

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Algeria Monthly Briefing July 2026

Algeria Summary 30 July 2026

The Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections (ANIE) (national independent election authority) announces on 6 July that the ruling Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) had dominated Algeria's legislative elections held on 2 July to elect 407 members of the People's National Assembly (lower house of parliament) for a five-year term. Algeria and Mali ease tensions, agreeing to restore diplomatic relations, reopen their airspace to both civilian and military flights and return their ambassadors to their respective posts. Spain's prime minister Pedro Sanchez (2018-present) visits Algeria on 20 July in a visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries.

Ruling FLN secures most seats in parliament with historically low turnout

The **Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections (ANIE)** (national independent election authority) [announced](#) on 6 July that the ruling **Front de Libération Nationale (FLN)** had dominated **Algeria's** legislative elections held on 2 July to elect 407 members of the **People's National Assembly** (lower house of parliament) for a five-year term, with over 7,000 candidates contesting for seats. The FLN won 91 of the 407 seats, while the pro-establishment **Rassemblement National Démocratique (RND)** came in second with 74 seats and the centrist **Front el Moustakbal** came in third with 56 seats. Together with the FLN, these parties ensured that parliament remained largely supportive of President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) and the political establishment that has long dominated Algeria's political system.

The election was seen as [marred](#) by voter apathy and controversy over the authorities' decision to disqualify about a third of potential candidates. This most likely played a role in the legislative elections witnessing a record-low turnout with only 21% of the country's 25 million registered voters casting their ballots. Algeria last registered a then-historic low of 23% in the 2021 elections, which were the first held since the 2019 pro-democracy protest movement. Speaking on the high abstention rate, ANIE's interim head **Karim Khelfane** said that it was "*not specific to Algeria*" and further praised the elections as transparent.

Parliament then on 28 July [elected](#) **Khalida Boufedeché** as its first female speaker, making her the fourth-highest ranking official in the country. Boufedeché, an allergist by profession, represents Algiers and is a member of the ruling FLN, where she also serves on the party's central committee. Before entering parliament, Boufedeché served in local government. Her appointment is particularly important given the low representation of women in the country's parliament; women currently occupy only 25 of the 407 seats (6% of total seats), a sharp decline from previous legislatures that had benefited from a gender quota system. Algeria's last parliament had 38 women as members and the one before, 118 women – a result of the 2017 elections which used a quota system.

Algerians generally perceive Parliament as having limited influence over executive decision making, [viewing](#) the legislative body as a 'rubber stamp' mechanism for decisions the executive branch makes. In this context, the record-low voter turnout further undermines the legitimacy of the elections and reinforces the perception that they have become more symbolic than a meaningful exercise in democratic representation.

Algeria and Mali move to reopen airspace after months of tensions

Algerian state media [reported](#) on 10 July that after more than a year of tensions, Algeria and **Mali** had agreed to restore diplomatic relations, reopen their airspace to both civilian and military flights and

return their ambassadors to their respective posts. Mali's government spokesperson, **Issa Ousmane Coulibaly**, said in a statement on 10 July that the development followed talks between Malian junta leader **Assimi Goïta** (2021-present) and Tebboune, who both [expressed](#) a commitment to "*reinvalidate bilateral ties*" while respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Tebboune on 11 July ordered the return of Algeria's ambassador to Mali's capital, **Bamako**.

Relations between the two countries [deteriorated](#) in April 2025 after Algeria shot down a Malian military surveillance drone, claiming it had entered Algerian airspace. Mali rejected this explanation, arguing that the drone had crashed within its own territory and describing Algeria's actions as an act of aggression. The incident led both countries to close their airspace to each other's aircraft and withdraw their ambassadors. Mali took it further and took Algeria to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, accusing Algeria of aggression after it shot down the reconnaissance drone in April.

However, this month's agreement marks a significant step towards reducing tensions and rebuilding cooperation. Notably, this developments come just a few months after Mali experienced its worst domestic attack in years, which may have contributed to its decision to resume talks with Algeria. **Al-Qaeda-affiliated Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM)** and the **Azawad Liberation Front (FLA)** [carried](#) out a series of coordinated, large-scale attacks across Mali on 25 April. The offensive included strikes near Bamako and resulted in the killing of defence minister **Sadio Camara**, who was second in-charge of Mali's junta.

Mali has also been struggling with conflict since the 2010s after a loose alliance of primarily ethnic **Tuareg** separatists and Islamist jihadist fighters with communal ties to Algeria and **Libya** captured large swathes of the north in 2012. Algeria once served as a key mediator in between Mali and Tuareg rebels, but the two countries have grown apart since the military coups in 2020 and 2021. Russian paramilitary, **Wagner Group**, deployed its forces to Mali in 2021 to help stabilise the country, further expanding Russia's influence in the region, but the country has since faced further instability. Having Algeria as an ally could help strengthen the Malian regime at a time when it is facing some of its most serious domestic security challenges in recent years. Algeria also remains highly concerned about the security in the region. Algeria and Mali share a 1,400km border and there are concerns that continued instability in Mali could lead to a power vacuum, a rise in militias, displaced persons and refugees and overall greater instability in the region. Therefore, both countries view mutual security cooperation as essential for achieving long-term stability in the **Sahel**.

Spanish prime minister visits Algeria for talks to deepen bilateral ties

Spain's prime minister **Pedro Sanchez** (2018-present) [visited](#) Algeria on 20 July in a visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries. Algeria's presidency announced that Tebboune officially welcomed Sánchez at the **El Mouradia Palace**, where he was received with military honours and held talks with the Algerian leader. The prime minister's office released a statement noting that the visit [reflects](#) a shared commitment between the leaders to strengthen bilateral cooperation and "*broaden areas of joint action in a way that serves the interests of both countries*." The office further said that Sanchez's visit would provide an opportunity to intensify consultations and exchange views on several regional and international issues of mutual interest, emphasising both countries' determination to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen dialogue and coordination.

The visit is particularly significant as it marks the highest-level political engagement between Spain and Algeria since diplomatic relations were restored following a diplomatic dispute over **Western Sahara**. Tensions emerged in March 2022 after Sanchez formally [decided](#) to recognise **Morocco's** autonomy plan for the Western Sahara as the most serious and credible political solution to end the dispute in the region (*see ARC Briefing Algeria Apr 2022*). Spain's support for Morocco's autonomy plan provoked a swift move by Algeria to suspend its **Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighbourliness and Cooperation** with Spain, signed in 2002. However, in March 2025, Algeria announced that the treaty would be reactivated, signalling a clear improvement in relations. Shortly before that, **Banque d'Algérie** (central bank) also announced on 6 November 2024 the total

removal of trade restrictions with Spain that Algeria implemented following Sánchez's Western Sahara decision (*see ARC Briefing Algeria Nov 2024*). Prior to this, Algeria reinstated its ambassador to Spain, **Abdelfettah Daghmoum**, in April 2024, with Algerian officials stating that Spain changing its stance to a more neutral one on the issue prompted the return of the ambassador. Sanchez's visit represents another step towards rebuilding trust and normalising relations between the two countries.

Planner

Jul/Aug 2026 (**Algeria**) Possible cabinet reshuffles or major appointments following election

Chronology

28 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africanews*. Algeria's parliament elects its first ever woman speaker, making **Khalida Boufedeché** the fourth-highest ranking official in the country;

23 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Energy minister **Mourad Adjal** and **Niger's** energy minister **Amadou Haoua** discuss accelerating bilateral electricity projects and expanding cooperation into renewable energy and energy engineering;

22 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Bloomberg*. Power blackouts hit energy-rich **North Africa** from Libya to **Tunisia** and Algeria, as summer heats piles pressure on infrastructure and exposes supply gaps;

22 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Energy and renewable energies minister **Mourad Adjal** chairs a meeting to review progress on strategic projects with **Chad** and **Niger**, focusing on cooperation programmes, gas transport activities and energy planning;

20 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **Spain's** prime minister **Pedro Sánchez** arrives in Algiers for a working visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties;

16 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Reuters*. Authorities report that 11 people, including children, were killed and 19 injured in a fire caused by a spark in an air conditioner at an orphanage close to Algiers;

11 Jul 2026 **Bamako (Mali)** *Al Jazeera*. **Algeria** and Mali begin restoring diplomatic ties after a yearlong rift, mutually reinstating their ambassadors and reopening their shared airspace following a dispute over a downed surveillance drone;

8 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **United States (US)** President **Donald Trump** congratulates President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** on Algeria's 64th **Independence and Youth Day**, praising the strengthening of Algeria-US relations over the past year and highlighting closer cooperation on security, counterterrorism and economic ties;

6 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africanews*. Algeria's ruling **Front de Libération Nationale (FLN)** secures the largest share of seats in parliament after winning 90 of the 407 seats contested in the 2 July legislative elections;

5 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Al Jazeera*. Seven **OPEC+** producers, including Algeria, agree to increase oil production from August, signalling confidence that **Gulf** exports are recovering after months of disruption caused by conflict in the **Middle East**;

3 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africanews*. The electoral board **Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections (ANIE)** announces a provisional 20% voter turnout for the 2 July election, which if confirmed, would be lower than the 23% record low registered in 2021;

1 Jul 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Reuters*. **OPEC+** oil-producing countries, including are likely to agree a further hike in their output targets from August, adding to supply at a time of falling prices as the **Strait of Hormuz** gradually reopen.

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)