



# MaghrebiWeek

A snap shot PDF magazine of the news from North Africa and the MENA region

Edition 001

7th April 2025

## France and Algeria agree to 'normalisation' of relations



The presidents of France and Algeria, Emmanuel Macron and Abdelmadjid Tebboune, have finally agreed to the normalisation of relations after months of tension.

According to Saudi news source Asharq Al-Awsat on April 1st, the two men agreed to reestablish a dialogue and cooperate on security and migration.

Macron also pleaded with Tebboune to show "mercy and humanity" to the French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal who has been sentenced to five years in prison by an Algerian court.

The arrest and subsequent sentencing of Sansal related to comments made regarding Algerian claims to the Western Sahara region.

The issue of sovereignty claims over the Western Sahara has been fundamental to the diplomatic crisis between the two countries, as France supports Morocco's claims to autonomy over the Western Saharan region.

Algeria – a former French colony until 1962 – has consistently defended the rights of the native Saharawi people against the Moroccan state's seizure of the Western Sahara.

Despite Algerian outcry, Morocco has enjoyed the support of western powers including France and Spain.

Nationals of both France and Algeria living in the other will hope that the normalisation of relations will improve life for them.

French nationals living in Algeria

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Algeria downs drone near border with Mali

Algeria has claimed to have shot down a military drone near the country's border with Mali in the first incident of its kind since tensions have developed, according to Associated Press on April 2nd.

The army confirmed that a drone had entered Algerian airspace near Tin Zaouatine, a border town in the Western Sahara and stronghold for Tuareg separatists opposed to Mali's government.

Mali's army did not confirm whether the drone was shot down by Algeria.

#### HIV epidemic "escalating" in Middle East and North Africa

A report has been published warning of an "escalating HIV epidemic" in the Middle East and North Africa, according to Middle East Eye on April 2nd.

Frontline AIDS has analysed HIV prevention and response strategies in its Prevention and Accountability Report for the Middle East and North Africa.

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## Israel poised to finish off Hezbollah

Israel hopes to tear Hezbollah out of Lebanese politics a leading Israeli journalist has warned, a policy which could see further destruction of the war-torn nation.

Alastair Tibbs, editor

Under the belief that the Iran-backed militia was critically weakened in last year's war, Tel Aviv is looking to press home its perceived advantage.

Speaking exclusively with Levantis, Israeli freelance journalist Guy Elster said: "Israel believes Hezbollah is weaker than ever – its leadership, led by Nasrallah, was eliminated during the last war and it lost its main smuggling route with the fall of the Assad regime in neighbouring Syria.

The Israeli-Hezbollah ceasefire came into effect at the end of November 2024 but Netanyahu's

government has carried out over 1,200 strikes since, killing at least 100 people, according to The New Arab.

Amid ongoing Israeli occupation of five key hilltops on the Lebanese-Israeli border, Lebanese prime minister Nawaf Salam said on 26 March that "no one in Lebanon wants to normalize ties with Israel."

While he believes Israeli military pressure is only fermenting more resistance to an agreement, Tel Aviv sees things differently. Guy said: "Israel believes that the continued pressure on Hezbollah, which is hurting Lebanon's reconstruction efforts, could help contain the organization, although

*"If Hezbollah is further marginalized, Israel believes, a breakthrough in normalization talks with the Lebanese government is possible."*

a complete disarmament by the local army seems unlikely.

"In addition, Iran, Hezbollah's main ally, is under heavy pressure of its own that makes it difficult for it to help the Shiite organization recover as it did in the past."

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#### Morocco's rail infrastructure to get 10bn dollar face lift

Morocco's rail infrastructure is set to receive a major upgrade worth 10 billion dollars, according to a report by the Moroccan government. The project, led by the Moroccan National Office of Railways and Highways (ONCF), aims to modernize the country's rail network and improve connectivity between major cities. The upgrade includes the replacement of old tracks with modern high-speed rail lines, as well as the construction of new stations and infrastructure. The project is expected to be completed by 2030 and will significantly boost the country's economic growth and regional integration.

**Torture victims bring actions against Tunisia over regime's inaction**  
Torture victims in Tunisia have filed lawsuits against the government, demanding compensation and accountability for human rights abuses. The victims claim that the government has failed to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the torture. The lawsuits are a landmark case for human rights in Tunisia and could lead to significant reforms in the justice system.

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Israeli bombardment of its neighbour ramped up in March, striking southern and eastern Lebanon, while also resuming bombing in Gaza.

Guy says Trump gave the “green light to continue operating against Hezbollah and maintain a presence in southern Lebanon,” though there is no official statement from him to this effect. This threat forms part of Trump’s gambit for a deal but what exactly the US and Israel are looking for remains unclear.

With the blessing of Western leaders, Lebanon’s parliament elected the country’s army chief, Joseph Aoun, as their president in January, shortly followed by the appointment of Nawaf Salam as prime minister.

The elevation of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), through the election of Aoun was seen as a blow to Hezbollah.

According to Reuters, Melhem Riachi, a Christian lawmaker who voted for the president, said the election marked the end of the previous era with “an Iranian face”.

Washington wants the refreshed Lebanese government to establish control over all weapons in the country, including those held by Hezbollah, according to Al Arabiya.

However, some analysts see the issue boiling down to border disputes which have been a long standing flash point between the Levantine neighbours.

Michael Young, a senior editor at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, told The New Arab:

“I think that there has been, in terms of American thinking in the past year, an idea that if Lebanon and Israel delineate their border that this will remove essentially an excuse for Hezbollah to waive the resistance flag and to retain its weapons.”

“So, I think that certainly there is

**“The Israelis say they want to negotiate the location of the border, while the Lebanese side insists that the border is already clearly demarcated internationally, and they want to discuss the Lebanese spots that Israel is currently occupying”**

a desire to sort of neutralise the border issue by coming to an agreement. Now is that what’s going to happen? I don’t know.”

The slow pace of the LAF’s redeployment over the south of Lebanon and its lack of ability to reconcile with Hezbollah, looks to be on a collision course with less patient US foreign policy.

Within the details of the border disagreement lies an even greater challenge as Dr Marina Calculli, assistant professor in International Relations at Leiden University, relayed in a TNA interview.

Behind the smoke screen of the ambiguous language, she explained, the goals between the Lebanese and the US-Israeli negotiators differ substantially.

She said: “The Israelis say they want to negotiate the location of the border, while the Lebanese side insists that the border is already clearly demarcated internationally, and they want to discuss the Lebanese spots that Israel is currently occupying.

“There is a quite clear divergence of goals here between the two parties.”

Beirut’s posture is as stubborn as Tel Aviv’s is bullish.

Resistance to any normalisation deal – land concessions or not – is

colossal inside Lebanon, especially given Israel’s continued occupation of parts of the country.

Karem Bitar, professor of international relations at the University of Saint-Joseph in Beirut, told Maghrebi: “I would say that any talk of normalisation at this stage is extremely premature. Hezbollah will definitely not accept a deal as long as Israel is occupying five strategic hilltops that oversee most of the villages in South Lebanon.

“And the opposition to normalisation goes way beyond Hezbollah. The prime minister has said in no uncertain terms just a few days ago that this was not even on the table.

“While it is true that the United States under Trump has been pushing for some sort of committees that would start a dialogue, there is still overwhelming opposition in the Lebanese political class.”

Indeed, as Bitar points out, normalisation could prove “extremely risky” for whichever Lebanese political party agrees to it.

The May 17 Agreement of 1983 terminated the state of war declared between Israeli and Lebanon that had lasted since 1948 and, echoing today’s discussions, provided for the Lebanese Army to take over Israeli occupied parts of the country.

However, the snowballing civil war, driven by the rise of Hezbollah, left Lebanon unable to keep its side of the pact, with the government collapsing the following year and the new one revoking the deal.

Strong opposition had come from not just Lebanon, but from all over the Arab world; Egypt had been diplomatically isolated in the Gulf and Middle East after signing the Camp David accords in 1978.

While there are at present some segments of Lebanese society, particularly among the radical Christian right, who would favour a normalisation deal, says Bitar, they still would think any discussions are premature.

The New Arab, Reuters, Al Arabiya



## Maghrebi Week

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Joseph Aoun, Lebanon’s new president

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## France & Algeria agree to 'normalisation' of relations

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have complained of economic consequences for their businesses during the diplomatic tensions, whilst Algerian citizens have suffered under harsh treatment by the French authorities.

France has been accused of intentionally closing all visa windows except one upon arrival at international airports upon the arrival of Algerian passengers.

Immigration has been another sore point in diplomatic relations between the two nations with key frameworks and norms being overridden by both nations.

Algeria has refused to accept a series of deportations of nationals that France describes as dangerous or irregular.

As recently as March 18th, Algeria refused to accept the deportations of around 60 citizens, with the Algerian foreign ministry saying they "categorically reject threats and intimidation."



NEWS IN BRIEF - continued from page 1

They have found that across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia, cases have risen by 116 percent since 2010, compared to a 39 percent decrease in new infections globally over the same period.

### Former Tunisian PM faces charges for terrorism

Former Prime Minister and Ennahda strongman Ali Larayedh is accused of having facilitated the departure of thousands of Tunisians to Syria to join ISIS, according to RFI on March 26th.

The accusation relates to his time as a Minister of Interior between 2011 and 2013, during which 3,000 to 6,000 jihadists left Tunisia for war zones in Syria, Iraq and Libya, mostly through the network of sala group Ansar Al-Charia.

In a 2023 reports, Tunisia director at Human Right Watch Salsabil Chellali said Laarayedh's prosecution "seems like one more example of President Saied's authorities trying to silence leaders of the Ennahda party and other opponents by tarring them as terrorists."

### Tunisia unveils joint anti-smuggling plan with Libya and Algeria

Tunisian Minister of Trade, Samir Obeid has revealed a joint plan with Libya and Algeria to further develop border areas and to stop parallel trade (the black market) and smuggling. According to The Libya Observer on March 30th, the Ben Guerdane border region with Libya is one of the most key areas to be developed.

It is hoped that the development of the border areas will foster employment opportunities for young people.

### Morocco tackles six years of drought

Morocco is spending hundreds of



Ali Larayedh, former Tunisian PM accused of terrorism

millions to supply water to parched cities farther south but experts question the sustainability of the project amidst the growing climate crisis, according to The New Arab on March 30th.

The North African kingdom has spent \$728 million so far on what it dubs a "water highway" to meet the drinking water needs of capital Rabat and economic hub Casablanca, according to official figures. It plans in future to use other northern rivers to extend the project to the southern city of Marrakesh.

### World Bank approves \$82.5 million loan to Mauritania

The World Bank has approved Mauritania's DREAM project, an initiative which will bolster energy resources and mineral stores in the country.

According to the Moroccan government-friendly North Africa Post on March 31st, the bank will loan Mauritania \$82.5 million.

This initiative will support Mauritania's goal of achieving energy security by 2030.

### Morocco's economic growth slows to 3.7% in Q4 2024

Morocco's economy grew by 3.7% in the fourth quarter of (Q4) 2024, down from 4.2% a year

earlier, driven by domestic demand amid controlled inflation and rising financing needs, in a report by the High Commission for Planning.

According to government friendly Hesperess, while non-agricultural activities expanded by 4.4%, the agricultural sector contracted by 4.9%, and the secondary sector saw a slowdown, with manufacturing and extraction industries losing momentum.

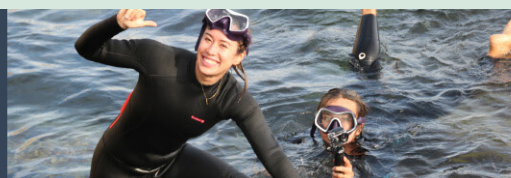
Despite growth in hospitality, trade, and public services, several sectors, including finance, real estate, and communications, experienced weaker performance, highlighting ongoing economic challenges.

### EU delegation welcomes release of Libyan detainees

The EU delegation to Libya has welcomed the release of a group of detainees in Libya.

According to The Libya Observer on March 30th, Libya's judicial authorities authorized their release.

Previously the EU and the United Nations had expressed concern over reports of arbitrary detention and disappearances in the North African country.





A deadly airstrike hit a crowded market in Tora, North Darfur, Sudan on 25 March 2025

## Sudan: Civilians killed in Rapid Support Forces attack

Around 12 Sudanese civilians have been killed in the latest attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in South Kordofan State.

According to Middle East Monitor on April 2nd, RSF rebels and their allied Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North used heavy weapons to attack residential areas in the southern Sudanese state. This comes shortly after the RSF were forced to withdraw from Khartoum by the Sudanese army.



## Mali: Political opponent sentenced to prison

An opposition politician in Mali has been sentenced to one year in prison after being prosecuted for "inciting public disorder."

Seydina Touré, a member of the Alternative for Mali party, was arrested after expressing critical views of the transitional authorities on social media, according to the RFI on April 4. His lawyers are set to appeal the sentence and request provisional release pending the end of the proceedings.

## Russia hosts Sahel countries for security talks

Russia has hosted several Sahel nations under pretext of boasting military and security cooperation. According to the Associated Press, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with representatives from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on April 3rd to discuss closer ties.

Russia's move to expand its influence in the region comes as any Western nations including France and the US have cut ties and withdrawn military forces due to ongoing tensions with the junta-led governments in the Sahel.

## Sudanese lives at risk after drop in UN funding

Sudanese refugees are to lose the support of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) medical treatment programmes because of a marked drop in funding to it, according to The New Arab on April 3rd. The suspensions open the door for serious effects on thousands of refugees in this economically struggling country. People expect to be left without access to medical treatment, child protection services and other forms of aid.

## African Union to mediate peace deal in South Sudan

Mediators from the African Union have landed in South

Sudan for urgent talks aimed at preventing a return to civil war, as reported by Africa News on April 2nd.

The talks follow the arrest of First Vice President Riek Machar last week, a move that further increased tensions in the country.

President Salva Kiir's government has accused former rebel leader Machar of inciting a fresh rebellion.

## 50 prisoners released by Niger junta

Niger's military junta announced it has released around 50 prisoners, including ministers and officials from the government it brought down in the 2023 coup but not former president Mohammed Bazoum, according to France 24 on April 2nd.

"These individuals are being released in accordance with the recommendations of the National Forum for Reconstruction," the government's general secretariat said in a statement. Most were arrested following General Abdourahamane Tiani's 2023 coup, in which the former head of the presidential guard reshuffled the political landscape in Niger.

## Jihadist attack kills dozens in Burkina Faso

Several dozen soldiers were killed

on March 28th in a presumed jihadist attack in the east of Burkina Faso, reports AFP.

The "violent attack targeted a military convoy in Diapaga", the capital of the Tapoa province in eastern Burkina Faso, "leaving several dozen dead and injuring more", AFP was told by a security source in the region.

Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been confronted with local branches of Al-Qaida and ISIS on most of its territory, as has much of the Sahel region.

## Rapid Support Forces warn war with Sudan's army not over

Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have warned that their war with the army is not over, despite the groups withdrawal from Khartoum.

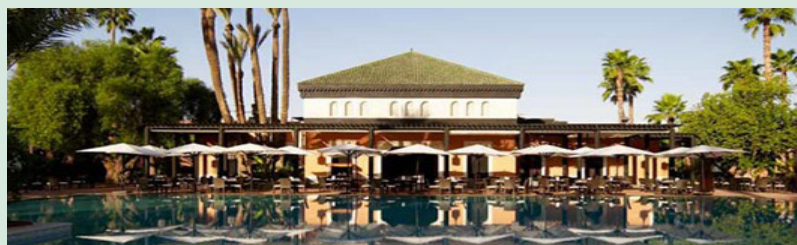
According to AfricaNews on March 31st, the RSFs commander, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, described the withdrawal as a tactical repositioning.

Dagalo said the RSF would return to Khartoum "stronger, more powerful, and victorious".

## Sudan: Residents welcome return of the army near Khartoum

Residents of an area about 40 km south of Khartoum welcomed army soldiers who reclaimed the area from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group, according to Africa News on March 28th.

The Allafah neighbourhood is home to the now destroyed Allafah market, one of the biggest in the area. People there said that they had been living in fear and were happy to see army soldiers.





Funerals took place on Monday for medics killed in Gaza

## United Nations warns of surge in aid worker deaths

The United Nations has reported a 137% increase in aid worker deaths in 2023, whilst 2024 was the worst year on record.

According to AfricaNews, this comes just days after the grave of 15 aid workers were discovered in southern Rafah. "Humanitarian workers are being killed in unprecedented numbers. According to available data, 2024 was the worst year on record, with 377 aid workers killed across 20 countries. "This was almost 100 more fatalities than in 2023, which already saw a 137 percent increase from 2022," said Joyce Msuya, assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and deputy emergency relief coordinator."

## Four killed in US strikes on Yemen

Four people were killed in a series of US airstrikes targeting Houthi rebels overnight on April 1st.

According to The New Arab, the strikes primarily hit Houthi-controlled water infrastructure in the city of Hodeidah and targeted the

group's northern stronghold in Saada. The US military has yet to officially confirm whether it carried out these strikes.

## Senior Israeli official warns that Al-Sharaa is the enemy

A senior Israeli official has warned that Syrian Interim President Al-Sharaa's growing relationship with Turkey is a threat to Israel.

Reported by Asharq Al-Awsat on April 2, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz has quoted the senior official as saying, "he is a classic Islamist and clearly our enemy – without a doubt."

Israel continues to establish strategic positions in occupied areas of Syria as neighboring Turkey seeks to establish diplomatic ties with the new government as rumours escalate of Turkish military bases being agreed upon on Syrian territory.

## Cairo's caution: Egypt keeps Syria's new regime at arm's length

Egypt maintains cautious diplomatic relations with Syria following

Bashar Al-Assad's fall.

Despite interim Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa attending Cairo's Arab summit, Egypt showed restraint with a low-level reception.

According to Middle East Monitor, President Al-Sisi's concerns include potential revolutionary spillover, the Syrian harbouring of Egyptian opposition figures, and Turkish influence in Damascus.

Egypt has set clear conditions for normalising relations, including non-interference in Egyptian affairs and no support for Islamist groups. Full diplomatic normalisation appears unlikely until Syria addresses Cairo's security concerns.

## Egypt: Tourists killed after tourist submarine sinks

Six tourists were killed in Egypt when a submarine carrying Russian citizens sank off the Red Sea coastline, on 27th March according to the local governor's office, which may discourage the influx of Russians, which plays an increasingly large part in the local areas tourism industry, as written by Asharq Al-Awsat.

The Russian consulate in Hurghada, Egypt, said the submarine, named "Sindbad", had 45 Russian tourists on board in addition to crew members. It said four people had died but did not specify if they were Russian.

"Most of those on board were rescued and taken to their hotels and hospitals in Hurghada," the consulate said, adding that the fate of several tourists was still being clarified.

Local media reported that rescue

teams had saved 29 of the 45 passengers.

## MP claims he wants Israel to "cleanse" Gaza of Palestinians

Amit Halevi, a member of Israel's ruling Likud party has said he wants to "cleanse" the Gaza Strip of Palestinians before they launch another attack, according to Middle East Eye on April 1st.

The MP told Radio 103FM on Sunday that "occupation is the nature of war".

"We want to occupy the territory to cleanse it of the enemy – otherwise, it will kill your children and kidnap your grandchildren again," he said.

## Syria: Autonomous Administration criticizes new government

The Kurdish Autonomous Administration in Syria has criticized the lack of diversity in the new Syrian transitional government. Reported by Asharq al-Awsat on March 31, the new 23-minister government lineup was announced on Saturday 29, vowing to rebuild a "strong and stable state."

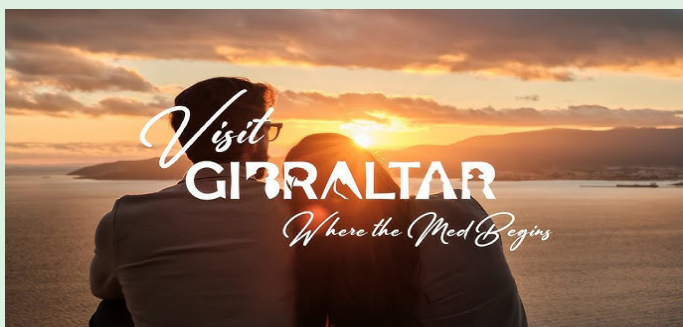
Whilst the lineup includes a member of the Alawites, the Druze, and the Christians, the autonomous authorities of the Kurds have said it does not provide fair and real representation for all Syrian people, saying it will not abide by the new government's decisions

## US-Iran tensions rise amid retaliation threats

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned of a strong retaliation if the US or its allies bomb Iran, following threats by President Donald Trump, reports The New Arab on March 31st.

Trump stated that Iran must agree to a nuclear deal or face military action, prompting Iran to summon the Swiss envoy representing US interests.

While Iran rejects direct talks under pressure, it has left the door open for indirect negotiations through intermediaries like Oman.





**Nabila Ramdani**

Childish drawings were used to “explain” the need for indigenous Arab and Berber Muslims to bow down or die during the French occupation of Algeria. Villages facing destruction were plastered with posters containing scribbled images of a school and a Tricolour flag, juxtaposed with a widowed mother-and-child, a bloody corpse and a house on fire. The psychological choice was easy: accept the “peace and protection of France” or suffer the lethal consequences.

If such barbaric logic sounds familiar today, it is because Israel is using it to try and “legitimise” the mass slaughter of Palestinians. More than 50,000 of them — many women and children — have been killed, and tens of thousands more maimed, over the past 17 months alone. All the evidence points to a full-blown genocide, as Israel attempts to ethnically cleanse territory it covets under the guise of “self defence”.

Turning Gaza, and increasingly the West Bank, into a near-permanent field of fire was this time precipitated by the Hamas-led incursion by armed militants into what they viewed as occupied Palestine on 7 October 2023. The Israeli military reported mainly young men breaching 119 locations, including military installations and settlements.

Almost 1,200 Israelis were killed, including unarmed civilians, as well as soldiers, police, and members of the Shin Bet security agency, many at the hands of the Israeli army. In turn, 1,609 of the Palestinian raiders — at least 409 more than the Israeli victims — were killed on sight on the day itself. Many were liquidated by high-tech Israeli weaponry which was also blamed for killing Israelis. They became victims of the so-called Hannibal Directive, the controversial procedure that condones Israelis killing their own if it prevents soldiers being kidnapped.

Atrocities in communities such as Be’eri — a kibbutz founded in 1946 — included the killing of residents, but initial Israeli claims about the rape of teenagers, and the murder of babies and a pregnant woman there were made-up. In turn, Israeli politicians and their apologists continue to use the horror of 7 October to suggest that their own murderous revenge campaigns in Gaza and on the West Bank are a reasonable consequence. They even consider

## French occupation of Algeria mirrors Israel-Gaza Genocide

that the release of Israelis who were taken captive by the Palestinians, and who are being held in unknown locations across Gaza, is somehow best achieved by reducing the blighted strip of land to rubble.

Never mind the rulings of the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court pointing to genocide, and the arrest warrants for the most senior Israeli politicians, the carnage is unrelenting.

The asymmetrical nature of the fighting is, of course, typical of the Israel-Palestine conflict that has raged continually since 1948, when Israel was founded with the support of western powers prepared to give it all the weapons it needed to settle on land that belonged to others.

As now, the rationale was that everybody must comply with the requirements of Israeli hegemony — including land theft and the subjugation of identity — or else collective punishment would continue. In this sense, comparisons with the Algerian struggle against French colonisers are entirely appropriate, and indeed a route to try and work out what the future might hold.

The year 1830 was Algeria’s 1948, when an invasion from Europe led to Marshal Thomas-Robert Bugeaud, France’s first governor-general of Algeria, telling the Paris parliament: “Wherever there is fresh water and fertile land, there one must locate colons, without concerning oneself to whom these lands belong.” The colons — short for colonisers — in Algeria came from all over Europe, and often from very troubled backgrounds. They aimed to impose themselves on a land populated by those they considered inferior.

“As now, the rationale was that everybody

must comply with the requirements of Israeli hegemony [...] or else collective punishment would continue. In this sense, comparisons with the Algerian struggle against French colonisers are entirely appropriate”

Local Muslims were, at best, viewed as being useful as servants, and those that actively resisted the invaders could expect to be tortured, imprisoned without trial, and — ultimately — exterminated. Hence French forces creating the world’s first primitive gas chambers, filling caves with noxious fumes in order to asphyxiate a detested underclass, while regularly carrying out other crimes against humanity.

As in Palestine, the savagery was naturally met with resistance, as Arab and Berber Muslims formed themselves into guerrilla groups, notably the FLN, National Liberation Front. It was founded at the start of the Algerian War in 1954, prosecuting a successful struggle that resulted in independence in 1962.

France originally fought back with all its might, deploying the latest in military technology, including fighter jets to indiscriminately obliterate towns and villages. Bombers carried payloads full of Napalm — petrochemical “special barrels” according to the jargon of the time.

Again, as in Palestine, the warped rationale was that every Muslim man, woman and child in occupied Algeria was either a “human shield” or a “terrorist”. Worse still, the propaganda portrayed such Arabs and Berbers as sub-humans: sexual deviants and uneducated oafs who were not fit to play a part in civilised society, not least of all because they were brown-skinned and from the wrong monotheistic religious tradition.

The historic deceit of Africa being populated by



**French soldiers marching with Algerian prisoners in 1956. The French colonial past in Algeria is a trauma that continues to shape modern France.**



A Palestinian woman holding her baby in the middle of rubble following an attack

dangerous savages also extended to the colons' view of the Middle East. Hence Israeli officials using terms such as "human animals", as they pulverise mosques, hospitals, schools and apartment blocks in Gaza, along with everyone in them.

"There was no such thing as Palestinians," said the late Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, to try and legitimise the never-ending persecution of unwanted Palestinians. As now, billions of dollars-worth of arms and aid poured into a land that Ukraine-born and American-educated Meir considered her own.

Such a mindset still dominates the thinking of Israeli leaders, as evidenced by Benjamin Netanyahu, the current prime minister and alleged war criminal. Beyond revelling in the destruction of Gaza, Netanyahu has expressed his support for American president Donald Trump's demonic scheme to force two million Palestinians out of Gaza so that it can be turned into a Florida-style beach resort.

What men like Trump and Netanyahu need to do is note the position of a seemingly invincible France just before its capitulation to the FLN in 1962. Despite civilian kill counts mounting, and

the western military-industrial complex putting weapons into the French armoury, the international community was becoming more and more disgusted.

France knew it could never integrate an Arab and Berber population it had treated abominably for decades, and it no longer had the stomach to uphold its rule through permanent conflict. Telling Algerians that they could choose between "peace and protection" or non-stop horror simply exacerbated the situation, and made the colons want to flee. They did in their hundreds of thousands — so ending 132 years of ruthless occupation.

If, as currently seems certain, the Israelis have given up on the two-state solution, and simply want Palestinian communities they abhor to be killed or disappear, they may well find that similar pressure becomes too much to bear.

*The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Maghrebi.org. Nabila Ramdani is a French-Algerian author who works as an academic, journalist and broadcaster, mainly covering France and the Arab and Muslim World. She has regularly reported from the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Gaza and Israel. Nabila's first book is entitled Fixing France: How to Repair a Broken Republic published by PublicAffairs and Hurst.*

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