



**HUMAN RIGHTS  
ABUSE ALERT**

**ALGERIA  
JULY 2019**

**THE CHAMBERS OF  
9 BEDFORD ROW**

**2019**  
JULY



## HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE ALERT: ALGERIA

July 2019

### I. Introduction

1. This **Human Rights Abuse Alert** is issued by The Chambers of 9 Bedford Row to draw attention to the situation in Algeria, which has been deteriorating since February this year. There are now grave concerns in particular about interference by the army in the conditions necessary for the rule of law to prevail, mass arbitrary arrests, a lack of independence and impartiality of the judiciary and future reprisals against journalists, judges and lawyers.
2. The class of persons primarily targeted are politicians, businessmen and their families and to such an extent that the country was unable to hold elections scheduled for 4 July 2019 to end the Interim Presidency created by the constitutional crisis after the enforced resignation of President Abdel Aziz Bouteflika.

### II. Background

3. The 2019 protests in Algeria (known as the 'Smile Revolution')<sup>1</sup> began on 16 February 2019, ten days after Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced his candidacy for a fifth presidential term. Since then, demonstrations have spread throughout Algeria. They have been described in a recent Amnesty International report as the "*biggest exercise of freedom of expression and assembly in Algeria in decades.*"<sup>2</sup>
4. On 26 March 2019, the Algerian army's Chief of Staff Lt Gen Ahmed Gaid Salah announced that Article 102 of the constitution, allowing the President's removal on grounds of ill-health should be enforced.

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1. Adlène Meddi (15 March 2019). "[Algérie, les 4 pièges à éviter pour la "révolution du sourire"](#)" [Algeria, the 4 traps to avoid for the "smile revolution"]. [Le Point](#) (in French). Retrieved 16 March 2019. Myriam Belkaïd (19 March 2019). "[La révolution du sourire, Acte 1, scène 4](#)" [The Smile Revolution, Act 1, Scene 4]. HuffPost Maghreb (in French). Retrieved 2 April 2019.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/04/live-from-algeria-the-state-must-lift-all-restrictions-on-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>



President Abdel Aziz Bouteflika had suffered a stroke in 2013 but has continued in office. This intervention by the armed forces was contrary to the provisions of the Algerian constitution which stipulates that:

*'When the President of the Republic, because of a serious and lasting illness, is totally unable to perform his functions, the Constitutional Council shall meet de jure and, after having verified the reality of the impediment by all appropriate means, it shall propose, unanimously, to Parliament to declare the state of impediment'.*

5. On 27 March 2019, parties of the Presidential Alliance, which includes the National Liberation Front and the Democratic National Rally supported General Salah's call for the application of Article 102 of the Constitution.
6. On 30 March 2019, a communiqué from the Presidency declared that as the army chief of staff General Gaid Salah was executing a coup, a new chief of staff would be appointed.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, General Gaid Salah announced that he would not be recognizing any further messages from the Presidency, and called publicly for the President to resign immediately.<sup>4</sup>
7. President Bouteflika's resignation was announced on national TV on 2 April 2019.<sup>5</sup> Under the Algerian constitution this created a transition period for an Interim Presidency under the Senate President Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah, for Presidential elections to be held within 90 days. The scheduled election date was set for 4 July 2019, with the Interim President's mandate to expire on 9 July 2019.<sup>6</sup> However, so many of the political class had been prosecuted in a so-called anti-corruption drive spearheaded by General Gaid Salah that people were too frightened to stand. On 2 July 2019, the

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<sup>3</sup> Euronews, published on 02/04/19 :

<https://www.euronews.com/2019/04/02/presidential-office-memo-sparks-confusion-in-algeria-as-military-deny-army-chief-s-sacking>

<sup>4</sup> Algeria Press Service publication published on 30/03/19 :

<http://www.aps.dz/algerie/87491-communication-integrale-du-ministere-de-la-defense-nationale>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/02/world/africa/Abdelaziz-Bouteflika-resigns.html>

<sup>6</sup> Article by France24 titled "Algeria sets elections for 4 July". Published on 10/04/2019. Link : <https://www.france24.com/en/20190410-algeria-bensalah-sets-presidential-election-july-4>



Interim Presidency declared elections were impossible to hold in the absence of candidates.<sup>7</sup>

8. On 10 April 2019, General Gaid Salah made a speech on TV calling for the justice department to start investigating corruption cases.<sup>8</sup>
9. During the month of April, protests by the citizens of Algeria continued with the demand for the entire political system to be dismantled and replaced with a new system. In response to these demands, General Gaid Salah made a further speech in combat uniform on 16 April 2019 in which he stated that the country's problem was one of traitors and corruption and he directed the judiciary to charge individuals, stating the following:<sup>9</sup>

*"I underlined on previous occasions that the judiciary must charge individuals implicated in corruption cases, and we expect from the concerned judicial instances to accelerate the speed at which they will process the various cases of certain people who benefited unduly from loans of thousand of billions of Algerian cents causing a prejudice to the public treasury and wasting the money of the people".*

10. General Gaid Salah on 30 April 2019 made a further speech directing the authorities to carry out prosecutions against former politicians and business people.<sup>10</sup> In terms of progress in the number of prosecutions being commenced, on 28 May 2019, he described them in the following terms:

*"The results achieved up to now in the fight against corruption constitutes one of the fundamental requirements of those Algerians who are faithful, loyal and jealous of their country. **Results which are***

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<sup>7</sup> BBC, 2 June 2019. Article titled "Algeria elections planned for 4 July 'impossible', authorities say". Link : <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-48490312>

<sup>8</sup> Transcript of speech 10/04/19 published by Algeria Eco on : <https://www.algerie-eco.com/2019/04/10/discours-de-gaid-salah-texte-integral/> In it he 'promises' to open corruption cases to have them prosecuted.

<sup>9</sup> Speech 16/04/19 published by Liberte newspaper in Algeria : <https://www.liberte-algerie.com/actualite/le-discours-integral-de-gaid-salah-313992> ; <https://www.tsa-algerie.com/urgent-nouvelle-intervention-de-gaid-salah-le-discours-integral/>

<sup>10</sup> Speech 30/04/19 published by "fil d'Algerie" <https://www.fildalgerie.com/discours-integral-du-general-de-corps-darmee-ahmed-gaid-salah/>;



*going in a good direction, in harmony with the federation of the efforts of the army and the people.”*<sup>11</sup> (Emphasis added)

11. The country has now entered a constitutional grey zone, with no timeline or deadline for dialogue or elections. The Constitutional Council – under the influence of the army high command – has in effect said that it had no solution to this problem, and recommended simply that the current Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah stay in power until a new one is elected. The Interim President called in a speech on 3 July 2019 for dialogue, but said that neither the state, nor the army would partake in it.<sup>12</sup>

### III. Human Rights Abuses

12. There are a number of areas of grave concern in relation to human rights abuses in Algeria, which have worsened in recent months, particularly since the start of the demonstrations in February 2019.
13. This **Human Rights Alert** provides an indication only of those areas that require particular attention and monitoring in the months ahead. It is not intended to be exhaustive but is merely illustrative of some of the issues confronting the citizens of Algeria.

#### (a) Military Interference with the Judiciary

14. Independence of the judiciary is a cornerstone of the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary state:

*The independence of the judiciary shall be guaranteed by the State and enshrined in the Constitution or the law of the country. It is the duty of all governmental and other institutions to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary.*

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<sup>11</sup> Speech 20/05/19 published Reporters.dz <http://www.reporters.dz/2019/05/20/le-texte-integral-du-discours-de-gaid-salah/>

<sup>12</sup> Algeria’s interim president proposes talks without state involvement”, by France24, published on 3 July 2019. Link : <https://www.france24.com/en/20190703-algeria-interim-president-bensalah-talks-state-involvement>



15. The Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Fair Trial in Africa state:

*The process for appointments to judicial bodies shall be transparent and accountable and the establishment of an independent body for this purpose is encouraged. Any method of judicial selection shall safeguard the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.*

16. The Algerian Constitution (revised in 2016) established an independent, “impartial” judiciary, “guaranteeing the security and stability of the nation”. However, as Human Rights Watch (“HRW”) has observed, there are problems inherent within the structure of the judiciary that render it vulnerable to interference from different sources. HRW reports that in essence, the structure of the judiciary “undermines its potential independence. The country’s president presides over the Supreme Judicial Council, the body that oversees the judiciary and is responsible for judicial appointments, disciplinary measures, and dismissals of judges. The prime minister is the council’s vice president. The president appoints 6 of the council’s 20 members.”<sup>13</sup> However, it is not just the structure of the judiciary that renders it vulnerable to influence from the President or Prime Minister. Since earlier this year, there is growing evidence of interference with the independence and impartiality of the judiciary by the military high command.
17. Referring to the military, independence of the judiciary and the choice of the President, Algerian lawyer Belkacem Nait Salah explains, “this institution [the military] is an integral part of the system. With phantom institutions, without the rule of law and an independent judiciary, the army is the real power today.” He states that it is the “Armée Nationale Populaire (ANP) that really chooses the Algerian president.” Protests throughout Algeria continue to call for real independence of the judiciary and criticise the recent trials of civilians in military courts.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/09/algeria-bouteflika-resignation-opening-rights>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.theafricareport.com/13148/gaid-salabs-dangerous-gamble-in-the-algerian-transition/>



18. In the last few months, General Gaid Salah has been described as *“striking and eliminating, one by one, the officials of the Bouteflika era.”*<sup>15</sup> Belkacem Nait Salah, a lawyer at the Oran court in Algeria who has been involved in the protest movement since its inception has stated that: *“the judicial system has no real power in Algeria. It is not an institution but an apparatus dependent on politics.”* Prominent commentators have observed that ever since the independence of Algeria, *“the army has been the real centre of power, arbitrating factional conflicts among politicians and business interests, making and unmaking presidents.”*<sup>16</sup>
  
19. In a speech on 16 April 2019, General Gaid Salah calls directly on the judiciary to start charging businessmen who received large loans. He stated as follows:  
  
*“I underlined on previous occasions that the judiciary must charge individuals implicated in corruption cases, and we expect from the concerned judicial instances to accelerate the speed at which they will process the various cases of certain people who benefited unduly from loans of thousand of billions (of Algerian cents, i.e. billions of USD) causing a prejudice to the public treasury and wasting the money of the people”.*
  
20. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, the former Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, who resigned from his position on 11 March 2019, was called, with others including another former Prime Minister, Mr Abdelmalek Sellal to court to be heard as a witness by the Prosecutor in the case against Mr Ali Haddad and others. Mr Haddad was the Head of the Association of Businessmen. While Mr Ouyahia was being interviewed, the ‘Interim Presidency’ under the direction of General Gaid Salah announced that the Prosecutor, the President of the Court and the Head of the Supreme Court were to be removed from their positions with immediate effect.<sup>17</sup> This is a clear example of the Algerian military forces unlawfully interfering with the legal system.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/ahmed-gaid-salah-temptation-history>

<sup>16</sup> See the article by Professor of Modern History at Oxford University, James McDougall: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-47821980>

<sup>17</sup> Algeria Press Service : <http://www.aps.dz/algerie/89525-zeghmatai-designe-procureur-general-de-la-cour-d-alger-et-bendaas-procureur-de-la-republique-pres-le-tribunal-de-sidi-m-hamed>





21. On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the former Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia's case was sent to the Supreme Court in order to indict him for corruption and he was ordered to attend court on 12 June. Since that date, the Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah on the order of the army High Command published a communiqué on 10 June changing the Judges in the court.<sup>18</sup> It stated that Mr. Slimane Boudi, First President of the Supreme Court was replaced with immediate effect by Mr. Abderrachid Tabi, and that Mr. El Ouardi Benabid, General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court was replaced with immediate effect by Mr. Madjid Abderrahim. When Ahmed Ouyahia appeared in court 48 hours later, he was jailed.<sup>19</sup> The following day, the former Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellak and a former Minister Mr Amarra Benyounes were also charged. All men were sent to prison awaiting trial.
  
22. The direction of policy by the army to the judiciary and encouragement to persecute certain individuals and conduct arbitrary arrests and detention is interference in the rule of law. The removal of judges and prosecutors at the direction of the army is contrary to the principles underlying conditions necessary for the rule of law.<sup>20</sup> There are now no guarantees that criminal procedures are fair, and that independent and impartial trials will take place.
  
23. The Freedom House report in 2019 on Algeria raised further concerns as regards the independence of the judiciary, stating that *"the judiciary is susceptible to government pressure, for instance regarding cases against people close to the presidency"* and that there is a *"weak rule of law"*.<sup>21</sup> The report stated that: *"political affairs in Algeria are dominated by a closed elite based in the military and the ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN)"*.

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<sup>18</sup> Echourouk Online : "Bensalah met fin aux fonctions du president de la Cour supreme", published on 11/06/2019. Link : <https://www.echoroukonline.com/bensalah-met-fin-aux-fonctions-du-president-de-la-cour-supreme/>

<sup>19</sup> Reuters : "Algerian ex-PM Sellal arrested over graft allegation: state TV", published on 13/06/2019. Link : <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-algeria-protests/algerian-ex-pm-sellal-arrested-over-graft-allegation-state-tv-idUSKCN1TE1KF>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/ahmed-gaid-salah-temptation-history>;  
<https://www.algiersherald.com/arbitrary-arrests-in-algeria-as-the-military-rejects-a-democratic-transition/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/algeria>





24. The Deputy Prosecutor in Chelghoum El Aid explained his position:

*"We are with the people and for the people. The independence of justice is not only words but acts, and not only slogans and statements in international fora. Law enforcement is essential, because the law applies to the strong and weak, the rich and poor, it applies to the minister, the businessman and all the others."* He went on to state: *"I strongly support the judges: no to the pressure on the judges and no to the pressure on the judiciary. We must free the judges, and I appeal to all magistrates who are under any pressure from any source that they announce it and we will be ready to die to defend them".*<sup>22</sup>

**(b) Arbitrary Arrests**

25. In recent months, individuals including their families, who had been politically close to former President Bouteflika have been charged with either corruption (civilians) or treason (military). President Bouteflika's youngest brother, Said, and two former intelligence chiefs Mr. Toufik Mediene and Mr. Bachir Tartag, on 5 May 2019 were placed in custody by a military judge for *"attacking the authority of the army and conspiracy against the authority of the state."*<sup>23</sup> These charges attract the death penalty and were at the direction of General Gaid Salah.<sup>24</sup>
26. The Head of the Workers Party, Mrs Louisa Hanoune, was arrested and accused on 9 May 2019 as part of the same legal proceedings.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2019/04/14/algerian-magistrates-to-boycott-presidential-polls/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/05/05/595157/Algeria-Said-Bouteflika-investigation-intelligence-chiefs> ; <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2019/5/7/former-algerian-presidents-brother-said-may-face-death-penalty>

<sup>24</sup> General Gaid Salah's speech on 16/04/2019. Published by TSA-Algerie on 16/04/2019 <https://www.tsa-algerie.com/urgent-nouvelle-intervention-de-gaid-salah-le-discours-integral/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.algiersherald.com/political-opponent-arrested-as-military-rulers-of-algeria-settle-old-scores/> *"I already mentioned – in my last speech on 30 March 2019 – the suspicious meetings which were held in secret to conspire against the will of the people and to block the solutions and proposals of the army to come out of this crisis. However, these parties and at their helm the former head of the security and intelligence directorate have tried in vain, to deny their presence at these meetings, and to fool the public opinion, even though there are irrefutable proofs of these abject facts. We affirmed on that day that we will reveal all the truth, yet here they are continuing to agitate themselves against the will of the people and trying to enflame the situation, and inciting to block the*



Her arrest and summons to trial was described as “*political*” and “*arrested for her political positions*”.<sup>26</sup> The Algerian League for the Defence of Human Rights issued the following statement concerning this matter: “*An escalation that worries us in more than one way, will this ‘conspiracy against the army’ charge become the one-size fits all charge for silencing all discordant voices against the political roadmap General Gaid seeks to impose on the people.*”<sup>27</sup> There are serious concerns about the deterioration of her health in custody.<sup>28</sup>

27. There is grave concern about the wide-scale and arbitrary nature of politically motivated prosecutions instigated by the military. A list of some of those individuals who are known to have been either jailed, put under police control, or under preliminary investigation is attached in Annex 1.<sup>29</sup>
28. A recent report by Amnesty International on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 stated that at that time at “*least 311 people [had been] detained since the demonstrations began.*”<sup>30</sup> The number has increased significantly since then. Amnesty has reported that “*almost every week, the police reveal that scores of people have been arrested, some of them for “unarmed gathering.”*”<sup>31</sup>
29. In the same month, HRW reported that: “*Algerian authorities have resumed forcibly dispersing peaceful demonstrations and arbitrarily detaining protesters in the capital, Algeria.*”<sup>32</sup> HRW urged the Algerian authorities to “*rescind the 2001 decree banning all demonstrations in Algiers and allow people to exercise their right to peaceful assembly anywhere in Algeria.*”<sup>33</sup> Protesters have “*reported being arrested, strip searched, handled roughly, and detained for hours.*”<sup>34</sup>

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*solutions to get out of this crisis. To this effect, I am giving one last warning to this person, and if he persists in his behaviour, firm legal measures will be taken against him.”*

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.algiersherald.com/political-opponent-arrested-as-military-rulers-of-algeria-settle-old-scores/>

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> **Exhibit 3** – List of names

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/04/live-from-algeria-the-state-must-lift-all-restrictions-on-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/04/live-from-algeria-the-state-must-lift-all-restrictions-on-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>



30. In April, HRW reported that Abbane Meziane, a journalist with the daily Al Watan, saw the security forces pushing into the gathering and chasing protesters from the steps of the post office. The police immediately arrested those who resisted and forced them into police vans. When police ordered Meziane to leave, he refused, saying he was a journalist doing his job. They arrested him together with eight protesters and took them to the Cavaignac police station, holding them for hours.<sup>35</sup> Also that month, HRW reported that *“Videos filmed by Khaled Drarni show that police made extensive use of teargas on Didouche Mourad and also in the nearby Place Audin. Media reported clashes between protesters and the police later the same day.”*<sup>36</sup>

**(c) Interference with Freedom of the Press**

31. Journalists who have criticized recent events have been dismissed from their posts.<sup>37</sup> These dismissals have been viewed by many as part of a politically motivated campaign to eliminate the former supporters of President Bouteflika.
32. Whereas critical journalists have been removed from their posts, others such as the journalist Abdou Semmar of [www.algeriepart.com](http://www.algeriepart.com) and Amel TV, have played a pivotal role in sustaining attacks against politicians, their families and prominent business people by defending and glorifying General Gaid Salah. On 13 June 2019 he wrote a piece titled *“Gaid Salah kept his promises”*<sup>38</sup> and states:

*“Ahmed Gaid Salah did not miss his rendez-vous with history. The 80 year old man has shown to Algerians and to all the international observers who follow closely what is happening in Algeria, that he held his promises”.*

*“No one would have imagined it in their best possible dreams: Said Bouteflika in jail, general Toufik in jail, Ouyahia in jail, Sellal in jail, the most influential oligarchs of the Bouteflika era in jail, and cases of wasted*

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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/04/19/algeria-police-renew-crackdown-mass-protests>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.algiersherald.com/political-opponent-arrested-as-military-rulers-of-algeria-settle-old-scores/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://algeriepart.com/2019/06/13/gaid-salah-a-tenu-ses-promesses/>



*public funds and corruption that won't stop landing on the desks of the judges of the court of Algiers".*

**(d) Prevailing Atmosphere of Fear**

33. Protesters continue to demand the removal of the Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah and Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui. However, no new date for the election has been set.
34. On 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019, members of the Algerian judiciary announced a boycott of the country's Presidential elections, citing inappropriate pressure being placed upon them.<sup>39</sup>
35. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Council (which is under the influence of the army High Command) has said that it has no solution to the problem and *recommended* the current Interim President remains in power until elections do take place.
36. The Interim President Abdelkader Bensalah called in a speech on 3 July 2019 for dialogue, but said that neither the state, nor the army would take part.<sup>40</sup>
37. Significantly, in a report in April 2019, Amnesty International stated that in conversations on the ground, many people *"shared their fear of future reprisals, especially against the journalists, judges and lawyers who have voiced their support for the protests or called for media freedom and independence of the judiciary."*<sup>41</sup>

**(e) Recent Weeks**

38. The situation in Algeria has worsened as a report in the Algiers Herald on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 indicates:

*"Over the past two weeks, the regime proceeded to [conduct] a number of arbitrary arrests of political opponents and journalists. Some were*

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2019/04/14/algerian-magistrates-to-boycott-presidential-polls/>

<sup>40</sup> Algeria's interim president proposes talks without state involvement", by France24, published on 3 July 2019. Link : <https://www.france24.com/en/20190703-algeria-interim-president-bensalah-talks-state-involvement>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/04/live-from-algeria-the-state-must-lift-all-restrictions-on-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>



*beaten while in custody, others were stripped naked according to reports coming in from Algeria.”<sup>42</sup>*

39. Most of those arrested are being prosecuted under the vague charge of ‘*atteinte au moral des troupes*’, which roughly translates to ‘*undermining the morale of the army*’. This broad accusation has been extensively used over the past few weeks as an excuse to lock up critical voices.
40. The most recent anti-regime activist to have been arrested and jailed is Lakhdar Bouregâa, a popular opposition figure who took part in the country’s independence war. He was arrested by elements of the army, days after publicly stating that the military already had the name of the next president. Another voice silenced is the one of Ali Ghediri, a retired general and candidate for last April’s cancelled presidential election.<sup>43</sup>
41. In recent weeks, it is noteworthy that the Amazigh flag, symbol of the cultural heritage of the Berber minority in North Africa, has also been banned, in what has been deemed as an attempt to stir up ethnic violence and divide the peaceful movement.<sup>44</sup> At the time of submission, there are on-going demonstrations rejecting rule by military regime in Algeria.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.algiersherald.com/arbitrary-arrests-in-algeria-as-the-military-rejects-a-democratic-transition/>

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.



**ANNEX 1: LIST OF NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS  
EITHER JAILED, UNDER POLICE CONTROL OR PRELIMINARY  
INVESTIGATION**

*Ever since President Bouteflika handed in his resignation on 2 April 2019, several former politicians and senior army officers, civil servants and businessmen have been – often with their closest family members – either jailed, put under police control, or put under preliminary investigation. A short list of these people includes, but is not limited to the following:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position or relation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Charge or suspicion</b>
Mr. Said Bouteflika	Youngest brother of, and former advisor to the president	Jailed	Plotting against the authority of the state
Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia	Former prime minister, head of RND party.	Jailed	Giving away undue advantages
Mr. Abdelmalek Sellal	Former prime minister and campaign manager of president Bouteflika	Jailed	Giving away undue advantages
Mr. Fares Sellal	Son of Abdelmalek Sellal	Jailed	Unspecified corruption charges
Mrs. Farida Sellal	Wife of Abdelmalek Sellal	Charged	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Djamel Ould Abbas	Former head of the FLN party and current senator	Jailed	Wasting public funds, and other similar charges
Mr. Skander Ould Abbas	Son of Djamel Ould Abbas	Jailed	Argument with a restaurant owner and corruption charges
Mr. El Wafi Ould Abbas	Son of Djamel Ould Abbas	Arrest warrant issued	Corruption charges
Mrs. Louisa Hanoune	Head of the workers	Jailed	Plotting against the



	party (opposition)		authority of the state
Mr. Lakhdar Bouregaa	Commander of the fourth military region at independence, founder of the opposition FFS party	Jailed	Demoralising the army
Mr. Hocine Benhadid	Former general and commander of the 8th armoured brigade	Jailed	Demoralising the army
Mr. Ali Ghediri	Former general and candidate in the last presidential elections	Jailed	Falsifying documents for his previous campaign
Mr. Toufik Mediene	Former head of intelligence	Jailed	Plotting against the authority of the state
Mr. Sid Ali Mediene	Son of Mediene Toufik	Under investigation	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Athmane Tartag	Former head of intelligence	Jailed	Plotting against the authority of the state
Mr. Ashraf Tartag	Son of Athmane Tartag	Under investigation	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Amine Soltani	Son of Aboudjerra Soltani, former leader of Hamas an Islamist party	Jailed	Assault on an officer of the law
Mr. Lotfi Nezzar	Son of former defence minister Khaled Nezzar	Under investigation	Corruption
Mr. Menad Nouba	Former major general and former head of the gendarmerie	Put under military police control (must appear	Corruption





		regularly at police station)	
Mr. Menad (first name unknown)	First son of Menad Nouba	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Menad (first name unknown)	Second son of Menad Nouba	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Menad (first name unknown)	Third son of Menad Nouba	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Abderrazak Cherif	Former major general and former head of the 4th (out of 6) military region	Wanted by military justice. Escaped abroad after being freed by Bouteflika before the events began	Corruption
Mr. Ramzi Cherif	First son of Abderrazak Cherif	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Cherif (first name unknown)	Second child of Abderrazak Cherif	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Cherif (first name unknown)	Third child of Abderrazak Cherif	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption



Cherif (first name unknown)	Fourth child of Abderrazak Cherif	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Said Bey	Former major general and head of the second (out of 6) military region	Jailed	Accused of giving a weapon to business man Ali Haddad
Mr. Bey (first name unknown)	First child of Said Bey	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Bey (first name unknown)	Second child of Said Bey	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Bey (first name unknown)	Third child of Said Bey	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Bey (first name unknown)	Fourth child of Said Bey	Under investigation by military tribunal	Corruption
Mr. Habib Chentouf	Former major general and former head of the first (out of 6) military region	Arrest warrant issued	Accused of stockpiling weapons to destabilise the state
Mr. Faouzi Nidhal Chentouf	First son of Habib Chentouf	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Chentouf (first name unknown)	Second child of Habib Chentouf	Under investigation by military	Unspecified



		tribunal	
Chentouf (first name unknown)	Third child of Habib Chentouf	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Chentouf (first name unknown)	Fourth child of Habib Chentouf	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Mr. Boudjemaa Boudouaouer	Former major general and former head of army finances	Put under military police control (must appear regularly)	Corruption
Boudouaouer (first name unknown)	First child of Boudjemaa Boudouaouer	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Boudouaouer (first name unknown)	Second child of Boudjemaa Boudouaouer	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Boudouaouer (first name unknown)	Third child of Boudjemaa Boudouaouer	Under investigation by military tribunal	Unspecified
Mr. Abdelghani Hamel	Former major general and former head of Algeria's police forces	Jailed	Illegal enrichment
Mr Ameyar Hamel	First son of Abdelghani Hamel	Jailed	Illegal enrichment
Mr Mourad Hamel	Second son of	Jailed	Illegal enrichment



	Abdelghani Hamel		
Mr Hamel Chakib	Third son of Abdelghani Hamel	Jailed	Illegal enrichment
Ms Hamel (first name unknown)	Daughter of Abdelghani Hamel	Jailed	Illegal enrichment
Mrs. Hamel (first name unknown)	Wife of Abdelghani Hamel	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Illegal enrichment
Mr. Abdelkader Zoukh	Former governor of Algiers province (or wilaya)	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Zoukh (first name unknown)	Son of Abdelkader Zoukh	Under investigation (jailed according to other sources)	Corruption
Mr. Hissam Abdelkarim	Son in law of Abdelkader Zoukh	Under investigation (jailed according to other sources)	Corruption
Mr. Abdelghani Zaalane	Former minister and governor of Oran province	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages



Mr. Mohamed Djamel Khenfar	Current governor of El Bayadh province	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Abdelmalek Boudiaf	Former governor of Oran and former health minister	Case sent to the Supreme Court for prosecution	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Abdelkader Kadi	Former governor of Tipaza province	Case sent to the Supreme Court for prosecution	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Moussa Ghelai	Former governor of Tipaza province	Case sent to the Supreme Court for prosecution	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Zoubir Bensabbane	Former governor of Annaba province	Case sent to the Supreme Court for prosecution	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Abdeslam Bouchouareb	Former minister of industry and mines	International arrest warrant	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Karim Djoudi	Form finance minister and former advisor to president Bouteflika	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Abdelkader Bouazghi	Former agricultural minister	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages



Mr Abdelhamid Melzi	Former director of state residencies	Jailed	Espionage
Mr. Amin Melzi	First son of Abdelhamid Melzi	Jailed	Corruption
Mr. Melzi (first name unknown)	Second son of Abdelhamid Melzi	Jailed	Unsepcified
Mrs. Melzi (first name unknown)	Wife of Abdelhamid Melzi	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Unspecified
Mr. Mohamed Abdou Bouderbala	Former director Algerian customs	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Mohamed Rehamia	Former director of public building society	Jailed	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Ali Bouamrirane	Current director of land for Algiers province - West Side	Jailed	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Amara Benyounes	Former transport minister, head of MPA party	Jailed	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Said Barkat	Former solidarity minister, current senator	Jailed	Awarding contracts contrary to the law, bad use of office, etc.
Mr. Boudjemaa Talai	Former transport minister and MP	Having his immunity removed to be charged	Giving undue advantages



Mr. Amar Tou	Former transport and telecoms minister	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Amar Ghoul	Former transport minister and MP	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Giving undue advantages
Mr. Aboud Achour	Head of the public bank BNA (Banque Nationale d'Algerie)	Jailed	Giving undue loans
Mr. Omar Boudiab	Former head of the public bank CPA (Credit Populaire Algerie)	Jailed	Giving undue loans
Mr. Ali Haddad	Former head of forum business leaders	Jailed	Using a second passport, corruption
Mr. Hadj Said Malek	Assistant to Mr. Ali Haddad	Jailed	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Ahmed Maazouz	Businessman who invested in the auto industry (Cherry and Schackman factories)	Jailed	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Naim Maazouz	Son of Ahmed Maazouz	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Unspecified corruption charges





Mrs. Maazouz (first name unknown)	Wife of Ahmed Maazouz	Put under police control (must appear at police station regularly)	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Mohamed Bairi	Businessman who invested in the auto industry (Ival factory)	Under investigation	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Mahieddine Tahkout	Businessman who invested in the auto industry (Hyundai factory)	Jailed	Money laundering and corruption
Mr. Bilal Tahkout	Son of Mahieddine Tahkout	Jailed	Money laundering and corruption
Mr. Tahkout (first name unknown)	First brother of Mahieddine Tahkout	Jailed	Money laundering and corruption
Mr. Tahkout (first name unknown)	Second brother of Mahiedinne Tahkout	Jailed	Money laundering and corruption
Mr. Mourad Eulmi	Businessman who invested in the auto industry (Volkswagen factory)	Jailed	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Hassan Larbaoui	Businessman who invested in the auto industry (KIA factory)	Jailed	Unspecified corruption charges
Mr. Redha Kouninef	Businessman, and close friend of the Bouteflika family	Jailed	Not respecting contract clauses, using influence to obtain contracts
Mr. Abdelkader Kouninef	Businessman, and close friend of the Bouteflika family	Jailed	Not respecting contract clauses, using influence to obtain contracts



Mr. Abdelkarim Kouninef	Businessman, and close friend of the Bouteflika family	Jailed	Not respecting contract clauses, using influence to obtain contracts
Mr. Tarek Kouninef	Businessman, and close friend of the Bouteflika family	Jailed	Not respecting contract clauses, using influence to obtain contracts
Mr. Issad Rebrab	Owner of largest private group of the country (supported candidate Ghediri financially)	Jailed	Invoicing a too high value on imports
Yousef Yousfi	Former Energy and Mines Minister	Jailed	Giving undue advantages
Abdelkader Benmessaoud	Current Minister for Tourism	Provisional Liberty Order	Unspecified reasons