

ALGERIA TODAY

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ALGERIA TAKES PART IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT



Doha, Qatar, November 28-December 2, 2008

On Saturday, November 29, 2008, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika addressed the Doha UN summit meeting on financing for development:

“Mr. Chairman,

“At a time when the world continues to be shaken by the aftereffects of a financial crisis unprecedented since 1929, our meeting today should examine the sensitive issue of financing for development. It cannot ignore the urgent necessity of undertaking a deep reform of the international financial system, which was clearly highlighted by the Monterrey Consensus that we have been mandated to reexamine during our proceedings here in Doha.

“While imperfect and deficient, the Monterrey Declaration represented a great instance of international dialogue in support of development. Indeed, for the first time, developed countries, developing countries, international institutions, private-sector firms and civil society organizations agreed on a common language to get out of do-nothingness and on a diagnostic and some lines of action in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Furthermore, the world community agreed that, in addition to private financial flows and mainly foreign direct investments (FDI), Official development aid (ODA) should be an essential source of financing for development, particularly in Africa. As we all know, FDIs are not only concentrated on a limited number of countries but also focus on a limited number of activity sectors.

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AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH BAALI PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



On December 3, 2008, in a White House ceremony held in the Oval Office, Ambassador Abdallah Baali presented his Letters of Credence to President George W. Bush and, with this formality, officially began his duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United States of America.

At the ceremony, President Bush and Ambassador Baali exchanged remarks. In his remarks, Ambassador Baali stressed the long-standing historical ties of friendship and cooperation which exist between Algeria and the United States and pledged to spare no effort to further strengthen the relations between the two countries and foster the establishment of a strong and lasting Algerian-American partnership.

In his reply, President George W. Bush warmly welcomed the new Ambassador of Algeria and his family to the United States of America and said that the US Administration wishes to deepen the relations between the two countries. President George Bush has underlined the United States' commitment to develop their relations with Algeria in all fields, and mainly in security, investment, trade, education and technologies.

During the presentation of credentials by H. E. Abdallah Baali, Algeria's Ambassador to the United States, held during a solemn ceremony in the White House, President Bush expressed his best wishes for the success of Ambassador Baali's new mission, asking him to convey his friendly greetings to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

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DOHA CONFERENCE (from page 1)



For that reason, ODA is crucial for countries confronted with multiple challenges in areas of basic infrastructure, poverty alleviation, education, health and, for the past few years, even climate change.”

“This is why, it is of the utmost importance that the world community mobilize itself to prevent the current financial and economic crisis from edging it even further away from the goals set by the Monterrey Conference and, more generally, from its obligations regarding development assistance.

“Mr. Chairman,

“We express the wish that the crisis we are experiencing today be an opportunity for the entire world to shift to a new model of international relations. There is no doubt that we need to perceive these relations under a new light which takes into account the new challenges posed by globalization and sustainable development.

“We also need a new vision of these relations that takes into account the imperative requirements of interdependence and need for reinforced global economic governance because the Bretton Woods system has been waiting to be reformed for a long time. Already remarkable for being insufficiently sensitive to the concerns of developing countries, this system has demonstrated its powerlessness in the face of excessive speculation.

“The unprecedented financial crisis that we are experiencing today has lifted the veil on the deficiencies of the current international financial architecture. The credit squeeze that it generated has already led rich countries into a recession, of which they master neither the aspects, nor the duration, and even less, the effects. However, while implementation of a renovated international financial system is being pondered, I believe that everyone agrees that banks should go back to their primary role, which is financing the economy and, not, speculation. Additionally, we need to set salutary limits to deregulation.

“Furthermore, the International Monetary Fund needs to play a bigger role, a supervisory role to prevent further crises and a regulatory role.

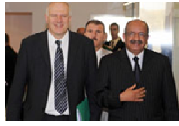
“The agreement that we seek to reach should grant emerging countries and developing countries their share of responsibility in the process of decision-making and control of implementation of the agreement. Towards that end, building this future edifice should be done in a transparent, joint and democratic manner. Although it is useful and may even constitute a step in the right direction, the recent meeting of the G20 in Washington failed to attain the required levels of representativeness demanded by the gravity of the situation and the importance of the stakes for the whole international community. For instance, one cannot understand that the African continent and the Arab world are the least represented within that group.

“In spite of enormous potentialities, Africa continues to represent a tiny part of the world’s GDP, attracts less than 1% of foreign direct investments, is involved in only 1.5% of the global trade, and is lagging considerably behind in the areas of basic infrastructure, education and health services. Consequently, if we want the future architecture of the international financial system to be fair and equitable, Africa’s input is essential to the design process.

“Today, as we did thirty years ago, we are arguing for greater fairness and equity in international relations. We remain convinced that the international community is more than ever confronted with the challenge of sustainable development. It is obvious that improving the lot of the poorest cannot be achieved at the cost of pauperizing the richer. For that, we need only imagine more transparent, more equitable, and more inclusive rules designed for the benefit of all.”

In another development, on the margin of the United Nations Follow-Up Conference on Financing for Development, the Group of 24 on Monetary Issues and Development (G24), of which Algeria is a member, adopted the Algerian proposal relating to the establishment of a liaison committee between the G24 and the G20. This committee is entrusted with representing the emerging countries during the proceedings on the assessment of the world financial crisis. Indeed, a meeting including Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela was held on that issue on November 30, 2008.

BILL RAMMELL VISIT TO ALGERIA



Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell was in Algeria on 24-25 November. While there he met with Algerian ministers to reiterate the importance of the relationship between the UK and Algeria and discussed how the two countries can continue to cooperate with each other in the future.

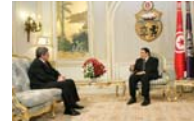
Relations between the two countries are good and the basis for developing this relationship and increasing cooperation is strong. Discussions covered a wide range of issues that are mutually beneficial to both countries, including counterterrorism and defense co-operation, energy co-operation and security, migration, trade and investment co-operation and improving access to English language training in Algeria.

During his visit, Mr. Rammell spoke of the strong relationship between the two countries. He said: "I think that the Algerian-British relations are very strong. Today, the governments of the two countries wish to give them a more important impetus. Of course, the visit by Abdelaziz Bouteflika to the United Kingdom constituted a crucial turning point and enabled to make an important step in the bilateral relations. We have since established ties in the defense field, through the appointment of a military attaché in Algiers. We have also carried out the relocation in Algiers of the visa processing service. The new headquarters of the embassy will be opened next year. My visit to Algeria is an opportunity to consolidate them further".

Trade and investment is a particular strength of the relationship between the UK and Algeria. The UK is the largest foreign investor in Algeria, and trade between the two countries is worth over £1 billion a year. There are many UK companies operating in Algeria including HSBC, Glaxo, Unilever, Shell and BP.

Culturally, the UK offers substantial support for Algerians who wish to learn English. The British Council, in partnership with the Algerian Ministry of Education, has trained around 350 teachers of English throughout Algeria and the aim is for this number to rise to 1000. In addition, the British Council has provided training for 70 Inspectors, who are responsible for teacher training. It is estimated that this program has helped 100,000 students to learn English.

ALGERIA AND TUNISIA HOLD BILATERAL MEETING



Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia began, on Wednesday December 3, 2008, a 48-hour visit to Tunis, Tunisia, where he co-chaired, with his Tunisian counterpart, Mohamed Ghannouchi, the 17th session of the Algerian-Tunisian High Co-operation Joint Committee (GCM).

Tunisia and Algeria signed on December 4, 2008, a "historical" trade agreement at the end of the 17th session of the Tunisian-Algerian High Joint Committee held in Tunis. This agreement provides a gradual introduction of preferential tariffs on certain products, in addition to the free movement of persons between both countries.

The Algerian Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia stressed that the Commission will focus its attention on improving travel and visit conditions for tourists from both countries. Under the agreement, trade between Algeria and Tunisia will involve more than 2,000 products set to be exempted from customs' taxation and, in the process, eliminate smuggling. The last session of the GCM took place in Algiers in August 2007, after which 18 agreements were signed and fully implemented.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received on Thursday, December 4, 2008, Algeria's Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia. The meeting focused on the development of Tunisian-Algerian relations and current regional and international issues. The Algerian Prime Minister said he was honored to meet the President of the Republic and conveyed the regards and consideration of his brother, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. He pointed out that he conveyed to the Head of State the Algerian President's commitment to strengthen relations between Algeria and Tunisia. Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia also said that he briefed the President of the Republic on the positive outcome of the proceedings of the Tunisian-Algerian High Joint Committee.

See page 4 **PRIME MINISTER OUYAHIA**

AMBASSADOR BAALI

(from page 1)

Ambassador Baali's spouse and two children attended the Ceremony of Presentation of Credentials. Mr. Baali is a career diplomat and graduate of Algeria's National School of Administration. He has held a large array of Foreign Service high positions, including Ambassador to Indonesia (1992-1996) and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations (1996 to 2005).



MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

Other activities by Ambassador Baali include his meeting on Capitol Hill on November 18 with Florida Congressman Alcee Hastings to discuss preparation of the Representative's upcoming visit to Algeria and to examine the state of Algerian-American bilateral relations. On the same day, Ambassador Baali also met with Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Pitts to review issues of mutual interest between Algeria and the United States and to explore areas of cooperation between the two countries.



PRIME MIINISTER OUYAHIA (from page 3)

"The meeting he said, provided him with the opportunity to appreciate President Ben Ali's viewpoints and the pertinence of his analyses regarding the situation in the Maghreb and Mediterranean region, as well as on international issues."

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali entrusted the Algerian Prime Minister with conveying a message of brotherhood and consideration to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

The meeting was attended by the Tunisian Prime Minister and the Ambassadors of both countries.

MEETING WITH AN ALGERIAN DELEGATION FROM CNASPS

On Friday, November 14, 2008, H.E. Mr. Abdallah Baali, Ambassador of Algeria to the United States of America, met at the Embassy with a delegation from the Algerian National Committee of Solidarity with the Sahrawi People (CNASPS) led by its President, Mr. Mehrez Lamari, and including the Mayor of the City of Algiers, Mr. Tayeb Zitouni, the Chairman of the Algerian Red Crescent, Mr. Hadj Hamou Zegguir, the representative of the Laamoudi Foundation, Mr. Mourad Laamoudi, as well as former Olympic champion and 1,500m two-time gold medalist Ms. Hassiba Boulmerka. The CNASPS delegation was in Washington to specifically attend the 25th Annual Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award ceremony which this year honored the Sahrawi activist and Western Sahara's most prominent human rights defender Ms. Aminatou Haidar, regularly referred to as the "Sahrawi Gandhi". Over 300 people, including the late Senator's daughter Kerry Kennedy and David Gregory, NBC News Chief White House Correspondent who was Master of Ceremonies, attended the event held last Thursday November 13th at the Russell Senate Office Building. The CNASPS delegation's attendance of this year's ceremony was the testimony of the support and solidarity of the Algerian civil society to the just cause of the Sahrawi people. During its stay in Washington, the Algerian delegation also had a number of meetings in Congress, with non-governmental organizations, as well as with members of the Algerian community.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE US-ALGERIA BUSINESS COUNCIL (USABC) HONORS THE NEW AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Abdallah Baali was the guest of honor of the dinner given on December 8, 2008, by the Board of Directors of the US-Algeria Business Council (USABC) to welcome him to Washington. The celebration was attended by a large number of guests from the public and private sectors, including officials from the US Trade Representative (USTR), the Departments of State, the Treasury, Commerce, Transportation, as well as the Export-Import bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank), and business executives from various corporations. Following are excerpts of a speech delivered by Ambassador Baali on that occasion:

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. President and CEO,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Besides being a hearty reception, this dinner is also an opportunity for me to meet with you and assure you of my determination to actively support our common goals, which are to promote, foster and stimulate increased trade, cooperation and business between our two countries. It is my hope that this business relationship will develop into a real partnership that would be mutually beneficial.

In the same vein, I do believe that the expected rapid development of Algeria's natural resources, its vibrant economy coupled with its hospitable business environment and its large foreign exchange reserves, that have reached \$142 billion, do provide an appropriate opportunity for greater footprint by US firms through profitable investments into the Algerian market.

As you know, Algeria is not only an attractive and growing market. It is as well the connector between Africa, the Middle East-North Africa region and two free-trade areas within the European Union and the Arab world.

First trading partner of the US in the Maghreb and the second in Africa and the Arab world, Algeria offers investment conditions that are now better than ever for American businesses to expand rapidly.

For the fourth consecutive year, the United States have maintained their first position among Algeria's trade customers with a record level of almost \$20 billion in 2007 and ranks 4th among Algeria's suppliers.

A major supplier of oil to the United States, Algeria is the second recipient after Saudi Arabia of US investments made in the hydrocarbon sector in the Arab World. In the natural gas sector, Algeria provides about 5% of the US LNG needs and intends to increase this share to 20% by the year 2015.

That is why I would like to seize this opportunity to focus once more on the need for a constructive cooperation between the Embassy and the USABC, in order to determine the ways and means of helping us achieve our goals by helping US companies take advantage of the benefits offered by the Algerian market. In the same context, I want to reiterate my support and that of my Government to the USABC as it pursues its mission of promoting partnership and investment opportunities between Algerian and American firms, under the Algerian Development Programs. The joint Embassy-USABC programs undertaken over the past two years, basically trade and investment missions conducted in both countries, deserve to be encouraged.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN ALGERIA WORTH USD 6 BILLION

Direct investments in Algeria since early 2008 have amounted to US\$ 6 billion according to a report issued on December 7, 2008, by the Algerian Ministry of Industry and Investment Promotion.

The report attributed the rise in foreign investments to a newly-improved set of trade laws that have led investors to choose the country over its Mediterranean neighbors.

Foreign investment in the country mainly covers the construction and banking sectors, with branches of banks recently opened from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and France.

Algeria has recorded good economic growth this year, unaffected by the global economical crisis felt across the regions of the developing world, claimed the report. It also deemed "reassuring" as Algerian financial outlook, in light of exchange reserves that amounted to more than USD 135 billion in October.

ALGERIA HOLDS INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EMIR ABDELKADER

More than 250 Algerian and 8 foreign academic researchers attended an international seminar on the historic leader Emir Abdelkader on November 29, 2008, in the city of Oran.

The meeting untitled "*Emir Abdelkader's Legacy, between Particularism and Universality: An analytical Approach*" aimed at inviting researchers to look at links between the legacy and world issues, said organizers.

"This scientific event is an important occasion for boosting scientific research with regards to the foundation of our nation's civilization," said the president of the seminar scientific commission Mr. Bouallam Belguacemi.

The two-day seminar was organized in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Emir Abdelkader.

For his part, Mr. Larbi Chahed, president of Oran University invited translators to work on Emir Abdelkader's intellectual legacy in other languages.

Emir Abdelkader led a revolution against French occupation in Algeria in the mid-nineteenth century. He was exiled to Syria in 1855 where he devoted himself to theology, poetry and philosophy.

Algeria has built the Emir AbdelKader University and a mosque bearing his name as a national shrine in Constantine, in eastern Algeria.

Abdelkader is also venerated in other countries for his humanitarian deeds. He is known for providing protection to the Christian community in Damascus, while exiled in Syria.

Recently, the government of Mexico erected a statue of Emir Abdelkader in the capital city to celebrate his contribution to human civilization.



ERI WINS LARGE-SCALE SEAWATER DESALINATION CONTRACT IN ALGERIA

Energy Recovery Inc. (ERI), a global leader of ultra-high-efficiency energy recovery products and technology for desalination, announced on December 9, 2008, the award of another large-scale energy recovery contract for seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination in Algeria. The Souk Tleta SWRO Desalination Plant, located in Tlemcen in Northwestern Algeria, will have a total capacity of 200,000 cubic meters per day (m³/day) (52.8 million US gallons per day (MGD)). The plant is slated to begin operation in the first half of 2010.

The Souk Tleta plant is being built by the Singapore-based company Hyflux on a 25-year build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis. It will provide desalinated seawater to the Algerian Energy Company (AEC), the state-owned national water entity of Algeria. Under the contract, ERI will supply the plant with 260 PX-220 energy recovery devices that will save an estimated 21 MW of energy.

ALGERIA AND CHINA AUTOMOTIVE DEAL

Shaan Xi, a Chinese automotive manufacturer, has signed an agreement with a local venture, GM Trade, to establish a US\$100m vehicle assembly production line in Sétif. Production is due to start in 2010, with capacity set at 10,000 vehicles/year. The project is expected to benefit from tax and tariffs that could give it an edge against imported vehicles.

NEW RESEARCH ON IMMUNOTHERAPY FROM S. SAMIMERAH AND OTHER ALGERIAN SCIENTIFIC CO-AUTHORS

According to recent research published in the journal *International Immunopharmacology*, "Immunotherapy is the only effective treatment for scorpion stings. However the efficiency of this treatment varies depending on the forms of the antibodies and route of administration used."

"The antibodies are mostly injected as $F(ab')(2)$ fragments. In this study, we investigated damage to the heart and lung tissue and the inflammatory response caused by *Androctonus australis hector* venom, its toxic fraction after molecular filtration or the isolated main alpha toxin (Aah II) in the presence or absence of different antibody molecules," wrote Samimerah and colleagues from Faculty Biology Science University (USTHB) in Algiers.

The researchers concluded: "A mixture of antibody fragments, $F(ab')(2)$ and Fab, significantly reduced local leukocytosis, hemorrhage and inflammatory oedema induced by the *A. australis hector* venom and its toxin".

Samimerah and colleagues published their study in *International Immunopharmacology* (Combination of two antibody fragments $F(ab')(2)$ and Fab: An Alternative for scorpion envenoming treatment. *International Immunopharmacology*, 2008:8 (10 Sp. Iss): 1386-1394).

NEW PHYSICS STUDY FINDINGS RECENTLY WERE PUBLISHED BY Z. BENTALHA AND OTHER ALGERIAN CO-RESEARCHERS

"In this work, some interesting details about quantum Minkowski space and quantum Lorentz group structures are revealed. The task is accomplished by generalizing an approach adopted in a previous work where quantum rotation group and quantum Euclidean space structures have been investigated," investigators in Algeria report.

"The generalized method is based on a mapping relating the q-spinors (precisely the tensor product of dotted and undotted fundamental q-spinors) to Minkowski q-vectors. As a result of this mapping, the quantum analog of Minkowski space is constructed (with a definite metric)," wrote Z. Bentalha and colleagues from the University of Physics Theory Laboratory, in Tlemcen.

The researchers concluded: "Also, the matrix representation of the quantum Lorentz group is determined together with its corresponding q-deformed orthogonality relation".

Dr. Bentalha and colleagues published their study in *Physical review D* (note on quantum Minkowski space. *Physical Review D*, 2008:78(6):4068).



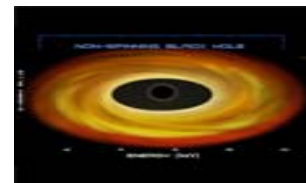
ALGERIAN RESEARCHER K.A. MOUSSA AND CO-AUTHORS REVEAL NEW FINDINGS ON PHYSICS

"We construct black hole solutions to three-dimensional Einstein-Maxwell theory with both gravitational and electromagnetic Chern-Simons terms," scientists in Mentouri University (Science Faculty) Constantine, Algeria report.

"These intrinsically rotating solutions are geodesically complete, and causally regular within a certain parameter range. Their mass, angular momentum and entropy are found to satisfy the first law of black hole thermodynamics," wrote K.A. Moussa and colleagues.

The researchers concluded: "These Chern-Simons black holes admit a four-parameter local isometry algebra, which generically is $sl(2, R) \times R$, and may be generated from the corresponding vacua by local coordinate transformations".

Dr. Moussa and colleagues published their study in *Physical Review D* (Three-dimensional Chern-Simons black holes. *Physical Review D*, 2008:78 (6):4065).



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