



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Algeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 May 2010

Current information on terrorism

Reporting in January 2010 on events of the preceding year, *Human Rights Watch* states: "Militant attacks were down dramatically compared to the mid-1990s, but Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) continued to launch fatal attacks, directed mostly at military and police targets." (Human Rights Watch (20 January 2010) *World Report 2010 – Algeria*)

Reporting in March 2010 on events of 2009 the *United States Department of State* notes: "Terrorist groups committed a significant number of attacks against civilians, government officials, and members of security forces." (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Algeria*, [introductory paragraph])

Citing an external source the *United Kingdom Home Office* in March 2010 reports:

"Jane's observed in its Sentinel Country Risk Assessment, Algeria, Executive Summary Section, updated on 30 November 2009, that: "The Islamist insurgency continues to pose a threat to Algeria, albeit one of considerably diminished significance since the 1990s...Currently, the main active terrorist group is Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which prior to January 2007 was called the Groupe Salafiste de la Predication et le Combat (GSPC). While the GSPC was never strong enough to seize power and it remains doubtful that this is AQIM's strategic objective, its operatives are still capable of destabilising attacks that undermine the government's claims that stability has been restored. " (United Kingdom (29 March 2010) *Country of Origin Report - Algeria*, p.27)

This report utilizing another external source states: "The International Institute for Strategic Studies, Armed Conflict Database, in its 2009 review of Human Security Development in Algeria, undated, stated: "There was a notable decrease in the number of targeted attacks in the urban centres of Algeria in 2009. However, AQIM continued to launch ambush attacks on Algerian security services in the provinces encircling Algiers, as well as in the south of the country... " (*ibid*, p.29)

In April 2010 *Magharebia* states: "Thousands of ANP troops, supported by Algerian gendarmes, police and Special Forces, just launched the country's largest anti-terror military operation since the 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, Liberte reported on Tuesday (April 13th), adding that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika "has finally realised that armed Islamist groups continue to defy the state." (Magharebia (13 April 2010) *Algerian army begins biggest anti-terror offensive in years*)

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

BBC Monitoring

CIA

Council on Foreign Relations

Electronic Immigration Network

Europa World Regional surveys of the world

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

Human Security Gateway

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

International Crisis Group

International Relations and Security Network

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Magharebia

Minority Rights Group International

Norwegian Refugee Council Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

Online Newspapers

Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Small Arms Survey
Swiss Peace
United Kingdom Home Office
United Nations Development Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights Treaty Body
Database
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld