

# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Review**

**8<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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**DOMESTIC NEWS**

**Mila earthquakes: Affected families evacuated, housed in tents, youth structures**

*MILA* - Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning Kamel Beldjoud affirmed Friday, in Mila, that “the families stricken by the two earthquakes which shook the province Friday morning will be evacuated and housed in tents and youth structures.”

This measure is a preliminary step to keep citizens safe from danger after their houses were damaged,” said the minister in the beginning of a working session held at the province’s headquarters, in the presence of Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women’s Affairs Kaoutar Krikou, local authorities and representatives of the civil society, underlining that “these citizens will be housed in tents, youth hostel and two youth centers.”

Beldjoud added, during the same working session held behind closed doors, that he noted the damage caused by these two earthquakes but that the last opinion is that of technicians and specialists who presented today the first results of their inspection while continuing their investigations,” underscoring that “this work must be precise comprising all the affected houses.”

Affirming that these specialists will be backed by new teams to complete the control of houses in a short time, the minister broached an agreement between his ministry and that of Public Works on the sending, on Saturday, of a specialized engineering consultancy to the province of Mila to examine the damage caused at the level of the roads of the affected districts and carry out the necessary checks.

In this respect, Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning said that “once the work of the technical teams is completed, all the necessary measures will be taken.”

**Earthquake in Mila: 184 affected families to be re-housed in about 20 days**

*MILA* - Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and the City, Kamel Nasri said Saturday in Mila that 184 families affected by Mila's earthquake will be re-housed "in about twenty days in the region of Ferdoua in the municipality of Sidi Merouane."

"Housing units from the program to build 600 LPL (public rental) units in Ferdoua will be reserved to re-house the families affected by the earthquake and firm instructions have been given to the officials concerned to urge the operations of connecting these units to the electricity and gas networks," the minister said while inspecting the construction site of these housing units with the ministers of Water Resources, Arezki Berraki and Public Works Farouk Chiali.

"The circumstances are exceptional and the relocation of the affected families is a priority," Nasri added, calling on the officials concerned to make more efforts to take care of the affected citizens.

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The Minister also revealed that 118 financial aid packages intended for owners of houses classified by experts in the orange box and showing cracks following the earthquake have been dislodged, urging officials of the National Housing Fund (CNL) responsible for delivering this aid to speed up the compensation operation.

In this regard, he detailed that the value of the financial assistance is granted on the basis of the experts' reports on the degree of damage to the dwellings.

### **Earthquake in Mila: Local authorities urged to identify affected families**

*MILA (Algeria)* - Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, Kamal Beldjoud instructed, on Friday in Mila, local authorities to carry out a census of families affected by the two earthquakes that shook the province of Mila.

The census of families whose homes were affected by the two earthquakes must be carried out as soon as possible," Beldjoud said during a working session with the local authorities of Mila, prefectures chiefs, presidents of communal assemblies (APC) and representatives of civil society, following a visit to the sites damaged by the two earthquakes.

Beldjoud, who was accompanied by the Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women's Affairs, and Acting Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Kaoutar Krikou said that "the affected families will be fully assisted."

Some families whose homes have been destroyed will be re-located to youth homes and tents "until they can be re-housed to apartments," added Beldjoud.

### **Media actors called upon to address unprofessional practices**

*ALGIERS* - Actors of the media field in Algeria are called upon to address certain unprofessional practices damaging the profession of journalists in our country, said Minister of Communication, Government Spokesman, Ammar Belhimer on Sunday.

"The ill-considered use of pseudonyms or the ambivalence of the working relationship with the employing bodies" are "among the most obvious," said Belhimer.

It is also a question of "reflecting on how to find solutions to the emerging phenomenon commonly referred to as "confidential pages," as well as to the proliferation of unsigned articles, "causing the reader to doubt their authenticity and their source," he said.

This Charter will thus constitute, he stressed, "a reference for the future Council and authorities, provided for by the 2012 Information Code and which have not yet seen the light of day."

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Covid-19: Partial lockdown from 11.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. in 29 provinces**

*ALGIERS* - The partial lockdown hours have been adjusted from 11.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. as from Sunday 9 August until 31 August in 29 provinces, said Saturday a communiqué of the Prime Minister's Office.

“In accordance with the instructions of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, minister of the National Defense, given in the meeting of the High Security Council on 3 August 2020 and after consultations with the scientific committee for monitoring the progress of the corona virus pandemic and the Health Authority, Prime Minister signed an executive decree on the adjustment of the hours of partial lockdown from 9 to 31 August 2020, a measure taken as part of the progressive and flexible step adopted by the Public Authorities in the management of the health crisis,” said the communiqué.

It was decided to “adjust the partial lockdown hours from 11.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. in 29 provinces.”

The concerned provinces are Boumerdes, Souk Ahras, Tissemsilt, Djelfa, Mascara, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bouira, Relizane, Biskra, Khenchela, M'sila, Chlef, Sidi Bel Abbes, Medea, Blida, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Tipaza, Ouargla, Bechar, Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Setif, Annaba, Bejaia, Adrar, Laghouat and El Oued, said the source.

“The governors can, after agreement with the competent authorities, take all the measures required by the health situation in each province, notably the establishment, modification or modulation of hours, the measure of targeted partial or total lockdown in one or several communes, localities or districts with foci of infection,” according to the communiqué of the Prime Minister's Office , adding that “the lifting or maintaining of lockdown will depend on the development of the epidemiological situation. The stabilization of the situation will enable the public authorities to consider additional lightening measures”.

It was also decided to “lift the ban on road traffic for passenger vehicles from and to the 29 provinces concerned by the partial lockdown measure,” as well as the “extension of the ban the movement of public and private passenger transport on the weekends in the 29 provinces concerned by the partial lockdown measure,” said the source.

#### **Covid-19: bed occupancy rate down following slight decrease in infections**

*ALGIERS* - Director of Local Structures at the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Dr. Faouzi Benachenhou reported a drop in the occupancy rate of hospital and intensive care beds, destined to cases with Covid-19, following a slight decrease in infections in the last few days.

The occupancy rate at the national level dropped from over 85% in June to 40% in the last few days against 36% for cases with corona virus admitted to intensive care, said Benachenhou.

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In this regard, he cited the provinces where the rate reached its peak, like Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Setif, pointing out that the occupancy rate of the latter exceeded its capacity, obliging the local authorities to call on other structures to meet the increasing demand.

This improvement in the care network and bed availability was made possible thanks to the involvement of governor in the management of the situation, pointing out that the governors rapidly resorted to supplementary structures after the situation approaches the red line.

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **Mila earthquake: Libya expresses “full solidarity” with Algeria**

*ALGIERS* - Libya’s Government of National Accord expressed Saturday its “full solidarity” with Algeria after the earthquake that shook Friday the province of Mila, according to a communiqué of the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Libya’s Government of National Accord expressed its full solidarity with the Algerian Republic and Algerian brotherly people after the earthquake which shook the province of Mila, expressing its satisfaction that there were no victims,” said the communiqué published on the official website of the Libyan Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Libyan government also expressed its “total conviction” at the capacity of the Algerian government, under the leadership of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, to handle this situation, hoping further “prosperity” and “stability” for Algeria and “more progress for the brotherly Algerian people.”

#### **Covid-19: Humanitarian aid for Saharawi people**

*ALGIERS* - A military aircraft, loaded with humanitarian aid for the Sahrawi people, took off Saturday from the Boufarik airbase to the deployment airbase in Tindouf, the Ministry of National Defence in a statement.

[ecr]hidden "As part of the ongoing of solidarity actions between Algeria and brotherly and friendly countries, particularly in the shadow of the current health situation, namely the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), and in execution of the instructions of the President of the Republic, Supreme Chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of National Defense, a military aircraft, loaded with a cargo of humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi people, took off Saturday morning, August 8, 2020, from the air base of Boufarik to the air base of deployment in Tindouf," the same source said.

This humanitarian aid, consisting of "31 tons of food and medical equipment, provided by the Algerian Red Crescent and the Central Directorate of Military Health Services of the Ministry of National Defense, is an opportunity through which Algeria reiterates its determination to consolidate the bonds of fraternity and friendship between the two brotherly peoples, and reaffirm the permanent readiness of the National People's Army to contribute effectively to these humanitarian actions."

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### Western Sahara is a non-self-governing territory, says EU

*BRUSSELS* - High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, reaffirmed that the EU "considers Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, whose final status will be determined by the outcome of the ongoing UN process."

In a new written reply to a question addressed to him by Polish MEP Janina Ochojska, Borrell recently stated that "the EU position on Western Sahara (occupied by Morocco since 1975) is fully aligned with UN Security Council resolutions".

To this end, Borrell stressed that "the EU considers Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, whose final status will be determined by the outcome of the ongoing UN process," while reaffirming the EU's support for the UN process.

In addition to this response, the EU's principled position on the Saharawi conflict has recently been expressed on numerous occasions (on 3, 7 and 13 July 2020) in written answers to parliamentary questions addressed by MEPs from all political groups to the head of European diplomacy on the occupation of Western Sahara and the illegal exploitation of its natural resources, as well as the recurrent human rights violations and the torture practiced on a large scale against Saharawi political prisoners in Moroccan prisons.