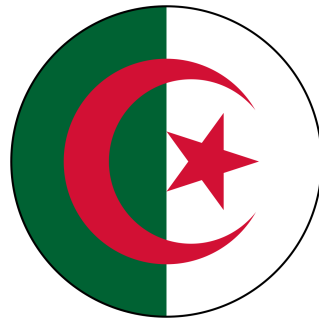


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



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FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Covid-19: President Ghali calls on UN to intervene for immediate release of Sahrawi prisoners

BIR LAHLOU (Liberated Sahrawi Territories) - Sahrawi President Brahim Ghali called on the United Nations to intervene urgently to put an end to the sufferings of the Sahrawi prisoners detained in the Moroccan jails and to intercede to Rabat to ensure their immediate and unconditional release in the face of the serious spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

“With deep concern, I write to you to inform you that the information coming from the occupied Sahrawi areas indicate that the coronavirus (Covid-19) has significantly spread and in a short time in these areas which have been until recently unscathed by the pandemic,” underlined Ghali in a letter sent Thursday to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, adding that “over 200 positive cases have been recorded in the occupied city of al-Ayun and its surroundings in the last few days.”

“We hold the Moroccan occupation State fully responsible for the lives of the Sahrawi civilian prisoners in their jails, and call once again to intervene urgently to end the sufferings of the Sahrawi civilian prisoners and their families and to ensure their immediate release so that they could join their homeland and meet their families and relatives,” said Sahrawi President Brahim Ghali.

President Ghali, Secretary General of the Polisario Front, said that “this serious humanitarian situation is the direct consequence of the Moroccan occupation authorities’ disdain for the lives of the trapped Sahrawi civilians,” by allowing large numbers of people, including those with coronavirus, to enter the occupied Sahrawi areas without being quarantined or being subject to other precautionary measures,” he added.

Terrorism: for Washington, terrorist groups are unable to operate within Algeria

WASHINGTON - Terrorist groups in the region are unable to operate within Algeria thanks to the efforts of the People’s National Army and security forces which have neutralized their capacities, said the US Department of State in a new report published Wednesday in Washington.

“Algeria continued its significant efforts to prevent terrorist activity within its borders,” said the department in the new edition of its annual report on terrorism in the world.

The terrorist organization, which continued operating within the region, didn’t conduct any attacks in Algeria in 2019, said the source.

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

While referring to the reports made by specialists specialized in security, the department of State underlined that “the steady drumbeat of sweeping operations (conducted by the People’s National Army) substantially diminished the capacities of terrorist groups to operate within Algeria.”

The American diplomacy considers that Algeria remains “a difficult operating environment” for armed extremist groups in the region.

The department of State points out that Algeria and the United States continue to build and strengthen their counterterrorism partnership through a “regular dialogue and exchanges of technical expertise.”

Simultaneously and during the period covered by the report, the Algerian government maintained a strict policy which excludes any concessions with regard to terrorist groups holding hostages, said the source.

The report notes that “the terrorist activity in Libya, Mali, Niger and Tunisia as well as human, weapons and narcotics trafficking contributed to the overall threat, particularly in border regions.”

COVID-19 LATEST NEWS

Coronavirus: 2,500 screening tests every day nationwide

ALGIERS - A total of 2,500 coronavirus screening tests are carried out every day nationwide, said Director General of Pasteur Institute of Algeria Dr. Fawzi Derrar.

In a statement to APS, Dr. Derrar said that Pasteur Institute of Algeria is working to increase the number of laboratories in the different provinces, notably those recording an increase in Covid-19 cases, announcing that two laboratories in Annaba and Setif will open next week to meet the demand, pointing out that these two provinces benefited from a similar health structure since the outbreak of the pandemic.

Pasteur Institute of Algeria “accompanies also the new laboratories in training and guidance in order to ensure a fair coverage throughout the different regions of the country,” he said.

These two new structures bring to 29 the number of laboratories carrying out coronavirus screening tests nationwide, some of which come under Pasteur Institute of Algeria and others under hospitals, he added, affirming that their number will increase in the future.