

# Algerian National Gendarmerie

**Year of creation:** 1962

**Ministry:** Ministry of National Defense

**Status of the leader:** military

**Address of the head office or the central staff**

Route des dunes BP 28, Cheraga Rp, ALGER - Algeria

**Website :** [https://www.mdn.dz/site\\_cgn/accueil\\_fr.php](https://www.mdn.dz/site_cgn/accueil_fr.php)



## History of the Institution

Established in Algeria since June 1830, the French Gendarmerie exercised its prerogatives on this territory transformed into French departments until the independence proclaimed in 1962. The Algerian National Gendarmerie was created by ordinance n° 62-019 of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1962, signed by the President of the Provisional Executive of the Algerian State, Abder-rahmane Farès. Its first commander-in-chief was Colonel Ahmed Bencherif (1962-1977). In 1963, its personnel was given a dark green uniform and the current insignia designed by Mohamed Racem. From 1969, the Algerian National Gendarmerie accelerated the process of Arabization of its structures and the use of the Arabic language. France will participate in the training of its personnel until 1971. The number of personnel increased from 3,000 in 1962 to 10,500 in 1987.



In the 1980s, the Algerian National Gendarmerie had to deal with the Berber Spring of 1980 and the Setif riots of 1986. During this period of high social tension, a presidential decree, dated May 1988, further specifies the missions and organization of the Algerian National Gendarmerie. The body adapts to the new constitution, drafted after the October 1988 riots, which advocates democracy and multiparty system.

In 1991, this process was brutally interrupted by the electoral victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (ISF), which aimed to establish an Islamic state. Faced with a real civil war, the Algerian National Gendarmerie, with a strength of about 45,000 men, became part of the overall fight against the Armed Islamic Group (AIG). In 1999, the advent of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika brought back civil peace. The Algerian National Gendarmerie has undergone a major expansion in terms of manpower and resources since the early 2000s. The presidential decree n°009-143 of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, reorganizes the corps and strengthens it in the accomplishment of its judicial and administrative police and military missions. This decree gives it a real autonomy in terms of budget and financial management. The Algerian National Gendarmerie is opening up more to the outside world by developing cooperative relations with other gendarmeries and similar bodies in other countries.



## **Organization**

As an integral part of the National Popular Army (NPA), the Algerian National Gendarmerie is placed under the authority of the Minister of National Defense. It is commanded by a general officer, "Commander of the National Gendarmerie", appointed by presidential decree.

### **Central administration**

At the central level, the command of the Algerian National Gendarmerie is located in Chéraga, in the western suburb of Algiers. It includes an operations center (OC) articulated in 7 directions. These directorates are structured in operational divisions (11 in total) and central technical and administrative services (10 in total).

### **Territorial organization**

At the regional level, 6 regional commands correspond to the 6 military regions. At the local level, there are:

- 48 territorial groups placed at the wilaya (department) level;
- 210 territorial companies placed at the level of the daïra (district);
- 1233 territorial brigades placed at the commune level.



### Specialized training

The ANG also has:

- Law enforcement formations organized in formed units (38 intervention and reserve groups (IRG), 161 intervention squadrons and 38 intervention and neutralisation groups);
- Border guard formations: 1 central command, 5 regional districts,
- 19 groups, 77 squadrons and 173 outposts;
- Other specialized formations, among which we find:
  - The Special Intervention Detachment (SID) equivalent to the French GIGN;
  - The 11<sup>th</sup> air squadron of the National Gendarmerie.
- specialized territorial units acting in support of the territorial units: research sections attached to the groups and in charge of important judicial cases (19), crime scene cells (34), security and intervention sections (58), dog teams (293), road safety squads (37) and road safety brigades (71) attached to the groups and in charge of monitoring the road network (approximately 110,000 km), maritime brigades (12) attached to the groups and in charge of the fight against illegal immigration and trafficking,
- The national institute of criminalistics and criminology of the National Gendarmerie located in Bouchaoui (western suburb of Algiers)



## Missions

The presidential decree n°09-143 of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, on the missions and organization of the National Gendarmerie states that this institution is a military force invested with public security missions. The Algerian National Gendarmerie carries out its missions for the benefit of all ministerial departments, in particular those of the Interior, Justice and Defense. Moreover, through its border guard corps, it ensures the control of the movement of people and goods along the 6,343 km of land borders.

The Algerian National Gendarmerie must therefore deal particularly with cross-border trafficking (drugs, smuggling, weapons, etc.), terrorist groups operating mostly in rural areas, and road safety and traffic problems.

## Human resources

The Algerian National Gendarmerie has 120,000 men and women. It is made up of 3 corps: officers (5%), non-commissioned officers (54%) and auxiliary gendarmes (40%). The rest of the workforce is made up of civilians and conscripts. The institution has been feminized since 2004.

- Officers are trained over 3 years.
- Non-commissioned officers are trained over 2 years.
- Auxiliary gendarmes are recruited to serve for a maximum of 20 years.



## Training organisations

Four schools :

- National Gendarmerie School of Higher education of Officers for officers;
- Sidi-Bel-Abbès, Sétif and M'Daourouche schools for non-commissioned officers;
- 6 training centres (4 training centres for auxiliary gendarmes, a motorcycle training centre and a dog training centre in Bainem, on the suburb of Algiers).

## Special skills:

### Aeronautics

Agusta Westland AW 109 and Agusta Westland AW 109 Koala helicopters equipped with surveillance cameras.

### Armored vehicles

Egyptian Fahd 200 armored transport and combat vehicles, locally re-equipped Romanian-made LM 100, as well as French-made Panhard M3 and AML 60.

### **Individual weapons:**

Generally supplied by the Algerian military industry; this is the case for bulletproof vests, ballistic protection helmets, combat braces, Makarov semi-automatic pistols and Kalashnikov automatic assault rifles produced locally under license.



### **Links with the French Gendarmerie**

The cooperation between the Algerian and the French National Gendarmerie is particularly developed. It meets the priorities defined by the Algerians: forensic science and technical police, judicial police, road safety, specialized intervention, training of trainers and logistical support.

After several years during which health crisis and diplomatic crisis have significantly reduced the number of technical cooperation actions carried out between the French and Algerian gendarmeries (12 actions in 2019), the outlook is improving since the 8th COMIX held in Paris in December 2022 which allowed to schedule about fifteen actions for 2023.

