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ANAVAD AQVAYLI UŞDİL
GOUVERNEMENT PROVISOIRE KABYLE
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF KABYLIA



November 18, 2024

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senator
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
United States

This material is distributed by Elisabeth R. Myers on behalf of The Movement for Self-Determination of Kabylia. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Re: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM
FERHAT MEHENNI TO MARCO RUBIO ON HIS APPOINTMENT
AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ref: ASAN/24/KAB-US/XXX

My warmest congratulations on behalf of the Kabyle Government in Exile (Anavad), the Movement for Self-Determination of Kabylia (MAK), and on my own behalf, on your appointment as Secretary of State of the United States of America.

President-Elect Donald J. Trump's decision to nominate you for this position, as prestigious as it is strategic, sends a strong message to the enemies of freedom and comforts the defenders of the Free World.

Thank you for your courage in trying to reason with Algeria about its close relations with Vladimir Putin's Russia, relations which, unfortunately, serve neither peace nor stability in our region. Algeria is heir to the piracy and terrorism opposed by the original American Founding Fathers,¹ and we continue our peaceful fight against its colonialism.

Your foresight and your firmness in defending democratic principles are glimmers of hope for oppressed peoples, such as those in Kabylia. The Kabyle people, who love freedom, justice, and democracy, will be eternally grateful to you for your support in favor of respect for our fundamental rights, including that of self-determination.

Your remarkable career and your commitment to justice and freedom command our admiration and inspire hope throughout the world.

The effectiveness of your activity as Vice Chairman of the Intelligence Committee and distinguished member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has been recognized by all, and we have each time saluted your firm positions.

We applauded your September 14, 2022, call upon Secretary of State Antony Blinken to impose sanctions against Algeria for its massive purchases of Russian arms, reminding him that the President delegated this authority to the Secretary of State under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017, which requires the U.S. government to impose sanctions on entities conducting significant transactions with the Russian defense or intelligence sectors.

As undoubtedly you know, Algeria has become the 3rd largest customer of Russian arms (14.9%), just after India (23.3%) and China (18.2%). While Algeria accounted for more than 50% of Russian arms

¹ See Letter of Thomas Jefferson to John Paul Jones, United States Consul in Algiers (June 1, 1792) (available at <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-24-02-0001>) (instructing the consul regarding the hostage-taking of American citizens by Algerian privateers and negotiation with the then-Algerian government to get them back).

exports to the MENA region between 2000 and 2016, Algeria purchased 73% of its weapons from Russia between 2018 and 2022.

Previously, on July 9, 2021, you sent a letter to the Secretary of State, expressing your concern and requesting urgent action to halt the increasing persecution of religious minorities in Algeria, a letter co-signed with Senator Ben Cardin, with whom I discussed the Kabyle issue during my visit to Washington on May 1, 2023.

To this day, the Algerian government refuses to reopen the many Protestant churches that have been systematically closed since 2018, including the Full Gospel Church in Tizi Ouzou. It is the largest Protestant church in Kabylia, with more than 1,200 members. It has been closed since 2019.

On June 15, 2023, during a visit to Moscow, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune continued to praise the dictator Putin by declaring, "In a world marked by high tensions, we wish to join BRICS as soon as possible to leave the Dollar and Euro zone." Tebboune also said, "It is thanks to Russia that Algeria obtained a non-permanent member seat on the UN Security Council."

Kabylie and Israel, both on good terms with Morocco, are two of the few democracies in the MENA region in these extraordinarily dangerous times.

On September 4, 2024, two British law firms (Brick Court Chambers and Twenty Essex Chambers) issued a Legal Opinion stating that the Kabyle people have a right to self-determination. That is why we plan to unilaterally proclaim the independence of Kabylia in 2025.

Your explicit support for peoples like ours, aspiring to regain the independence they lost in 1857, would be a source of immense hope in the stability of the region.

I reiterate our desire to collaborate with you and the US administration to promote the universal values that unite us. Together, we can open a new chapter for the Mediterranean through the event of an independent Kabylia.

I send my most sincere wishes for success in the accomplishment of your high functions at the Department of State and assure you of my availability for any exchange that could contribute to strengthening our political, economic, and security relations.

Yours sincerely,

Ferhat Mehenni
President of the Kabyle Government in Exile (Anavad)
President of the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylie (MAK)
In Exile (Paris)

