



## Algeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 7 October 2015

### Information on Abbassi Madani including family history

An undated document from *Encyclopædia Britannica* states:

“Abbasi al-Madani, also spelled Abassi Madani (born 1931, Sīdī ‘Uqbah, Alg.), cofounder, with Ali Belhadj, of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (Front Islamique du Salut; FIS). After earning a doctorate in London, he returned to Algeria to teach at the University of Algiers, where he became a leader of religious students. He traveled with other itinerant preachers around the country, exchanging ideas and preaching the outlines of a religious political movement. He was arrested after the first round of voting in the 1991–92 legislative elections and imprisoned; he was released in July 1997 but placed under house arrest later that year. In 1999 he endorsed a peace agreement put forward by Algeria’s president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, between the FIS and the Algerian government. Following his release from house arrest in July 2003, al-Madani lived in self-imposed exile in Qatar” (*Encyclopædia Britannica* (Undated) *Abbasi al-Madani*).

A report issued in July 2004 by the *International Crisis Group* points out that:

“Born in 1931, Abassi took part in the FLN’s uprising on 1 November 1954; after 1962 he was an FLN militant until the late 1970s and emerged as a leader of the Islamist movement in the early 1980s” (*International Crisis Group* (30 July 2004) *Islamism, Violence and Reform in Algeria: Turning the Page*, p.4/footnote 25).

In June 1998 the *Royal Institute of International Affairs* states in a report that:

“The FIS movement itself was created on 1 March 1989, when the new party law came into effect after the October 1988 riots and created the conditions for a pluralistic political scene. Its two founding fathers, Abbassi Madani and Ali Bel Hadj, had come to national prominence because of their roles in the immediate aftermath of the riots, when they were consulted by the presidency over the future course that Algeria should take and appealed to the population for support for an Islamist alternative” (*Royal Institute of International Affairs* (1 June 1998) *Algeria In Crisis*).

*Amnesty International* in October 1994 states:

“In March 1992 the FIS was banned, and in July 1992 its leaders, Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who had been detained since July 1991, were tried by the Military Court. They were sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment in a trial which was closed to international observers and foreign media, and which did not comply with international standards for fair trial. They were released from prison and placed under house arrest on 12 September 1994” (*Amnesty International* (1 October 1994) *Algeria: Repression and violence must end*).

In June 1997 *Human Rights Watch* points out in a report that:

“...FIS leader Abbassi Madani is held in an unknown location outside Algiers where his sister has reportedly been able to visit him” (Human Rights Watch (1 June 1997) *Algeria: Elections in the Shadow of Violence and Repression*, footnote 52).

In February 2004 the *Arab Reform Bulletin* states in a report that:

“Abassi Madani and Ali Benhadj have been released from prison, but are banned from political activities of any kind” (Arab Reform Bulletin (1 February 2004) *Islamist Opposition in Algeria: Recent Developments*).

A report issued in October 2008 by the *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace* points out that:

“...Madani lives in voluntary exile in Qatar...” (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (8 October 2008) *Salafism and Radical Politics in Postconflict Algeria*).

In December 2011 *Magharebia* notes that:

“...Abassi Madani, now in exile in Qatar...” (Magharebia (8 December 2011) *Algerian Islamists seek power*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## 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

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Google  
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