

Soft Security Challenges in Algeria

تحديات الأمن الناعم في الجزائر

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Abstract:

Soft security challenges in Algeria are not those significant problems that force themselves upon the Algerian government as internal or even external priorities, but they have had a significant impact on Algeria's economy, security, and even politics, particularly the problem of environmental pollution, issues with immigration, desertification, the proliferation of weapons and drugs, and diseases. These issues, which academics and researchers have not adequately addressed, are attempted to be highlighted in this essay. How far may Soft Security impede Algerian progress, particularly in the political and economic spheres, is the key research subject. The study's goal is to identify the kind of solutions Algeria is ready to use to address these issues. This study is an analytical piece that takes a "holistic approach".

Keywords: Algeria, Soft Security, Desertification, Environment Pollution, Immigrations.

ملخص:

إن التحديات الأمنية الناعمة في الجزائر ليست تلك المشكلات الكبيرة التي تفرض نفسها على الحكومة الجزائرية كأولويات داخلية أو حتى خارجية ، ولكن كان لها تأثير كبير على اقتصاد الجزائر وأمنها وحتى سياستها ، لا سيما مشكلة التلوث البيئي. الهجرة والتصحر وانتشار الأسلحة والمخدرات والأمراض. هذه القضايا ، التي لم يعالجها الأكاديميون والباحثون بشكل كاف ، يتم محاولة تسليط الضوء عليها في هذا المقال. إلى أي مدى قد يعيق الأمن الناعم التقدم الجزائري ، لا سيما في المجالين السياسي والاقتصادي ، هو موضوع البحث الرئيسي. هدف الدراسة هو تحديد نوع الحلول التي تكون الجزائر على استعداد لاستخدامها لمعالجة هذه القضايا. هذه الدراسة عبارة عن دراسة تحليلية تأخذ "مقاربة شمولية".

كلمات مفتاحية: الجزائر، الأمن الناعم، التصحر، التلوث البيئي، الهجرة.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The term Soft Security is quite vague and has its root in history, but in the wake of the Cold War, it emerged as a power that can threaten any given state, that rises from non-military sources such as irregular migration, drug trafficking, transnational crimes, desertification, infection diseases, and environment pollutions. Algeria is one of these states that have been facing that sort of Soft Security dilemma since its independence. This paper is an attempt to expose these challenges which are not exposed well by academics and researchers. The problem question of this study is: to what extent can the challenges of Soft Security be an obstacle to Algerian development mainly in the economic field political field and the development of the state? Though, the objective of the study is to point out the sorts of solutions that Algeria has been prepared to face these challenges throughout many decades. The methodology of the study is an analytical approach, within a 'holistic approach' with an understanding of the various terms of Soft Security threats in Algeria, that help to build an understanding of this study research.

Before analyzing this study, one must refer to the keywords of this research, because it is important to understand these terms, to know the way that the analytical approach is standing in this study, and the terms that the researcher used in this study are related to Algeria's main issues that have been facing since Independence.

2. The terms of the study

2.1 Soft Security

Since the end of the Cold War, the meaning of security has changed frequently. Nowadays the conventional threats still stand powerfully, such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and energy security. However, the main threats to international peace and security today, are quite different than those of previous decades. The one who coined and distinguished between hard power and soft power was Joseph Nye in 1990. (Wagner, 2014) Here, the meaning of the term that Joseph Nye raises in his book: "It is the ability to get what

you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments. It arises from the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals, and policies. When our policies are seen as legitimate in the eyes of others, our soft power is enhanced." (JOSEPH S. Nye, 2004).

2.2 Desertification

The term was used for the first time by the colonial French and British administrations in West Africa in the 1920s and 1930s. (Geert Sterk, 2020), however, the one who coined that term was Louis Lavauden who linked it to ill manage and low-productive range in Tunisia. (Geert Sterk, 2020) the term desertification finger points to one of the major problems that the World is facing today, but the international community has never given it full attention until the early 1970s when it has been recognized as a big problem. (Cullte, 2009) Where, after satellite images showed to scientists and the general public, that desertification is often related to the southward extension of the Sahara desert. (Lamprey, 1975). In 1994, the UN established the United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); it was a response to the summit that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to hold negotiations for an international legal agreement on desertification. (Mcsweeneym, 2019). The UNCCD defined desertification as "land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities". (Mcsweeneym, 2019).

2.3 Illegal Immigration

In recent years there has been a growth concerning border security, in some countries whether in developed countries or the developing world. Many decisions have been taken mostly political ones; building barriers on borders, and deportations. The United State Department of Home Security defined illegal immigration, "as any foreign-born non-citizen individuals who are not legal residents". (Bunch, 2017). However, convention No. 143 adopted by the International Legal Organization (ILO), on June 23rd, 1975 describes illegal migration activities as those where migrants find themselves "during their journey, on arrival

or during their period of residence and employment [in] conditions contravening relevant international multilateral or bilateral instruments or agreements, or national laws or regulations.” (Georges Tapinos, 1999).

2.4 Environmental Pollutions

Developed countries are facing nowadays a big issue concerning environmental pollution since the genesis of the industrial revolutions. Developing countries are also facing complex, and severe pollution issues. Pollution happens because of the presence of unwanted solids or gaseous in the air or chemical substances or energy such as noise, heat, or light which are harmful to human beings and the environment. (Folnovic, 2021). There are many types of pollution such as air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, thermal pollution, and radiation pollution.

2.5 Transnational crimes

If one talks about transnational crime, he/she should state more than ten of these kinds; drug trafficking, arms, human organs, humans, cultural property, illegal fishing, illegal mining, and illegal logging... (May 2017). However, the meaning of the term is quite vague. United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), does not give us an exact meaning. Article 2 of the United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and the protocols thereto define (UNTOCO) as; an “Organized criminal group” shall mean a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offenses established in accordance with this Convention, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit” (crime, 2005). This paper, going to explore just a few terms from the transnational crime that took and causes Soft Security in Algeria.

3. Algeria and desertification Security issue

Algeria is an arid to semi-arid country located in northern Africa between Morocco and Tunisia. It has an area of 2381741 sq. km of which 80% is desert. In 1966, the

government decided to replant Moudjebara but realized it was impossible to adapt the vegetation to local needs. In 1974, President Houari Boumédiène decided to set up the "Green Dam" plan, which aims to form a tree dam extending over 1500km long and reduce the desert spell on urban areas. The replanting has for major purpose the soil safety and has been effected on:

- Soil with steep slopes
- The dunes
- As windbreaks in pastoral areas
- Around villages as a green belt. (Boumediene, 2019)

In this context, the Secretariat of UNCCD (United Nations of the Convention to Combat Desertification) Mr. N'Diaye announced and stressed that desertification is a global concern, unluckily has not been given importance in today's society. He declared that 110 countries in the World are in danger of desertification. (Bouazid, 2009) Three major points sorted from that discussion were the following:

1. Desertification constitutes a serious problem on a global level as well as a local one;
2. Desertification is one of the major causes of poverty in many parts of the world; and
3. In order to combat the problems caused by desertification, good governance is required in combination with democratic participation from countries globally.

Cherif Rahmani, as President of the Foundation 'Deserts du Monde' and as Honorary Spokesperson of the United Nations International Year of Deserts and Desertification made significant declarations regarding desertification for example, the establishment of an Institute of the Deserts of the World with a scientific council made up of prominent scientists under the aegis of the World Desert Foundation, and the convening of a high-level Sustainable Development Conference in Algiers to promote an integrated land and water resources approach towards combating desertification, (Bouazid, 2009).

4. Illegal Immigration as Soft Security Issues in Algeria

Various kinds of migrations depend on the movement and number of individuals often involved in this matter. Migration Soft Security effects are gradually interweaved through conventional security threats, with the ability to govern entire to the state territory, and the risk of a more split (Lisborg, 2017) and damaged any given state.

However, if the movement is on the same continent we call this intra-continental migration, it means people migrate from one place to another within the same continent: such as people from Mali or Niger to Algeria. Hence, migration has both negative and positive impacts on the destination country. Before one's analysis this subtitle, we should ask why we consider illegal Immigration as a Soft Security, and the answer is that; Migration impacted very much developing countries' stability in many ways:

- Migration may threaten the authority and the security of a host country when they are violating border control and the sovereignty of the hosting state.
- Migration also can be a threat to the infrastructure of the state and increase competition for local resources such as land and fuel and water.
- Most dangerous thing is that immigration may also be perceived as a threat to a cultural identity, migration may lead to the discrimination and suppression of minorities. (Vollmer, 2009)

In Algeria, migration has a negative impact on local people for instance disease that is a big risk to internal security because as people move from one place to another place, this may cause a risk of outbreak of contagious disease. Therefore, Algeria from 2001 to 2018 expelled more than 30, 000 persons from many Sahel and sub-Saharan African countries. (Chena, 2019). The Algerian authorities have declared that every year, 500 people from the Sahel have entered the country arguing that they represent a threat to the national security. This declaration justifies their deportations, (Chena, 2019) to their states in Africa: Mali, Niger, and Chad, and even from Nigeria. Hence, migration has both negative and positive

impacts on the destination country, most of them fled their country due to climate change, political instability, and the activities of many Islamic groups for instance Boko Haram. (Chena, 2019)

Algeria's government decided that four security bodies namely: "the coast guards, gendarmerie, police, and customs would hereafter monitor the country coast especially to stem illegal migrants and to scrutiny various criminal acts." (Echoroukonline, 2020). Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaid Saleh, Deputy Minister of National Defense and Chief of Staff of the National People's Army (ANP) signed the decree issued in the National Gazette.

However, according to reports from Algeria, the Algerian government from foreign affairs signed a new order for the "deportation of migrants residing illegally on the national territory and those involve in begging networks." (Ammi, 2019) on January 12th, 2020. Hence, the hunting of migrants who have been training in the country for many years will even be intensified. According to these reports, it is declared that extradition convey will leave from diverse administration districts of Algeria to the city of Tamanrasset in the South, from where illegal immigrants will be deported to different countries of Africa.

However, the relationship between migration and security manifolds is not the least due to the polysemy of the security concept. In recent years Algeria's security issue, especially on the border of Libya and the Sahel emphasized the importance of Algeria as a strength of the whole region in all kinds of threats such as illegal immigration drug trafficking, and transnational crime that cause several security issues to Algeria sovereignty. Thus, immigration would be regarded as a threat to society, the economy, national identity, as to public order, and internal security.

According to the above, degree information must be shared and exchanged as a priority by all appropriate means particularly that related to the act of sabotage, arms or drugs trafficking psychotropic substance and any harmful activities, organized crimes, and plans to attack targets at the sea from the land from a marine area, as well as the illegal use of

marine and land areas as a transport route. (Echoroukonline, 2020).

5. Corruption as a Soft Security to Algeria's State

The concept of Corruption is not that easy to define, but there have been various meanings to that concept. In this paper, the researcher will agree totally with those who define Corruption as, the use of public office for private gain, or the use of official position by an office bearer for his own personal benefit. Such as bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement, and nepotism (Myint, 2000) other academic describes corruption as "the mother of all crime" and recognizes four types of corruption bribery, prebendalism, graft, and nepotism. From the above examples, bribery can be a threat to national Soft Security, not only in developing societies as well as to developed societies such as Europe. (DAVID, 2012) Also, corruption touches all classes of society, Mats R. Berdal and David M. Malone distinguish three types of corruption within all types of working classes:

1. It involves low and middle servicemen who are unable to satisfy their basic needs due to their low income.
2. It involves high-ranking military and government officials, as such private companies and agents.
3. Pyramidal corruption related to high-ranking government and military officials that include middle-level servicemen through redistribution of illegal income and a flow of corrupt money from the bottom up. (Sector, 2015)

Corruption is exorbitant, damages everything that governments and societies want to build, and is like cancer. If it flourishes in societies or even state government, it would harm culture, economy, and politics and destroy the structure of anything softly and quietly.

In Algeria, corruption is the least 117 nations out of 180 countries (Internationals, 2021), in this regard, Algeria created a high authority charged with investigating corruption among civil servants raising many concerns. (Hamdi, 2022) This announcement makes a shock for Algerian administrators and even state companies. Hence, "On December 9th,

2003, Algeria signed the United Nations Convention against corruption and ratified it, with a reservation to article 66, paragraph 2, by Presidential Decree No.04-128 April 2004. Algeria despite its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on August 25th, 2005". (Nations, 2020) Algeria is also connected to a numeral of universal agreements on international cooperation, crime control, and crime prevention. Moreover, Algeria has plenty of bodies and agencies for averting and preventing corruption, such as the National Agency for Prevention and Combating of Corruption, the General Financial Inspectorate, and Higher Council of Corruption of the Civil Service, and the Financial Intelligence Unit. After President Abdelmadjid Tebboune took office on December 19th, 2019 urges Algerian to fight against corruption, and for the first time, the public servant will be investigated if the salary is the same level of life or more than that. In this regard, President "Abdelmadjid Tebboune has ordered the acceleration of strengthening the process of the legislative framework for public life and the fight against corruption." (Hamdi, 2022) On January 2nd, the presidential directive reviewed a draft law that sets the mode of organization composition and operation of the 'Haute Autorité de Transparence, de Prévention et de Lutte Contre la Corruption' (High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Fight against Corruption). (Hamdi, 2022) Corruption affected all stages of security and it can take many forms such as theft, extortion bribery, and effect networks.

6. Pollution and Soft Security in Algeria

First of all, and before we start to referring the relation between pollution and security, we should pinpoint the meaning of pollution one can give say; pollution is the introduction of chemicals into the ordinary atmosphere that cause hostile change. (Narwaria, 2021) However, the term "Pollution" can take many forms as the heat of light, chemical substances, and many other forms that human is the cause of it that why is not that easy to understand it... Environmental pollution is one of the most severe harms fronting humanity and other life forms that affected the most important thing in this World such as water, air, and soil and we

(humanity) are behind those pollutions.

Like many countries in the World, Algeria is facing these phenomena and has not been spared from the effects of pollution. But the causes of pollution in Algeria are different from those other country. For example, Algeria yearly faces the problem of deforestation by many causes (which we are going to analyze below) which is an invaluable asset for any nation due to what it provides raw material to industries building proposes and even home for many kinds of animals. The most important thing they protected the ground through the roots of the trees from the direct effect of falling rains. Also, forests help in rising the rainfall: they are normal sinks of carbon dioxide because of the use of carbon dioxide to prepare their food throughout the process of photosynthesis. (Appannag, 2017) However, the greedy economic man devastated the forest forcefully alarming the diminution of the Forest not only at the regional level but also globally. In Algeria, forest occupies a total area of around 4 million hectares. From 1976 to 2005 it's estimated that around 40, 000 hectares burned each year, approximately 1% of all woodlands of the country. (Bento-Gonçalves, 2021) From 1985 to 2010 Algeria recorded 42, 555 fires that burned a total area of 910, 640 hectares. (Bento-Gonçalves, 2021). Fires spread rapidly, especially in areas that are not easy to reach, in a situation usually ready to flammable. Ultimately, Algeria forest fires were caused by people, but, in recent years Algeria's officials said that the cause of the fires is characterized by "unknown origin" representing between 40% to 70% of all fires (Bento-Gonçalves, 2021) in this context Algeria officials take action to fight forest fires by establishing many ideas:

- First by: through information and education,
- Secondly by development and maintenance of rural and forest areas,
- Thirdly, surveillance of wooded areas,
- Lastly, improvement of the means of firefighting. (Bento-Gonçalves, 2021).

However, their application and monitoring have been insufficient, for instance, every year the minister of the Tourism and Environment discuss the environmental matter, and

many agreements and laws are planned, but when it comes to the application it is very limited (staff, 2011).

Deforestation is a serious matter it behind many problems in only in Algeria but also in other countries with the same issues, such as accelerated rate of soil erosion, the growth in the sediment load of the river, and siltation of reservoirs and river beds (Appannag, 2017), and many other issues that can be a threat to National security economy through harms of agriculture crops because of floods or droughts. Thus deforestation causes a chain consequence that impacts the natural environment which belongs to national security.

In addition, Air pollution in Algeria is also caused by the transport sector especially in big cities such as the capital Algiers, Oran, and Constantine firstly by heavy Industries and secondly by burning municipal waste. Algeria's industrial sectors are not located in the right place which means they didn't comply with environmental standards that resulted in severe air pollution by areas of production units. (Ambassador, 2015).

7. CONCLUSION

Soft Security in Algeria and as we have seen above is quite intertwined among many other things most of them are connected with each other, such as economic and corruption, desertification and pollution, more than that illegal immigration and transnational crimes. They are big issues and challenges as a Soft National Security to Algeria's authority, especially after the end of the Cold War. Algeria is still facing many obstacles and trying to find solutions such as illegal migration which threatens Algerian society in terms of cultural norms, religion, and even to language, so we have to secure our society by imposing tough laws towards these phenomena to protect our identity. Also, we have to mention the problem of desertification due to global temperature rise and the degradation of land that was once arable, Algerian officials are trying to plant trees in the upper steppe to halt the desert from approaching the north. In terms of pollution, the government must be tough to combat it by passing laws limiting the number of chemical factories and recycling of garbage

that ends up in landfills incinerators, and waterways. However, the problem of corruption is a big issue and a threat to national security. The Presidency and officials in Algeria are fighting them very hard by imposing a criminal code to prohibit bribery of public officials as well as active and passive trading in influence. Overall, one must say that Soft Security in Algeria is a threat in much more damageable than hard security because sometimes is unseen and not easy to identify, and it appears after the damage has been done.

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