People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Repatriation of 3699 Algerians out of 9000 concerned by second operation

ALGIERS - The Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdelaziz Benali Cherif reported Thursday the repatriation of 3699 citizens out of a total of 9000 concerned by the second operation which started on July 20.

"As of today, 23 July, 3,699 citizens have been repatriated from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, Spain and Italy, out of a total of 9,000 concerned by the second operation," Cherif told APS. Benali Cherif also reported "the continuation of repatriation and reception of citizens in hotels for their accommodation during the period of lockdown."

In this regard, he recalled that 13,841 citizens stranded had been repatriated under the first operation organized between last March and June. Stressing that 30 flights and two sea crossings have been planned for this second operation, Benali Cherif said that "the passengers will be repatriated from the ports and airports of 14 countries."

"Algerians stranded in neighboring countries will also be repatriated and diplomatic and consular representations will supervise their repatriation where possible," he said.

"Other programs are being prepared for the repatriation of the rest of the citizens stranded in 80 countries around the world," said the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In view of the exceptional situation the world is going through due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure by several countries of their air, sea and land borders, and this operation has required "intense contacts and negotiations in order to bring together the conditions and services necessary for successful repatriation," said Benali Cherif.

President of Republic congratulates Algerian Police on occasion of its 58th anniversary

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune congratulated the Algerian Police on the occasion of its 58th anniversary, and welcomed its achievements in the service of the people and the country.

In a message addressed to the Director-General of National Police (DGSN), the President of the Republic wrote: "the Algerian police celebrated this week, with the Algerian people, the 58th anniversary of its creation, and this annual event is an opportunity to commend the achievements of this security institution in the service of the Algerian people and the country."

"Its men and women, officers of all ranks, agents and equivalents, can be proud of the achievements that today make up the performance of the Algerian police, which has become an example of professionalism and whose expertise is recognized in our regional space and in the world," President Tebboune stressed.

"The Algerian police have reached this honorable position thanks to the heavy sacrifices and efforts made by its children, as evidenced by the experience accumulated over the years, reinforced on the spot by the competence of its managers and the enthusiasm of the young people who join its ranks, proud to wear their official uniform."

The celebration of the 58th anniversary of the creation of the Algerian Police "is an opportunity to pay tribute, with respect and recognition, to the memory of those who sacrificed their lives and those who, after years of service, are now retired, a well-deserved retirement."

"While paying tribute to the women and men who ensure, day and night, the security of persons and property, we welcome the efficiency and professionalism they demonstrate in the field for the application of the laws of the Republic and the preservation of public order in the service of the well-being and tranquility of citizens," continued the Head of State.

In addition, President Tebboune expressed his support for the National Police "at this time when Algeria is facing the outbreak of the new corona virus (Covid-19)."

"I also wish to voice my support to all of you because I realize the continuous suffering and sacrifices that take you away from your loved ones and families in these particularly difficult times," said the President.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Strengthening role of incubators to enable Algeria to move towards alternative economy

BORDJ BOU ARRERIDJ - Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Knowledge Economy and Start-ups Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid said Thursday in Bordj Bou Arraridj that "strengthening the role of incubators will enable Algeria to move towards a knowledge-based economy."

Youth business incubators "contribute to the development of the national economy, the encouragement of innovative spirit and the development of human resources to build a new Algeria far from dependence on hydrocarbons," assured the Minister during his inspection visit to this province.

During his visit to the headquarters of the main incubator which is located in the province's industrial zone, Yacine Oualid welcomed the high number of project leaders in the capital of Bibans, noting "that recently, the majority of projects and project ideas were concentrated in Algiers". He stressed that "talent exists in all regions of the country."

The work program of his department is based on support to project leaders and innovative ideas to implement, especially as "the human resource is the real engine of economic growth."

During his meeting at the province's headquarters with young project leaders who expressed their concerns, the Minister said that "his department is willing to remove obstacles and pitfalls to enable them to enter the world of entrepreneurship by offering them tax benefits and creating a fund that will help start-ups to improve their situation."

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Western Sahara: Spain "must honor its historical responsibilities"

MOSCOW - Spain "must honor its historical responsibilities by putting an end to the injustice committed" against the Sahrawi people, said Russian media outlet Pravda, pointing out that the time has come to decolonize Africa's last colony.

Columnist Luis Portillo Pasqual del Riquelma published in the Russian paper Pravda that "Spain, like Portugal did in East Timor, must do the same in the case of Western Sahara, honoring its historical responsibilities and putting an end to the enormous injustice committed against the Sahrawi people."

Former professor of international economy at the Autonomous University of Madrid, affirmed in his article entitled "Western Sahara must be decolonized now," that "the time has come to decolonize this territory, as declared by those who have more power to do it, UN Secretary General, as well as Hans Corell, John Bolton, James Baker, Thabo Mbeki and others."

In his analysis, the expert said that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called, in his speech on the occasion of the opening of 2020 session of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization on 21 February, for the eradication of colonialism once and for all."

For Luis Portillo, "there is no coercion for today's democratic Spain, a social State governed by the rule of law, to assume the heavy burden inherited from the last government of Franco dictatorship," pointing out that "the Madrid's tripartite agreements (1975) are ignominious, illegal and illegitimate, as recognized by Felipe Gonzalez himself-Secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) at the time- in his speech on the Sahrawi refugees camps of Tindouf on 14 November 1976, the first anniversary of the inking of agreements."

"Because of their nature, content and their objectives, the tripartite agreements of Madrid constitute a blatant violation of the fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter: the peoples' right to self-determination," he said.

Death of Algerian in Belgium: Algeria's representation in Brussels calls officially upon Belgian authorities

ALGIERS - Algeria's representation in Brussels has officially called upon the competent authorities of the Kingdom of Belgium in order to obtain exhaustive and detailed information on the exact circumstances behind the arrest and death of young Akram, occurring in Anvers on 19 July, affirmed Friday Algeria's ambassador to Brussels Amar Belani.

"As part of the regular and meticulous follow-up of the case of our young compatriot Kadri Abderahmane Rheda, alias Akram, and following the instructions of our high national authorities, we have officially called upon the competent authorities of the Kingdom of Belgium as part of the consular protection, in accordance with the provisions of the bilateral consular convention

between the two countries, in order to obtain, diligently, exhaustive and detailed information on the exact circumstances behind the arrest and death of young Akram," he said.

According to Belani, "similar steps were immediately undertaken to the King's prosecutor at the level of public prosecutor's office of Anvers and to the investigating judge in charge of carrying out the judicial investigation to demand that Algeria's representation in Brussels be fully informed about the ongoing investigations in order to clarify and dispel grey areas that I broached on Monday 21 July, a day after the death of our compatriot and that happened in suspicious and troubled conditions."

"We will continue our resolute support to the family of the deceased in this painful ordeal, in connection with the lawyer of the civil side, so that justice is done and that all the truth is revealed about this tragic case which aroused emotion and compassion in Algeria and among our community established in Belgium," he added.

MISCELLANEOUS

CULTURE

Culture Ministry launches art market reform workshop

ALGIERS - Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda on Thursday launched a workshop to reform the art market under the reform of the culture sector.

"The art market is of great importance as it encompasses several components," said the minister, stating that these projects are part of the "Government's action plan which emphasizes the need to move towards economic efficiency in various sectors."

"The launch of a project to reform the art market is not a mere formality," she said, stressing that it is "a key step aimed at finding practical solutions to ensure the artist the place that suits him."

The Minister urged the workshop members "to place the economic vision among the priorities and to initiate a reflection, even a research on the means and mechanisms likely to stimulate the art market in Algeria."

Bendouda referred to "the isolation experienced by the Algerian artist, due to the absence of mechanisms to promote his works and a well-defined circuit of the works he produces", a situation that inevitably leads to "a precarious situation."

The reform of the dramatic and cinematographic art market is being supervised by Hamza Djaballah, an official at the Ministry of Culture, and a group of artists and stakeholders, such as artist Mohamed Rouane, the visual artist Abdelkrim Sergoua and the Director of the National Museum of Fine Arts Dalila Orfali.

On Wednesday, Bendouda had launched the first workshop of reform, that of the theater.