

Algeria's Security Policy To Address Security Threats In The African Sahel Region.



Wafa BOURAS

University of Batna1, Algeria, wafa.bouras@univ-batna.dz

Research laboratory: LSRMPUDI

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Abstract:

Algeria has been able to play a leading role in the African Sahel region and has long become a focus and driver of events and Algeria's policy in the region is permanent and unwavering based on maintaining the security of its borders with the States of the region as part of the protection of its national security linked to the immunization of borders, Algeria has therefore endeavoured to contain the crises in the region, which have become a direct threat to Algeria's national security. It has also sought to confront Western policies, some of which have become obstacles to Algeria's security system, jointly with the States of the region. In this way, Algeria adopts a multidimensional security approach to address security threats in the Sahel's logic. This study clarifies Algeria's security policy towards the African Sahel, which is at present at the centre of its foreign and security policies because of its vital importance to its security and national interest.

Keywords: Security Policy; Security Threats; Algeria; African Sahel Region.

* Corresponding author: Wafa BOURAS, wafa.bouras@univ-batna.dz

Introduction:

Security policy is central to international action strategies in the light of new shifts that have affected the shape and structure of international policy interactions. Public policy is a specific method of action taken by society or by representatives of this community to address a security problem in order to achieve the general interest of all members of society or of a specific group. In the literature of international relations, the debate over the meaning and importance of security for political groups has long been central, especially in the light of the dual threat and survival, which clearly reflects the dynamism of the international security environment in an attempt to seek the logic of security today in global politics. The African Sahel has become one of the geopolitical areas of interest to regional and international actors. And research and study centers right now, unlike before the Cold War era, where they were strategically, economically and politically marginalized... after the end of the Cold War, security became the difficult equivalent of government agendas. The world's major transformations have affected the security and stability of many countries. s military ", owing to the emergence of previously ineffective threats under the hegemony of analogue threats emanating from the military power of States. As a result of the region's evolution through historical extension, it has been exposed to many threats as a result of the repercussions of the strategic importance of geographical location, the availability of economic potential, the effects of ethnic conflicts and the fragility of political systems.

In the light of this introduction, the main problem addressed in our study is that:

To what extent has Algeria's security policy been able to address security threats in the African Sahel?

1. Algerian security doctrine, Concept and foundations:

a. Concept of security doctrine:

A State's security doctrine means a set of opinions, beliefs and principles that constitute an intellectual system of State security. and how to deal with challenges and threats. The security doctrine is a security perception that defines the methodology by which the State approaches its security and how best to achieve it. The terms of reference of this doctrine are usually theoretical theses adopted by the State and decision makers. and can take ideological language if it reaches the thinktank that provides certain interpretations of reality and consequently adopts the forces in force in the security sphere of these interpretations and visions. (Fominaya 2010)

The security doctrine is important as a guide to and determination of the State's internal and external security political leaders. and hence the relationship between security doctrine and foreign policy, Noting the growing impact of the

security doctrine as including organizing principles that help statesmen define and prioritize the geopolitical interests of their State and help the State to interact with significant and underlying threats and challenges to its security at time levels. (Francis, 2004)

The State's security doctrine is meant by the totality of opinions, beliefs and principles that constitute an intellectual regime for the issue of security in the State. States adopt this doctrine when it comes to dealing with the challenges and issues they face. This doctrine also gives it the possibility to interpret the totality of events of a security nature and in general it can be said that the security doctrine of the State is usually the tool through which States define the threats, risks and challenges they face. and thus it is the difference in States' security doctrines that determines the difference and nature of the risks and threats they face.

The security doctrine represents a security development that defines the methodology by which the State approaches its security. and also identifies how best to achieve it, and the reference to this doctrine is usually based on theoretical theses adopted by the State and its decision makers, It can also take an ideological tone if it reaches the point of a homogeneous and harmonious intellectual system that provides certain interpretations of reality. interpretations and perceptions. (atia, 2014)

b. Algerian security doctrine mechanisms:

Algeria has worked to implement a range of mechanisms and foundations at the internal and external levels, including political-economic and development mechanisms, social and cultural, religious and intellectual, among others (Chabal, 1999).

❖ Internal mechanisms:

- ✓ **Political mechanisms:** Algeria has strengthened its legal arsenal and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. Algeria is now a party to international human rights instruments and mechanisms. Among the main measures taken are the following: The National Reconciliation Policy is preceded by the policies of compassion and civil harmony. This Bill presents three phases: the Compassion Act enacted in 1995, followed by the policy of civil harmony launched by referendum in 1999, and the National Reconciliation Charter approved by ballot in 2005 (Baylis, Steve, 2005).
- ✓ **Historical Mechanisms:** The French occupation of Algeria played a major role in enabling the European civilization project through its military and administrative institutions s identity ", colonialism had worked relentlessly to obliterate Algerian personality and identity, However, this was met with resistance that took many forms, whether by uprising or by peaceful political action. armed action to restore national sovereignty, The

liberation revolution contributed to the design of the political, social and economic landscape that characterized Algeria after the removal of the French colonizer. The process of building the State, building its security doctrine and charting its obligations internally and externally.

- ✓ **Cultural and social mechanisms:** Several international events were organized, Algeria, the capital of Arab Culture, the 2009 African Cultural Festival, touching the capital of Islamic Culture in 2011, and many libraries were established, as indicated by these events and festivals, which took place normally without any incidents.
- ✓ **Religious and intellectual mechanisms:** The Algerian State's work was based on the restoration and consolidation of religious repertoire through several exchanges:
 - Improve the composition of imams for the management of mosques
 - Preservation of religious unity and religious references
 - Inclusion of the topic of prevention of violent extremism in the speeches of imams.
 - The launch of the Association of Scholars in Sahel States for moderate Islam.

❖ **External mechanisms:**

Within the framework of Algeria's international relations, the security change has always been one of the most important dimensions of Algerian diplomacy. This is clearly reflected in its distinctive role as a mechanism to gain international recognition and support for the process of national liberation and the building of the modern Algerian State, as demonstrated by the broad and clear movement of Algerian diplomacy simultaneously and the significant security adjustments resulting from the crises in Libya 2011 and Mali 2014. This diplomacy is essentially based on a constitutionally established security doctrine through Chapter 3 Part One of the Articles from Article 26 to Article 28, "Non-interference in the internal affairs of neighbouring Uruguay, which means mutual respect for the political, economic and social systems of neighbouring Territories in accordance with the boundary rule inherited from colonialism and the establishment of the notion of the sanctity of borders and positive good-neighbourliness, and the principle of cooperation between neighbouring States accompanied by the principle of peaceful resolution of disputes and non-use of force.

2- Algeria's strategies in addressing security threats in the African coast:

The intersection of security issues and the increasing security exposure in the African Sahel region today were the result of the worsening internal crises that have affected all aspects of society's social, economic, even political and cultural. In particular, after the end of the cold war, however, the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001 and the outbreak of Arab revolutions made the region an unprecedented international and regional concern. and expressed through the development of strategies for such threats affecting the region, We recall in particular Algeria's security strategy and policies, which depend on a series of measures to contain security threats in the region. in particular the phenomenon of terrorism, organized crime, the arms trade and the seduction of most threats to States' national security (benantar, 2005).

In this context, we address Algeria's various policies and strategies in dealing with threats of all kinds in the Sahel region.

The negative security backlashes of the protest movement in a number of Moroccan countries, particularly those resulting from the Libyan crisis, have further confirmed Algeria's security relationship and its severity in its dependence on the security dynamics of the African coast. As Algeria's southern borders and Mauritania were exposed, Algeria felt early about the consequences of the security deterioration in the Sahel, which is being conferred on its security: Terrorist threats have increased and marked a marked rise in criminal activity. and armed robbery and resumption of rebel movements in some coastal areas as a result of the Libyan conflict, which quickly reflected Algeria's external behaviour, which has long maintained that the Territory represents an extension of its national security area, To find themselves in front of the inevitability of interacting with these dynamics and fulfilling their regional role s security policies ", reflecting its ideas, perceptions and security policies on how to confront threats (alchokri).

a- Algeria's counter-terrorism and organized crime strategy:

Algeria has been a leading country in the fight against terrorism since the beginning of the 1990s, successfully weakening armed terrorist groups and clamping down on their leadership. Algeria's experience in the fight against terrorism emerged after the events of 11 September 2001 after it was in international isolation and fighting terrorism on its own in the 1990s, becoming a leading point in the fight against terrorism (Esposti, 2015).

Threats to Algeria ' drugs, for human trafficking and arms (for supply and financing of its activity because of the sources of funding and supply that relied on it in the 1990s). In this regard, Algerian inquiries into the armed attack at the end of June 2010 in Tien Zawtin Tamanrast, which resulted in the assassination of 12 Algerian border guards, revealed al-Qa 'idah's involvement in it, and that the attack facilitated the smuggling of seven typhoons from the treated cave into Algerian territory. This operation is in addition to other attacks against Algerian customs

teams, the most important of which was the killing by the Salafist group of 13 customs officers in 2006, as well as armed attacks against border guards in Bashar State, known as a smuggling corridor.

The region has for some time experienced a serious phenomenon led by fanatical groups, successfully paralysing Mali's regime, which has been in various crises. As in a number of African States as well, perhaps the main common feature of all terrorist movements is that they start with violence using different means. In terms of their objectives, all of them were to dislodge the governing regimes, and some of them were demanding a single slogan in which the so-called " This is what obliged Algeria to introduce effective measures to contain and eliminate such threats.

In this context, Algeria has been able to strengthen its international efforts in the framework of coordination and cooperation and the elaboration of a joint strategy to combat terrorism in the Sahel region, particularly the continent of Africa in general, by expanding security and military coordination to several other countries in the region in the context of border control and counter-terrorism operations. to eight African States after the conviction of the States to join the Algerian endeavour after the crisis in Libya, The security agreements signed by Algeria with the eight African States strengthen security on the borders between these countries, require arms smuggling and counter terrorist threats by sharing intelligence information (Kpundh, 1994).

Organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, poses a new threat to Algeria's security, adversely affecting all Algerian security reference units (State, society and individual society), which also require comprehensive security strategies, i.e. based on military and non-military (judicial, economic and social) responses. Geographical proximity factors to drug production and transit areas in sub-Saharan Africa have contributed) The Gulf of Guinea, in addition to Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon.) Such weak criminal regimes in sub-Saharan Africa, the nature of the structure of wars and conflicts, and Algeria's exposure from the South due to the weak security coverage of its southern border exacerbated the negative impact of drugs on the security of Algerian society and individuals.

The figures for the quantity of cocaine, cocaine and heroin seized in Algeria each year and capable of tons, together with hundreds of thousands of hallucinogenic tablets, indicate the seriousness of the threat from drugs and their smuggling and trafficking networks to Algeria's security.

The coast is an ideal area for arms traffic. Demand has become intense because of many conflicts. It is estimated that there are about 80 thousand Kalashnikov weapons, fuelling criminal networks engaged in smuggling and terrorist groups. This phenomenon has increased in a large and accelerated manner

and the return of Tuareg, Muammar al-Qadhafi, as a result of the Libyan crisis and the fall of a regime with which they fought heavily.

b- Combating illegal migration strategy:

French demographic scientist Alfred Sophie summarizes the problem of migration by saying, "Either wealth is gone where there are human beings or human beings are gone where wealth is 16 as a result of the strategic position occupied by Algeria". Sahelo-Saharan States, which mediate the Arab Maghreb's vast borders with the Sahelo-Saharan States such as the Niger and Mali, This situation has formed a transit point and destination for regimes of Africans and has become embraced by numbers of migrants infiltrating across borders using multiple roads and means ", where these regimes have found areas for their movement and passage in the states of the Great South, As well as some western regions to reach Europe, in recent years the phenomenon has deepened in Algeria, from a transit State to a source State, Algeria has therefore taken a variety of measures, including legal, security and foreign cooperation, to combat this phenomenon (choukri, 1992).

Illegal migration has been and continues to be a security threat to the stability of States. Algeria, among them, is hardly spared from this phenomenon, which it criminalized in its recent amendment of the Penal Code. To attempt to develop a criminal policy that would reduce this crime by providing for it and imposing its own penalties, as well as security strategies and policies that would add to the penal aspect in addressing it. Algeria has not neglected the economic aspect, which is one of the most important and significant causes of this phenomenon. This is done through the creation of economic strategies. Nevertheless, this crime continues to advance the security problems in the African Sahel region, as well as the problems associated with terrorist crimes and crimes related to the threat of illegal migration. The latter is one of the problems that has been and continues to be of concern to Governments and public opinion, and which is of concern to the States of the world because they have become at the forefront of States' concerns, because of the challenges that have adversely affected their stability and security.

Algeria, like the countries of the world, has developed a series of strategies and policies to reduce the phenomenon of illegal migration in the Sahel region, through which it has tried to address it in accordance with a number of strategies: Among them are legal, security and economic. According to the latter, it sought to combat this phenomenon, which accompanies a range of other crimes such as the crime of terrorism, the crime of trafficking in human beings, the crime of narcotics, etc., which threatens the security of the countries of the African Sahel region.

Until very recently, there had been no legislation addressing irregular migration in Algeria, where it had grown considerably in recent years, and had

become an exporter of illegal immigrants after it had been a transit State. The means of control had been limited to information campaigns and imam speeches in Masjid, and in a climate of great discontent by deputies in Algeria's Parliament and other organizations. Until the enactment of the 2009 law criminalizing illegal immigration under the heading "Offences against laws relating to the departure of the national territory" (Act No. 1-09 of 25 February 2009), article 175 bis. (Kpundh, 1994)

Algeria has also endeavoured to intensify its efforts to protect and safeguard the country's land, maritime and even air borders.

- Command of GGF border guard units
- Border Police interests.
- Central Office for Combating Illegal Migration OCLCIC.

In addition to the above, Algeria has adopted a policy of international cooperation to reduce the phenomenon of illegal migration. It has adopted a strategy consistent with the nature of this phenomenon, which is transnational in cooperation with several parties, notably the States of the European Union. One of the most important initiatives is European Initiative 5 + 5, which came to contain and blockade the range of threats coming from the south bank of the Mediterranean, including France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Malta, as well as five countries from the south bank, Algeria. Morocco, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia. The purpose of the 2003 Summit was to find a common and comprehensive approach to address the problem through genuine cooperation on illegal migration and various security issues in the African Sahel region.

Many Algerian security researchers believe that Algerian security diplomacy needs a political and security re-reading, which must include the following systems:

- To review the effectiveness of Algeria's security diplomacy and its ability to respond to the weight and geopolitical capacity of the Algerian State, and its historically active diplomacy, particularly at the diplomatic radiation stage (1960s and 1970s).
- Reconsider ensuring constitutional procedures that give the Algerian army the right to intervene and follow up on remnants of terrorist groups and hard threats from outside the State's borders, in order to ensure that such violations do not recur.
- To re-read the reality of Algerian security in a forward-looking manner that strengthens the Algerian army and ensures greater professionalism in Algeria's economic recovery, so as to ensure the strengthening of the national defence system in accordance with a mechanism that

guarantees the integrity of Algeria's borders against hard and soft threats.

The Algerian State has adopted a deliberate strategy to combat the phenomenon of illegal migration, which is based on the following three priorities:

- ✓ **Knowledge of flows:** In order to gain better control over flows, the Algerian State was aware of the need to know them. and, since 2000, the National Police has regularly published statistics on the movement of foreign populations on Algerian territory. The establishment of an Institute for Research and Studies on Migration and Disagreement concerning its affiliate has not been an obstacle to this project since the President's decision to establish a centre for documentation and statistics on migration flows with the assistance of reliable sources from bodies responsible for managing the movement of foreign populations, namely the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad. Labour, Social Solidarity, Interior, Local Units, Police, General Administration, National Security, Customs and National People's Army. (Chabal, Daloz, 1999)
- ✓ **Cooperation:** In its efforts to combat migratory flows, the Algerian authorities attach great importance to regional cooperation in order to achieve tangible results on the ground by:
 - Cooperation with European States: Cooperation with European States at both the European and bilateral levels (France, Italy and Spain) at the group level aims at the deportation of clandestine migrants and strengthening the Algerian Government's migration control capacities.
 - Regional cooperation: Algeria, by engaging the Sahelian States, is trying to link the control of illegal migration to the upgrading of the regional dynamic, in which context it participates in NEPAD and cooperates with neighbouring States' security bodies such as the Security Cooperation Agreement with Mali

Conclusion:

At the conclusion of this study, Algeria's perception of international cooperation in combating security threats in the Sahel region has been consistent with the structural and constructive components. Algeria remains a leading State in its strategy to combat such threats at the regional, international and regional levels by adopting diplomatic political and military security platforms through the conclusion of bilateral and collective agreements and the organization of international conferences in the field of counter-terrorism. organized crime, arms smuggling and other threats to the security of Sahelian States.

Algeria's security policy towards security developments in the Sahel region came through an approach that carried a range of components with diplomatic formulation such as international internal and external political dialogue and economic formula by activating and moving development towards the strengthening of defence and military capabilities through security coordination and my intelligence in order to combat all structural threats to security, especially terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel region.

Through our study we have reached a set of results:

- ❖ Algeria's policy is more procedural than substantive, as reflected in the institutional and security aspects through which it tried to strengthen borders in order to counter the legal and legislative aspects adopted by Algerian legislation.
- ❖ The growing threats in the African Sahel region constitute a threat to international peace and security for the accompanying international crimes such as international terrorism.
- ❖ The need for a robust legal system to strengthen the security and stability of the Sahel region by reducing such security threats.
- ❖ The need to explore the causes of the problem and try to balance the current solutions with the changes that the state's security interest requires.

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