

# Algeria students demonstrate against 5th term for Bouteflika

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Tue, 2019-02-26 16:18

ALGIERS: Thousands of students on Tuesday joined a growing protest movement in Algeria against ailing President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's bid for a fifth term, with rallies in and around the capital and other cities.

Bouteflika, who uses a wheelchair and has rarely been seen in public since suffering a stroke in 2013, announced on February 10 that he would seek re-election in the April 18 vote.

His decision has sparked angry protests in the North African country, with tens of thousands of people taking to the streets on Friday in Algiers where demonstrations are banned.

The scale of those protests took many in Algeria by surprise, and they were followed by more rallies on Sunday and Monday.

On Tuesday it was the turn of university students to vent their anger at Bouteflika's bid to extend his 20 years in power.

Around 500 students demonstrated at the University of Algiers, many of them waving Algerian flags and shouting "No to a fifth term" and "Bouteflika get out."

University guards locked the gates of the main city center campus to prevent students from spilling onto the streets.

Security forces, including riot police, deployed outside the campus and elsewhere in central Algiers while police vehicles were parked on roads leading to the university.

Between 100 and 200 students gathered outside the university gates and later marched in the city center where they were joined by hundreds of others, an AFP reporter said.

Police at first observed them before firing tear gas grenades when some students pelted them with stones, but the confrontation was short-lived, the reporter said.

Local media and websites reported protests around Algiers and in other cities across the country.

At the faculty of journalism some 500 students protested on campus, while another demonstration took place at the school of medicine, also in Algiers, with police blocking them inside the university grounds.

"In order to avoid any confrontation with the police, the students of several faculties (of the University of Algiers) decided to rally on campus," said Raouf, a journalism student who declined to give his surname.

He noted that police officers are not allowed to enter universities in Algeria.

Protests were also reported in the cities of Annaba, Constantine, Ouargla and Tizi Ouzou, all east of Algiers, according to the TSA news website, but it was unclear how many students were taking part.

Tuesday's protest – staged under the banner “not in my name” – came in response to calls to demonstrate posted online after 11 student unions expressed their support for Bouteflika.

“We're organizing a demonstration to show that these 11 unions do not represent us,” 23-year-old civil engineering student Hakim, who also declined to give his full name, told AFP at another campus near Algiers.

According to the World Bank, one third of Algeria's population of 15 million are young people under the age of 20 and are those worst hit by unemployment. University professors have urged colleagues to back the students in a statement stressing the “duty to emulate the voice of the people who are rising against a real threat for our future and the stability of the country.”

Despite days of protest, Bouteflika's campaign director said the president's candidacy would be formally submitted on Sunday.

Dozens of people were detained in Friday's protests for “public disorder” and other acts of alleged violence.

Two days later hundreds of protesters rallied in Algiers, but they were met by a heavy police deployment and tear gas.

On Monday, around 100 lawyers demonstrated in court against a fifth term for Bouteflika.

Meanwhile press watchdog Reporters Without Borders on Tuesday accused Algerian authorities of seeking to “muzzle” media since the start of the protests.

Bouteflika, 81, who has clung to power since 1991 despite his ill health, flew to Switzerland on Sunday for what the presidency called “routine medical checks” ahead of the election.



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## [Libya's NOC chairman in UAE to discuss Sharara oilfield crisis](#)

Author:

Tue, 2019-02-26 00:37

CAIRO: Libya's state-run National Oil Corp. said on Monday its chairman Mustafa Sanalla had arrived in United Arab Emirates to meet with a number of Libyan and international parties to discuss the Sharara oilfield crisis. They would "discuss security measures necessary to find a solution to the Sharara crisis, that guarantee staff safety, and pave the way for the lifting of force majeure at the field," the statement said.



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Libya's largest oilfield remains closed  
Libya's NOC to assess security at El Sharara oilfield before resuming production

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## Kuwait marks 58th national day

Tue, 2019-02-26 00:25

CAIRO: Kuwait celebrated on Monday its national day, marking the anniversary of its 58th Independence and its 28th Liberation Days.

The National Day commemorates the creation of Kuwait as a nation in 1961, while Liberation Day marks the end of the Iraqi occupation in 1991 during the Gulf War.

Nation-wide festivities including firework displays and epic public entertainment activities.

The day also marks the 13th anniversary of Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption to power, as he he took to the throne in 2006.

Since independence, Kuwait adopted balanced national and foreign policies aimed at maintaining the wellbeing of its people and bolstering ties of cooperation with its regional neighbors.

Its Gulf neighbor, the UAE, celebrated the occasion by presenting a giant sand portrait of the Kuwaiti emir that could be visible from space.

The portrait titled 'Prince of Humanity' covers an area of more than 170,000 square feet, and has been registered to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

It was captured in a video shared on Twitter by Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE.

حب الكويت وأهل الكويت محفور في أرضنا .. ومحفور في قلوبنا .. ومحفور  
في تاريخنا... كل عام وكويت المحبة .. وأميرها أمير الإنسانية في عزة  
ورفعة وسلام [pic.twitter.com/BeFLvjx6sI](https://pic.twitter.com/BeFLvjx6sI)

– HH Sheikh Mohammed (@HHSkhMohd) [February 21, 2019](#)

Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation also marked the occasion, by holding a series of events at its various airport terminals.

Upon arrival to the Kingdom, passengers coming from Kuwait were greeted with roses, national flags of the two countries, and souvenirs in honor of the celebration.

A welcome statement was displayed on large screens inside the terminals of King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

Similar gestures were made at other Saudi airports as well.



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## [American hostage Danny Burch freed in Yemen](#)

Mon, 2019-02-25 23:37

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced Monday that an American had been freed after being held hostage in Yemen for 18 months. Danny Burch has been “recovered and reunited with his wife and children,” Trump said in a tweet.

It is my honor today to announce that Danny Burch, a United States citizen who has been held hostage in Yemen for 18 months, has been recovered and reunited with his wife and children. I appreciate the support of the United Arab Emirates in bringing Danny home...

– Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [February 25, 2019](#)

Trump did not say who had been holding Burch but he expressed appreciation for the “support of the United Arab Emirates in bringing Danny home.”

According to Burch's family, the Texas native, who has lived in Yemen for more than two decades, was kidnapped in the capital Sanaa in September 2017. A number of foreigners have been abducted in Yemen by the country's heavily armed tribes for use as bargaining chips in local disputes and there have also been some kidnappings by Al-Qaeda.

In a telephone call with AFP at the time of his kidnapping, Burch's wife, Nadia Forsa Al-Harazi, urged Houthi Shiite rebels to secure the release of her husband.

She said her husband had lived in the capital for more than 20 years and the couple had three children.

Trump said "recovering American hostages is a priority of my (administration)."

"With Danny's release, we have now secured freedom for 20 American captives since my election victory," he said. "We will not rest as we continue our work to bring the remaining American hostages back home!"



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'Houthis are our only enemy' says Yemeni army chief  
British minister emphasizes Saudi Arabia's important role in Yemen peace process

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# Harry and Meghan meet horses that heal in Morocco

Author:

AFP

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Mon, 2019-02-25 15:50

RABAT: Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan on Monday visited a stables in Morocco where horses provide a source of therapy for disabled youths, before sampling local cuisine at a project for underprivileged children. The royal couple, on their last official foreign tour before becoming parents, petted the horses and strolled hand in hand through the equestrian club in Sale in the outskirts of Rabat.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as they are formally known, met workers and disabled young people grooming horses to hear how spending time with the animals helps them to face their challenges.

Meghan chatted with several children and young adults including Zakaria, a 20-year-old with mobility issues who become an IT instructor with help from equine therapy.

The American former actress also spoke to Driss, a 24-year-old with speech difficulties, and Ikram, a 19-year-old with Down syndrome.

The couple, who married last year, appeared relaxed as they stroked horses poking their heads out of the stable doors in the morning sunshine.

A joking Harry asked if anyone had any carrots to feed to them and confided that he missed his own horses.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

A post shared by Kensington Palace (@kensingtonroyal) on Feb 25, 2019 at 5:30am PST

A heavily pregnant Meghan, wearing her hair in a pony tail, swapped her flowing beige dress of the previous evening for casual black jeans, a Breton striped shirt, green jacket and ankle boots.

Harry also dressed down with grey jeans, a light blue shirt and a black padded jacket for the visit to the Moroccan Royal Federation of Equestrian Sports.

At a later event the couple sampled Moroccan cuisine – which Meghan declared “delicious” – and heard how cooking is being used to help disadvantaged children.

They met renowned Moroccan chef Moha and tasted harira – a traditional Moroccan soup – as well as tajines, salads and couscous among other dishes. The children also made Moroccan pancakes using a recipe from a cookbook launched by Meghan last year in her first solo charity project in support of families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire disaster in London.

They joked with a group of orphans visibly daunted by their presence in the gardens of the Villa des Ambassadors hotel in Rabat.

Meghan later changed into a black pleated dress and white jacket while Harry wore a grey suit to visit the Kasbah of the Udayas, a fortress at the mouth of the Bou Regreg river.

They met artisans in the Andalusian Gardens and received gifts including a pendant, a wooden jewelry box and a leather pouf.

The couple were due to meet King Mohammed VI on Monday afternoon during what is the first British royal visit to Morocco since Prince Charles and Camilla visited the kingdom in 2011.

The focus of the three-day trip is on initiatives promoting girls' education, women's empowerment and the inclusion of people with disabilities. On Sunday the couple traveled to the foothills of the High Atlas mountains to visit a project that provides free accommodation for girls to give them access to education. Meghan received a henna tattoo during a traditional ceremony for pregnant women in the North African country. The royals watched students playing a football match and spoke to teachers before returning to the capital to attend a reception at which they met several female entrepreneurs.











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