

# ALGERIA TODAY

November 2009

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## **PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA CALLS FOR "FULL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY" AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT**



Algeria took part in Rome in the FAO World Summit on Food Security (November 16-18, 2009), sending an important delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mourad Medelci to emphasize its preoccupation with the current lack of food security across the globe, calling it a major impediment to

social and economic development and urging the emergence of a collective global effort to solve this major world issue. This concern was highlighted by the President's message read on his behalf on November 17, 2009, by the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Rachid Benaïssa.

The Algerian Head of State hailed the emergence of the right to food security as an integral component of basic human rights and called for "full and sustainable food security", stressing that "global food insecurity stands as a collective challenge of major significance for the international community owing to its impacts on political and social stability in numerous countries but also because of the moral imperative to guarantee adequate food access for all." Underlining the global character of the challenge, Mr. Bouteflika pointed out that the issue "is primarily the responsibility of the concerned countries, which must devote sufficient national resources to investment in agriculture" but also underlined the contribution of the international community which, he said, "should devote an appropriate level of public development aid to the agricultural needs in vulnerable countries."

President Bouteflika highlighted the link between global food insecurity and climate change and development of bio-energy, warning that climate change "will undoubtedly alter current levels of food production in ways that have not been properly assessed thus far but which will have terrible consequences on the availability of foodstuffs in numerous developing countries." The Algerian leader called on the FAO to "grant appropriate significance to research in this area, with the support of the world community, namely countries with appropriate technologies, in order to define a collective strategy and implement it in ways that would help to prevent food insecurity." Mr. Bouteflika also stressed the importance of water as central element of agricultural production, pointing out that, "While 1.2 billion people live in areas where water is physically rare, their number could reach 3 billion by 2025", he warned.

## **GENERAL WILLIAM E. WARD, COMMANDER OF AFRICOM, VISITS ALGERIA AND MEETS WITH PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA**



Barely one month after U.S. Deputy Under Secretary for Defense for Africa Vicki Huddlestone's trip to Algeria, on November 24, General William E. Ward, commander of Africom,

arrived in Algiers for an official visit, accompanied by an important delegation. He was greeted by Major General Abdelhamid Ghriss of the People's National Army General Staff and General Nourredine Mekri, Director of External Affairs and Cooperation at the Ministry of National Defense.

General William E. Ward met the next day with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. In a statement to the press, the Commander of Africom called his meeting with the President "extraordinary" and said that he "had the great pleasure in listening to the views expressed by President Bouteflika on significant issues, which are also important for the United States." General Ward added that he discussed with President Bouteflika "all issues and solutions likely to benefit cooperation between Algeria and the United States and to benefit all peoples".

After meeting with President Bouteflika, General Ward held discussions with Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci. At the Ministry of National Defense, AFRICOM's Commandant also met with Mr. Abdelmalek Guenaizia, Minister-Delegate to the Minister of National Defense, Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaïd Salah, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army. They discussed issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended Senior Staff Officers of the PNA, members of the U.S. Department of Defense delegation and the U.S. Ambassador to Algeria H.E. David Pearce.

This visit reflects the high level of contacts between Algerian and the United States and the increasingly close military and anti-terrorism cooperation and highlights the Algerian "significant contribution" in that area and the "appreciation" of the United States for "the role of Algeria in the fight against terrorism in the Maghreb region and namely in northern Mali", as pointed out recently by Deputy Under Secretary for Defense Vicki Huddlestone.

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## **PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA CALLS ON THE ALGERIAN UNIVERSITIES TO BE THE PRIME MOVERS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



Opening the national university year for 2009-2010 at the Ferhat Abbas University, Sétif, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika stressed the essential role of academic institutions in national development. The university, said the President, needs to sustain its academic and research efforts with a view to “meeting social demand for higher learning in an efficient manner and improving the quality of its teaching and research programs.” Insisting that national institutions of higher learning need to “act in synch with the logic of reforms” being implemented

throughout the country, the Head of State hailed nonetheless the achievements reached so far. Mr. Bouteflika indicated that the Algerian university system has namely established in different regions of the country preparatory curricula to facilitate access to the prestigious and highly selective post-secondary Ecoles Normales Supérieures, and created additional national schools specialized in engineering, technology, management, journalism, and political science, as well as in other priority areas.

President Bouteflika stressed the importance given by the next five-year development plan (2010-2014) to better education and recalled that the Algerian educational system has made great strides over the past decade and undergone deep structural changes geared towards providing quality teaching. He said that the tremendous financial support provided by public authorities has enabled the emergence of an “efficient national educational system” which has performed well in the areas of scientific research and technological development. Such results, said the President, will be put to good use in helping the national economy and supporting policies geared towards improving the standard of living of average Algerian citizens.

## **PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND THE U.S. HAILED**



The Speaker of the People’s National Assembly, Mr. Abdelaziz Ziari met in Algiers on November 10 with a delegation from the National Conference of State Legislature and hailed the close cooperation between the Algerian Parliament and the NCSL, underlining the necessity to “benefit from the experience of pioneering countries in the area of parliamentary democracy like the United States of America.” The intense agenda of activity of the NCSL delegation comprised a series of eight workshops spread over three days and covering “Legislative Analysis: Method for Analysis and Assessment of Public Policies”. Workshop topics for the first day included “Legislative Processes within a Global Perspective”, “Understanding Parliamentary Requirements”, “Introduction to Public Policy Analysis”, and “Research and Assessment of Information Sources”. Workshops on the second day were devoted to “Design of Public Policies”, “Preparation to Analysis of Public Policies”, and “Written and Oral Parliamentary Report Preparation”. The last day’s workshops concentrated on the “Efficient Use of Parliamentary Oversight” and “How to Persuade and Reach Consensus”.



## **NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY DELEGATION VISITS ALGERIA**

About thirty delegates representing the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met with their Algerian counterparts on a working visit earlier this month in Algiers. Led by Messrs. Hugh Bayley and Vahit Erdem, respectively chairmen of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly’s Economic and Security Committee and Mediterranean and Middle East Committee, the delegation held fruitful discussions and exchanges with members of the Algerian People’s National Assembly (PNA) on issues including political and economic reforms, food security, energy policy, stability in the Maghreb and Mediterranean region, and migration flow in the region, as well as more global issues like the environment and climate change, water resources.

Founded in 1955, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is an inter-parliamentary organization with 257 members from 28 NATO member countries and 66 members of parliament from 14 associated countries from Central and Eastern Europe, Ukraine and Russia. The Algerian Parliament joined the organization as a Mediterranean Associate Member at the NATO-PA meeting in Slovenia in 2005.

Meeting with the delegation on November 23, Mr. Abdelaziz Ziari, the PNA Speaker focused on the mutations which affect international relations and stated that members of parliament have a “specific” role to play insofar as “they can contribute to promote a better understanding between peoples.”. He noted the significance of some issues, stressing that the energy crisis, climate change, food security, demographic pressures, and migration flows are “extremely serious, complex and sensitive issues” which “cannot be resolved through partial, national, regional, or even continental solutions.”

### ALGERIA PARTICIPATES IN THE 14TH CONFERENCE OF INTERIOR MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (CIMO)



Mr. Nourredine Yazid Zerhouni, Minister of State and Minister of Interior and Local Governments, represented Algeria at the 14th Conference of Interior ministers of the Western Mediterranean Countries (CIMO), which was held on November 23-24 on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy. Mr. Zerhouni emphasized that Algeria is as much interested in seeking “better conditions for the freedom of movement for our fellow citizens and their residence in European countries” as strengthening the anti-terrorism front, so that “all necessary efforts be devoted by all parties” to effectively combat this scourge.

The agenda of the conference, which brought together the Interior Ministers of 10 countries from both shores of the Mediterranean (Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Mauritania), devoted particular attention to the fight against transnational terrorism, the free movement of persons, and cooperation in the area of civil protection. The European Commission participated as an observer.

Established in 1995, the CIMO conference is the only multilateral forum on issues falling within the responsibility of the Ministries of Interior and involves EU countries and countries of the southern Mediterranean. Its goal is to develop common strategies in the areas of security, civil defence and civil administration.

CIMO previous conferences were held in Tunisia, Morocco, France, Italy, Algeria, Portugal, Spain, Libya, Malta and Mauritania. At the last one Nouakchott, Mauritania in May 2008, member countries committed to coordinate their efforts in the area of communication to better fight against the propagation of terrorism and cyber-criminality. They had also reaffirmed their willingness to strengthen cooperation against money laundering and drug trafficking.

### MINISTER DELEGATE TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, MR. ABDELMALEK GUENAÏZIA, MEETS WITH GENERAL WILLIAM E. WARD



The Algerian Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defense, Mr. Abdelmalek Guenaïzia, met on November 26 with AFRICOM's Commander General William E. Ward who was heading a U.S. delegation on an official visit to Algeria, with whom he discussed issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the People's National Army, by the members of the U.S. delegation and by U.S. Ambassador to Algeria, H.E. David Pearce.



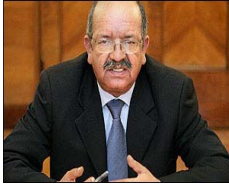
### MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEDELCI MEETS WITH AFRICOM COMMANDER GENERAL WILLIAM E. WARD

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci held talks on November 26 with General William E. Ward, Commander of Africom, who was in Algeria on an official visit. The meeting was attended by Minister Delegate in Charge of Maghreb and African Affairs Abdelkader Messahel, by senior officers from the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the People's National Army, as well as by the members of the U.S. delegation.

After the meeting, General Ward declared that Algeria and the United States “share the same objectives of security and stability” and added that “We are working to support the efforts of Algeria and its neighbors to provide stability and security to a region that greatly needs it.” General Ward also indicated that Africom “can provide support under the form of training, equipment, and partnership activities.”

For his part, Mr. Medelci said that he and General Ward have discussed cooperation between Algeria and the United States as well as issues of mutual interest, including the situation prevailing on the African continent and in the Middle East, putting the emphasis on the need to resolve ongoing conflicts around the world with a view to bringing peace and security and fighting “efficiently” against the scourge of terrorism.

## **NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: IN SPAIN, ALGERIA CALLS FOR “AUTHENTIC” DIALOGUE AND “DEEPER MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE”**



Three years after hosting in February 2006 the First Congress on the Mediterranean South-North Dialogue, Algeria was present in Alicante, as Spain played host to the second edition (November 19-21, 2009) of this important vehicle for inter-Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation. Heading an important delegation, Algeria’s representative, Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs, Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, called for an “authentic” dialogue and for “deeper mutual knowledge of the peoples and cultures of both sides are indispensable in making the Mediterranean a space for cooperation.” Mr. Messahel also argued that ensuring “mobility” in the Mediterranean Basin is a “collective” responsibility and should “benefit all” countries involved. He decried “repression-based approaches” as counter-productive, considering that they go in the opposite direction of “a natural and desired development of relations between the two sides” of the Mediterranean. He stressed that such approaches “feed schisms and continuously expand the gaps separating the peoples and economies of this shared space.” Needless to say, migration was high on the conference agenda. Mr. Messahel declared that in this regard as in all other areas of interest, “all of us, as a whole, need policies that support a consistent, balanced and integrated approach which will turn the Mediterranean into a bridge between our peoples.” He added that migratory phenomena in the Mediterranean, in Africa, and around the world “remain directly tied to the wide gaps in development, standard of living, and pay scale that exist between the two sides”. Consequently, he said, “reducing such gaps should remain our main preoccupation in dealing with the issue of migration” because it is “in development and through development only that we will succeed in limiting and reducing migratory flows.”

Such policies, however, should not impede freedom of movement, said the Algerian Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs. “Our goal is to facilitate freedom of movement of persons, just as we do and encourage in the case of goods, services and capital, and to adapt such logic of openness to the restrictive policies currently implemented with regard to the issuance of visas”, said Mr. Messahel, who called for “greater transparency and openness in favor of freedom of movement of men and women who, after all, remain the true genuine creators of knowledge and wealth.”

It is worth recalling that the proceedings of the first Congress on the South-North Dialogue in the Mediterranean, which was held in February 2006 in Algiers ended with the adoption of a declaration stressing the significance of education, employment as an “essential” goal of cooperation, promotion of North-south investments and access to financing, as well as the promotion of another vision of migratory issues in the South-North and North-South relations.

## **ALGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES EXTEND TO 24 MONTHS THE RECIPROCAL VALIDITY FOR CERTAIN VISA CATEGORIES**



The Embassy of Algeria is pleased to announce that, pursuant to an agreement signed between the Government of Algeria and the Government of the United States of America and entering into force on November 1, 2009, the maximum validity for visas granted to Algerian citizens coming to the United States as temporary visitors, academic students, international organization travelers, exchange visitors, and non-academic students in the B, C, F, G, J and M categories will increase to 24 months, multiples entries, with the proviso that the validity period of F, J, and M visas does not exceed the length of the course of study.

### **AMBASSADOR' S ACTIVITIES**

#### **MEETING WITH U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL H. POSNER**



On October 21, 2009, H. E. Abdallah Baali, Ambassador of Algeria to the United States of America, met at the U.S. State Department with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Michael H. Posner. Their discussions dealt namely with the United Nations and the issue of human rights as well as with the progress achieved by Algeria in the same area.



#### **MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY FELTMAN**



On November 13, 2009, Ambassador Abdallah Baali met at the State Department with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman. During this meeting, Messrs. Baali and Feltman reviewed the current state of bilateral relations and examined ways to further strengthen them. The meeting was also an occasion to discuss regional and international issues of common interest.

#### **MEETING WITH MR. DANIEL B. SHAPIRO, SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**



On October 14, 2009, Ambassador Abdallah Baali met with Mr. Daniel B. Shapiro, Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council. The meeting was an occasion to review the current state of the Algerian-American relations, to discuss ways to further strengthen them and to exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

#### **MEETING WITH U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL ADVISER**

On October 13, 2009, H.E. Abdallah Baali met at the U.S. State Department with Mr. Harold Hongju Koh, the U.S. State Department Legal Adviser, whom he congratulated on his recent appointment to the position. Their meeting covered different issues relating to international law.

#### **MEETING WITH THE U.S. COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, MR. DANIEL BENJAMIN**



On October 8, 2009, Ambassador Abdallah Baali met with Mr. Daniel Benjamin, Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State. The meeting was an occasion to discuss issues related to the cooperation between Algeria and the United States in the field of counterterrorism as well as the situation in the Sahel region.

#### **PRESENTATIONS TO GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY**



Ambassador Abdallah Baali was guest speaker on October 29, 2009, at the Harvard Kennedy School where he made one presentation on "The Use of Power in International Relations" and another one devoted to "President Obama's Foreign Policy and Algerian Foreign Policy". The lectures, attended by graduate and undergraduate students at the Kennedy School of Government, were followed by a session of questions and answers.

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER ON CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE AT MERRIMACK COLLEGE, NORTH ANDOVER, MA**



On October 28, 2009, Ambassador Baali participated in a full-day seminar organized by Merrimack College in North Andover, MA, on "The Algerian-Augustinian Experience and Beyond". He also delivered the keynote address at a dinner with a presentation on Christian-Muslim Dialogue and on the Algerian-Augustinian Experience.

(the entire speech is available in "Ambassador's Activities" on the Embassy's website: [www.algeria-us.org](http://www.algeria-us.org))

### RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION OF NOVEMBER FIRST

On the occasion of the celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the glorious revolution of November 1, 1954, the Ambassador of Algeria to the United States of America, Mr. Abdallah Baali, hosted on November 3 a reception attended by a very large number of invited guests, including members of the Algerian community living in the United States of America, foreign members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Washington, as well as representatives from Congress and the American Administration.

The reception was characterized by its particularly friendly atmosphere.



### ALGIERS HOSTS THE FIRST CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO START-UP CREATION IN ALGERIA



Supported by the Ambassador of Algeria to the United States and held under the high patronage of the Minister of Post and Information Technologies and Communication and of the Minister in charge of National Solidarity, Family and the Overseas National Community, the first conference on creation of start-ups in Algeria was held in Algiers on October 19, 2009, under the theme “Creation of Algerian Start-Ups Specialized in New Information Technologies and Communication (NITC)”.

Co-organized by the National Agency for the Promotion and Development of Technology Parks (ANPT), the US-Algeria Business Council (USABC), and a group of Algerian corporate leaders based in Silicon Valley, California, and in Algeria, the conference aimed at promoting innovation and investment in new technologies. Experts specialized in start-up creation and corporate advice spoke about the secret to their success and offered tips and guidance on how to use an idea or a research paper while finishing college to draw up a business plan and launch a successful start-up.

The conference organizers also seized the opportunity of the meeting to launch a competition open to the thousands of young Algerians steeped in new information technologies and communication and offer them a chance to turn their ideas into reality. Accordingly, the top three successful candidates will receive a substantial cash award and will have access to customized advice, orientation and guidance from the competent staff of the Sidi Abdallah cyber-park, in addition to a chance to visit Silicon Valley and meet with world-renowned corporate leaders in the area of new information technologies and communication.

## CREATION OF THE AMERICAN-ALGERIAN FOUNDATION FOR CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



An Algerian-American Foundation has been created , July 2, 2009, to help develop the friendly relations and cooperation between the United States and Algeria, the Algerian Embassy in Washington indicated Wednesday. The Algerian-American Foundation for Culture, Education, Science and Technology (AAFCEST) aims to "contribute to strengthening relations between Algeria and the United States and promote Algeria's image in the United States," the same source added.

It is composed of eminent Algerian personalities residing in the United States, like Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who ran the US National Institutes of Health from 2002 to 2008, following his appointment by former U.S. President George W. Bush.

The foundation also includes Dr. Farid Amirouche, a professor of orthopedics in Chicago, Brahim Zenagui, specialist in corporate management based in New Hampshire, Yacine Rahmoun, expert in computer science from San Francisco, Smail Chikhoun, Chairman of the Algerian-American Business Council, and James Bailey, a lawyer.

"With the encouragement of Algeria's Ambassador to the United States, Abdallah Baali, the core of founders decided with great motivation to fully engage on a voluntary basis as part of the NGO for the achievement of its objectives," it was added.

The Foundation has "advantages conferring it opportunities to exploit deposits of cooperation remained unexplored so far," according to the same source that provides that "the skills and abilities of management team will be very useful to take initiatives and exploit all offers."

The essential tasks of AAFCEST are the research and identification of opportunities and resources that promote and develop the Algerian-American cooperation in the fields of culture, education, health, science and technology.



## AMBASSADOR BAALI HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL CHIEFS OF STAFF



On November 9, 2009, Ambassador Abdallah Baali hosted for dinner the Chiefs of Staff Association of the US House of Representatives.

Additionally to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association, numerous chiefs of staff of members of Congress of both parties attended this dinner, giving Ambassador Baali the opportunity to recall the progress achieved by Algeria in various areas as well as the relations between Algeria and the United States of America, namely between the parliaments of both countries.

## **WORKING VISIT IN WASHINGTON BY H.E. CHAKIB KHELIL, ALGERIAN MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINING**



H.E. Chakib Khelil, the Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining, was in Washington from October 10 to 16, 2009, on a working visit, whose busy agenda included in particular the following major events:

- A working dinner in his honor, on October 14, 2009, co-hosted by the Embassy of Algeria and the US-Algeria Business Council. On this occasion, Minister Khelil informed the guests about the ongoing preparations for the holding of the 16th International LNG Conference, scheduled for April 18-22, 2010, in Oran, Algeria. He indicated that the Algerian Government has taken all the required measures to ensure the success of the event and he said that he hoped that the relevant US authorities and corporations would take part in this important global meeting.

In introductory remarks, Ambassador Abdallah Baali referred to the progress made in the area of bilateral cooperation between Algeria and United States. He namely highlighted the increasing political dialogue and consultation between the two sides and the implementation of ambitious and forward-looking programs in the Algerian economic sector, with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for a better understanding of the existing investment opportunities in Algeria. Ambassador Baali also mentioned the major events scheduled to be held in Algeria, including the mid-November 2010 Water Resources and Construction mission and the May 2010 Trade and Investment mission (co-organized by the Embassy of Algeria and the USABC) as well as the February 2010 Trade Mission to Algeria to be conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Referring to the legal framework for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Algeria and the United States, Mr. Baali pointed out as well the upcoming signature of a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, a Bilateral Consular Reciprocity Agreement and a Mutual Customs Assistance Agreement, as well as the ongoing discussions to finalize the "Open Skies" draft agreement between our two countries.

Ambassador Baali also spoke about various actions in the area of cooperation, such as the creation of the Algerian-American Foundation for Culture, Education, Science and Technology and the support of the Embassy of Algeria for this non-profit NGO, and the support and contribution of numerous Algerian and American academic researchers and experts to Algeria's national development.

- The Algerian Minister of Energy and Mining also met with Mr. Daniel Poneman, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy, as U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu was traveling in Europe. Minister Khelil was accompanied by Ambassador Abdallah Baali, Ambassador of Algeria in Washington. During this meeting, discussions focused on Algerian-American bilateral cooperation and the prospects for its strengthening, on development of new energy sources in Algeria and on the next International LNG Conference in Oran, Algeria.

## **THE EMBASSY OF ALGERIA AND USABC ORGANIZE US MARKET DEVELOPMENT MISSION IN ALGERIA (NOVEMBER 15-20, 2009)**

In keeping with their efforts to assess and take advantage of the investment opportunities existing in the national non-hydrocarbon sector, the embassy of Algeria and the U.S-Algeria Business Council (USABC) organized a market development mission in Algeria for a delegation of American business corporations active in the building and water resources management sectors.

A national conference on investment opportunities in both sectors was held in Algiers on November 18 at the Hilton Hotel.

Representatives from U.S. corporations attended the International Public Works Conference, which took place on November 16, and had several meetings with senior executives from Algerian firms.

The U.S. business delegation also met with the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, the Minister of Industry and Investment Promotion, and the Minister of Water Resources.



### **STRENGTHENING FUTURE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, ALGERIA INJECTS 263 BILLION AD IN THE WILAYA (PROVINCE) OF SÉTIF**



In the course of the working visit of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to the Wilaya (Province) of Sétif early this month, the Ministry for Interior and Local Governments released a document reflecting the significance of the efforts devoted by the Algerian Government in support of regional development and specifically highlighting the breakdown of the budget allocated to the Wilaya of Sétif in the framework of the next five-year national development plan (2010-2014). The province is already a notable competitive pole in the area of electronic industries and a tenor in education, given its nationally-recognized leading university and research system.

According to the document made public by the Ministry for Interior and Local Governments, the budget allocated for the next five-year period to the Wilaya of Sétif amounts to 263 billion AD, compared to 180 billion AD granted over the past decade. The budget is to be distributed among decentralized sectoral programs called PSD, which get the lion's share of 243 billion AD, and municipal development programs called PCD which were allocated 20 billion AD.

The budget will also support development programs currently being implemented in the Wilaya of Sétif, including a tramway system in the city of Sétif, medical facilities, new administration buildings, two water-conditioning plants and a 75-km segment of the East-West Highway as it crosses the province. Over the past decade, other projects have been completed in the Wilaya of Sétif, including the transfer of 313 million cubic meters of drinking water to the area from two dams situated in neighboring Wilayas of Bedjaïa and Jijel, and the construction of a third university. Projects under implementation include a national training and continued education institute for local government personnel, a police academy, a multi-disciplinary sports arena, and a runway extension of the Sétif International Airport. In 2009, 24 billion AD have also been allocated to the Sétif Wilaya to cover new public housing and retrofitting existing infrastructure.

Thanks to projects implemented so far, drinking water is accessible to 92% of the province's population, 3,470 km of road infrastructure have been improved, 98% of households are connected to the regional power grid and 70% use natural gas in their homes, compared to 28% in the previous years. Finally, the development program has created 235,768 jobs in the region, including 80,663 permanent jobs and 155,075 temporary ones.

### **ALGERIA WILL INVEST \$ 65 MILLION IN THE ENERGY SECTOR OVER THE MID-TERM**

The Speaker of the People's National Assembly announced on November 23 that Algeria will inject no less than 65 million US dollars in investments in various areas of the energy sector (oil, renewable, nuclear, and wind), thereby guaranteeing better delivery of energy to its partners, including Europe and the United States. Algeria is currently connected to Europe through two operating trans-Mediterranean gas pipelines, with a third planned for March 2010 to transport Algerian LNG through Almeria, Spain. Another project under development will convey Nigerian gas through Algeria.



### ALGERIA VALIANTLY EARNED ITS TICKET FOR THE 2010 WORLD CUP IN JOHANNESBURG



Neither the vociferous media campaign waged in Egypt and on the Net against Algeria, its people, nor the burning of its national emblem by Egyptian demonstrators, nor the stoning of the delegation bus and the multiple injuries suffered in Cairo by its players, nor the constant harassment of the supporters of "Les Verts" in and outside hotels, airports, and stadium have succeeded in stopping the determined march of Algeria and its soccer team on the road leading to the African Cup and the FIFA World Cup competition in Johannesburg, South Africa, next June 11-July 11, 2010, which will be the only Arab country at both competitions.

With a beautiful demonstration of sportsmanship, dignity and game tactics, the young Algerian players won fair and square their qualifying spot and demonstrated to anyone who doubted them that "For souls nobly born, valor does not await the passing of years." Through their victory, the players and their coach Rabah Saadane have made the dream of 35 million Algerians come true and Algeria will go for the third time to a world cup final. They have also reminded many of the famous FLN Soccer Team which toured the world during the war for independence, scoring victory after victory and bringing joy and happiness to a people fighting to rid themselves of the yoke of colonialism.

After days of agony, Antar Yahia's spectacular first-half goal in Khartoum brought unequalled happiness and pride to our country. Algerians, at home and abroad, exploded with joy when the referee whistled the end of the game. A huge cheer echoed around Algeria as the young, the old, men, women, and children took to the streets in cities, towns, villages and hamlets across the country to celebrate with flags, fireworks and car horns.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika expressed his joy and his pride. In a message addressed to the team, its coach and the support staff.

The President said, "Once again, you have triumphed and offered joy to your public, in Algeria and elsewhere, as you snatched the qualification of our national soccer team, for the third time, for the world cup final." Mr. Bouteflika added that "You gave all Algerians a reason for joy beyond expression and immense pride because, through your prowess, you have valiantly made a dream considered impossible come true". The President also spoke of his confidence in the players that they are "able to continue to bring honor to Algeria and to the entire Arab nation and to bring in us again and again joy and pride in you as we see you flying our glorious national emblem high above and give the illustration of honor and loyalty of sport in international competition". The President of the Republic concluded his message, saying "from the bottom of my heart how proud I am of you and by hailing your magnificent accomplishment. I congratulate you for your grandiose results and pray the Almighty to grant you full success and to help you gain victory after victory in your future competitions".

### ALGERIA'S VICTORY AGAINST EGYPT CELEBRATED AT THE EMBASSY

November has always had great significance for Algerians and this year even more. Indeed, two weeks after a beautiful celebration of the 55th anniversary of the glorious revolution of November First, the victory registered in Khartoum by the Algerian Soccer Team ("Les Verts") was the cherry on the cake.

After 94 minutes of tension generated by a highly-disputed game against the Egyptian squad and Antar Yahia's score, everyone at the Embassy of Algeria had reason to rejoice and relax.

Women's you-yous (that typical ululation known in Algeria as "Tzaghreet") were heard in the embassy's parking. Lot as supporters clad in the Algerian flag and sporting the national team's jerseys came.

Ambassador Abdallah Baali hosted a celebration attended by the Embassy staff and by numerous Algerian supporters who spontaneously converged on the embassy to join their fellow citizens.



### ALGERIAN MARTIAL ARTISTS SCORE BIG IN DAKAR'S VO VIETNAM COMPETITION



Algeria dominated the 2nd African Vo Vietnam Championships in Dakar, Senegal, leading with 31 medals (9 Gold, 10 silver and 12 Bronze) ahead of the host country which won 21 medals.

Almost all 23 members of the Algerian team stepped on the podium to earn medals in various categories. Vo Vietnam is a traditional Vietnamese martial art that has been gaining in popularity in Algeria, where over 5,000 students competed for inclusion in the national squad.

In addition to Algeria, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Morocco took part in the Dakar Games.

### 31 CONCERTS AND 70 ARTISTS TO CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF EL-HADJ M'HAMED EL-ANKA



Thirty-one years after the untimely death of Chaabi music's great master "El Hadj", as he was affectionately known throughout Algeria, "Arts et Culture", a local cultural preservation association organized a series of music concerts to celebrate his legacy.

Revered throughout Algeria as a great master and almost venerated in Greater Algiers and surrounding areas, where centuries-old Chaabi is prevalent as the premier urban music style, Hadj M'hamed El-Anka may have left this world on November 23, 1978, but his music still reigns supreme among the plethora of Algerian styles and many successful popular artists have learned from him but only a few pride themselves of having been "under his wing."

For 3 days (November 19-21), the celebration organized by "Arts et Culture" took place in numerous areas of the Greater Algiers and surrounding cities and towns and reprised a great number of the artist's pieces. While the opening gala featured Abdelkader Chaou, another great master of Chaabi, many of the concerts offered ascending "young seeds" to perform and show their talent, much to the delight of packed audiences.

### NEW FRENCH EDITION OF A BOOK ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHAABI ARTIST HACHEMI GUEROUABI



Two years after the publication of the Arabic-language edition of "Guerouabi or the Triumph of Chaabi", a book devoted to the life of this other great tenor of Chaabi that hit the book stands as Algeria hosted "Algiers, Capital of Arab Culture", one of the major cultural events of 2007, ANEP Editions just released a French translation of the book written by the journalist Abdelkrim Tazaroute.

The book, prefaced by Algerian Minister of Culture Mrs. Khalida Toumi, is a tribute to the life and music of one of Algeria's great music masters of Chaabi. "Guerouabi ou le triomphe du Chaabi" thrills the reader with aspects until now unknown in the life of a great artist whose music and modesty made him the darling of Chaabi aficionados. The book also explores the captivating times early in the artist's life in the Casbah neighborhood of Dar El Babor to the his untimely death. A must read for lovers of Chaabi music.

### IN "DE POMARIA AU JARDIN DE FRANCE", A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR YOUNG LIVES TO FREE ALGERIA



Prof. Boudia Kheir Eddine Merad has had quite a successful medical career, since he heads the Cardiology Department at Mustapha-Bacha Hospital, one of Algiers' oldest and most modern medical and university centers. Now, he may consider updating his résumé to add "writer" to it, maybe preceded with the qualifier "successful" as well.

Indeed, to answer the many questions asked by his children about his youth and experience during the war for independence, Prof. Merad thought no better than writing a book to recount his life as a young man growing up in Tlemcen, in Eastern Algeria, but also to pay tribute to many of his childhood friends who answered the call to liberate their country and sacrificed their young lives in the process.

"De Pomaria au jardin de France" tells the story of the author's life from his place of birth, Tlemcen, whose ancient name as a Roman city was Pomaria in the early days of the Second World War, to "Jardin de France", the modern-day French city of Tours, the place where he was incarcerated by the French colonial power for his pro-independence activities.

Prof. Merad tends to refute the title of "author" preferring to be viewed as a "witness" in a significant time of Algeria's history. To him, the book is merely a tribute paid to "the numerous Algerian friends and acquaintances but also to others supporters who were thought to be on the opposite side" and who supported the country's fight for independence.

"De Pomaria au jardin de France" was published by Thala Editions and was a hit at the 14th Algiers International Book Fair which took place until mid-November 2009.

### 13TH CENTURY MANUSCRIPT ON THE HISTORY OF MAJORCA DISCOVERED IN ALGERIA STIRS DEBATE AND A LOT OF INTEREST IN SPAIN ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY



“Tarikh Mayorca” or “The History of Majorca”, originally written by Ibn Amira El Makhzouni around 1229, and relating the fall of the main Balears island and its retaking by King Juan the First, was discovered in 2001 in the city of Tindouf, in south-west Algeria by Mohamed Benmaâmar, a history professor specializing in the Maghreb and Andalusia and translated into French in 2006. Even before the publication of the Catalan and Spanish translations became available this year, the book has generated immense interest in Spain and stirred a passionate debate on both sides of the Mediterranean about the history shared by Algerians and Spaniards, but more specifically, in Spain, where certain aspects of the country's history in are being revisited in the light of the manuscript's contents.

A conference recently organized in Algiers by the Spanish Alliance for Cooperation, with the participation of the “discoverer”, Prof. Benmaâmar, and the Catalan and Spanish translator, Prof. Nicolas Roser Nebot, Ph.D. in Arabic philology at the Malaga Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities, shed a little more light on this extraordinary discovery.

The book, a copy of the 52-page original, was discovered by chance by Prof. Benmaâmar, who at the time was conducting research in the Tindouf area on ancient libraries and zawiyas, or scholarly tribes in the Maghreb. The researcher declared at the conference that he had been aware of the book, as related by historians and Andalusian scribes of 13th century Spain, but did not think that it existed.

More than historic value, it is the revelations made by the author about that period of Spanish history that are at the heart of the national debate in Spain, particularly that the book's translation happens to coincide with the celebration of the birth of King Juan the First who retook Majorca. Aside from shedding new light on some aspects of the history of Andalusia still being debated, with some of them questioned, the book is said to be “remarkably objective” in detailing “the degree of organization on the Christian side” and “the weakness of the Governor of the main Balears island”. Ibn Amira El Makhzouni also reveals in his book that after the fall of Grenada in 1492, the first Muslim populations fleeing Andalusia chose to seek refuge in the Western part of the Maghreb, deeming the powerful Hafsid dynasty a safer protector.

### HIZIA, AN EPIC LOVE STORY, SOON TO BE PART OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE



The epic love story of Hizia, the 19th century character and namesake of a love story celebrated in the Algerian oral popular tradition, is well on its way to be included by the Biskra Cultural Agency in the nation's intangible heritage.

According to oral tradition, Hizia was a woman of rare beauty who lived between 1855 and 1878 in the area of Sidi Khaled in the mountainous region of the Western Ziban (South-Eastern Algeria). Similarly to the rest of the population of the area, her family was nomadic and traveled north to the region of High Plateaus to escape the summer heat and returned south to an oasis in the winter. Her sudden death after one month of marriage left her husband, her cousin Saïd, inconsolable.

This love story of rare sincerity was immortalized by the poet Rabah Benguitone and sung by renowned stars of Algerian music, such as Rabah Deriassa, Abdelhamid Ababsa, and baritone-voiced Khelifi Ahmed. Currently, the Biskra Cultural Agency is in the process of finalizing collection of data on the life of Hizia to create a database, leading to its inclusion in the national cultural heritage.

## CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF POETRY IN THE PRESERVATION OF MUSICAL HERITAGE

Algiers hosted on November 30 a conference organized by the National Center for Pre-Historical, Anthropological, and Historical Research (CNRPAH) on the contribution of poetry in the preservation of the national musical heritage. This three-day conference will examine the relationship between poetic texts, melodic structure, and the socio-cultural context in the Maghreb and will be organized a series of panels attended by a number of Algerian and foreign researchers and specialists in musicology.

## “THE ARABIAN SIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL AUDIENCE AWARD” FOR BEST FILM GOES TO THE ALGERIAN MOVIE “MASQUERADES”



In collaboration with the Embassy of Algeria in Washington, “Masquerades”, a movie by Algerian director Lyès Salem, was presented on October 16 and 17, 2009, at the 14th DC festival of Arab Film, “The Arabian Sights Film Festival”, held in the US capital from the 9th to the 18th of October. A reception open to the public followed the October 17th projection of “Masquerades”. Scheduled to be shown across the United States in 2010, the movie was greatly acclaimed by a mostly American audience and selected as the festival’s best production. With “The Arabian Sights Film Festival Award”, “Masquerades” is being recognized once again as a film festival’s best movie after being honored as best movie at the

Dubai International Film Festival. “London River”, a movie by Algerian director Rachid Bouchareb, which gained an award at the Berlin Film Festival, was also shown at “The Arabian Sights Film Festival” and met with remarkable success.

## MUSICAL AND POETRY AUDIO ARCHIVE LIBRARY SOON TO BE ESTABLISHED IN BECHAR

The Béchar Cultural Agency has announced that it will soon establish an audio archive library in charge of collecting and digitizing the musical and poetic heritage of the region. This operation, aimed at preserving and protecting an oral cultural heritage, will enrich existing and ongoing initiatives geared towards the collection of oral and material archives about the various forms of popular and folk artistic expression in the Béchar region and will be a welcome addition to the more than sixty formats of artistic, lyric, and choreographic expressions.

## NEW MUSEUM OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART IN ORAN SOON

A new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art will open its doors in Oran, Algeria’s second-largest city, coinciding with the opening of the 16th International Conference on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG 16), in April 2010. Among the visitors expected at the time, the delegates participating in the conference and numerous tourists attracted by the city’s beauty and the global significance of LNG 16.

## EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

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