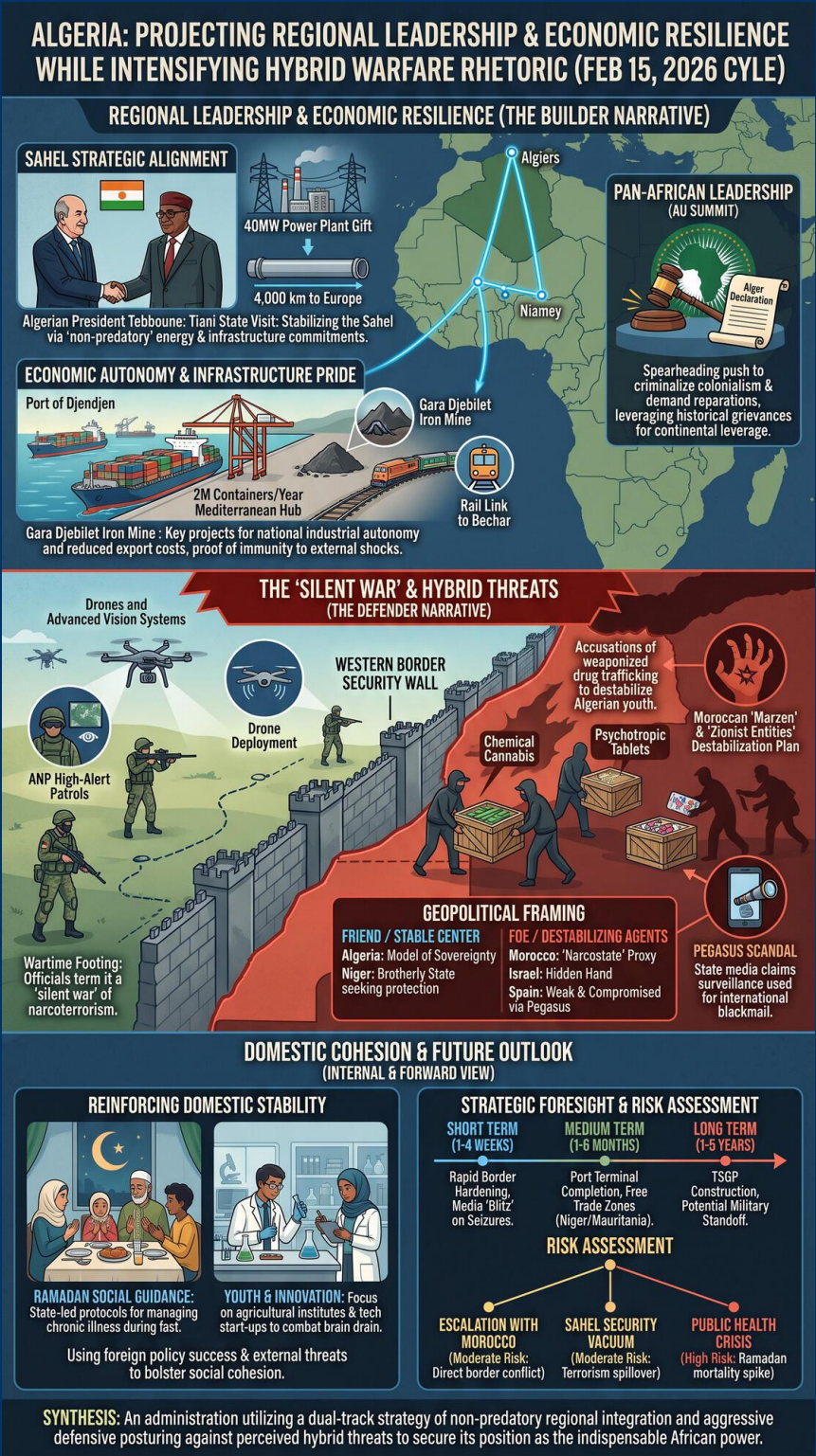


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CANALALGERIE

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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CANALALGERIE

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ALGERIA PROJECTS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE WHILE INTENSIFYING HYBRID WARFARE RHETORIC AGAINST MOROCCO.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The broadcasting cycle for February 15, 2026, is dominated by a dual-track narrative: the projection of Algeria as a pivotal, stable regional hegemon and a simultaneously aggressive defensive posture against perceived "hybrid warfare" from Morocco. Central to the diplomatic track is the [state visit](#) of Nigerien President Abdulrahman Tiani. This visit is framed not just as a bilateral meeting, but as a [strategic alignment](#) to stabilize the Sahel, featuring major energy and infrastructure commitments, including a [donated 40MW power plant](#) and progress on the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline. Concurrently, Algerian state media utilized the 39th African Union (AU) Summit to lead a continent-wide push for the [criminalization of colonialism](#) and the demand for reparations, effectively leveraging historical grievances to consolidate African leadership.

On the security front, the network shifted toward a wartime footing in its rhetoric regarding the western border. Extensive coverage was dedicated to what officials term a ["silent war"](#) of narcoterrorism, explicitly accusing the Moroccan "Marzen" of using high-potency "chemical" cannabis to destabilize Algerian youth. This security narrative is tightly coupled with infrastructure pride, highlighting the [Port of Djendjen](#) and new [railway links to mining zones](#) as evidence of a nation immune to these external shocks. The convergence of these events suggests an administration using foreign policy successes and external threats to reinforce domestic social cohesion ahead of the Ramadan season.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Strategic Alignment with Niger

- President Abdulrahman Tiani's [fraternal and working visit](#) focused on security and energy sovereignty.
- Algeria committed to building a [40MW electricity plant](#) for Niger as a gift, emphasizing non-predatory cooperation.
- Discussions advanced on the [Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline \(TSGP\)](#), spanning 4,000 km from Nigeria through Niger to Algeria.

Leadership at the 39th African Union Summit

- Algeria spearheaded the ["Alger Declaration"](#) on colonial crimes, aiming to make colonialism a crime against humanity.
- The AU adopted a proposal to designate [November 30](#) as a day of remembrance for victims of colonialism.

- Algerian Prime Minister Nadir Larbaoui (acting for the President) pushed for [AU institutional reform](#) and a greater African role in the global financial system.

Intensification of Border Conflict Narratives

- Security officials reported record seizures of [930kg of cocaine](#) and 40 million psychotropic tablets in 2025.
- State media accused the Moroccan monarchy of [weaponizing drug trafficking](#) as part of a broader Zionist-backed destabilization plan.
- Calls were made for the construction of a [security wall](#) along the western and southern borders to block "narcoterrorists."

Critical Infrastructure and Logistics Expansion

- The [Port of Djendjen](#) is being positioned as a Mediterranean hub with a new terminal capacity of 2 million containers per year.
- Integration of [railway logistics](#) at the port aims to reduce costs for cereal and mineral exports.

Social and Religious Transition to Ramadan

- Extensive guidance was issued on [managing chronic illnesses](#) (diabetes, cancer) during the upcoming fast.
- A significant debate was highlighted between [astronomical calculation](#) and traditional moon sighting for the start of the holy month.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The Algerian People's National Army (ANP) has moved to a [high-alert patrol status](#) along the western border.
- Deployment of [drones and advanced vision systems](#) to monitor "infiltration axes" used by smuggling syndicates.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Algeria is positioning itself as the ["strategic depth"](#) of the Sahel, filling the security vacuum left by declining European influence.
- Engagement with [Mauritania, Togo, and South Africa](#) to build a unified African legal front against historical colonial powers.

Energy & Critical Minerals

- The development of the [Gara Djebilet iron mine](#) and its 950km rail link to Bechar are presented as key to national industrial autonomy.
- Sonatrach and Sonelgaz are being used as [instruments of soft power](#), providing technical training and infrastructure to neighboring states.

Cybersecurity & Information Warfare

- Renewed focus on the [Pegasus scandal](#), with state media claiming Moroccan surveillance is used for international blackmail.
- Development of the [Algerian Port Community System \(APCS\)](#) to digitize and secure supply chain data.

Global Health & Biosecurity

- Expansion of [addictology centers](#) (over 50 nationally) to combat a perceived "chemical invasion" of psychotropics.
- Implementation of a national [organ transplant strategy](#), addressing a backlog of 30,000 patients awaiting grafts.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Sahel Security Hub Narrative

Algeria is aggressively branding itself as the indispensable [partner for Sahelian states](#) like Niger. By providing infrastructure (power plants) and training (petroleum engineering), Algiers is attempting to ["nationalize" regional decisions](#) and push out "extra-regional" actors (implied to be France and Israel). The visit of President Tiani serves as proof of this pivot, moving from simple border security to deep economic integration. This is a move to secure the ["Elephant Paths"](#) (smuggling routes) and transform them into corridors of development.

Externalization of Domestic Threats

There is a concerted effort to frame domestic drug abuse not as a social failure, but as an external ["chemical bombardment"](#) orchestrated by Morocco. By linking narcotics to "Zionist entities" and "hybrid war," the state justifies [increased military spending](#) and border closures. This narrative serves to rally the youth around the flag, identifying the "outside" as a source of corruption and the "inside" as a sanctuary of values.

Decolonialism as a Diplomatic Lever

The focus on [colonial crimes](#) at the AU summit indicates that Algeria is using historical grievances to build a "multialignment" bloc.

By pushing for [reparations and legal recognition](#) of past atrocities, Algiers positions itself as the moral voice of the Global South, creating friction with European states (particularly France) to gain leverage in modern trade and security negotiations.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The Algerian domestic landscape appears stable but highly mobilized by state narratives. The [military's prominence](#) in daily news—patrolling borders and showcasing technical training—suggests that national security is the primary source of government legitimacy. Public health messaging regarding [Ramadan protocols](#) for the chronically ill indicates a high level of state involvement in religious and social life, aimed at preventing a healthcare surge during the holy month.

However, there are subtle hints of concern regarding [youth vulnerability](#) to drug use and the ["drain of gray matter"](#) (brain drain). The focus on [agricultural institutes](#) and start-up support for students suggests the government is trying to address high youth unemployment by steering them toward state-sanctioned industrial and tech sectors. Domestic stability is currently being maintained through a combination of social safety nets (like the [low cost of energy](#)) and the identification of external enemies to unify a potentially fractured populace.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Algeria's global posture is one of "principled resistance" against a "hostile threat matrix." The international system is framed as a fracturing arena where [Morocco, Spain, and](#)

[Israel](#) are conspiring to undermine Algerian sovereignty. In response, Algiers is aggressively projecting power southwards, using "[non-predatory economic statecraft](#)" to forge a New African Bloc. The state is actively [multialigning](#) its economy, seeking to diversify away from traditional European partners while maintaining a posture of non-alignment toward Western/Eastern superpowers.

The relationship with Spain is notably tense, with state media highlighting Spanish [weakness and susceptibility to Moroccan blackmail](#) via the Pegasus software and migration pressure. Algeria is positioning itself as the more reliable, stable partner for Europe's energy needs, provided its "red lines" on Western Sahara and sovereignty are respected.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is characterized by a shift toward state-led industrialization and regional export infrastructure. The government is doubling down on "mega-projects" to ensure long-term resilience.

- **Logistics Hubs:** The [Djendjen Port](#) expansion and the [APCS digitization](#) aim to turn Algeria into a gateway for the African Continental Free Trade Area (ZLECAF).
- **Industrial Autonomy:** Launch of the [Gara Djebilet mine](#) to provide raw materials for domestic and regional steel industries.
- **Energy Diplomacy:** Using [Sonatrach and Sonelgaz](#) as commercial and diplomatic tools to integrate Sahelian markets.
- **Currency/Trade:** Push for [Free Trade Zones](#) on borders with Niger and Mauritania to facilitate exports without tax barriers.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Leadership dynamics are characterized by a consolidation of power around the Presidency and the Military High Command, with a focus on succession and stability within the African Union framework.

- **Abdulahman Tiani (Niger):** Framing of Tiani as a "[fraternal leader](#)" signals Algeria's formal recognition and support of the Nigerien transition government as a key regional ally.
- **Nadir Larbaoui (Algerian PM):** Acting as the [primary diplomatic surrogate](#) for President Tebboune at the AU Summit, signaling his rising influence in executing the state's foreign policy.
- **ANP Leadership:** Military commanders are increasingly appearing as [technical experts](#) in border management and infrastructure protection, reinforcing the "Army-Nation" bond.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The editorial tone is highly nationalistic, pedagogical, and occasionally alarmist regarding external security threats. **Lead Stories** were the Nigerien visit and the AU Summit, emphasizing Algeria's central role in the "New Africa." **Secondary focus** was given to the "Silent War" on the western border, utilizing high-production value documentaries to induce a sense of patriotic vigilance. **Buried Stories** included detailed reporting on [social unrest in Morocco](#) (housing demolitions and floods), which were used as a counter-point to Algerian stability. **Conspicuous Omissions** included any mention of domestic inflation or internal

political dissent, which are historically volatile topics in Algerian public discourse.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The network employs a binary "Friend vs. Foe" framing, with Algeria as the moral and stable center.

- **Algeria:** Portrayed as a ["model to follow"](#) in sovereignty and non-predatory cooperation. "Algeria is the strategic depth of Africa."
- **Morocco (The "Marzen"):** Characterized as a ["corrupt narcostate"](#) and a "Zionist proxy" actively waging a "hybrid war" against its neighbors. "The plus grand cartel of the world is our neighbor."
- **Niger:** Framed as a [vulnerable but "brotherly" state](#) seeking Algerian protection and expertise.
- **Spain:** Implicitly portrayed as a [weak state](#), victimized by Moroccan espionage (Pegasus) and failing to maintain strategic clarity.
- **Israel ("Zionist Entities"):** Framed as the [hidden hand](#) behind Moroccan expansionism and regional destabilization.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The Algerian state media is conducting a sophisticated [narrative seeding operation](#). By repeatedly using terms like "silent war," "hybrid war," and "chemical cannabis," they are preparing the public for a long-term state of tension with Morocco. The extensive use of [archival documents \(Wikileaks, Chris Koleman\)](#) to revisit the Pegasus and Marocgate scandals serves as "narrative maintenance" to keep international and domestic attention on Moroccan

"malfeasance." Concurrently, the presentation of [Algerian aid to Niger](#) as "non-predatory" is a direct counter-propaganda move against Western influence in the Sahel.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Sahel Consolidation:** Algeria will likely sign a [formal defense pact](#) or expanded security cooperation treaty with Niger within the next six months.
- **Border Hardening:** The rhetoric concerning a [border wall](#) will likely transition into a multi-billion dollar procurement project for surveillance technology and physical barriers.
- **Colonial Legal Action:** Look for Algeria to fund [legal research groups](#) across Africa to bring formal cases against former colonial powers in international courts.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Rapid deployment of [new border patrol units](#) and a media "blitz" on successful drug seizures to justify security measures before the start of Ramadan.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Completion of the [Djendjen Port terminal](#) and the formalization of the Free Trade Zone at the Nigerien border. Increased diplomatic friction with Spain over the "Sahara position."

Long Term (1-5 Years): Transition of the [TSGP gas project](#) from planning to construction. Potential for a major military standoff or skirmish on the western border if the "hybrid war" narrative continues to escalate.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Risk of Escalation with Morocco:** Direct military confrontation on the western border. Triggers: A major drug seizure turning into a border skirmish or a "false flag" operation. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Catastrophic for regional energy and trade. Mitigations: International mediation via the AU.
- **Sahel Security Vacuum:** Terrorism spillover from Mali/Niger into southern Algeria. Triggers: Collapse of the Nigerien transition government. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High internal security drain. Mitigations: Current [proactive aid and training](#) programs.
- **Public Health Crisis during Ramadan:** High mortality among diabetics and cancer patients fasting without supervision. Triggers: Poor adherence to [medical protocols](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: High domestic political pressure. Mitigations: Ongoing [state-led medical media campaigns](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

The transcripts fail to provide context on the **cost-benefit analysis** of the massive infrastructure gifts to Niger, particularly given Algeria's own economic challenges. There is no **Moroccan counter-perspective** provided regarding the drug trafficking claims, leaving the "state-sponsored" accusation unverified by independent sources. Furthermore, the **AU Summit coverage** focused heavily on colonialism but largely ignored the acute **modern food insecurity** crises affecting the continent, focusing instead on symbolic victories. Finally, the **Pegasus segment** relied heavily on Spanish journalists known for being critical of Morocco, without

acknowledging the broader use of surveillance tech by multiple regional actors, including those potentially aligned with Algeria.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Siege Mentality" Diversion:** The aggressive narrative against Morocco and "Zionist entities" may be an artificial construct designed to [distract the public](#) from failing domestic reforms or an impending leadership transition. By maintaining a state of "silent war," the government can suppress dissent under the guise of national security.
- **Niger as a "Financial Sinkhole":** The focus on [donating infrastructure to Niger](#) could be viewed as a desperate attempt to buy stability in a region where Algerian influence is actually waning. The 40MW power plant may never be operational if Nigerien internal instability persists, making it a wasted strategic asset.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Accelerate the implementation of [digital border surveillance](#) to move from a human-intensive to a tech-intensive border posture.
- **Economic:** Leverage the [Trans-Saharan corridors](#) to secure long-term mineral supplies for domestic industrialization.
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize the ["Alger Declaration"](#) into a permanent AU committee to ensure continued regional leadership.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Logistics:** Opportunities exist for companies specializing in [port management and rail logistics](#) as Djendjen and Bechar links go live.
- **Compliance:** High regulatory risk for companies doing business across both Moroccan and Algerian borders due to ["hybrid war" vetting](#).
- **Energy:** Direct investment opportunities in [solar and gas infrastructure](#) serving the new Sahelian corridors.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The Algerian government is utilizing legislative and policy updates to solidify its "defensive and leading" posture, particularly regarding narcotics and international law.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Anti-Narcotics Law (March 2025):** A [recently hardened law](#) that criminalizes all aspects of trafficking and cultivation with severe penal sanctions to counter the "chemical invasion."
- **Alger Declaration on Colonial Crimes:** A [policy framework](#) pushing for international legal recognition of colonialism as a crime.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Tiani-Tebboune Summit:** A high-level [strategic dialogue](#) to formalize energy and security cooperation in the Sahel.
- **Senate Hearing on Organ Transplants:** A legislative session held on [February 10](#) to develop a national plan for graft centers.

KEY STORIES

- **Visit of Nigerien President Abdulrahman Tiani:** A two-day [diplomatic mission](#) to Algiers focused on security and energy, resulting in a 40MW power plant donation.
- **The "Alger Declaration" on Colonialism:** A [major AU victory](#) for Algeria, criminalizing colonial acts and seeking reparations.
- **The "Silent War" on the Western Border:** An [in-depth report](#) accusing Morocco of narcoterrorism and calling for physical border walls.
- **Modernization of the Port of Djendjen:** A [strategic showcase](#) of the port's 2 million container capacity and its integration with rail for mineral exports.
- **Ramadan Medical Protocol:** A [state-led campaign](#) to provide safety guidelines for diabetic and oncology patients during the fast.
- **Gara Djebilet Rail Integration:** Updates on the [950km railway](#) connecting the massive iron mine to Bechar and international markets.
- **Pegasus and Maroc-Gate blackmails:** Investigative segments alleging [Moroccan state espionage](#) against Spanish and European officials.
- **Study in Algeria Platform:** A [digital initiative](#) that has already enrolled 300 students from 34 African nations.
- **Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline (TSGP):** Strategic [planning sessions](#) between Nigeria, Niger, and Algeria to supply European markets.
- **Addiction Center Expansion:** The opening of [new facilities](#) to treat victims of the psychotropic tablet epidemic.

- **National Organ Transplant Strategy:** A [policy shift](#) to establish kidney and heart transplant centers for 30,000 waiting patients.
- **Lunar Calendar Controversy:** A [theological debate](#) on using science vs. tradition to start Ramadan.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-

level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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