

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CANALALGERIE

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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ALGERIAN GOVERNANCE
LEVERAGES HISTORICAL MARTYR
NARRATIVE AND MARKET
INTERVENTIONISM TO ANCHOR
STABILITY AMIDST REGIONAL
FRICTION

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Algerian state apparatus on February 18, 2026, intensified its projection of domestic stability and regional leadership, primarily through the dual lens of National Martyr's Day (Shahid Day) and large-scale preparations for Ramadan. The administration is aggressively utilizing the **historical legitimacy of the revolution** to frame current socio-economic challenges as a continuation of the national struggle for "Algeria Nouvelle." This narrative is paired with a heavy-handed "moral economy" approach, where the state acts as the primary regulator and monitor of domestic markets to suppress inflation and prevent social unrest during the upcoming holy month. The deployment of real-time digital monitoring platforms for essential stocks signals a shift toward **technocratic centralism** intended to

safeguard purchasing power against perceived "speculators."

In the regional sphere, Algeria is positioning itself as a hub of stability and energy expertise, contrasting its internal order with a highly critical portrayal of neighboring Morocco, which is framed as being in a state of **social decay and institutional exclusion**. High-level security cooperation with France, punctuated by the visit of the French Interior Minister, suggests a pragmatic pivot where immediate security and immigration management take precedence over historical grievances. Simultaneously, Algeria's proactive energy diplomacy in Niger and Mozambique indicates a strategic intent to export its technical capacity and secure influence in the sub-Saharan energy sector, portraying itself as a reliable **South-South partner** compared to traditional colonial actors.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Sacralization of the State via Martyr's Day

- President Abd Majid Bouna issued a high-profile message linking the [fidelity to martyrs](#) as the foundation of the "New Algeria" and its current development trajectory.
- The state media prioritized coverage of re-interment ceremonies and memorial services for [revolutionaries and chohada](#), reinforcing the military's role as the guardian of historical legacy.
- Promotion of the "Shahid" narrative was used to contrast Algerian national pride against the [marginalization and suffering](#) of populations in neighboring territories.

Intensified Market Regulation and Digital Surveillance

- The Ministry of Internal Trade launched **real-time tracking platforms** to monitor production and distribution [stocks of essential commodities](#) nationwide.
- A government budget of [675 billion dinars](#) has been allocated to support social parity and market stability ahead of Ramadan.
- The state-led "Safex" markets were opened to bypass traditional intermediaries and offer [affordable food prices](#), directly intervening in the price discovery process.

Regional Security and Narcotics Interdiction

- Military detachments intercepted significant narcotics shipments at the borders, including [4.58 quintals of processed kif](#) and 23.32 kilograms of cocaine.
- Security forces arrested [274 individuals](#) involved in illegal gold mining and smuggling, seizing heavy equipment and weapons in the southern border regions.
- Publicized interdiction of [340 illegal immigrants](#) from various nationalities reflects a high-intensity posture on border integrity.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- The French Interior Minister, Laurent Nunez, visited Algiers to affirm commitment to [judicial and police cooperation](#), specifically targeting illegal immigration and cross-border crime.

- Algerian experts are currently in Mozambique and Niger to evaluate [electric plant construction](#) and energy infrastructure, projecting the Sonelgaz group as a regional technical hegemon.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The government is mandating a [national integration referential](#) for the automotive industry, targeting the local manufacture of cars, buses, and motorcycles to reduce import bills.
- New regulations in the real estate sector aim to [unmask tax fraud](#) by allowing the state to exercise a "right of preemption" on undervalued property transactions.
- Efforts to formalize the [e-commerce sector](#) are underway to mitigate fraud and ensure payment traceability, which currently relies heavily on cash-on-delivery.

Energy & Critical Minerals

- High-intensity operations against [illegal orpaillage \(gold mining\)](#) in the Elizi and Janet regions led to the seizure of 312 generators and 109 jackhammers.
- Cooperation with Niger's national electricity company (Nigelk) is being accelerated to [ensure regional supply](#) stability through Algerian technical oversight.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Digitalization of Command-Economy Tactics

The Algerian government is evolving its traditional command-economy impulses into a **high-tech monitoring regime**. Rather than simple price controls, the state is now using

digital platforms to track the [real-time distribution of essential goods](#). This is framed as "modernization," but its primary strategic function is to eliminate the middleman and prevent the hoarding that historically triggers civil unrest during Ramadan. The data-driven approach to market regulation represents a new era of state interventionism designed to preempt supply chain volatility.

Historical Sacralization as a Counter to Social Hardship

There is a visible effort to link the [Revolutionary era](#) to the current administration's legitimacy. By highlighting the re-interment of martyrs and the "Shahid" legacy, the state provides a moral framework for the population to endure current economic pressures. The broadcast frequently uses the term "**Algeria Nouvelle**" to suggest that modern developmental achievements are a direct fulfillment of the martyrs' sacrifices, thereby framing dissent as a betrayal of history.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Institutional Decay vs. Regulatory Reform

- The state has identified **real estate tax evasion** as a critical leak in national revenue. The Finance Law 2026 now enables the state to [preempt property sales](#) if it suspects the declared value is artificially low to avoid taxes. This suggests a significant level of underlying corruption in the high-end property market.

- Public warnings regarding [e-commerce fraud](#) indicate a growing shadow economy that the state is struggling to regulate. The lack of traceability in online transactions is framed as a risk to "national economic security."

Social Pressures and Food Security

- The alarm over **food waste**, estimated at [13 million tons annually](#), highlights a paradox where the state is simultaneously subsidizing food and pleading for reduced consumption. This tension reflects a fragile social contract dependent on low food costs.
- The government's focus on [Ramadan price stability](#) reveals a deep anxiety about inflation-driven protests, which the Safex markets and digital stock tracking are designed to mitigate.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Antagonistic Framing of Morocco

Algeria is aggressively framing Morocco as a **failing social system**. Broadcasts highlighted the [exclusion of disabled children](#) and the failure to pay salaries in Morocco, contrasting this with Algerian "stability." This narrative serves to justify Algiers' hardline border posture and deflect from its own domestic challenges by pointing to regional "chaos."

Strategic Energy Expansionism

Algeria is leveraging **Sonelgaz and Sonalgas** as instruments of foreign policy. The technical missions to [Mozambique and Niger](#) demonstrate an intent to become the primary energy architect for the Sahel and Southern Africa. This "technical diplomacy" allows

Algiers to project power without traditional military footprints, creating economic dependencies on Algerian expertise.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Algerian economy is currently defined by **high-intensity state intervention** aimed at controlling the "Ramadan shock." While the government touts stability, the reliance on a 675 billion dinar social support fund indicates significant underlying inflationary pressure. The push for automotive integration suggests a desire for industrial sovereignty, but the heavy focus on cracking down on "speculators" and real estate fraud implies that the formal economy is under pressure from a robust informal sector.

- **Inflation Mitigation:** Safex markets are offering [imported Brazilian meat at 1150 dinars](#) to undercut domestic market prices.
- **Industrial Policy:** The state is enforcing a [national integration rate](#) for all local vehicle assembly, aiming to stimulate a sub-contracting ecosystem.
- **Revenue Protection:** The Finance Law 2026 targets [real estate transaction fraud](#), allowing the state to recover the difference between market and declared values.
- **Resource Protection:** Significant resources are being spent to stop the [smuggling of fuel](#) (43,800 liters seized) and food staples (55.2 tons) destined for illegal export.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's reporting emphasized **administrative continuity** and the professionalization of the security and industrial sectors. Key shifts involve the elevation of technocrats in the digital market

monitoring space and the reinforcement of the military's role in civil protection and border security.

- **Laurent Nunez (French Interior Minister):** Framing of his visit suggests a [functional partnership](#) on security, despite the backdrop of nationalist Shahid Day rhetoric.
- **Directorate General of Communication (Presidency):** Active in framing the [tribute to Abderzak Zuwawi](#), a prominent media figure, to align the press with state legacy narratives.
- **Technical Experts (Sonelgaz/Sonalgas):** Their deployment to [Niami and Maputo](#) signals their emergence as primary agents of Algerian regional power projection.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The editorial hierarchy is dominated by **Historical Continuity** and **Market Order**. The lead stories were consistently the President's Shahid Day message and the government's successful deployment of Ramadan markets. These were presented as proof of the state's care and competence. **Buried stories** included the structural causes of inflation and the potential for long-term fiscal deficits from massive social spending. There was a **conspicuous omission** of any significant domestic opposition voices or critical analysis of the long-term feasibility of the automotive integration plan. The emotional tone was a mix of **nationalist fervor** and **reassuring paternalism**, designed to make the population feel both protected and proud.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcasts frame the world as a binary choice between Algerian "stability and justice" and external "chaos and corruption." Algeria is portrayed as a **strong, moral arbiter** in a fracturing region.

COUNTRIES

- **Algeria:** Portrayed as "stable" and "engaged in a [dynamic of sustainable development](#)." Quote: "A country carried forward by loyal citizens and shielded by an army."
- **Morocco:** Characterized as a "corrupt" and "exclusionary" state where ["exclusion and neglect"](#) define the social order.
- **France:** A pragmatic partner in a ["cooperation of high level"](#) regarding security and migration.
- **Niger/Mozambique:** Zones of opportunity for [Algerian expertise](#) to displace traditional powers.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Narcotics Cartels:** Framed as external threats attempting to [destabilize the nation](#) from across the Moroccan border.
- **European Union:** Portrayed as a platform where ["thousands of militants"](#) are seeking to sanction Israel, aligning with Algerian foreign policy interests.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The state is seeding the idea that market price fluctuations are entirely the fault of ["speculators"](#) and "informal actors," rather than macroeconomic factors. This redirects public anger away from the government.
- **Contrasting Chaos:** The graphic descriptions of [poverty in Morocco](#) and [war in Gaza](#) are used as psychological tools to increase the domestic population's tolerance for the current Algerian status quo.
- **Meta-Narrative:** The "Shahid Day" coverage is a **psy-op** designed to reinforce that the current leadership is the only legitimate successor to the glorious revolution, effectively silencing alternative political models.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Market Centralization:** The digital stock monitoring platforms will likely be expanded into a **mandatory reporting system** for all wholesalers, further shrinking the informal sector but potentially causing supply bottlenecks if the technology fails.
- **Regional Hegemony:** Algeria's energy missions to [Mozambique and Niger](#) will likely lead to long-term bilateral infrastructure treaties, positioning Algiers as a key gatekeeper for Sahelian development.

- **Border Tensions:** The increasing publicity of [narcotics seizures](#) at the Morocco border suggests a looming diplomatic or low-intensity military escalation as Algiers seeks to "punish" Rabat for perceived destabilization.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a flurry of "anti-speculation" arrests as the government uses its new digital stock data to conduct raids before Ramadan. Social media will be used to publicize these arrests to reassure the public. A significant drop in official food prices is expected as state-imported goods flood Safex markets.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The automotive integration plan will face its first **supply chain test** as domestic sub-contractors struggle to meet the new quality standards. Diplomatic tensions with Morocco may flare up at the African Union or UN as Algeria weaponizes the "social exclusion" narrative.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Algeria's Sonelgaz could become the dominant utility operator in the Sahel, providing Algiers with a **veto over regional development**. Domestically, the continued sacralization of the martyr narrative may alienate younger generations who prioritize economic results over historical appeals.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Market Instability and Hoarding:** State intervention backfires, leading to black market shortages. **Triggers:** Failure of digital stock tracking or a spike in fuel prices. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High (civil unrest). **Mitigations:** Aggressive use of Safex markets and anti-speculation laws.
- **Border Flare-up with Morocco:** Narcotics interdiction turns into a military skirmish. **Triggers:** High-profile seizure or border incursion. **Likelihood:** Low to Moderate. **Impact:** Extreme (regional war). **Mitigations:** Ongoing diplomatic channels via France and the AU.
- **E-Commerce Financial Collapse:** Massive fraud in the unregulated online sector leads to loss of consumer confidence. **Triggers:** A major coordinated phishing or delivery scam. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate. **Mitigations:** Fast-tracked [e-payment regulations](#).
- **Chronic Disease Crisis during Ramadan:** High rates of hospitalizations for diabetics and cancer patients fasting against medical advice. **Triggers:** Religious messaging overriding health warnings. **Likelihood:** Very High. **Impact:** Moderate (strain on EPH system). **Mitigations:** Targeted [health awareness campaigns](#) by medical experts.
- **Industrial Stagnation:** The automotive integration plan fails due to lack of local technical capacity. **Triggers:** Foreign partners withdrawing due to regulatory overreach. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High (long-term economic decline). **Mitigations:** Flexible [regulatory frameworks](#) and R&D investment.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The broadcasts failed to address the **actual debt levels** and fiscal sustainability of the massive 675 billion dinar social fund.
- Missing perspective on **internal dissent** within the military or administrative elite regarding the pivot toward digital centralization.
- Unverified claims regarding the **ranking of the Civil Protection** at 10th in the world; no external verification source beyond a "Harvard study" was cited.
- Absence of data on **youth unemployment**, which remains a primary driver of the social instability that the state is trying to preempt via Ramadan market controls.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Fragility of the "Shahid" Anchor:** The hyper-focus on historical martyrs may actually be a sign of **desperate regime exhaustion**. If the state can no longer deliver economic growth, the historical narrative will lose its potency, leading to a rapid loss of mandate among the post-revolution generation.
- **France as a "Trojan Horse":** While portrayed as a security partner, the French visit might be a cover for **deep concessions** on migration that could trigger domestic nationalist backlash if Algiers is seen as doing Paris' "dirty work" on border control.
- **Black Swan Event:** A coordinated cyber-attack on the [new digital market monitoring platforms](#) just before Ramadan could create artificial shortages and panic, triggering the very social unrest the system was designed to prevent.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Maintain high-intensity border surveillance but avoid escalatory rhetoric with Morocco that could trigger a military miscalculation.
- **Economic:** Gradually shift from command-style stock monitoring to market-based incentives for formalization to avoid driving retailers underground.
- **Diplomatic:** Institutionalize energy missions to Niger and Mozambique through **permanent regional offices** to solidify long-term influence.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Investors in the automotive sector must prioritize **local sub-contracting** to comply with the new integration mandates or risk exclusion from state-backed projects.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Companies involved in real estate must ensure **transparent market-value declarations** to avoid the newly empowered state right of preemption.
- **Tech Sovereignty:** Opportunities exist for cybersecurity firms to provide protection for the state's [expanding digital governance and stock-monitoring platforms](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The legislative focus is on **resource protection and fiscal formalization**. The government is aggressively using the Finance Law 2026 to close tax loopholes in property and regulate the burgeoning digital economy. Simultaneously, new industrial policies are

being implemented through inter-ministerial decrees to force domestic manufacturing integration.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Finance Law 2026 (Real Estate):** Establishes the [state's right of preemption](#) on property sales suspected of under-valuation to prevent tax fraud.
- **National Automotive Integration Decree:** Mandates a [minimum local manufacturing rate](#) for vehicle assembly plants to receive tax advantages.
- **E-Commerce Regulation Framework:** Proposals to require [verified digital identities](#) and e-payment systems for all online merchants.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Presidential Message on Shahid Day:** Strategically linked revolutionary history to the [current developmental mandate](#).
- **Inter-ministerial Meeting on Industry:** Focused on installing a [multi-sectorial working group](#) for the automotive sector.
- **Joint Security Conference (Algiers/Paris):** Minister Nunez and Algerian officials discussed [re-admission and police cooperation](#).

KEY STORIES

- **National Martyr's Day Commemoration:** A nationwide effort led by President Bouna to honor the ["chohada" and mujahidin](#), framing Algiers as a hub of historical and modern stability.

- **French Interior Minister Visit:** Laurent Nunez met with officials in Algiers to solidify [security and judicial cooperation](#), specifically regarding cross-border crime and migration.
- **Ramadan Market Intervention:** The Ministry of Trade launched [digital stock monitoring](#) and Safex proximity markets to provide Brazilian meat at 1150 DZD and other subsidized goods to counter inflation.
- **Anti-Narcotics Border Success:** Military detachments seized [4.58 quintals of kif](#), cocaine, and over 139,000 psychotropic pills at the Moroccan border.
- **Illegal Gold Mining Crackdown:** Operations in Elizi and Janet led to [274 arrests](#) and the seizure of heavy drilling equipment (312 generators, 195 hammers) used in unauthorized orpillage.
- **Energy Diplomacy in Niger and Mozambique:** Technical teams from Sonelgaz were deployed to [evaluate and build](#) electricity plants, projecting Algerian technical power southward.
- **Automotive Integration Mandate:** A new inter-ministerial effort to calculate and enforce [local manufacturing rates](#) for the automotive industry to reduce import dependency.
- **Real Estate Tax Fraud Reform:** The 2026 Finance Law grants the state [preemption rights](#) to seize properties sold below market value for tax evasion purposes.
- **E-Commerce Fraud Warning:** Media reports detailed the [lack of traceability](#) and the prevalence of cash-on-delivery scams in the virtual Algerian market.

- **Civil Protection Global Ranking:** A publicized claim that Algeria's Civil Protection corps is [ranked 10th globally](#) and is the best in Africa, based on an university-affiliated study.
- **Moroccan Social Hardship Reportage:** Graphic accounts of [disabled children being excluded](#) and a lack of medical care in Morocco, framing the neighbor as a dysfunctional state.
- **Ramadan Health Management:** Medical experts provided extensive guidance on [fasting with diabetes, cancer, and hypertension](#), citing a 60% higher risk of complications during the holy month.
- **Food Waste Awareness:** A state campaign highlighting the [13 million tons of food wasted](#) annually, urging a "responsible Ramadan" to preserve national resources.
- **EU Boycott of Israel Movement:** Coverage of a [citizen initiative in Europe](#) to suspend the EU-Israel association agreement, framing it as a win for Algerian foreign policy goals.
- **Tribute to Abderzak Zuwawi:** The death of the [iconic sports commentator](#) was used as a moment of national unity, with the Presidency issuing official condolences.

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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