

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

French channel M6 prohibited from exercising in Algeria

ALGIERS - The Ministry of Communication announced Monday its decision to “no longer authorize” the French channel M6 to exercise in Algeria after the broadcasting on Sunday evening by this channel of a documentary “with a distorted look on Hirak,” made by a team having a “fake filming authorization.”

“This precedent led us to no longer authorize M6 to exercise in Algeria, in whatever form,” said the ministry in a communiqué.

“A French-Algerian journalist made the film with the support of an Algerian having a fake filming authorization,” according to the source.

“An offense that is severely punished the law and which will remain in the files of its perpetrators who will be prosecuted as set out by the article 216 of the Algerian penal code for “forgery of authentic or public documents,” said the source.

“It is clear that with the approach of every electoral event, crucial for Algeria and its future, French media outlets start making and broadcasting film reports and other journalistic products, in order to demotivate the Algerian people, notably young people,” lamented the source.

In this regard, the ministry underlined that “it is not fortuitous that these media outlets, meant to execute an agenda aimed at tarnishing the image of Algeria and breaking apart the unflinching trust between the Algerian people and their institutions, act in concert and at different levels.”

Constitutional revision: Constitutional Court, major play in political debate

ALGIERS - The Constitutional Court provided by the new Constitution is “a major player” and will have a key role in avoiding a paralysis of constitutional institutions that would plunge the country into political crisis with disastrous consequences, said Chairman of the Constitutional Council Kamel Fenniche.

In a statement to APS, Fenniche said that the Constitutional Court that would replace the Constitutional Council was “an added value” in the Algerian Constitution, in view of its new missions, in particular “the settlement of disputes that oppose constitutional powers, in such a way as to protect the country against possible political crises that lead to the paralysis of constitutional institutions.”

This prerogative is the main characteristic of the Constitutional Court provided for by the draft amendment of the Constitution that will be submitted to a popular referendum on next 1 November, he continued.

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In this regard, the chairman of the Constitutional Council referred to the possibility of recourse by authorized authorities (President of the Republic, Speakers of both Parliaments Houses, the prime minister and the Government, as may the case be) to interpret the provisions of the Constitution, a measure that is likely to “preserve the stability of the country and avoid possible crisis resulting from an ambiguity or a misinterpretation.”

“Such provisions also prevent any seizure or confiscation, whether voluntary or involuntary, of other prerogatives by any power. They will also enhance the foundations of democracy under the Constitutional Court that will ensure compliance with the Constitution by playing the role of arbitrator to ensure the balance of power,” said Fenniche.

According to him, this Constitutional body, which will be created in accordance with the next Constitution, will “protect the basic enshrined principles of democracy, namely alternation of power, the preservation of rights and freedoms as well as the protection of the opposition.

==New Constitution: creation of independent institutions of monitoring ==

The president of the Constitutional Council described the constitutionalization and the creation of numerous monitoring and consultative institutions, under the coming Constitution, as a true step forward which illustrates a sincere willingness to respond to the people’s demands.

Indeed, the Court of Auditors role would be strengthened, as a higher independent institution entrusted with monitoring public assets and funds. It will exercise a posteriori control of the finances of the State, the local authorities, the public services as well as the state market capital.

The Court of Auditors will "contribute to promoting good governance and transparency in the management of the public finances, regarded as a key segment in the moralization of the public life ...," explained Fenniche.

The Court of Auditors’ mandate to review the State accounts represents an “essential provision which will confer credibility to the State budget," he added.

The oversight institutions that would be constitutionalized, under the forthcoming Constitution, include the Independent National Authority for Elections that would guarantee transparency and regularity of elections," which would restore trust between the governor and the governed.

The new Constitution also provides for the creation of a High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and the Fight against Corruption, which mission is to elaborate a prevention strategy against corruption, ensure its implementation, collect information on corruption and denounce it.

The amended Constitution, which will be voted on November 1st, provides for "the creation of a national observatory of civil society," a consultative body that would involve associations in the management of public affairs.

---Missions of Supreme Council of Magistracy to be reinforced ---

Fenniche said that the revision of the Superior Council of the Judiciary composition, by excluding the Minister of Justice, being a member of the government, is intended to be "the greatest evidence of the willingness to enshrine powers separation and the independence of the Judiciary."

Besides, the elected magistrates would represent 75% of the total number of members of the Superior Council of the Judiciary.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Agricultural insurance: Reform project under preparation

ALGIERS - A project of agricultural insurance reform is being prepared, including the obligation for farmers to take out insurance and a state subsidy for strategic sectors, announced the Director General of the National Fund of Agricultural Mutuality (CNMA) Cherif Benhabiles.

Speaking on the Algerian Radio, Benhabiles explained that this project was "ready and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture" and that it would be proposed to the Insurance Directorate at the Ministry of Finance.

This reform aims mainly to make all climatic and health risks insurable by putting in place upstream measures to support farmers, he continued.

Moreover, the reform seeks to integrate risk prevention management by anticipating claims and by helping farmers in terms of compliance with the technical itinerary and preventive measures against agricultural disasters.

"These measures, which are included in the roadmap of the Ministry of Agriculture, will give an economic dimension to this sector, through sustainable solutions," stressed Benhabiles.

Insurance will thus become, for the first time, a determining element in the continuation of activities and the securing of farmers' incomes, instead of calling on the public treasury to compensate them after each natural or sanitary disaster.

The reform project proposes to make insurance policy compulsory for farmers, based on the principle that any subsidy from the public authorities must be compulsorily insured: "The State intervenes to develop agricultural activities, the least we can do is to secure these investments," he affirmed.

However, farmers can benefit from a subsidy for the acquisition of agricultural insurance products for strategic crops. The generalization of agricultural insurance through this new concept will help protect small farms and rural populations, especially those excluded from social protection, he stated.

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The reform of agricultural insurance will also lead to a greater involvement of other companies in the sector whose market share does not exceed 20%, said CNMA director general.

COVID-19 NEWS

Financial aid enlarged to road passenger transport operators

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad has decided to enlarge the financial aid of 30,000 to road passenger transport operators, impacted by the restriction measures on inter-province transport decided as part of the fight against the coronavirus (Covid-19), said Tuesday a communiqué of Prime Minister Office.

"In application of the instructions of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad has decided to enlarge the financial aid worth DZD 30,000 to the road passenger transport operators, impacted by the restriction measures decided as part of the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19)," said the source.

A financial assistance of 10,000 dinars is also granted to drivers and collectors, added the press release, specifying that these measures "are applicable for the period of August, September and October 2020".

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

An "international coalition," a another way to demand self-determination referendum in Western Sahara

GENEVA - The permanent representative of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) to the UN in Geneva, Gianfranco Fattorini, pleaded Tuesday for "a broad international coalition" to fulfill the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination, referring to the possibility for the Security Council to seize the International Criminal Court to ensure respect for human rights in Western Sahara.

"To assert the principles of international law in Western Sahara, a broad international coalition that advocates for the respect of the right to self-determination and independence of the Sahrawi people and the application of Resolution (1514), without preconditions is needed to demand, by other means, the organization of the referendum (in Western Sahara)," Fattorini said in a interview to APS.

This requires a diplomatic work. "A group of States should organize an international conference to demand the organization of the Referendum," he pointed out. Because, in the current state of affairs, "it is impossible to stop the harmful interference in the UN Security Council", he said, arguing that Morocco has always worked "to put the international law in the service of its expansionist ideal".

Since its "fraudulent" accession into the African Union (AU) in 2017, Morocco has attempted in particular within the UN Special Committee for Decolonization to remove Western Sahara from the list of non-self-governing territories (TNA), which includes Western Sahara.

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"It is no secret that the Kingdom of Morocco enjoys the protection and support in particular of France in this matter", he said.

Algeria takes note of appointment of Bah N'daw, as Mali's transition leader

ALGIERS - Algeria, leading mediator in Mali, said Tuesday it "takes note" of the appointment of Bah N'daw as transition president in Mali and Colonel Assimi Goita as vice-president, renewing its "commitment to accompany Mali in such difficult period."

"Algeria looks forward to the establishment of the remaining institutions of transition in order to allow a peaceful and quiet conduct of the transitional period towards the organization of elections which will lead to the return to constitutional order in brother and neighboring Mali."

Stressing Algeria's "significant efforts" for "the stabilization of Mali through the conclusion, in 2015, of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Mali, resulting from the Algiers process and for the preservation of the stability of this country over the last months," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said that "Algeria" will continue to follow closely the evolution of the situation in Mali".

Algeria "welcomes the attachment of all the Malian parties to the effective application of Algiers Accord and renews its commitment, as leading mediator and president of the Committee of the Accord Implementation Follow-up, to make every effort to continue the application of the Agreement, regarded as the only way to enable Mali to preserve its stability and address the multiple challenges it encounters," said the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

It "reiterates, finally, its commitment to support Mali during this difficult period and reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the brotherly Malian people."