
ALGERIA

al-Jumhuriya al-Jazairiya ad-Dumuqratiya ash-Shabiya

Area: 2,381,745 sq. km
Population: 20,235,000
Capital: Algiers [al-Jazair]

Head of State: Col. Bendjedid Chadli (President)
Minister of the Interior: M'hamed Yala

Algeria comprises 31 departments (*wilayat*), named after their chief cities:

Adrar	Jijel
al-Asnam [Orléansville]	Laghouat
al-Boulaida [Blida]	Mascara
al-Jazair [Algiers]	Médéa
Annaba	Mostaganem
Batna	M'Sila
Béchar	Oahran [Oran]
Béjaia [Bougie]	Ouargla
Biskra	Oum el Bouaghi
Bouira	Qacentina [Constantine]
Djelfa	Saida
Guelma	Sétif

Sidi-Bel-Abbès
 Skikda
 Tamanrasset
 Tébessa

Tiaret
 Tizi-Ouzou
 Tlemcen

ORGANIZATION

Shortly after Algeria achieved independence on 3 July 1962, the National Liberation Front (Front de Libération National, FLN) began by forming an interim police force. The regime soon reverted to the tried and tested French police system: a National Security Police (Sûreté Nationale) and a National Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale). Both remain operational; their organization still follows standard French practice. *See* FRANCE.

The Algerian Gendarmerie is a modern, French-trained paramilitary force, with a personnel strength of about 24,000 and brigades in each department. For administrative purposes, its units are allocated to the five military regions into which the country is divided: I with headquarters at al-Boulaida; II at Oahran; III at Béchar; IV at Ouargla; and V at Qacentina. The Gendarmerie's duties are similar to those of its French counterpart.

Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale, Place Mohammed Ouanouri, Alger
 Commandement de la Gendarmerie, Alger