



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## Algeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 8 & Tuesday 9 July 2013

### Treatment of Amazighi/Berber

A report issued in April 2013 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the preceding year notes:

“The ethnic Amazigh (Berber) population of approximately 10 million participated freely and actively in the political process and represented one-third of the government” (United States Department of State (19 April 2013) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012, Algeria*, Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government/Elections and Political Participation).

In January 2013 *Freedom House* points out in a report that:

“Algeria's ethnic composition is a mixture of Arabs and Berbers, with Arabs traditionally forming the country's elite. In recent years, following outbreaks of antigovernment violence in the Berber community, officials have made more of an effort to recognize Berber cultural demands. Tamazight, the Berber language, is now a national language” (Freedom House (16 January 2013) *Freedom in the World 2013: Algeria*).

In February 2013 a publication issued by the *United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination* notes:

The Committee is concerned by reports about economic disparities, affecting in particular the regions inhabited by Amazighs, who allegedly do not benefit from adequate public investment” (United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (20 February 2013) *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Concluding observations on the fifteenth to nineteenth periodic reports of Algeria, adopted by the Committee at its eighty-second session*).

### References

Freedom House (16 January 2013) *Freedom in the World 2013: Algeria*  
<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/freedom-world-2013-algeria>

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United States Department of State (19 April 2013) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012, Algeria*

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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  
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European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
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