

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

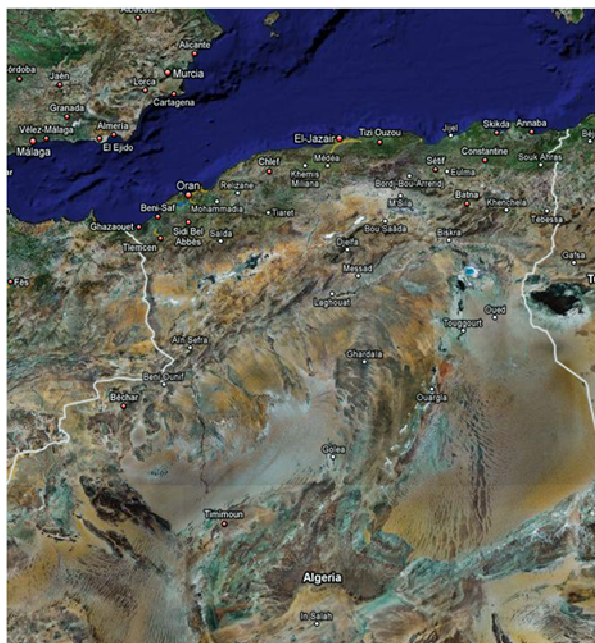
## Algeria: Bomb Explosions

Information bulletin n° 1  
21 August 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Algerian Red Crescent (Algerian RC), with the support of the International Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Three bomb blasts have affected the cities of Issers (province of Boumerdès) and Bouira, killing at least 66 people and leaving hundred of injured people.

The Algerian RC was immediately mobilized and present on the site through its Boumerdes volunteers; assessing the situation, deploying national emergency teams, helping Civil Defence in the search and rescue phase, and providing first aid and psycho-social support to affected victims.



[<click here to view a map of the affected areas, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

On 19 and 20 August, three bomb explosions occurred in Algeria; one being in Boumerdes and the other two in Bouira.

### The Situation

On 19 August 2008, more than 43 people were reported to have been killed and 40 others injured in a suicide attack at an Algerian military academy training school in Boumerdes province. The incident occurred in Issers, 55 km east of the capital Algiers. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place at around 07.30 (local time). Media reports indicate that the explosion was caused by a car bomb at the entrance to the facility, where students had gathered for an exam. The car explosion destroyed part of the outer wall of the school and blew a huge crater into the ground, about three metres (yards) from the main gate.

On 20 August 2008, a day after the Issers explosions, 23 people were killed in two successive car bomb attacks in Bouira (120 km southeast of the capital Algiers), and 31 people were injured. Two booby-trapped cars exploded at 06:00 am (local time) in Bouira, the first near a military sector headquarters which has been partly damaged by the blast and several vehicles hit, while the second occurred about 15 minutes later in front of a hotel.

These attacks are following other recent bombing. In Skikda, 350 km east of Algiers, at least 11 members of Algeria's security forces were killed and dozens were wounded on 17 August in an ambush against a military convoy using a combination of bombs and small arms fire. Further attacks are possible throughout the country

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Algerian RC headquarters was immediately informed by the National Society's committee of Boumerdes which had deployed its volunteers on the site. The intervention team was reinforced by the mobilization of several volunteers' teams from neighbouring Willayas such as Tizi Ouzou, Rouiba, and Bouira. Initial assessment was carried out by the team of Boumerdes.

After discussion with local authorities, the Algerian RC decided the following intervention and plan of action:

- To assist the Civil Defence in the search and rescue work;
- To evaluate the physical damage and assess the needs of the affected population;
- To discuss with the authorities the establishment of a psycho-social support antenna;
- To set up first aid posts on the site and tents to welcome shocked people and families;
- To provide food/water and non food items like clothes and blankets in order to cover the initial needs of the wounded people;
- To transport the dead bodies to the hospital mortuary;
- To use the national psycho-social support programme (PSP) network of the National Society to support families of young militaries killed, who were coming from different willayas of Algeria to register in the army.

The International Federation's regional representation for North Africa was immediately in contact with the Algerian RC after the bomb blasts, and is regularly briefed by the National Society headquarters in Algiers. The emergency operation is actually monitored by the National Society headquarters through the local branches of Boumerdes, Bouira, Tizi Ouzou and Blida regions. Around 90 volunteers and 15 psychologists are involved in this operation in Boumerdes, with teams (national intervention, first aid, and PSP) organized and tasks attributed to provide efficient services.

The local authorities in Boumerdès provided a youth club house to Algerian RC in order to settle their PSP antenna and be immediately operational. A local on the site was also put at the disposal of the Bouira's committee.

The group of volunteers from Bouira who were sent to support the Boumerdès team returned and 46 volunteers are working on both sites in Bouira. 10 experienced psychologists from Algerian RC PSP network are operational in helping the population.

At the present stage, Algerian RC is using its own stocks to distribute relief items and is continuing to assess the situation in close collaboration with local authorities. No specific request for assistance has been forwarded to the International Federation's regional representation. However, should the timeframe of the operation be extended, the National Society may request an allocation from the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) to re-constitute its relief stocks and provide incentives for volunteers.

During the bomb blast in December 2007 in Algiers, the Algerian RC was requested to keep its PSP antenna for a month to support the population. The disaster management coordinator of the National Society is planning a 10 days operation to support the affected population, expecting the results of the ongoing assessment to review its plan of action and needs for the operation. According to official lists, 10 National Society PSP teams in the willayas of origin of the killed or wounded people joined the Algerian RC operation and visited the families concerned, providing the needed support.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

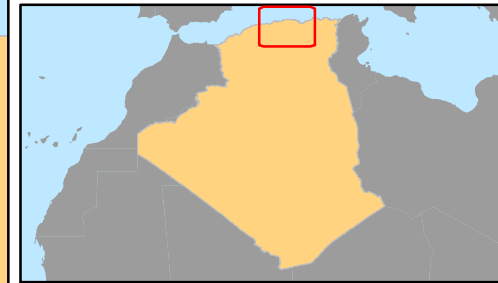
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# Algeria: Explosion



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