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Via email

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

First, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment and confirmation as Secretary of State.

Second, two and a half years ago you wrote a [letter](#) to your predecessor expressing serious concern over the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria's defense procurement from the Russian Federation and called for sanctions. Since then, the situation has only worsened.

Algeria's defense budget is currently the largest in Africa, with a whopping \$25 billion having been allocated for 2025, more than three times the \$7 billion you expressed concern about on September 14, 2022. Algeria continues to turn eastward and acquire arms and weaponry from Russia, further escalating the arms race with Morocco, the US's oldest ally, and the possibility of war between the two rivals.

As you know, Algeria has deep ties with Venezuela and is a principal trading partner and historical ally of Cuba. Algeria and Cuba have worked together for decades to destabilize the Sahara, propping up the Polisario Front as well as other terrorist groups in North Africa and the Sahel.

An emerging significant political counter force in the region of North Africa is the Movement for Self-Determination of Kabylia (MAK) and the Kabyle Government in Exile (known as Anavad). Anavad and MAK are principal opponents of the Algerian authoritarian regime, and they enjoy the growing support of millions of the 12 million strong Kabyles in the country and abroad.

Last year, two chambers of British barristers issued a [Legal Opinion](#) finding that the Kabyle people are a "people" within the meaning of international law and the UN Charter and that they have the human right to self-determination.

MAK continues to peacefully, and relentlessly, advocate for its repressed people and to march toward establishing a pluralistic, democratic state, unlike the undemocratic, demagogic, military-religious oligarchy of Algeria that in no way represents the voice of the people.

On January 30, 2025, UN Special Rapporteur Mary Lawlor [expressed](#) her dismay that more than a year after her visit to Algeria, human rights defenders including lawyers are “still being arbitrarily arrested, judicially harassed, intimidated and criminalised for their peaceful activities” pursuant to Article 87 bis of Algeria’s Penal Code, “a vaguely worded counter-terrorism provision that is often misused to crackdown on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly,” she said. Her statement was endorsed by two other UN special rapporteurs.

In contrast, Anavad is committed to democratic values such as free elections, free expression, and freedom of religion, and upholding a constitution that is based in large part on the Constitution of the United States. The Kabyle Constitution cites as authority the US Declaration of Independence.

Anavad values the rule of law and justice. Unlike Algeria which supports actual terrorist groups, Anavad is working every day to realize a stable, democratic, and prosperous region where all people can thrive.

The best way to weaken Algeria’s negative influence in the region is to encourage and support those who value the principles of liberty and justice for all.

To that end, on behalf of Ferhat Mehenni, the President of Anavad, I would like to request a meeting with you and/or your delegate to discuss how to exert pressure on Algeria to halt its human rights abuses, address the Kabyle people’s legitimate claims, and discuss how Kabylia can work with the United States toward stabilizing Africa and promoting democratic principles and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth R. Myers
US Counsel for the Movement for Self-Determination of Kabylia

Cc: The 27 Congressmembers who signed a September 29, 2022 [letter](#) led by Lisa McClain expressing concerns similar to those in the Sept 14, 2022 Rubio letter (via email)

Representative Maria Elvira Salazar (via email)
Representative Carlos Jimenez (via email)
Representative Mario Diaz Balard (via email)