

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

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



## **Press Review**

**17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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**COVID-19 NEWS**

**Covid19/ El Oued: Lockdown lifted in four communes, hours modified in four others**

*ALGIERS* – Partial confinement schedules have been modified in four communes of the province of El Oued ( 636 km south of Algiers), while lockdown measure has been completely lifted in four others, said Friday a statement from the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning.

"Based on the evolution of the epidemiological situation in El Oued, the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning, in cooperation with competent public authorities decided to modify the hours of the partial confinement which will be from 4 p.m. to 5 a.m. as from Saturday 18 July 2020," said the same source.

The modification covers the municipalities of El Oued, Djamaa, El Meghaier and Kouinine and lasts ten days.

This partial containment means total cessation of all commercial, economic and social activities in these municipalities, including the suspension of passenger transport and car traffic, the statement said.

"Partial home confinement will be lifted, from Saturday July 18, 2020 in the municipalities of Taleb Larbi, Ben Guecha, Douar Elmaa and Mara," added the press release.

**FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

**Namibia roundly criticizes Spain over involvement in Western Sahara resources plunder**

*GENEVA* – Namibia has roundly criticized Spain in Geneva for its involving in the illegal exploitation of Western Sahara resources, claiming that Madrid "evaded its international responsibilities."

On Thursday, during the periodic review of the human rights situation in Spain, Namibia regretted that the recommendations it had formulated on this subject were only partially accepted by this country.

The task force on the universal periodic review of Spain included in its report published in March a series of recommendations made by Namibia and Timor-Leste on the economic activities of Spanish companies in occupied Western Sahara.

The two countries then expressed concern over Spain's involvement in this planned looting. The meeting, held Thursday at the Human Rights Council (HRC), was devoted to Spain's responses to the UN task force

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The Madrid representative in Geneva said that Spain "generally supports these recommendations" but "could only apply a part of them".

Hiding behind false pretenses, he argued that the full implementation of these recommendations faced legal, budgetary and constitutional obstacles.

Namibia's representative replied by explaining "that there can be no excuses for the illegal exploitation of natural resources of Western Sahara population."

Namibia affirmed that the right to exploit these resources belongs exclusively to the Sahrawis, recalling that this right, enshrined in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, must be respected by the occupying power.

"We therefore urge Spain to do what is necessary, to guarantee the full implementation of these recommendations. It is a duty towards the people of Western Sahara who continue to live in poverty, while their resources are plundered by the occupying power and third country companies," said the representative of Namibia.

In the recommendations of this periodic report, Namibia and Timor-Leste demanded from Spain to "refrain from any economic activity in Western Sahara territory, without the free, prior and informed consent" of its people.

Namibia has also demanded the adoption by Spain of appropriate legislation to "ensure that Spanish natural and legal persons do not illegally participate in the exploitation" of these resources.

### **Security Council called upon to include human rights monitoring in MINURSO mandate**

*GENEVA (Switzerland)* - The Geneva Support Group for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Western Sahara called Thursday on the United Nations Security Council to include a chapter on human rights monitoring in the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Noting that Western Sahara has been included in the list of non-self-governing territories since 1963, and that the Saharawi People have been under illegal military occupation since 1975, and that it has been waiting for the organization of the referendum on self-determination and independence since 1992, the 200-organization group, in an open letter to the chairman of the UN Security Council, Christoph Heusgen, called on "the members of the Security Council to include a chapter on human rights in the mandate of MINURSO and to implement all the necessary means provided for in the UN Charter so that it can fulfill, as soon as possible, the main mandate for which it was created."

The 214 organizations of the Geneva Support Group recalled, in the letter, "the UN's primary responsibility for the people of Western Sahara."

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They asked the UN secretary-general to "appoint an independent figure as a personal envoy to continue the excellent work of former President Horst Köhler."

They also called on the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to resume the Technical Mission, initiated in 2015, and to establish a programme of technical assistance and capacity-building with Saharawi People's recognized representative, the Polisario Front."

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### *SPORT*

#### **Football (Covid-19): It's difficult to resume championship, says Zetchi**

*ALGIERS* - The president of the Algerian Football Association Kheireddine Zetchi said Friday it is difficult to resume the different championships, suspended since last March due to the new coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, defending the latest decision of the federal office to resort to the extraordinary general meeting to decide on the future of the season 2019-2020.

"It will be difficult to resume (the championship)," Zetchi told national radio, explaining that "we are in July and I think the current context and the current data are no longer the same as those of last May."

"The final stop of the championship must be well considered, on all levels, and the relevant proposals should focus on finding the right formula to stop the championship. The responsibility will be collective, not just of the Algerian Football Association."

Met last Wednesday at the Association's headquarters in Dely-Ibrahim, Algiers, the members of the federal office discussed proposals that will be submitted to the general assembly, in case it validates the end of the season.

#### **Covid-19: "Resumption of Algerian Football Cup is possible," says Zetchi**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Algerian Football Federation (FAF) Kheireddine Zetchi, said Friday that the 2019-2020 Algerian Cup, suspended since last March due to the new coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), could resume unlike the championship.

"The Algerian Cup will also be submitted to the approval of the general assembly, but its organisation is possible compared to the championship, which is difficult to resume given the current health situation. The Lady Cup will be played even as a preparation for next season," he said on national radio.

The Algerian Cup had been suspended since last March, as had the league, following the quarter-finals (first leg) played on 10 and 11 March. The president of the FAF explained that "the Federal Bureau will take a decision, in case this event is cancelled," to appoint one of the two Algerian representatives in the African Confederation Cup (CAF). According to the regulations in force,

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the winner of the Algerian Cup will take part in this competition, in addition to the third in the final championship ranking.

CAF has asked the national federations to communicate their representatives in the inter-club competitions before August 31. The FAF seized the continental body to ask for an exemption.