sought to reach precautionary measures to protect them from deviations. on the legislative level, most legislators were keen to establish requirements related to the juvenile, and even set legal definitions for it to achieve more clarification and remove the ambiguity surrounding this term, and this is what we will try to clarify as follows:

Given the special care that the juvenile segment enjoys at the international level, the international community needed to establish many international documents that included in their legal requirements for this category. Among these legal documents we mention the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

of 1989", which defined the child, i.e. the juvenile, in Article 1 as: "Every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to him, majority is attained earlier."

The French law also defined the juvenile in Article 338 of the Civil Code, as last amended by Law No. 2016-297, as "A person of either sex who has not yet reached the age of eighteen." Most Arab laws agree to consider the juvenile as a minor child who has not reached the age of eighteen. Among these legislations, we mention the Egyptian legislator who defined the juvenile in the new Egyptian Child Law No. 12 of 1996, which abolished all provisions of the law above. In Article 2 of the Egyptian Child Law, the juvenile is anyone who has not reached the age of eighteen, and the child shall prove this using a birth certificate, ID card, or any other official document.

As for the definition of the juvenile in the view of the Algerian legislator, the person who has not yet reached the age of majority, i.e. eighteen. The latter is considered as the criminal responsibility age according to the text of Article 442 of the Code of Criminal Procedure or nineteen for the age of civil majority, according to the provisions of Article 40 of the Algerian Civil Code. Article 2 of Law No. 15-12 on the protection of children states that "child" is any person who has not reached the age of eighteen (18). The term "juvenile" has the same meaning.

The delinquent minor is any person who has not reached the age of criminal majority and has committed a forbidden act. Delinquency in general is a set of deviations that are not accepted by society and lead their perpetrators to legal prosecution in order to protect or punish them. Article 2 of the previous law states that "delinquent minor is a child who commits a criminal act and who is not less than ten (10) years old. The criterion for determining his age is the day of committing the crime." It is noted that the Algerian legislator in the Child Protection Law maintained the definition of "juvenile" as indicated in previous laws. In addition, the aim of issuing this law is to keep pace with international legislation to strengthen the rights of the child and ensure a legal environment that protects him effectively.

## **Section Two: The concept of digital drugs**

The revolution that affected the digital environment led to the emergence of a new type of drugs known as "digital drugs", which are similar in their effect to traditional or real drugs, making them a modern and controversial phenomenon

among scientists and scholars in this field. From this standpoint, we will discuss their definitions (part one) and the distinction between them (part two).

### **Part One: Definition of digital drugs**

To determine what is meant by digital drugs as a new phenomenon, it is necessary to address their definition in jurisprudence and law.

#### 1- The jurisprudential meaning of digital drugs

Digital drugs (in French "Les Drogues numériques), are considered a new type of drugs spread across the Internet, and can be defined as: "clips of melodies that are heard by the user through certain websites, and this type of drug is taken by listening to these melodies through headphones in both ears."

In another definition, it is: "A group of sounds or tones that are believed to have medical effects that work to obscure consciousness, or they are audio files containing single or double tones that the user listens to, causing the brain to reach a state of numbness similar to the effect of real drugs."

It is also known as: "Audio files or mp3 tones with different frequencies, sometimes accompanied by visual or random shapes, and is similar to any digital files stored in computers, mobile phones or any other electronic device such as an image, video clip, written text or audio file." Digital drugs are considered a type of mood stimulants for humans, which mimic in their effect real drugs such as marijuana, hashish and cocaine. They are listened to through headphones or speakers, where the brain integrates different sound frequencies, creating a sensation of a third sound known as percussion in the ear. Thus, this condition can lead to the creation of illusions in the person, especially if he listens to loud music, which may be accompanied by a state of unconsciousness and loss of balance, which affects the psychological and physical state of the individual.

#### - The legal definition of digital drugs

The Algerian legislator, like other Western and Arab legislations, has followed the path of establishing a special law to combat drugs, represented by Law 04-18, which includes the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illicit use and trafficking. It was defined in the provisions of Article 2 as:

- Narcotic: any substance, whether natural or synthetic, from the substances listed in the first and second tables of the Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

- Psychotropic substances: any substance, whether natural or synthetic or any natural product listed in the first, second, third and fourth tables of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971."

Based on the above, it is clear that the Algerian legislator has defined drugs as a tangible substance, i.e. a natural or artificial substance that can be touched and seen, such as hashish or cocaine. This definition is completely different from the definition of digital drugs, which represent another type of drug, based on musical tones or audio files.

Based on all the previous definitions, digital drugs can be defined from our point of view as audio files or musical tones that are specially designed in certain ways to perform the function of stimulating the brain of the user in a way that is similar to the effect of traditional drugs.

## **Part Two: Distinguishing between digital and traditional drugs**

Through the aforementioned definition, it is clear that digital drugs and traditional drugs share some similarities.

### 1- Essential similarities between real drugs and digital drugs

- In terms of effect: Both real drugs and digital drugs are considered drugs that have an effect on the nervous system of the user and lead to changing his mood, where he feels euphoria or a temporary feeling of happiness and relaxation.

- In terms of health results: Both types may lead to physical and psychological health problems such as addiction, loss of consciousness, and organs damage.

- In terms of profits: The goal of promoters of real and digital drugs is to make huge amounts of money without taking into account the harm and risks that result from their use to the individual and to society as a whole.

### 2-The fundamental differences between real drugs and digital drugs

- In terms of their legality: They are prohibited in most Western and Arab legislations, as they have been criminalized in their legal texts related to combating drugs, and among these legislations we mention Algerian Law No. 18/04 related to

the prevention of drugs and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illegal use and trafficking. However, digital drugs are not criminalized in Algerian law yet, and there are no clear laws in most countries of the world prohibiting this electronic drug.

- In terms of their source: Real drugs come from natural or synthetic materials that contain active compounds that affect the body. In contrast, we find that digital drugs come from audio or music files that contain special audio frequencies (binary pulses).

- In terms of how they are consumed: Traditional drugs are taken by smoking, swallowing, injection or inhalation, unlike digital drugs that are taken through earphones or loudspeakers.

- In terms of their prevalence: drugs are sold illegally, often through cross-border smuggling networks, while digital drugs are available online in the form of audio files.

## **Chapter Two: Features of legal protection for juveniles using digital drugs in the Algerian law**

Algerian legislation is among the pioneering legislations that have taken care to protect juveniles from all dangers, including the phenomenon of drug and crimes occurring in the digital environment. The Algerian legal system is also working to constantly update and develop its laws to confront the new challenges imposed by the digital environment. Among the important laws, we mention Law No. 04-18, related to the prevention of drugs and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illicit use and trafficking, as well as Law 12-15 related to child protection.

Accordingly, this paper is an attempt to search for the features of legal protection for juveniles from digital drug. We will investigate the legal status of juveniles using digital drugs based on the principle of legitimacy and the problem of proof (section one) and the extent to which the provisions of Law 04-18 related to combating drugs and Law 15-12, related to child protection (section two).

### **Section One: The legal status of the juvenile who uses digital drugs according to the principle of legality and the problem of proof.**

In this section, we will discuss the legal status of the juvenile who uses digital drugs according to the principle of criminal legality (first), and the problem of proving the juvenile's use of digital drugs (second).

### **Part One: The legal status of the juvenile who uses digital drugs in light of the rule of criminal legality**

By referring to Law No. 18/04 related to the prevention of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the text of Article 2, it states "A narcotic drug is any substance, whether natural or synthetic, from the substances listed in the first and second tables of the Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol."

In a previous article, it was noted that the Algerian legislator considered real drugs to be any natural substance—of plant or animal origin—or synthetic, i.e. of chemical origin, manufactured in laboratories and factories. Therefore, it is considered a material and tangible thing.

Therefore, there is no problem here regarding the scientific description of drugs as long as their definition is based on clear and globally recognized scientific foundations, which led to their criminal description by criminalizing them under Law 18-04 related to the prevention of drugs and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illegal trafficking. Still, the problem lies in the term digital drugs, which are audio files or musical tones that manipulate brain frequencies.

In the absence of an accurate scientific description that removes ambiguity about its nature, it necessarily leads to the lack of a criminal description. Thus, its users escape deterrence and punishment, whether they are minors or adults, based on the principle of legality expressed as "No crime and no punishment except by text," which is a fundamental principle in criminal law. Therefore, we find that dealers in electronic drugs rely on this principle and confirm through their websites the legality of exploiting this audio drug.

### **Part Two: The problem of proving the juvenile's use of digital drugs**

Proving drug-related crimes, such as using, selling or promoting them, is considered a very complex matter, as it requires integrated and cooperative efforts and human resources, including some - the security and judicial agencies - to establish evidence against the perpetrators and prosecute them.

Accordingly, the problem of proving digital drugs is a complex problem, unlike traditional drugs, the use of which can be proven by confession or admission, especially if the user is a juvenile. This young group is often flexible in admitting the actions attributed to them of their own free will without pressure or coercion compared to adults who have life experiences and expertise that have made them capable of enduring and dealing with situations and the elements of accusations with great awareness. It can also be proven that they use them through medical examinations and laboratory tests, such as conducting blood or urine tests.

As for digital drugs, the issue is completely different, due to the lack of standard methods for searching for their users. Therefore, it is obligatory to resort to proving this behavior to the personal acknowledgement or confession or careful examination of the users' smart devices. Hence, there is a complexity in this issue, because electronic drugs differ from traditional drugs in the component, form and even in the method of use. All in all, it can be said that the clear legal and technical failure in confronting digital drugs stands in the way of proving and confronting users, whether they are minors or adults, so there is an urgent need for a legal framework that confronts this new type of drugs and provides adequate protection for users, including minors.

## **Section Two: The extent of the application of Algerian law on juvenile consumers of digital drugs**

To determine whether current Algerian legislation is sufficient to address the phenomenon of juveniles using digital drugs, it is necessary to consider the extent to which this phenomenon is applicable to the law relating to drugs.

### **Part One: Application Extent of Anti-Narcotics Law to Underage Drug Users**

By considering the provisions of Article 12 of Law 04-18, a person who uses or consumes drugs and psychotropic substances shall be subject to a prison sentence of two (2) months to two (2) years or a fine of 5,000 DZD to 50,000 DZD. The criminal text came in a general form using the phrase "any person who consumes or possesses drugs for personal consumption", and did not specify whether this person is of legal age or a minor.

In the case of drug use, juveniles are subject to the same general rules that apply to adult perpetrators of crimes. However, due to their young age, juveniles are considered an obstacle to criminal liability as they may lack the awareness and will

to understand the consequences of their actions. Therefore, they are subject to protection and discipline measures rather than punishment. In contrast, there are no specific legal provisions or punishments for users of digital drugs in the law 04-18, whether they are minors or adults, as these substances are different from traditional drugs in terms of their nature and means of influence.

Due to the lack of a clear scientific description that removes the ambiguity of this new type of drug, the provisions of Law No. 18/04 regarding the prevention of drugs and psychotropic substances and the suppression of illicit trafficking cannot be applied to drug users who have reached the age of criminal majority. This also applies to minors who have not yet reached this age, as their criminal responsibility is limited and subject to special terms related to their stage of development and awareness.

Part Two: Application Extent of the child protection law provisions to juveniles using digital drugs.

Before delving into Law 12-15, which deals with child protection and addresses legal protection for minors using electronic drugs, it is important to distinguish between delinquent juveniles who commit acts that violate the law, such as drug use, and "juvenile at risk of delinquency" who exhibit behavior inconsistent with social values but does not rise to the level of a crime. The latter group is usually dealt with through preventive measures like counseling and social support, rather than legal punishment.

By referring to Algerian legislation, we find a clear distinction between a juvenile at risk, a juvenile at risk of delinquency and a juvenile delinquent. This is evident in Law 12-15 on child protection. From this standpoint, we will discuss some articles related to juvenile delinquents who have committed an act punishable by law, which are consistent with the behavior of this category of drug users. Among these, we mention Article 58 of the Child Protection Law, which states in its second and third paragraphs that: "It is prohibited to place a child aged thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) in a penal institution, even temporarily, unless this measure is necessary and it is impossible to take any other measure. In this case, the child is placed in a re-education and reintegration center for juveniles or in a special wing for juveniles in penal institutions when necessary."

In accordance with Article 86 of the law, the governing authority has the discretion to impose a fine or imprisonment penalty instead of the measures outlined

in Article 85, for a child between the ages of thirteen (13) and eighteen (18). This is only permissible if it is justified by the verdict and in accordance with the procedures specified in Article 50 of the Penal Code.

Article 87 of the aforementioned law stipulates that if the violation is proven, the juvenile division may order a reprimand of the child or sentence him to a fine by the provisions of Article 51 of the Penal Code. However, it cannot be taken against a child between the ages of ten (10) and less than thirteen (13). In this case, the child will only be reprimanded, and if his interest so requires, he is placed under the system of supervised freedom under the provisions of this law.

It is noted from the provisions above that juvenile drug users between the ages of 13 and 18 are subject to protection and rehabilitation measures or to reduced penalties that are appropriate to their age. Thus, we find the Algerian legislator focusing on balanced punishment with reform to rehabilitate them instead of tightening the punishment on them.

The protection provided for the juvenile who uses digital drugs is not clear in the legal texts concerned with protecting delinquent juveniles. Therefore, it is not possible to rehabilitate juveniles who use these electronic poisons or protect them from their harms in the absence of an explicit text in this regard.

As for the legal framework for minors at risk, Article 02 of Law No 15-12 on child protection has precisely defined what a child at risk means. It states: "A child whose health, morals, upbringing or safety are at risk, or whose living conditions or behavior are likely to expose him to potential risk or harm his future, or who is in an environment that exposes his physical, psychological or educational safety to risk." The same article adds other cases of risk, stating:

- The child losing his parents and remaining without family support.
- The child being exposed to neglect or homelessness.
- Infringement of his right to education.
- Begging using the child or exposing him to begging.
- The inability of the parents to control his behavior that may affect his upbringing or care.
- His physical, psychological or educational safety.

- Mistreatment of the child, especially by subjecting him to torture, assault on his physical safety, detaining him, withholding food from him or committing any act involving cruelty that may affect the child's emotional or psychological balance.

- If the child is a victim of a crime committed by any other person.

- If his interest requires protection.

- Sexual exploitation of the child in all its forms, through his exploitation, especially in pornographic materials and prostitution, and involving him in sexual performances.

- Economic exploitation of the child, especially by employing him or assigning him work that prevents him from continuing his studies or harming his health, physical or moral safety.

- The child being a victim of armed conflicts or other situations of unrest and instability.

- Refugee child.

The article above means that the state of danger facing the child or juvenile lies in the circumstances surrounding him, which may include several aspects such as his health, morals, upbringing and security, which may lead to an impact on the child's upbringing and behavior and harm his physical or psychological safety or upbringing. Such cases would lead him to deviance and engage in abnormal behavior. It is legally stipulated that when a juvenile or child is at risk, a set of protective measures and procedures must be taken to ensure a safe and supportive environment for him and protect him from any threats or risks. In this regard, by referring to and examining the provisions of the law related to child protection, we find that it includes several procedures and measures that must be taken against the juvenile in such cases. Accordingly, since the subject of our study is the juvenile whose age ranges from 13 to 18, we will suffice with addressing the legal articles that contain the measures and procedures that are appropriate for this category. They include what is indicated in Article 36 of the Child Protection Law, which granted the juvenile judge full authority to decide what he deems appropriate in terms of measures. A judge in such cases might place the juvenile in a center specialized in protecting children at risk, or in a service responsible for helping children, or a center or hospital institution, if the child needs health or psychological care.

By examining the legal protection aspects for the juvenile who uses digital drugs according to the law on child protection, it becomes clear that the use of digital drugs by the juvenile can be included in the cases of the juvenile at risk stipulated in Article 2 of Law 12-15 on child protection. Although this is not explicitly stated, it appears implicitly as long as these drugs primarily lead to harming the physical and psychological safety of the juvenile. Therefore, it is appropriate to apply the preventive and protective measures included in the provisions of Article 36 of the same law that are compatible with this behavior, such as referring him to a hospital center to take care of and provide psychological support and health treatment for the juvenile. Also, the protective measure might help the juvenile to stop digital drugs and ensuring the full restoration of his psychological and physical health, by providing treatment programs that are compatible with this type of use and work to rehabilitate him to live a healthy life.

The above discussion suggests that although there is potential for implementing precautionary measures for juveniles using digital drugs, these measures are currently inadequate due to the absence of specific legal regulations addressing this new phenomenon. Our research indicates that the lack of a legal framework for digital drugs has created a gap in the existing legal system. It is necessary for the Algerian legislature to swiftly amend drug prevention laws, explicitly defining digital drugs, criminalizing their use, promotion, and sale on websites, and imposing stricter penalties for those involved in promoting them to minors. Additionally, there is a need to introduce preventive legal measures to safeguard this vulnerable group.

### **Conclusion**

This research tried to address the legal protection of juveniles from digital drug in light of Algerian law. After a deep process and examination of the laws and provisions concerned with this issue, we reached a set of results and recommendations.

#### First: Results:

1- Most Western and national laws agree that the juvenile is a minor child who has not completed eighteen years of age. Among these legislations, we find the Algerian legislator who maintained the definition of the juvenile in the law related to child protection, keeping pace with international legislation to enhance the rights of the child and ensure a safe and legal environment that protects him effectively.

2- The technological development that affected the digital environment has created a new type of drug known as "digital drugs", which is similar in its effect to real drugs according to what some studies have proven, which made it a modern and controversial phenomenon among scientists and scholars in this field.

3- It is clear from the definition of digital drugs and traditional drugs that there are fundamental differences and similarities between the two types. Digital drugs depend on sound frequencies that affect brain activity, while traditional drugs are completely different from them, as they contain chemical substances that directly affect the central nervous system.

4- In light of the principle of legality, the absence of a clear scientific description that removes the ambiguity of the term digital drugs has necessarily led to the absence of a criminal description. Thus, a legal deficit confronts digital drug users, whether they are minors or adults of criminal majority.

5- The problem of proving digital drugs and confronting their users from the category of minors is mainly due to the legal and technical inability to keep pace with the rapid development of digital technology that led to the emergence of this new drug that is used or consumed via digital media.

6- There are no punishment or preventive measures for digital drug users, whether minors or adults, in the legal rules related to the Algerian Anti-Drug Law 04-18, because of the absence of a clear scientific description.

7- This study showed that the case of a juvenile's use of digital drugs could be included among the risk cases stipulated in the Algerian Child Protection Law, which aim to take care of and provide psychological support and health treatment to the juvenile. However, this preventive measure is not sufficient in light of the emptiness or absence of specific legal texts that address this emerging phenomenon directly and explicitly.

#### Second: Recommendations:

1- The necessity of the Algerian legislator to intervene by amending Law 04-18, related to the prevention of drugs and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illicit trafficking, by adding legal texts that define digital drugs and criminalize their use, promotion and sale of digital applications that constitute a digital drug and cause mental and health effects on addicts. Also, to include within

its provisions legal texts related to security and treatment measures and reduced penalties for juveniles who use these drugs to take care of them and reintegrate them.

2- Work on training legal experts and specialists who have sufficient experience and expertise in the field of blocking sites and applications that promote digital drugs over the Internet, in addition to creating special sites to report promoters.

3- Directing efforts towards spreading awareness about the risks involved in digital drugs through civil society initiatives as well as media campaigns that play an effective role in educating juveniles, adolescents and parents about this type of electronic drug.

4- The necessity to enhance international cooperation and benefit from advanced foreign expertise accustomed to confronting and treating these types of phenomena.

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