



## Algeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 25 January 2012

### Information on FIS.

A report issued in April 2011 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the previous year notes that:

“Membership in the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), a political party banned in 1992, remained illegal.” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Algeria*, Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government/Elections and Political Participation)

A publication by the *CIA* in December 2011 notes:

“The Government of Algeria in 1988 instituted a multi-party system in response to public unrest, but the surprising first round success of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in the December 1991 balloting spurred the Algerian army to intervene and postpone the second round of elections to prevent what the secular elite feared would be an extremist-led government from assuming power. The army began a crackdown on the FIS that spurred FIS supporters to begin attacking government targets, and fighting escalated into an insurgency, which saw intense violence between 1992-98 resulting in over 100,000 deaths - many attributed to indiscriminate massacres of villagers by extremists. The government gained the upper hand by the late-1990s, and FIS's armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, disbanded in January 2000.” (CIA (22 December 2011) *The World Factbook, Algeria*)

In July 2004 a publication by the *International Crisis Group* after commenting on FIS's link with the AIS, states:

“Since the dissolution of the AIS in 2000, the FIS as an organisation has had no connection with the armed movements still active.” (International Crisis Group (30 July 2004) *Islamism, Violence and Reform in Algeria: Turning the Page*, p.4)

An article by *Reuters* in February 2011 includes the following description, noting the:

“...disbanded Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)...” (Reuters (10 February 2011) *Algerians say they want change but not chaos*)

The *Economist Intelligence Unit* in January 2012 states:

“The new political parties law bans the creation of parties based on ethnic, linguistic or sectarian loyalties, and the government has confirmed that the existing ban on the FIS will not be lifted. On December 6th parliament voted to uphold the ban on the party, in place since 1992” (Economist Intelligence Unit (4 January 2012) *The political scene: Ban on FIS upheld*)

### References

CIA (22 December 2011) *The World Factbook, Algeria*  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ag.html>  
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<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/feature-algerians-say-they-want-change-but-not-chaos>  
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<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154458.htm>  
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## **Sources Consulted**

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European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
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International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
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