

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Algeria Monthly Briefing May 2026

Algeria Summary 28 May 2026

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (2019-present) arrives in Türkiye on 5 May for a three-day state visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, expanding cooperation in several key sectors and chairing the first session of the Algeria-Turkish High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council. France's justice minister Gérald Darmanin arrives in Algeria on 18 May as both countries seek to rebuild diplomatic relations and judicial cooperation following months of strained ties linked to several high-profile legal cases and the Western Sahara dispute. The United States (US) renews its efforts to resolve the decades-long Western Sahara dispute by pressuring Algeria to take a direct role in its resolution.

President Tebboune conducts state visit to Türkiye

President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) [arrived](#) in **Türkiye** on 5 May for a three-day state visit at the invitation of Turkish leader **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** (2014-present) aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, expanding cooperation in several important sectors and chairing the first session of the **Algeria-Turkish High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council**. During the state visit, Tebboune and Erdoğan [signed](#) of several agreements of bilateral cooperation and memoranda of understanding (MoU) covering trade, industry, agriculture, media, information, post services and transport, as well as the launch of negotiations on a preferential trade agreement and other sectoral cooperation frameworks.

Tebboune praised that the strong growth in bilateral relations, while highlighting the importance of business cooperation and investment between the two countries:

"I am pleased to express my satisfaction with the outcomes of these rich and productive talks, which culminated in the signing of a significant number of agreements, and to welcome the reactivation of the Business Forum and its key role in boosting trade and investment flows."

For his part, Erdoğan [described](#) Algeria as one of his country's largest trading partners in Africa, with bilateral trade volumes increasing to \$10 billion, a target set in 2023. He also revealed that more than 1,600 Turkish firms are currently operating in Algeria, implementing major projects and investments in sectors such as mining, industry and agriculture. Erdoğan further [praised](#) Algeria's support of the **Palestinian** cause during its term on the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**, and emphasised that importance of peaceful solutions to conflicts and respect for international law. He also awarded Tebboune with the Order of the State, Türkiye's highest civilian honour, in recognition of his efforts in strengthening bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership between their countries. Tebboune in turn bestowed upon him the Athir, Algeria's National Order of Merit, for his efforts in strengthen in bilateral relations and for his endeavours to support international peace.

For Tebboune, strengthening relations with Türkiye provides Algeria with an opportunity to diversify its economic and strategic partnerships, attract more foreign investment, as well as expand relations with an influential regional power that shares similar views on issues such as the Palestinian cause. Meanwhile, Erdogan's engagement with Algeria is part of Türkiye's broader strategy to normalise relations across the Africa and use that to boost the Turkish economy. In recent years, Türkiye has dramatically increased its diplomatic footprint, trade volume and cultural influence across Africa as it seeks to become a major economic player, diplomatic heavyweight and a cultural bridge between continents.

Algeria and France push to reset judicial and diplomatic relations

France's justice minister **Gérald Darmanin** [arrived](#) in Algeria on 18 May for an official visit as both countries seek to rebuild diplomatic relations and judicial cooperation following months of strained ties linked to several high-profile legal cases and the **Western Sahara**. During his visit, which French officials [described](#) as a "new chapter" in judicial cooperation between the two countries, Darmanin held talks with Algeria's justice minister, **Lotfi Boudjemaa**, that were focused on extradition requests, broader security cooperation and organised crime investigations – particularly in relation to the **Marseille** (France)-based **DZ Mafia** network that is believed to be hiding or concealing assets in Algeria.

A key point of discussion was also the detention of French football journalist **Christophe Gleizes**. Police arrested Gleizes in May 2024 while he was reporting in **Tizi Ouzou** on sports and the dynamics in Algeria's **Kabylia Region** (see *ARC Briefing Algeria Dec 2025*). He was subsequently charged with 'glorifying terrorism', a reference reportedly linked to his work around **JS Kabylie**, a football club that Algerian authorities associate with the Kabyle nationalist and separatist political organisation, **Mouvement pour l'autodétermination de la Kabylie (MAK)**. The conviction became a diplomatic flashpoint and also [prompted](#) a strong response from global press freedom organisations, including from the **United States (US)**-based **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)**, which condemned Algeria's growing restrictive measures aimed at silencing critical voices at a time when the country is grappling with socioeconomic and political pressures. However, campaigners in Algeria [announced](#) earlier in May that Gleizes had dropped his appeal before Algerian courts in hopes that he will secure a presidential pardon.

Following the discussions in Algeria, Darmanin [said](#) he was "very reassured" about Gleizes' treatment and was confident that Tebboune could help secure his return to France. Darmanin further announced that Algeria and France have agreed to resume their judicial cooperation and [described](#) the talks with Algerian counterparts as "extremely constructive".

Darmanin's visit to Algeria appears to have opened the door to discussions on sensitive legal and diplomatic issues and suggests a thawing in relations following a diplomatic crisis that strained ties between the two countries for almost two years - particularly after France recognised Morocco's claim over **Western Sahara** in 2024, a move that deeply strained ties with Algeria.

US pushes to ease Morocco-Algeria rift over Western Sahara

The **United States (US)** is renewing its efforts to resolve the decades-long Western Sahara dispute by pressuring Algeria to take a direct role in its resolution. US President **Donald Trump's** (2017-2021; 2025-present) advisor for **Arab and African** affairs, **Massad Boulos**, [announced](#) on social media on 9 May that he had met with **Sabri Boukadoum**, Algeria's ambassador to the US, and they had had a "constructive engagement" regarding Algeria taking a more active role in the UN-backed peace process. Citing the 31 October 2025 **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2797**, that recognised Morocco's autonomy over the disputed region, Boulos said that it was "time to reach a resolution".

However, this effort should not be viewed in isolation, as it is one of several recent attempts Boulos' has made to bring an end to the dispute in the region. The US **Mission to the United Nations (UN)** [announced](#) on 9 February that it had convened rare discussions involving long-standing rivals Morocco and Algeria over the future of Western Sahara, as the US sought to push forward a resolution to one of Africa's longest-running territorial disputes (see *ARC Briefing Algeria Feb 2026*). According to the US mission, senior delegations from the US and UN facilitated discussions in **Madrid (Spain)** with Algeria, Morocco, **Mauritania** and the Western Sahara separatist group **Polisario Front**, which Algeria backs. That discussion, which followed previous visits to Algiers by Boulos, focused on implementing the October 2025 UNSC resolution on Western Sahara (see *ARC Briefing Morocco Nov 2025*).

Diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria have been severed since 2021, with Western Sahara remaining a central source of tension alongside Morocco's normalisation of relations with **Israel**. However, a push for a solution has intensified toward a political settlement after the UN signalled its endorsement to Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara, but beyond Boulos' efforts, there has not been any significant concrete results towards a resolution to the conflict – particularly as the Polisario Front have remained steadfast in their objections. While 46 UN member state [recognise](#) the **Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR)**, which claims sovereignty over the entire Western Sahara, there is a broader international and regional trend towards recognising Morocco's sovereignty over the territory.

After the US became the first country to recognise Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara in 2020, France, the **United Kingdom (UK)**, and Spain have shifted towards backing autonomy under Moroccan control. France, the UK and the US are permanent members of UNSC, giving Morocco an unprecedented diplomatic advantage as it consolidates international support for its position. This alignment among major powers not only strengthens Morocco's leverage but also reshapes the geopolitical landscape around the dispute, with an increasing number of European governments changing their policies in the same direction.

While some media [reports](#) indicate that Algeria appears to be gradually shifting its position on the Western Sahara after losing some support from key allies, particularly **Russia**, it is very difficult to imagine Algeria completely abandoning the Polisario Front, especially as that would strengthen Morocco, which it has long viewed as a strategic and bitter rival.

Planner

2 Jul 2026 (**Algeria**) National assembly elections

Chronology

27 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Dredging Today*. Algeria's **Maritime Works Group** and the **China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC)** sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a joint venture responsible for dredging works at national ports and all related operations;

26 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Anadolu Ajansi*. **Belarus'** President **Alexander Lukashenko** describes Algeria as a 'key partner' in Africa during a meeting with Algeria's parliamentary speaker **Ibrahim Boughali** in Belarus;

23 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **People's National Assembly** speaker, **Brahim Boughali**, arrives in **Minsk (Belarus)** for an official visit as part of ongoing bilateral efforts to strengthen and boost parliamentary cooperation between the two nations;

22 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa Intelligence*. Following successive visits from **French** ministers, several Algerian officials are now expected in France in the coming weeks, while the business communities on both sides are working to intensify their exchanges;

21 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. Algeria, **Egypt** and **Tunisia** call for accelerating the holding of simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections in **Libya**;

19 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa News*. **France's** justice minister **Gérald Darmanin** travels to Algeria to rebuild diplomatic and judicial relations following months of strained ties over high-profile legal cases and **Western Sahara**;

19 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. Egypt and **Algeria** are working to deepen their agricultural cooperation and economic partnerships through shared expertise in desert land reclamation, digital farming and livestock improvement;

16 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *We Are Tech*. Finance minister **Abdelkrim Bouzred** says that Algeria has continued to accelerate its transition toward digital payments with more than 22

million payment cards in circulation as of the end of March, a 46% year-on-year increase from 2025;

14 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Amnesty International*. Global NGO **Amnesty International** calls for Algerian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained journalists targeted for exercising their right to freedom of expression, including **Christophe Gleizes, Abdelwakil Blamm** and **Hassan Bouras**;

13 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Pumps Africa*. Algeria and **Egypt** sign two energy cooperation agreements aimed at strengthening petroleum trade, supply security and broader bilateral collaboration in the hydrocarbons sector;

11 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Interior minister **Saïd Sayoud** meets with his **Somali** counterpart, **Ali Yusuf Ali Hosh** to conduct bilateral talks, focusing on reconciliation and federal affairs;

10 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Jornal de Angola*. President **João Lourenço** leaves for **Algeria** for a three-day state visit at the invitation of President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties through high-level talks and the signing of strategic cooperation agreements;

9 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**'s state visit to **Türkiye** accelerates bilateral cooperation, resulting in over 90 new **Turkish** investment projects registered under Algeria's updated investment law;

8 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *RFI*. **France**'s ambassador to Algeria **Stephane Romatet** returns to Algeria to commemorate the 1945 **Sétif** colonial-era massacre, a move seeking to improve frayed relations;

6 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** holds a private meeting with **Türkiye**'s President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** upon his arrival in **Türkiye** for an official state visit;

5 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Foreign minister **Ahmed Attaf** receives the **European Union (EU)** commissioner for the **Mediterranean**, **Dubravka Suica**, in Algiers as part of a series of high-level diplomatic engagements for Algeria, which recently included discussions with officials from **Iran, France, Poland** and the **United States (US)**;

4 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Reuters*. **European** traders say Algeria's state grains agency **OAIC** has issued an international tender to buy 50,000 metric tonnes of milling wheat;

3 May 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Reuters*. Seven **OPEC+** countries, including Algeria, agree on a modest oil output hike of 188,000 barrels per day for June, an increase that will remain largely on paper if the **Iran** war continues to disrupt **Gulf** oil supplies through the **Strait of Hormuz**;

30 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa News*. Algeria, **Libya** and **Tunisia** agree to a "rational and equitable" of the water in the giant **North-Western Sahara Aquifer System** in the **Sahara** that straddles all three countries;

29 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **Council of the Nation** speaker **Azouz Nasri** holds a courtesy meeting with the **Spanish** ambassador to Algeria, **Ramiro Fernández Bachiller**, to discuss diplomatic relations;

28 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** hosts **United States (US)** deputy secretary of state **Christopher Landau** and **AFRICOM** commander **Dagvin Anderson** in Algiers to discuss diplomatic and security cooperation;

24 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. **Somali** ambassador to Algeria, **Yusuf Ahmed Hassan** says at least 17 Somali migrants have died after their boat capsized in waters between Algeria and **Spain**;

23 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Finance minister **Abdelkrim Bouzred** meets with **United Nations (UN)** deputy secretary **Amina Mohammed** to discuss strengthening ties between Algeria and the UN development system;

22 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** and his **Chadian** counterpart **Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno** sign landmark agreements aimed at elevating their bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership;

21 Apr 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** is leading a national strategy to diversify Algeria's economy by prioritising the mining sector and enhancing domestic industrial and agricultural production;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.

© Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)