

**PRESS REVIEW ON:  
THE ALGERIAN LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS  
10TH OF MAY 2012**

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***Results reflect national political landscape***



1. The legislative elections were organized in Algeria, on May 10th, 2012. In order to elect the members of the National Popular Assembly (Lower House) of the Parliament.
2. During these elections, 21.664.345 voters, including 990.470 voters living abroad (4.57 %), were called to elect the 462 members of the National Popular Assembly (Lower House) of the Parliament.
3. The global rate of participation in the elections of May 10th, 2012 reached 43.14%, while that of the 2007 was 36.51%.
4. The voters have chosen their representatives in the Parliament among 24 916 candidates (among which 7.700 women), distributed on 2038 lists which represent 44 political parties and 186 independent lists.
5. The legislative elections of May 10 were marked by the victory of the National Liberation Front Party (FLN), which was close to absolute majority in the newly-elected People's National Assembly by winning 221 seats out of 462.

Announced Friday by the Minister of Interior and Local Authorities Daho Ould Kablia, preliminary results showed the FLN taking the lead with 221 seats, far ahead of the National Democratic Rally (RND) which has secured 70 seats.

Green Algeria Alliance (AAV) ranked third with 47 seats, followed by the Socialist Forces Front (FFS, 21 seats), and the Workers Party (PT, 17 seats).

These results, confirmed by the Constitutional Council, are summarized in the table below:

| <b>N°</b> | <b>Political Party</b>                       | <b>Number of seats</b> | <b>Number of women elected</b> |
|-----------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01        | National Liberation Front Party              | 221                    | 69                             |
| 02        | National Democratic Rally                    | 70                     | 25                             |
| 03        | Alliance of Green Algeria                    | 47                     | 15                             |
| 04        | Socialist Forces Front                       | 21                     | 07                             |
| 05        | Independents                                 | 19                     | 05                             |
| 06        | Workers' Party                               | 17                     | 10                             |
| 07        | Algerian National Front                      | 09                     | 03                             |
| 08        | El Adala Party                               | 07                     | 01                             |
| 09        | Algerian Popular Movement                    | 06                     | 02                             |
| 10        | El Fadjr El Jadid Party                      | 05                     | 01                             |
| 11        | Front of Change                              | 04                     | 01                             |
| 12        | National Party of Solidarity and Development | 04                     | 01                             |
| 13        | National Republican Alliance                 | 03                     | 01                             |
| 14        | National Front for the Social Justice        | 03                     | 00                             |
| 15        | Ahd 54                                       | 03                     | 00                             |
| 16        | Union of Social Democratic Forces            | 03                     | 02                             |
| 17        | Algerian Rally                               | 02                     | 01                             |
| 18        | El Moustakbel Front                          | 02                     | 00                             |
| 19        | National Movement of Hope                    | 02                     | 00                             |
| 20        | Republican Patriotic Rally                   | 02                     | 01                             |
| 21        | Movement of Free Citizens                    | 02                     | 01                             |

|    |                                |    |    |
|----|--------------------------------|----|----|
| 22 | Youth Party                    | 02 | 00 |
| 23 | Ennour El Djazairi Party       | 02 | 01 |
| 24 | El Karama Party                | 02 | 01 |
| 25 | Algerian Renewal Party         | 01 | 00 |
| 26 | El Infitah movement            | 01 | 00 |
| 27 | National Front for the Concord | 01 | 00 |
| 28 | National Democratic Front      | 01 | 00 |

6. The 2012 parliamentary elections were distinguished by a record number of women, who have won 148 seats (32.03%) of the 462. In the legislative elections of 2007, women won 31 seats (7%) out of 389.

FLN's women candidates got the largest number as they have secured 69 of the 221 seats won by the party. Those of the National Democratic Rally (RND) came second with 25 seats.

Women who competed in the election under the banner of the Green Algeria Alliance (AAV), made up of the Society for Peace Movement (MSP), El-Islah and Ennahda, have secured 15 seats.

Those representing the Workers' Party (PT) have won 10 seats out of the party's 17 seats.

The rate of 32.03% of women in the new Algerian parliament has been achieved through the revision of the constitution in 2008 and the adoption of a new law on women's representation in elected assemblies in February 2012, initiated by the President of the Republic Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

This new rate has allowed to Algeria to pass from the 122<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> in the World Ranking of Women in National Parliaments. Therefore Algeria has obtained the most important rate in the Middle East and North Africa region and also the countries around the Mediterranean.

Arab and foreign press said on Friday that the rate of participation in Algeria elections is large, in light of predictions of experts about the reluctance of citizen to vote, adding that the results of legislative elections in 2007 noticed a lower percentage, although the conditions were normal.

**Arab Online website** says that "the elections Algeria escapes from falling into the boycott, especially as Islamists were sure of taking the power, adding that the Algerian

government won the bet of citizens' participation in the legislative elections that took place Thursday and that exceeded the rate of participation in the last election, as the period to vote in one third of polling centers, noting that the rate of participation in the legislative elections noticed a substantial rise" .

**Agence France-Presse** thinks that "The Algerian government won a bet of the participation rate which exceeded that of the last elections, adding that the biggest challenge in these elections, for both the authorities and the parties is mobilizing voters to give their votes, given the low participation of voters 2007 legislative elections, which noticed a boycott rate of 64%".

**The French "Le Point"** talked about the doubts of Algerians in the rate of participation in "the first elections held in Algeria since the Arab spring," considered that this result as "the pride of the Algeria's official ", noting that the participation rate, which reached 42.9% is better than the rate of 2007.

7. The geopolitical situation in the Maghreb region, following the "Arab Spring", the violent changes of regimes in some neighboring countries, and worrying instability in southern Algeria, have made these elections monitored by the International opinion.

These elections were monitored by over 500 international observers, including 164 observers from the European Union, 200 from the African Union, 132 from the League of Arab States, 7 from the United Nations, 18 from the Organization of the Islamic Conference and 8 observers from the NGOs NDI and Carter.

#### 8. **The international reactions:**

These elections were conducted generally in serenity, in spite of incidents classified as minor by the international observers and their results were welcomed by the International Community.

- **UN Secretary-General congratulates Algeria on parliamentary elections:**



The Secretary-General "has been following the recent legislative elections in Algeria closely and, upon the request of the Government, has deployed a high-level panel to the country to

follow the electoral process and keep him abreast of the latest developments," the spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said in a statement.

"He congratulates the people and the Government of Algeria for the peaceful manner in which the 10 May elections for the People's National Assembly were held and welcomes the increase in the representation of women in the new Parliament."

"The Secretary-General encourages the Government of Algeria and all political parties in the country to cooperate in an inclusive and peaceful manner to contribute to the implementation of the political and constitutional reforms and strengthen the democratic process in Algeria," the statement stressed.

"The Secretary-General reiterates the continued commitment of the United Nations to supporting Algeria's efforts for socio-economic development and democratic reforms."

- **The poll was "free, transparent, fair and equitable," said the AU mission:**



The head of the observer mission of the African Union (AU) Joaquim Alberto Chissano, former President of Mozambique, said that the election was generally conducted in "calm and serenity". The AU mission, who made comments about the conduct of the electoral process, stressed that the election was free and fair and welcomed the measures taken in polling stations nationwide.

Among the missions of observation monitoring the legislative elections, the AU mission with 200 observers, has the largest number of observers. This mission includes members of the Pan-African Parliament and African national parliaments as well as African ambassadors to the African Union (AU) and heads of electoral bodies.

- **US congratulates Algeria following legislative elections:**



**WASHINGTON (United States) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Saturday congratulated the Algerian people following the parliamentary elections, while expressing wishes to boost relations between the United States and Algeria.**

#### Press Statement

**Hillary Rodham Clinton**

Secretary of State

Washington, DC

May 12, 2012

I would like to congratulate the people of Algeria on this week's elections. The Government of Algeria invited international and non-governmental organizations to send observation missions and conducted elections that provided the Algerian people with the opportunity to express their will. These elections -- and the high number of women elected -- are a welcome step in Algeria's progress toward democratic reform. The United States looks forward to working together with the newly elected National Popular Assembly and to continuing to strengthen our ties with the government and the people of Algeria.

#### Tweets



14t [STATEDEPT](#) [StateDept](#) [@StateDept](#)

**#SecClinton:** The U.S. looks forward to continuing to strengthen our ties with the government and people of **#Algeria**. <http://algiers.usembassy.gov/>



14t [STATEDEPT](#) [StateDept](#) [@StateDept](#)

**#SecClinton:** The United States looks forward to working with the newly elected National Popular Assembly in **#Algeria**.



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**#SecClinton:** These elections -- and the high number of **#women** elected -- are a welcome step in **#Algeria**'s progress toward democratic reform.



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**#SecClinton:** I would like to congratulate the people of **#Algeria** on this week's elections.

- **London hails parliamentary elections in Algeria:**



Foreign Secretary William Hague has congratulated the people of Algeria on the conduct of the elections and the progress they represent.

Speaking following the Algeria parliamentary elections, he said:

"I congratulate the people of Algeria on the conduct of these elections and welcome the Algerian government's decision to allow EU observers for the first time. Over the past sixteen months people across North Africa have clearly expressed their desire for greater openness and accountability, and it is encouraging that the Algerian authorities have responded in this positive way. I particularly welcome the greater representation of women in the new parliament, in line with Algeria's recent reforms.

"I hope this progress will lead to further reforms in the forthcoming discussion of constitutional change, and in the run up to the local elections later this year and the Presidential elections in 2014. The UK has a good relationship with Algeria and I am confident that British Parliamentarians will seek to further strengthen ties with their newly elected Algerian counterparts."

- **Legislative elections 2012: Voting "normally" taking place, says EU Chief Observer:**

Jose Ignacio Salafranca, Chief of the EU mission, with 140 observers, welcomed "good conditions" that have marked the progress of the electoral process in Algeria.

The EU mission has identified initiatives to "enhance transparency of the electoral process" as part of political reforms, calling for "deepening" these initiatives to build trust among citizens.

Moreover, the EU mission has praised the "good organization" of the poll which was held in a serene atmosphere, wishing, however, that "other transparency measures are taken". Unlike other observation missions, the mission of EU observers will stay until June in Algeria as part of the method of election monitoring by the EU which provides a deployment before, during and after elections.

In their joint statement on the elections in Algeria, the European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner Mr Štefan Füle said: "We consider these elections to be a step forward in the reform process which started in April 2011 in Algeria, expected to be concluded by a revision of the Constitution later this year to consolidate democracy and the rule of law in line with the legitimate expectations of the Algerian people", the EU statement said.

- **France's reaction :**

The statement made by the Ministry Spokesman of Foreign and European Affairs on Saturday, May 12th, 2012 on the results of the elections in Algeria:

"The results of the Algerian elections were proclaimed. It is the new legislature which opens in Algeria.

As we noted it yesterday, this poll took place in a globally calmed climate.

We also note that the choice of the voters is going to allow a representation very appreciably greater of the women in the new assembly.

France wishes that these elections contribute to the consolidation and to the deepening of the process of reforms announced by the President Bouteflika and waited by the great majority of the Algerians. In mind of the friendship and the exceptional relations between our two countries, France wishes that this new legislature is the opportunity to develop more still our bilateral relations and our cooperation in all the domains. "

- **Legislative elections: Algeria avoided the "shocks of Arabic spring" (Russian official) :**





**"Algeria's parliamentary election demonstrated that the country avoided the shocks of the Arab Spring", Russian presidential envoy for cooperation with African countries Mikhail Margelov said Saturday.**

Mr. Mikhail Margelov considered that the results of the Algerian election demonstrated that the Islamist extremism "enjoyed no support on behalf of the Algerian" explaining this attitude by the experience lived by the Algerian people during the 90s. "In 1988, Algeria had known the similar events than those lived recently by nearby countries and the impact of which was dramatic " by underlining that the emergence in Algeria of the Islamist sphere and the years of terrorism which followed each other have cost to the country the tens of thousands deaths "before adding that " the souvenir of these events remains lively in the collective memory of the Algerian people" and that it " has protect them against the shocks having shaken certain Arab countries".

- **Tunisia's reaction:**

Tunisia greeted on Saturday "the success" of the legislative elections in Algeria and hoped that the elected parliament works to bring the peoples of the Maghreb closer, according to a communiqué of the presidency. Tunisia followed with a lot of satisfaction the legislative elections in Algeria which took place in a serene climate, indicated the Presidency.

The presidency said that they are "convinced that the next parliament works to bring closer more (...) within the framework of the big Maghreb as high as the aspiration of the peoples in more complementarily and prosperity".

- **China's reaction:**

China greeted, on Monday, May 14th, the success of the legislative elections in Algeria "We support the positive efforts of Algeria to promote the political reform and protect the social stability", affirmed a Spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Hong Lei, during a press conference. Calling back the strategic cooperation between both countries, Mr. Lei has specified that his country is inclined to collaborate with Algeria in order to strengthen more the bilateral friendly cooperation".

- **Italy's reaction:**

Italy congratulated the "good progress" of the elections and "the decision of the Algerian authorities to welcome observers' big mission of the EU", indicated Italian Minister of

Foreign Affairs, Giulio Terzi. It "confirmed the commitment of Algiers to promote the transparency and the opening", he underlined.

- **Spain's reaction:**

"Thanks God!" It is by this surprising formula that José Manuel Garcia-Margallo, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, commented on the outcome of the Algerian legislative election. "Thanks God, the very important breakthrough of the Islamists did not take place as did announced", he said, on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, during a press conference in Brussels, according to comments reported by the Agency Europe Press. Mr. Garcia-Margallo expressed himself at the conclusion of a meeting with his European counterparts.

According to him, no considerable incident was registered during these elections. He underlined that the European observers deployed during the elections registered no considerable incident. He also noted the "relatively high" rate of participation compared with those registered in the previous elections. The Spanish Minister called "the European Union to make an effort to facilitate" the democratic process in Algeria.

- **Portugal's reaction:**

The Portuguese Government congratulated the authorities and the Algerian people for the transparency which marked the progress of the legislative election of May 10th, by repeating its availability to strengthen the bilateral relations between Algiers and Lisbon.

"The Portuguese Government congratulates the authorities and the Algerian population on the transparent way with which took place the legislative election in Algeria on May 10th of this year ", indicated a communiqué published by the Portuguese Government.

The Portuguese Government considered that these elections "translate the commitment and the determination of the population and the Algerian authorities in the consolidation of the process of construction of a democratic, pluralistic and just society".

- **Qatar "greet results of the electoral operation":**

According to certain international media and the Qatari news agency, the State of Qatar has qualified the Algerian election of May 10th, 2012 of "important step in the enrichment of the democratic process in the country", and has greeted the electoral process. A source of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, quoted by QNA, greeted the progress of the electoral operation and considered it as "honest and transparent".

- **The OIC Secretary General congratulates the President and the People of Algeria for the successful completion of the Legislative Elections held on 10 May 2012:**

The team of observers from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation monitored, on Thursday 10 May 2012, the Legislative Elections of Algeria.

After monitoring the elections in a number of polling stations, the OIC observers noted with satisfaction that the Algerian elections were held in an organized, transparent and peaceful manner. The group has not recorded irregularities or violations of the Algerian Election Law and Regulations.

The OIC observers conveyed the congratulations of Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu to the President and the People of Algeria for holding successful and democratic elections which constitute an important and decisive step towards strengthening democracy in Algeria and will contribute building a prosperous future for this nation.

- **Arab League labels Algeria polls 'free, transparent':**

The head of an Arab League observers' mission, Hanafi Wadjih, declared that there had been a "free and transparent election where the Algerian people have expressed their choice without coercion."

The Arab League hailed the Algerian parliamentary polls as free, democratic, transparent and credible.

In a statement, the Arab League praised facilities offered to the observer by Algerian authorities, which, it said, had lived up to their pledges.

It said the polls had seen a competition free of attempts to influence the will of voters or any malpractice to mar the progress of voting.

The statement praised preparation, noting that Algerian authorities had created an "objective" atmosphere to complete the electoral process in a climate of freedom and fairness without interference by the government.

It congratulated Algeria for "this milestone achievement in Algeria's march towards reforms that meet the aspirations of its people."

