



COUNTRY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ALGERIA

ALGERIA BULLETIN 5/2004

April 2004

Introduction

1.1 This Bulletin has been produced by the Country Information and Policy Unit, Immigration and Nationality Directorate, Home Office, to provide information about the recent presidential election in Algeria. It does not contain any Home Office opinion or policy. This Bulletin must be read in conjunction with the Algeria Country Report last issued in October 2003.

1.2 This Bulletin has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum / human rights determination process. The Bulletin is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.3 This Bulletin and the accompanying source material are publicly disclosable. Where sources identified in the Bulletin are available in electronic form the relevant link has been included. The date that the relevant link was accessed in preparing the Bulletin is also included. Paper copies of the sources that are not available in electronic format have been distributed to nominated officers in Asylum Caseworking Directorate and all Presenting Officer Units.

Algerian Presidential Election April 2004

2.1 The election was held on Thursday 8 April 2004. The result was a landslide victory for the incumbent President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, with 83% of the votes cast. **[3a]** The other main challenger, Ali Benflis, received 7.9% of the vote. **[3b]** Although Mr Benflis and other candidates denounced irregularities in the voting, international observers endorsed the conduct of the poll. **[3a]** **[3b]** 18,085,000 voters were estimated as eligible to vote **[1]** and the turnout was announced as 59.26%. **[2b]**

2.2 The full results were:

Incumbent President Abdelaziz Bouteflika - 83.49%

Ali Benflis - former prime minister - 7.93%
Saad Abdallah Djaballah - moderate Islamist party, El Islah - 4.84%
Said Sadi - Berber campaigner - 1.93%
Louisa Hanoune - first ever female contender - 1.16%
Ali Fawzi Rebain - Human rights campaigner - 0.64%

[3a]

2.3 Apart from the six candidates who stood for election, three applicants were rejected by the Constitutional Council before the election: Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, Sid Ahmed Ghazali and Moussa Touati. **[2a]**

Country Information and Policy Unit
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Sources:

[1] Algerian presidential election: 18,085,000 voters registered 17 March 2004
Al-Bawaba News Agency <http://www.albawaba.com/main/index.ie.php3?lang=e>
date accessed 13 April 2004

[2] BBC Monitoring Online

a. Guide to Algerian presidential election 12 March 2004 Date accessed 15
March 2004

b. Interior minister announces 59.26% turnout in poll 9 April 2004 date accessed
13 April 2004

[3] BBC News Online http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/default.stm

a. A victory for the status quo 9 April 2004 date accessed 13 April 2004

b. Observers praise Algerian voting 10 April 2004 date accessed 13 April 2004