

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

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## **PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **President Bouteflika presides over commemoration of 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 8 May 1945 Massacres**



On May 8, in the city of Sétif, the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, presided over the commemoration of the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 8 May 1945 Massacres. The President also conducted a working and inspection visit in the wilaya.

In an address delivered on the occasion of the commemoration, President Bouteflika spoke of the need to look objectively at historical events “far from battles for memory” and “cyclical stakes” and stressed that “only such a look is likely to help the two (Algerian and French) sides transcend the aftermath of this painful past.”

Mr. Bouteflika also underscored “the major significance of the next parliamentary elections, in view of the delicate current situation and the considerable consequences it will likely generate, stems from the fact that these elections are a test of the country’s credibility. This is undeniably a decisive step in the completion process of the (country’s) reform and modernization program.”

The President appealed to the Algerian people to perform their constitutional duty on election day, stressing the need for the next national assembly to guarantee “the right of effective participation for all, including new parties, and the choice of competent and credible candidates with new approaches and serious and judicious programs, true to the ethical commitment they have made to the voters.”

The head of the state also underlined that “reforms, new laws, and new regulations, whatever their quality may be, cannot be an end in themselves because the finality is a sound implementation of policies by all parties involved, with the objective of materializing our collective aspiration for

constitutional institutions whose credibility and legitimacy could not be questioned.”

During his visit to Sétif, President Bouteflika paid tribute to the memory of Saal Bouzid, the first martyr of the tragic events of May 8, 1945. Later on, the head of the state visited Ferhat Abbas University where he unveiled educational facilities for 10,000 new students and three additional university dorms with capacity for 6,000 beds.

### **President Bouteflika hosts AU Commission President Jean Ping**



On May 2 in Algiers, the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, hosted Mr. Jean Ping, President of the African Union Commission, who was in Algeria for consultations on the situation prevailing in Africa, notably in Mali.

After his meeting with the head of state, Mr. Ping declared that “Algeria has always been deeply involved with all concerns facing Africa and it has always put forth its African membership,” adding that he was “very happy that the President of the Republic had hosted me to discuss ongoing issues, despite an extremely heavy workload.”

Mr. Ping also indicated that he and the head of state have discussed the crisis in Mali, which, he added, “is currently our top priority concern,” as well as the coup in Guinea-Bissau, the conflict opposing Sudan to South Sudan, the crisis in Somalia, and the situation prevailing in Libya.

## **MINISTERIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **The Prime Minister**

#### **Ahmed Ouyahia attends meeting of the AU Ad Hoc Committee in Cotonou**



In Cotonou, Benin, where he was representing the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, at the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which convened on May 14 in the Benin capital of Cotonou to examine the issue of the election of the Chairman of the pan-African organization, Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia declared that regional rotation of presidencies of the AU Commission is an option “likely to help resolve the current blockage.”

In his address to the delegates, Mr. Ouyahaia recalled the observations previously made by Algeria at the meeting held last March, which remain current, including one calling on the Conference of Heads of State and Government to provide as much support as possible to the presidency of the AU Commission.”

Moreover, the Prime Minister expressed his “appreciation” for the information provided by Gabon and South Africa and reiterated Algeria’s “attachment” to respecting the sovereign decision reached by each of the two countries.

At the conclusion of the debate between the members, and in preparation of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union scheduled for next July in Lilongwe, Malawi, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to meet to examine the report due to be submitted by the Committee to the Summit meeting on the efforts deployed to serve the overriding interests of Africa.

## **The Minister for Foreign Affairs**

### **Foreign minister Medelci meets with AU Commission President Jean Ping**



The foreign minister, Mr. Mourad Medelci, met on May 2 in Algiers with African Union President Jean Ping, who was in Algeria for “consultations” on the situation prevailing in Africa, namely in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, and on “the risks currently hanging over Sudan and South-Sudan.”

In an interview with Algerian Television, Mr. Ping said that Mali is facing a “particularly difficult” situation, particularly at its border with Algeria, and that “Mali is facing a coup in addition to a rebellion in the north of the country and terrorism and all sorts of trafficking.” Pursuing, Mr. Ping said “We cannot deal with these issues without involving the essential contribution of Algeria,” and added that he had come to “solicit the traditional support of Algeria to the Continent.”

Furthermore, the AU Commission president pointed out that Africa now faces several other issues, such as the situation in Sudan and South-Sudan, Somalia, and Guinea-Bissau” and noted as well “the consequence of the dramatic situation in Libya, not forgetting the Arab Spring in Egypt and Tunisia.”

## **Foreign Minister Medelci hosts the head of the UN High-Panel Observers**



The minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mourad Medelci, met on May 7 in Algiers with Mr. Amara Essy, head of the United Nations High-Panel Observer Team, which is Algeria to monitor the May 10 parliamentary elections.

The team had arrived in Algiers for a ten-day mission (May 5-15) included six political and electoral experts and is headed by Mr. Essy, former foreign minister of Cote d'Ivoire and former President of the UN General Assembly.

In a statement, the high-panel team indicated that it will deploy to three wilayas, including Algiers, “to observe the electoral process, beginning with the opening of polling stations until the counting of ballots at all levels and the publication of provisional results.” The statement stressed that the objective of the mission is “to support Algeria (...) and help it hold parliamentary elections in a credible, transparent and peaceful manner.”



## Mr. Medelci takes part in the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Doha Forum



At the invitation of Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jaber Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mourad Medelci, took part in the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Doha Forum, which were held on May 20 to 22, 2012.

During this meeting, delegates reviewed several issues, including developments on the global political and economic scene, democracy and development, political and financial reforms, as well as preservation of international peace and security.

In his address to the Forum, Mr. Medelci said that the issue of international terrorism “is being handled in an unequal and, I would say, circumstantial manner,” underscoring Algeria’s experience, which, he said, “allows us to say that solutions to the problem of international terrorism can only be global.”

Speaking about world governance, he noted that it “is not only economic, but political as well.” He added that “the requirement of new global governance should not make us obviate the need to promote and develop domestic democratic processes”, which should “enable every people to take charge of their own destiny and to enjoy universally-enshrined fundamental rights and liberties.”

On that point, Mr. Medelci underlined that Algeria “is among countries deploying considerable efforts in that respect,” adding that the reforms being implemented over the current year are “a measure which fosters strengthening of this process.”

The 12<sup>th</sup> Doha Forum proceedings included three sessions devoted to “Political Changes and Civil Rights in the Middle East”, “Economy and Free Trade”, and “Democracy and the Challenges of the Arab Spring”.

On that occasion, the foreign minister declared that because of its history, Algeria is “opposed” to foreign intervention and explained that “our country, for different reasons, holds a different view of such interventions, which may bring solutions over the short term but could generate problems in the longer run.”

Thus, he said that the international community “should reassess its past interventions” and added that the requirement of countries to show transparency in their domestic affairs “should nowadays apply to world governance as well.”

Moreover, Mr. Medelci held talks on the sidelines of the Forum with several participants, including counterparts from Qatar, Tunisia, and Lebanon, with whom he discussed bilateral relations and issues on the meeting’s agenda, and with European Parliament Vice President Miguel Angel Moratinos, with whom he examined a project involving creation of an alliance for food security.

#### **Mr. Medelci takes part in the ministerial meeting of the Friends of Yemen group**



At the invitation of Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faycal, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci participated on May 23 to the ministerial meeting of the “Friends of Yemen” group held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as part of the regional and international efforts deployed to help

Yemen recover economically and speed up the historic political resolution achieved in the country.

In his address before the delegates attending this meeting, which is being convened in advance of the conference of donor countries scheduled for next July in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Medelci said that “Algeria supports the measures and mechanisms which can be adopted at the bilateral, regional and international levels and are likely to help Yemen implement its programs within its transitional development plan for 2010-2014.”

Addressing Algerian-Yemeni bilateral relations, Mr. Medelci noted that the two countries hold “regular consultations” and “exchanges of visits” with the goal of increasing cooperation to the level of the political and fraternal relations connecting the two countries.

The foreign minister also held talks on the margins of the meeting and met with Yemeni Prime minister Mohamed Basindwa as well as with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, Prince Saud Al Faycal and Mr. Dato Sri Haj Anifah Aman. Their discussions centered on the current situation in Yemen and on prospects for strengthening bilateral relations.

### **Human Rights Council: Algeria submits its second report in Geneva**



In an address delivered on May 29 in Geneva, Switzerland, at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the working group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Algeria, minister for Foreign Affairs Mourad Medelci stated that promotion and protection of the universal values of human rights “is a fundamental constant in the domestic and foreign policies of Algeria.”

In the report submitted to the Human Rights Council, Mr. Medelci stressed that, in keeping with the commitments it made through such instruments, Algeria “meets and will continue to regularly meet its obligation to submit reports to various review bodies” and that, additionally to its contribution to the activities performed by the Human Rights Council, “it will continue to

be involved on a regular basis and in good faith in the special procedures of the Council.”

Noting that Algeria views the UPR mechanism with particular interest, as “a privileged universal assessment and improvement tool of the human rights situation” in the world, Minister Medelci underlined that since the first report submitted in April 2008, Algeria has made “significant advances” in increasing spaces of freedom and respect of human rights.

Moreover, the minister underlined that Algeria has implemented the recommendations for reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals, notably in the areas of education and health.

In that respect, he indicated that “public authorities have found in all these recommendations a source of inspiration for pursuing national action in support of human rights,” naming to that end the latest measures taken since the 2008 UPR report. Those measures include adoption of a new constitution, lifting of the state of emergency, passage of an organic law on the electoral system, as well as those on political parties, information, and representation of women within elected assemblies.

Mr. Medelci also addressed the stronger partnership developed with civil society, the consolidation of achievements gained from the reform of the justice system, the promotion and development of youth, and the continued completion of socioeconomic development through implementation of the 2010-2014 five-year plan.

### **Mr. Medelci takes part in the 5<sup>th</sup> ministerial conference of the China-Arab countries Cooperation Forum**



In his address to the delegates attending the 5<sup>th</sup> China-Arab countries forum convened on May 31 in Hammamet, Tunisia, Mr. Medelci called for creating a mechanism fostering efficient coordination of cooperation between China and the Arab countries.

Strengthening strategic cooperation and supporting development between China and the Arab countries requires priority focus on the tourism sector, insisted the head of Algerian diplomacy in his remarks.

The minister also turned his attention to investments, arguing for multilateral projects involving several Arab countries and China, at the same time that he called for stronger bilateral relations between these countries.

Mr. Medelci also seized the opportunity of the meeting to showcase the gains achieved by the forum since its launching in 2004, notably in terms of trade exchanges.

Addressing regional and international issues, Mr. Medelci discussed the just Palestinian cause and its impact on the Middle East conflict and underlined China's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

With regards to the situation prevailing in Syria, the foreign minister recalled the appeal made by the Arab League to all parties involved and calling for responsible and salutary dialogue.

**The Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs  
Minister Delegate Messahel participates in the 1<sup>st</sup> World Summit of the African Diaspora**



Representing the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Summit of the African Diaspora, which convened on May 25 in Sandton, South Africa, Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Abdelkader Messahel underscored the dual symbolic impact of the meeting, insofar as it coincides with the “49<sup>th</sup> celebration of Africa Day” and the “50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Algeria's independence,” Mr. Messahel said.

After a vibrant tribute paid to an Algerian Diaspora which has made “immeasurable sacrifices throughout the fight for freedom,” Algeria’s representative at the summit meeting expressed his “gratitude for the support provided by the African Diaspora to the cause of the Algerian people.”

Addressing relations between the Continental organization and the Diaspora, the Algerian minister said that it was “in the natural order of things that the African Union view its ties to the Diaspora as a primary concern.”

Discussing the likely contribution of the Diaspora to the radiance of the African cultural patrimony, whose torch it has born on numerous occasions, Mr. Messahel recalled that Algeria found inspiration in that “requirement” and insisted to turn the two pan-African cultural festivals held in Algiers in 1969 and 2009 into a choice platform used by American and Caribbean artists to share with their African counterparts “the testament and the evidence of the considerable contributions made by Africa to the humanist values upon which the universal civilizational and cultural patrimony was erected.”

#### **Mr. Messahel participates in the 4<sup>th</sup> TICAD Ministerial Follow-up Meeting**



Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African affairs Abdelkader Messahel took part in the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Follow-up Meeting, which convened on May 4 in Marrakech, Morocco. The meeting was organized by the Government of Japan, the United Nations’ Office of the Special Advisor for Africa, the UNDP, and the World Bank to review progress achieved, namely in the areas of economic growth, capacity-building of African countries to face the challenges posed by climate change, and strengthening of peace and good governance.

Speaking at the plenary session on the topic of “Assessing Implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan,” Mr. Messahel indicated that “progress achieved reflects the relevance of reorientation of the TICAD process strategy.”

Having said that Yokohama’s TICAD IV strategy provided “a solid foundation” for the preparation of TICAD V, which will be held at the level of heads of state and government in June 2013, Mr. Messahel added that “the lessons to be drawn from the TICAD process helped identify areas requiring great efforts and deserving of integration in the scope of partnership.”

In the same context, he underlined that, given the significance taken by investment flows, whose volume now surpasses public aid volumes, “we should stress implementation or strengthening of adequate policies and appropriate incentive and guarantee mechanisms to stimulate investment flows.”

Finally, Mr. Messahel said that the experience accumulated through the three-way approach deserved to be continued and expanded, all the more that it “significantly contributes to the promotion of intra-African and South-South cooperation, in particular in the area of competence exchanges and capacity development.”

#### **Mr. Messahel and EU delegation discuss Mali crisis**



At a meeting held on May 27 with the European Union delegation, which included the chiefs of European diplomatic missions accredited to Algeria, Minister Delegate for Maghreb and African Affairs Abdelkader Messahel briefed his interlocutors on “Algeria’s approach and initiatives with a view to settling the crisis in Mali and strengthening cooperation between the countries of the Sahel region and their partners from the international

community in combating terrorism, organized crime and all sorts of trafficking taking place in the region.”

In that respect, Mr. Messahel insisted on “the preservation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, the settlement of the issue of Northern Mali through a dialog with the rebels to meet their legitimate claims, and the handling of the humanitarian issue and the fight against terrorism and organized crime.”

## **PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

### **Official Results of the Parliamentary Elections of May 10, 2012**



On May 15, the Constitutional Council announced the official results of the parliamentary elections of May 10, 2012, which are given hereafter:

- Number of registered voters: 21,645,841
- Number of participating voters: 9,339,026
- Rate of global participation: 43.14%
- Number of votes cast: 7,634,979
- Number of cancelled ballots: 1,704,047

#### **Number of seats gained per list:**

1. National Liberation Front (Front de libération nationale – FLN): 221
2. National Democratic Rally (Rassemblement national démocratique – RND): 70
3. Green Algeria Alliance (Alliance de l’Algérie verte – AAV): 47
4. Socialist Forces Front (Front des forces socialistes – FFS): 21
5. Independents (Indépendants): 19
6. Workers’ Party (Parti des travailleurs – PT): 17
7. Algerian National Front (Front national algérien – FNA): 09

8. Front for Justice and Development (Front pour la justice et le développement – Addala): 07
9. Algerian Popular Movement (Mouvement populaire algérien – MPA): 06
10. New Dawn Party (Parti El Fedjr El Jadid – PFJ): 05
11. National Party for Solidarity and Development (Parti national pour la solidarité et le développement – PNSD): 04
12. Change Front (Front du changement – FC): 04
13. Oath of 54 (Ahd 54): 03
14. Republican National Alliance (Alliance nationale républicaine – ANR): 03
15. National Front for Social Justice (Front national pour la justice sociale – FNSJ): 03
16. Union of Democratic and Social Forces (Union des forces démocratiques et sociaux – UFDS – El Ittihad): 03
17. Algerian Rally (Rassemblement algérien – RA): 02
18. Republican Patriotic Rally (Rassemblement patriotique républicain – RPP): 02
19. National Movement for Hope (Mouvement national de l'espérance – MNE): 02
20. Front for the Future (Front El Moustakbel – FM): 02
21. Party of Kindness (Parti El Karama): 02
22. Movement of Free Citizens (Mouvement des citoyens libres – MCL): 02
23. Young People's Party (Parti des jeunes): 02
24. Party of Algeria's Radiance (Parti Ennour El Djazairi): 02
25. Party of Algerian Renewal (Parti du nouveau algérien – PRA): 01
26. Democratic National Front (Front national démocratique – FND): 01
27. National Front of Independent People for Concord (Front national des indépendants pour la concorde – FNIC): 01
28. Openness Movement (Mouvement El Infitah – ME): 01

It should be noted that, following the release by the Constitutional Council of the results of claims introduced by parties and candidates who disputed the results of the parliamentary elections of May 10, the National Liberation Front (FLN) party has lost 13 seats in the new People's National Assembly (PNA).

Indeed, the FLN, which had obtained 221 seats, now holds 208 seats, whereas the Democratic National Rally (RND) has lost 2 seats and now holds 68 seats.

The Alliance of Green Algeria (Alliance de l'Algérie verte, AAV), the Movement of Free Citizens (Mouvement des citoyens libres, MCL), and "Acil B" (Blida electoral district), an independent list, have lost 1 seat each.

Furthermore, five political parties have seen their membership within the PNA gain more seats. The parties include the Workers Party (Parti des travailleurs, PT), which gained seven new seats, the Front for Socialist Forces (Front des forces socialistes, FFS), which gained 6 seats, the Alliance of Green Algeria (Alliance de l'Algérie verte, AAV), which gained 3 seats, as well as the Algerian Popular Movement (Mouvement populaire algérie, MPA) and the Front for Justice and Development (Front pour la justice and le développement, FJD), which gained 1 seat each.

### **Foreign election observer teams express overall satisfaction with conduct of voting operations**

Foreign observer teams fielded to monitor the parliamentary elections of May 10, 2012, have expressed their overall satisfaction with the conduct of voting operations. In that vein, the European Union observer delegation and the European Parliament mission have both hailed "the results achieved by Algerian women" at the elections.

Mr. José Ignacio Salafranca, who headed the EU delegation, called the results "great progress" and said that "our assessment is very positive with regards to the number of women representatives" in the People's National Assembly.

Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano, head of the African Union observer mission, called the vote "free, transparent, fair and equitable." The AU mission, however, pointed out "the insufficient number of domestic observers likely to improve credibility of the electoral process."

The Arab League, also, underlined that the parliamentary elections were held in a "democratic and free" atmosphere and added in a communiqué that "the election was transparent, credible and free, characterized by a competitive climate and good organization. No trouble likely to impact the electoral process was reported."

Finally, the head of the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) observer mission, Mr. Habib Kaabashi hailed “the democratic climate surrounding the parliamentary elections, which were held in transparency and credibility.”

### **International reactions to the parliamentary elections of May 10, 2012**

Coming on the heels of the parliamentary elections of May 10, 2012, several countries and international organizations have hailed the “fair” and “transparent” conduct of parliamentary elections. They were unanimous in acknowledging that Algeria had successfully achieved its commitment to hold free and transparent elections.

The European Union hailed the parliamentary elections held in Algeria as “a step forward” in the pursuit of reforms and greater democracy.

For his part, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated Algeria for the elections and hailed “the increased representation of women” within the new People’s National Assembly.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has also extended her congratulations to Algeria for holding successful and transparent elections, underscoring the increased number of women representatives elected to the new legislature and hailing “the progress made by Algeria toward democratic reforms.”

The head of British diplomacy paid “particular” tribute to the increased representation of women within the new Parliament as a result of the recent reforms initiated in Algeria.

Through President Putin’s Special Envoy for Africa, Russia also reacted positively to the free and transparent character of the vote and added its congratulations and appreciation that Algeria had succeeded in “avoiding the shock of the Arab Spring.” The Russian statement attributed this success partly to “political reforms, lower prices for food products, building of social housing, and the investment of \$286 billion in the five-year 2010-2014 development plan.”

## **Ceremony inaugurates the new People's National Assembly**



The new People's National Assembly (PNA) that emerged from the parliamentary elections of May 10, 2012, was inaugurated at a ceremony held on Saturday May 26 at a plenary session showcasing the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature.

The inaugural session was chaired by the oldest member of the current legislature, Mr. Larbi Ould Khelifa, assisted by the two youngest members of the new PNA, Ms. Assia Kenane and Mr. Hocine Maâloum.

The inaugural session also included the creation of the commission validating the terms of the new PNA members. The commission includes 20 members representing the political parties constitutionally empowered with creating parliamentary groups. The commission was established after a roll call of the members of the People's National Assembly, according to the list released by the Constitutional Council.

In the afternoon, at the plenary session, Mr. Ould Khelifa was elected to a majority and by show of hands to be Speaker of the People's National Assembly for a term of five years. Sole candidate, Mr. Ould Khelifa is an elected member representing the National Liberation Front (FLN) in the Algiers electoral district and will succeed Mr. Abdelaziz Ziari.

## **COOPERATION**

### **Algeria-Western Sahara**



Coinciding with the observance of Africa Day, Algiers hosted on May 25 a ceremony celebrating the renewal of seven twinning agreements passed between Algerian and Sahrawi cities, with the goal of reaffirming “the bonds of friendship and cooperation uniting the two peoples.”

The twinning agreements were passed between the Municipality of Algiers and the Sahrawi Wilaya of El Ayoun, the city of Biskra and its sister city of Dakhla, the city of Arris and the city of Gdimizir in Western Sahara, the city of Tiaret in Algeria and Smara, Oran and Gsit, and Mascara and Tifariti.

The signature ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Mahrez Lamari, president of the Algerian National Commission for Solidarity with the Sahrawi People (CNASPS), numerous Sahrawi officials, heads of municipalities, French and Spanish elected officials, and representatives from the civil society of various African countries.

### **Algeria-Vietnam: Ratification instruments of cooperation agreements exchanged**



The instruments of agreement and ratification of the “Legal Assistance in Civil and Trade Matters” convention and the cooperation agreement in “Maritime Transport” passed between Algeria and Vietnam were exchanged at a ceremony held on May 25 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The ceremony for exchange of ratification instruments for the two agreements, signed in Algeria in 2010 and 2011), was held in the presence of Algeria's Ambassador to Vietnam Chérif Chikhi and Vietnamese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Lee Luong Minh.

The two cooperation conventions were signed on the occasion of the state visit made to Algeria in April 2010 by then-President of Vietnam Nguyen Minh Triet at the invitation of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, and of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Algerian-Vietnamese Joint Cooperation Commission, which met in Algiers in February 2011.

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Algiers International Fair opens its doors: Opportunities for partnerships**



Inaugurated on May 30 by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the continuum of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Algeria's independence, the 45<sup>th</sup> Algiers International Fair intends to be a destination for partnership opportunities.

Themed "50 Years of Achievements", this major trade event will showcase this year over one thousand exhibitors, including 620 representing 36 foreign countries and 370 domestic exhibitors.

This year's Guest of Honor, Egypt, will line up 61 firms from various economic sectors, including textiles, tapestry, agro-industry, chemical industry, metallurgy, engineering, and pharmaceuticals.

This important economic event will be open until June 5 and will cover 47,160 square meters in exhibit surface area. It will feature exhibitors from 9 European countries, 4 from Asia, 6 from the Americas, 8 from the Arab world, and one African country.

The fair will also be an opportunity for conferences and business meetings with the goal of fostering exchanges and contact leading to mutually beneficial partnerships between Algerian and foreign economic operators.

## CULTURE

### **Warda El-Djazairia buried at El Alia Cemetery: Algeria's last homage to the diva**



The Diva of Arab Music, Warda El-Djazairia, who died at 72 in Cairo, Egypt, of cardiac arrest, was taken to her last home – Martyrs Square – at El Alia Cemetery in Algiers, after funerals worthy of the icon that she was.

A large and diversified crowd, which included family members of the deceased, her fans, Algerian and Arab artists, as well as Cabinet members led by Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, insisted on being there to pay this ultimate homage to the sublime singer. As soon as news of her passing started spreading, a wave of emotion rolled through the world of artistic, political and media circles in Algeria and abroad.

Reactions, from officials, artists or journalists alike multiplied to hail the woman unanimously viewed as “The Princess of Arabic Song.”

“Warda has been recalled by God as she was getting ready to celebrate alongside other fellow citizens the fiftieth anniversary of national independence and contribute to it through her sublime creations, as she did during the war for national liberation,” wrote the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his condolences to the relatives of the departed.

## Algeria represented at the “Celebrate Brooklyn 2012” in New York



Next July 7, in Brooklyn, NY, Algerian singer Souad Massi will be the main attraction at an evening concert at New York’s “Celebrate Brooklyn 2012” festival due to open June 5 until August 11, Bric Arts, the festival’s Website, said.

Born in 1972 in Algiers, Souad Massi is one of the best-known Algerian female singers. She made her debut in the 1990s before she settled in France. “Raoui”, her first album (2001), met with great success and brought fame to the guitar-playing artist.

The date of her concert (July 7) will coincide with the “fiftieth anniversary of Algeria’s independence,” said the same source. Massi will sing in duet with Palestinian-American artist Simon Chahine, who represents “one of the best Arab voices abroad,” said the Website.

“Souad Massi, whose style fuses folk music, rock, pop and Chaabi, is one of the most melodious and enthralling voices in North Africa,” the festival organizer said.

Started in 1979, the “Celebrate Brooklyn” Festival is usually draws some 250,000 people from the U.S. and elsewhere to enjoy a rich program including musical concerts, theater plays, movies, and dances.

## SPORTS

**2012 Olympic Games: 21 athletes and Women’s Volleyball Team qualified for London**



According to the Algerian Olympic Committee, 21 athletes and the Algerian Women's Volleyball Team have qualified to compete in the 2012 Olympic Games scheduled for July 27-August 12 in London.

The number of athletes qualifying for competition in London should increase between now and the July 7 deadline for official registration of athletes, especially in track competition.

With eight athletes already qualified, the Boxing Team comes ahead, followed by Judo, Wrestling All-Categories, Fencing, and Track and Field, with 2 athletes each. However, Track includes twelve athletes likely to compete in the 2012 Olympic Games on the condition that they reach minimal performance reached in 2011 (The measure was taken by the Algerian Track and Field Federation.)

Furthermore, 38 athletes and the Goal Ball Team have already secured their tickets for the 2012 Special Olympic Games.

#### **Qualified athletes and teams for the 2012 Olympic Games:**

- Judo (2): Soraya Haddad (52 kg), Sonia Asselah (+78 kg)
- Boxing (8): Mohamed Flissi (49 kg), Samir Brahimi (52 kg), Mohamed Amine Ouadahi (57 kg), Abdelkader Chadi (60 kg), Lyes Abbad (69 kg), Abdelmalek Rahou (75 kg), Abdelhafid Benchebla (81 kg), Chouaib Bouloudinat (91 kg)
- Taekwondo (1): Lyamine Mokdad (54 kg)
- Rowing (1): Amina Rouba (Skiff category)
- Weightlifting (1): Walid Bidani (105 kg)
- Wrestling All-Categories (2): Tarek Aziz Benaïssa (55 kg), Mohamed Serrir (66 kg)
- Cycling (1): Azzedine Lagab, or Youcef Reguigui
- Volleyball: Women's National Team (12 players)
- Track and Field (2): Tayeb Filali and Souad Aït Salem (Marathon)
- Sports Shooting (1): Amine Adjabi (Wildcard)
- Fencing: (2): Léa Moutoussami, Anissa Khelfaoui

**2012 Special Olympic Games:**

- Handisport: 3 disciplines
- Track and Field: 35 athletes
- Judo: 3 athletes
- Goal-Ball: 6 athletes