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CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS

ALGERIA¹

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- ‘Ordonnance n° 11-01 du 20 Rabie El Aouel 1432 correspondant au 23 février 2011 portant levée de l'état d'urgence’, *Journal officiel de la République Algérienne N° 12*, 20 Rabie El Aouel 1432, 23 février 2011, 4
<www.joradp.dz/FTP/jo-francais/2011/F2011012.pdf>
- Letter from Mourad Benmehidi, Algerian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN to Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General (25 February 2011)
<<http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2011/CN.142.2011-Eng.pdf>>

On 25 February 2011, Mourad Benmehidi, Algerian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN notified the UN Secretary-General that his country had ceased its state of emergency in place since 9 February 1992.²

The notification was submitted in fulfillment of Algeria's obligations under Article 4(3) of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* which requires States to notify the Secretary-General when measures taken in derogation of the Covenant cease to have effect.

The state of emergency was proclaimed in 1992 to facilitate the government's response to Islamist militants during the country's civil war. However, that civil war is generally agreed to have ended with the introduction of the *Civil Amnesty Law*³ in 1999 and with the presidential decree of 10 January 2000⁴ granting amnesty to fighters willing to lay down their arms. Despite the significant reduction in violence following these amnesty arrangements, the state of emergency was not repealed, leading to criticisms from various NGO groups.

This notification appears to be a formal recognition of the conclusion of the 1990s civil war by returning the State to a situation where it is again obliged to meet all obligations under the ICCPR.

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¹ Information and commentaries by James Ellis, BA/LLB (Melb).

² See ‘Décret présidentiel n° 92-320 du 11 août 1992 complétant le décret présidentiel n° 92-44 du 9 février 1992 portant l'instauration de l'état d'urgence’, *Journal officiel de la République Algérienne N° 61*, 11 août 1992, 1322–1323 <http://www.joradp.dz/JO8499/1992/061/F_Pag.htm>.

³ See ‘Décret présidentiel n° 2000-03 du 4 Chaoul 1420 correspondant au 10 janvier 2000 portant grâce amnistiante’, *Journal officiel de la République Algérienne N° 1*, 6 Chaoul 1420, 12 janvier 2000, 3, <<http://www.joradp.dz/HFR/Index.htm>>.

⁴ See ‘Loi n° 99-08 du 29 Rabie Al Aouel 1420 correspondant au 13 juillet 1999 relative au rétablissement de la concorde civile’, *Journal officiel de la République Algérienne N° 46*, 29 Rabie Al Aouel 1420, 13 juillet 1999, 3 <<http://www.joradp.dz/HFR/Index.htm>>.