People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Forest fires: Djerad chairs meeting to compensate affected persons

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad chaired on Wednesday in Algiers, an interministerial meeting to compensate people affected by forest fires and the means mobilized to deal with this phenomenon which has affected several regions of the country.

The meeting was marked by the presence of Finance Minister, Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of Housing, Urban Planning, and the City, as well as Directors General of Forests and Civil Protection.

This meeting will be devoted to examining the latest damages caused by forest fires in some of the country's regions and their impact on the inhabitants, said Djerad on this occasion.

"We will also discuss, in the presence of ministers from all the sectors concerned, the means currently available, with the aim of mobilizing them to deal with these fires," he said, stressing, however, "the availability of resources to alleviate this cyclical crisis.

A set of important measures will be announced during this meeting, particularly those relating to material and financial compensation for people affected by the forest blazes, which were decided by the President of the Republic, Abdelmadiid Tebboune, added Djerad.

Defense Ministry denies information on so-called flight of Major General Meftah Souab

ALGIERS - Ministry of the National Defense categorically denied on Wednesday in a communiqué the information disseminated by "pseudo-journalists" saying that Major General Meftah Souab, former Commander of the 2nd Military Region, "is on the run in a European country and that he is prosecuted in Algeria."

"Some individuals, fleeing abroad, who indulge in disinformation and defamation, circulated false information saying that the Major General Meftah Souab, former Commander of the 2nd Military Region, is on the run in a European country and that he is prosecuted in Algeria," said the communiqué.

The same source "underlines that Major General Meftah Souab has benefitted from medical care, by the health and social services of the National Defense Ministry, in a hospital of a European country since February 2020 and that he has never left this hospital for another medical treatment in another country until his return yesterday 4 August 2020, after his regular doctors recommended that he continues treating in the Army Central Hospital Mohamed Seghir Nekkache in Ain Naadja."

The Ministry of the National Defense "denies categorically these allegations disseminated by these pseudo-journalists, who are themselves prosecuted by the Algerian justice and are on the run abroad, indulging in blackmail and disinformation practices to mislead and direct the public opinion to what serves their malicious goals."

The Ministry strongly condemns these pernicious practices and will take "the necessary legal measures to take them to court," concluded the source.

Forest fires: Djerad sets up damage assessment committee

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad set up on Wednesday the committee on the assessment of the damage caused by forest fires in order to deal with the situation of citizens victims of these fires, said a communiqué of the Prime Minister's Office.

The forest fires toll recorded until now underlines 1381 fire outbreaks for a surface area of 14,496 hectares, including 4,268 hectares of forests, 5,563 hectares of scrub and 4,665 hectares of bushes, said the source.

"The damage also concerned a surface area of 1,085 hectares of wheat and barley harvest, 145 821 haystacks, 104 676 fruit trees, 5111 palm trees and 360 hives."

It was also pointed out that the fight against forest fires was marked by the mobilization of significant technological and material means (satellite, helicopters and radio communication equipment ...), as well as "skilled and committed human component that deserves all our attention, encouragement and gratitude," added the source.

The communiqué says that "the initiated investigations enabled the neutralization of fifteen (15) pyromaniac people who were taken in for questioning, six (06) in Ain El Karma, three (03) in Batna, two (02) in Tipaza, two (02) in Medea, one in Jijel and one in El Tarf, three of whom were subject of committal order and three others are under judicial control."

Prime minister ordered the concerned services to take as soon as possible a census of the victims of the forest fires, to assess the damage and propose measures able to facilitate and speed up the procedures of assisting the victims.

In this respect, he insisted on "the need to assess the damage and losses caused by the forest fires through expertise and to resort, when necessary, to the experts of insurance companies. He also emphasized the urgent need to rigorously implement the law for any malicious act or false declaration aimed at trying to benefit unfairly from the State's aid.

In this respect, he tasked the minister of Agriculture to mobilize all the means enabling the farmers who lost their livestock, fruit trees and hives to rapidly reconstitute their properties.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Beirut blast: President Tebboune offers condolences to Lebanese counterpart

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune sent a message of condolence and compassion to the President of Lebanon Michel Aoun following the explosions that shook the Port of Beirut on Tuesday, said the Presidency of the Republic.

"I learnt with deep sadness and affliction of the news of the explosions that occurred on Tuesday at the Port of Beirut, which killed and wounded many people and caused property damage. In this painful circumstance, I offer you and the Lebanese people, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Algerian people and Government, my heartfelt condolences, solidarity and compassion," wrote Tebboune.

"May Allah, Almighty, grant the victims His Holy Mercy and welcome them in His vast Paradise and fill their loved ones with comfort and patience," said the President of the Republic who wished "a speedy recovery to the wounded and the protection of the brotherly Lebanese people from any misfortune."

Beirut explosion: President Tebboune holds phone conversation with Lebanese counterpart

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, held on Wednesday a telephone conversation with Lebanese counterpart, Michel Aoun, to enquire about the situation in the country, following the massive blast that shook Tuesday Beirut's port, the Presidency of the Republic said in a communiqué.

"President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, had a telephone conversation with his Lebanese President, Michel Aoun, during which he inquired about the situation in his country, following the explosion that shook the port of Beirut, causing dozens of deaths, thousands of wounded and massive material damage," the source said.

On this occasion, "the President of the Republic reiterated to his brother President Michel Aoun, to his brotherly people and to the families of the victims of the explosion Algeria's condolences and its wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured," added the same source.

The President of the Republic has further stressed Algeria's full support to Lebanon in this painful ordeal, and its availability to meet the country's needs to overcome this massive disaster," concluded the Presidency of the Republic.

MISCELLANEOUS

No Algerian casualty among victims of Beirut blast

ALGIERS - No Algerian casualty has been reported among the victims of the blast that shook Beirut (Lebanon) on Tuesday, announced the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

"According to the information we got at this time (Tuesday evening), no Algerian national is among the victims of the explosions that occurred on 4 August at the port of Beirut," said the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdelaziz Benali Cherif who reported an Algerian national slightly injured.

"We have information, not yet confirmed at our embassy in Beirut by the Lebanese health services, about another Algerian national who is reportedly in one of the hospitals in Beirut," he said.

Contacts are continuing between the embassy services and the Lebanese authorities to verify this information and to inquire about the impact of the explosion on members of our community in Lebanon, said the MFA Spokesman.

He stressed that the services of our embassy in Beirut intervened to assist two Algerian nationals whose homes were damaged by the explosion.

"Our embassy is in permanent contact with the members of our community for any request for assistance in this difficult situation that sister Lebanon is going through", concluded the same official.

Beirut blast: Two Algerians slightly injured

ALGIERS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Wednesday that two Algerian nationals were slightly injured in the explosions that shook Tuesday Beirut port (Lebanon), affirming that "no Algerian nationals have been reported in Beirut's hospitals until now."

"After my preliminary statement a few hours after the explosions that shook Tuesday 4 August the port of Beirut, we have confirmed today that two Algerian nationals were slightly injured and that no Algerian nationals have been reported in Beirut's hospitals so far," said the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdelaziz Benali Cherif.

"Houses and commercial premises belonging to three (03) Algerian nationals were considerably damaged, while properties of three (03) other Algerian nationals, as well as the headquarters of our embassy in Beirut and the ambassador's residence were slightly damaged."

"The toll of these tragic explosions is being followed by our diplomatic representation to assess its impact on the Algerian community established in Lebanon," said Benali Cherif.