



## **Algeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 11 August 2011**

### **Who is the leader of the political movement- Al Shabab in Algeria; Where is the headquarters of Al Shabab in Algeria; Is Mostafa Rabi a prominent leader in Al Shabab or any Youth Movement in Algeria**

An interactive map produced in May 2011 by the *New York Times* outlines the areas where Al Shabab operates, which includes Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Yemen but not Algeria. (New York Times (12 May 2011) *Map of Countries Where Al Qaeda and Its Affiliates Operate*)

Citing another source a report issued in March 2011 by the *United Kingdom Home Office* states:

“Currently, the main active terrorist group is Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which prior to January 2007 was called the Groupe Salafiste de la Predication et le Combat (GSPC).” (United Kingdom Home Office (14 March 2011) *Algeria Country of Origin Information*, p.36)

Commenting on terrorism in Algeria, a report published in August 2010 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“The security situation in Algeria was marked by a decrease in the number of high-profile terrorist attacks throughout the country, although low-level terrorist activities continued in non-urban areas. The Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), which formally merged with al-Qa'ida (AQ) in 2006 and now calls itself al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), previously focused on targeting Algerian government interests and had been more averse to suicide attacks and civilian casualties.” (United States Department of State (5 August 2010) *2009 Country Reports on Terrorism – Algeria*)

The *United States Department of State* reviewing events of 2010, note in a report issued in April 2011 that:

“Most terrorist attacks during the year were attributed to the terrorist group al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which emerged in 2007 after the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat allied itself with al-Qaida in 2006.” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Algeria*, Section 1a Arbitrary or Unlawful Deprivation of Life)

A report published by *Reuters* in July 2011 states:

“Algeria, an energy exporter in North Africa, is still emerging from nearly two decades of conflict between security forces and Islamist militants that, at its peak in the 1990s, killed an estimated 200,000 people. In the past few years the violence has been reduced significantly, but the militants -- who now operate as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) -- still carry out ambushes, kidnappings and occasional bombings.” (Reuters (16 July 2011) *Algeria bombing kills at least two: security source*)

A report issued in January 2011 by the *Potomac Institute For Policy Studies/International Center For Terrorism Studies* notes:

“What is particularly of grave concern is that AQIM, jointly with the other al-Qaeda affiliates (e.g. al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – AQAP – operating in Yemen, as well as al-Shabaab members in Somalia) currently and for the foreseeable future, represent a most dangerous threat both regionally and inter-regionally.” (Potomac Institute For Policy Studies/International Center For Terrorism Studies (January 2011) *The Consequences of Terrorism: An Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb*, p.3)

A report published in July 2011 by the *Centre for Strategic and International Studies* states:

“Al Shabaab is an Al Qaeda-affiliated organisation that has risen rapidly to prominence in the midst of Somalia’s decades-long anarchy.” (Centre for Strategic and International Studies (15 July 2011) *Al Shabaab*, p.1)

This report also states:

“An aligning of interests with Al Qaeda (AQ) core since early 2008 has fundamentally transformed Al Shabaab...Al Shabaab...has also altered the makeup of its own leadership, which is now populated with AQ core members, as well as its operational strategy and training, which are now increasingly focused on suicide attacks against civilians both inside and outside Somalia.” (ibid, p. 2”)

*BBC News* in August 2011 states:

“Al-Shabab controls most of south and central Somalia, including Lower Shabelle and Bakool, the regions worst affected by the famine. On Saturday, it surprised many analysts by announcing a withdrawal of its forces from Mogadishu.” (BBC News (9 August 2011) *Somalia 'needs more AU troops' after al-Shabab pullout*)

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.

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