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De-radicalization in Algeria: A success story



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De-radicalization in Algeria: A success story

Introduction

Islamic extremism has spread its poisonous tentacles across the world, corrupting one of the world's greatest religions and throwing Muslim society into disarray and even disrepute in the eyes of the world. The emergence of the Islamic State (IS) / Daesh is seen as a threat to global peace and progress. All states and decision makers are worried about the rapid spread of the IS and its regressive ideology of gender discrimination and sectarian and religious violence. IS is known to employ sophisticated social media tools to influence and recruit youth from Muslim societies in its cadre. The threat posed by the IS particularly looms large for countries with sizable Sunni Muslim population. Terrorism is an offshoot of the process of radicalization and it has affected the present world order. Billions of dollars spent over security and counter terrorism are testimony to it.

Many worried governments, particularly with Muslim majority, have set in motion de-radicalization strategies to wean indoctrinated youth away from the path of extremism and radicalism. A major approach to countering the threat posed by the hardline Islamic political ideology involves highlighting the fact that the ideology propagated by the hardliners has strayed from classical and moderate Islam. Algeria, a country of 40 Million, in northern Africa and part of the Maghreb region, practices a moderate school of Islam and offers one of the more successful strategies to counter Islamic radicalization. It will be interesting to understand and learn from the Algerian example.

About Algeria

Algeria is geographically situated in the northern part of the African continent. Algeria, with an area of 2.4 million sq.km (CIA Factbook, 2014), is the largest country in land area in the African and Arab world and the tenth largest in the world. The country is a semi-presidential republic consisting of 48 provinces and 1,541 communes. Abdelaziz Bouteflika has been President since 1999. The country exports large amount of gas to Europe and energy exports constitutes major

portion of the Algerian economy. Algeria was a French colony since 1830 and witnessed large-scale extremism in its society, more than other Maghreb countries (History World, 2015). This cannot be convincingly explained, except in terms of Algeria's historical context – the violence that attended France's military conquest of Algeria; induction of settlers (numbering about one million at the time of independence in 1962) who took large tracts of arable land; economic exploitation of the country; the brutal suppression of the Algerian independence struggle, because of the extreme reluctance on the part of France to withdraw from Algeria (Ahmed, 2015). Algeria attained its independence in 1962.

Algerian history since independence

In 1954, the National Liberation Front (FLN) was formed to carry out the struggle for independence and has since then largely dominated politics in this country. In 1988, the government of Algeria established a multi-party system (CIA Factbook, 2014). The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) dominated the first round of elections. The Algerian army intervened to avoid the extremist and radical forces from assuming the power. State High Committee was installed to act as Presidency for the temporary period (MEDEA Institute, 2015). This Committee banned activities of the FIS. The national army started to crackdown on the supporters of the FIS and this triggered the civilian conflict in the Northern African country since 1992. FIS supporters started attacking on government machinery and functionaries. Radical groups also killed foreigners, artists and journalists during the course of the war (Holden, 1995), and were guilty of some of the war's worst atrocities, such as the Bentalha massacre where more than 200 people were slaughtered. In the late 1990's government gained upper hand and curbed the activities of FIS. The Armed Islamic Group declared a ceasefire in October 1997 and FIS's armed wing, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), disbanded in January 2000 (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK, 2012). During this period Algerian society witnessed massive violence which resulted in more than 100,000 deaths.

Algeria held elections in 1999 and Abdelaziz Bouteflika became the president. He worked to restore political stability to the country and announced a 'Civil Concord' initiative, approved in a referendum, under which many political prisoners were pardoned, and several thousand members

of armed groups were granted exemption from prosecution under a limited amnesty, in force until 13 January 2000. The army wing of FIS, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) was disbanded in January 2000 (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK, 2012). During his second term, Bouteflika was elected for second term on his program of national reconciliation. Military victory is just one of the aspects of his program and it also comprised of economic, institutional, political and social reforms to modernize the country, raise living standards, and tackle the causes of alienation. It also included a second amnesty initiative, the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, which was approved in a referendum in September 2005 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria, 2015).

Reconciliation in Algerian society

The FIS started to disrupt normal atmosphere in the Algeria since January 1992. Its armed wing AIS was waged in an armed conflict with the Algerian government. The government also retaliated with the equal force. Before 1997, there were at least three attempts to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the Algerian crisis with the FIS leadership. These three attempts took place in 1993, 1994 and 1995 (Ashour, 2008). They all had the following common characteristics. First, all were negotiated with the political leaders of the FIS, rather than its military commanders. The 1997 ceasefire was result of negotiations between AIS and the Algerian government. Even though the AIS declared ceasefire with government of Algeria they were still involved in anti-social and terrorist activities. It was in January 2000, the AIS disbanded their organization. Current head of state, President Bouteflika is credited for this success. In fact, African trade unions hailed the President of Algeria, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, as "a man of peace and reconciliation" for his "invaluable support of just causes and his relentless efforts for the African unity and the elimination of all conflicts. (Algeria Press Service, 2014)". Bouteflika adopted very positive and cautious approach in resolving the pressing issue of radicalization of the Algerian society. He worked hard to restore political, social and economic stability in the country. The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation which was unveiled on September 29, 2005 is considered as the key to resolve the civilian strife and initiate the de-radicalization process in the country. An introduction of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation in many ways constitutes an official end date of the civil war. The President Bouteflika has

declared that "national reconciliation will mark a decisive step in the renewal process of our country" and that this process calls on all Algerian men and women to "forgive without forgetting, and to look resolutely to the future and reinvent a new way of living together in an Algeria that is increasingly prosperous." This charter indicates that Algeria has learned a precious lesson from the bitter experience in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and its roots. As important as it may be defeating terrorism solely by security means will always be incomplete for terrorism will always exploit and use the shortcomings existing in every society for purpose of justifying itself.

Therefore, Algerian authorities adopted a strategy designed to shield society as a whole and each citizen from any influence or manipulation by the advocates of violent extremism and terrorism. This strategy is implemented at several levels. It is based on permanently strengthening participatory democracy, the rule of law, and social justice, and on promoting development that offers equal opportunities for each and every citizen.

The Algerian strategy for combating violent extremism is based in two main areas:

First, the maintenance of a high level of mobilization and vigilance by all security forces in the conduct of their mission to protect public order and the safety of people and property. Second, the implementation of a comprehensive de-radicalization policy that combines political, economic, social, cultural, and religious measures involving all institutions and citizens, mobilizing important national resources.

Hence, it is very pertinent to understand various measures adopted under this charter to know more about the de-radicalization process in Algeria. Algeria has adopted several measures to accomplish task of reconciliation and these measures are categorized under several broad categories. We will try to touch upon those measures.

Political measures

Algeria firmly believes in the implantation of rule of law and participatory democracy. Respect for constitutional laws and rejection to violence, are two of the most effective tools in the fight

against violent extremism and terrorism. In this spirit, Algeria has established democratic institutions that work under the framework of the pluralistic constitutional order based on the primacy of law, the legitimacy of the ballot box, and respect of the will of the people, as freely expressed in periodic elections.

The current Algerian government believes in the decentralization and partnerships with local stakeholders and members of civil society in managing local affairs. It further thinks that these are all tools in the fight against violent extremism, marginalization, and injustice.

The main measures of political nature that have been taken include:

The Parliament of Algeria adopted four Organic laws relating respectively to electoral regime, political parties, information and representation of women in the elected Assemblies, as well as laws regarding the stimulation of the associative movement and the incompatibility of elective offices at the various levels of representation. These laws ensure free and fair democratic process, govern political parties and strengthen political pluralism. One of the most important Organism laws on information addresses the new needs and the rights of citizens and society regarding information and freedom of speech.

In 2011, the government of Algeria lifted the state of emergency in the country. This move sent strong signal about President Bouteflika's commitment to expand the Algerian people's choice of democracy and political pluralism, and to make that choice irrevocable. Besides that, Algerian government's reconciliation policy consists of preserving the cohesion and harmony of Algerian society by promoting successive political initiatives based on the spiritual, moral, and secular values of the Algerian people: values based on tolerance, humanism, and the sanctity of human life. These political initiatives took as a starting point the principle that Islam – which was exploited by terrorist groups and their sponsors – has always been a unifying force and a source of light, peace, freedom, and tolerance. Government under the leadership of Bouteflika always thought that policy based on repression alone will not eradicate the phenomenon of radicalization and it needs multi pronged approach.

This approach was implemented in three stages. The first was the policy of *Rahma* (“mercy”), which was initiated in 1995, followed by the Civil Concord, launched by referendum in 1999, and then the Charter of National Reconciliation, likewise approved by referendum, in 2005.

To facilitate the return to civil harmony, the state enacted clemency measures for terrorists who wished to repent. This approach took the form of a national stabilization plan, while demonstrating the nation's solidarity and its compassion toward all victims of the national tragedy and their heirs.

These measures include:

- Measures ending state prosecution against individuals implicated in instances of terrorism;
- Reduced or commuted sentences for individuals condemned and not eligible to release;
- Care for the families of individuals injured in the battle against terrorism; and
- Exclusion of individuals who committed rapes, set off explosives in public places, or carried out assassinations from the benefit of those measures.

From the perspective of national reconciliation, Algeria also addressed the issue of the victims of the national tragedy, extending its hand to widows, orphans, and all those who had a right to expect from a strong state to help them, allowing them to live with honor and dignity while awaiting the healing of their wounds. Thanks to the policy of reconciliation, thousands of repented agreed to surrender of their own free will, thereby allowing the nation to spare hundreds or even thousands of lives, as well as to enable the return and reintegration into society of a large number of repented. National reconciliation serves the promotion and protection of human rights, including the first right, namely, the right to life. It is important to note that the amnesties in the Charter did not cover those guilty of rapes, massacres or the use of explosives in public places. President Bouteflika has time and again reiterated that this was a necessary step to make people put down their arms and turn themselves in.

Timely delivery of public services is an important aspect of effective democratic society. To bring state machinery closer with to the public and improve the quality of the services provided to the populace, Algerian government has undertaken a broad program for the modernization,

digitization, decentralization, and humanization of public administrative services in various areas, including civil status, travel documents, health, and the postal service, among others. A National Observatory for public service is being created, with a mandate for ongoing tracking and assessment of the effectiveness of public service. This agency will bring together all the affected areas, including government bureaus, civil society, and specialized departments. Citizens of Algeria have given their thumbs up for this newly instituted mechanism.

Economic measures

Economic and financial stability is one of the basic factors behind amelioration of the society. Opportunities for financial stability push marginal communities in the society to stay away from the path of extremism and radicalism. As per government of Algeria, the consolidation of the economic and financial sphere, the revitalization of the growth of productive activities, the development of basic elements of the infrastructure, the encouragement of harmonious land use that protects the environment, and, finally, attention to the needs of the citizenry. This has created amicable environment for the healthy development of the Algeria.

The last five-year development plan, with a budget of U.S. \$286 billion for the period 2010–2014, included ambitious programs for meeting the country's needs for elements of the infrastructure; for encouraging domestic production; and for meeting the needs of the citizenry. Despite the current less favorable economic environment, this effort will be continued within the scope of the next development plan, which is currently being prepared for the period 2015–2019.

Judicial and prison related measures

While undertaking a national reconciliation process, it is very important for a country to undertake certain judicial and prison related reforms to create an amicable environment. These reforms also help in strengthening democracy and rule of law.

The Algerian state also understood importance of these measures and the country has gradually established a body of laws to frame the action of the security forces, guaranteeing to the

individuals involved in terrorist acts their inviolable rights to physical integrity and human dignity during custody, at trial, and throughout the imposition of the penalties.

Algeria has established specialized judicial branches consisting of ordinary courts that have extensive territorial jurisdiction and that consist of magistrates with additional specialized training to judge terrorist acts. Algeria has extended moratorium on death penalty. The country has not imposed the death penalty since 1993. At the legislative level, several crimes (such as economic crimes) for which the death penalty was mandated have been simply eliminated or else have been revised, replacing the death penalty with imprisonment. Moreover, no new laws mandate the death penalty.

For prisoners convicted of terrorist acts, the legal system applies a set of de-radicalization measures in the prison environment. These measures are intended to limit the influence of prisoners who advocate violent extremism or who are involved in terrorist acts, and to ensure their return to society through actions designed to:

- Standardize the tools and methods used with these prisoners, by adopting the same treatment given to other categories of prisoners pursuant to the law, particularly in the area of prison conditions (medical care, hygiene, meals, the preservation of family ties through visits and the rights to correspondence, etc.);
- Isolate the most dangerous terrorist prisoners (heads of terrorist groups, those condemned to death, and prisoners with life sentences) from the other prisoners in the same category, in order to prevent any negative influences or corruption;
- Have incarcerated terrorists approached by theologically learned imams: primarily to evoke ideological repentance among the most radical prisoners, but also to encourage these terrorists to benefit from the provisions of the law on the Charter for National Reconciliation that provide for their social reintegration.

Religion: A way towards reforms

In the present world, threat of religious fundamentalism looms large. Hence, propagating moderate strand of religion is very much important. In this context, religious measures will be

very significant to undertake the de-radicalization process. Through this Charter, Algeria commits to consolidate the foundations of the national religious tenets through the promotion of authentic culture of Islam.

Algeria's de-radicalization effort consists of reestablishing and consolidating the foundations of the national religious tenets. This effort is organized around the following initiatives:

- Improving the training of imams and refining that training, for better management of mosques and more effective transmission of the message of Islam. All of the necessary resources have been made available in order to achieve these goals. For example, at the national level, once there was only one institution that specialized in the training of imams. Today there are twelve, with six others under construction;
- Training *mourchidates* (female imams), who perform the same work as their male colleagues, except for leading prayers. For many years, these women have worked closely with families;
- Requiring training in all functions prior to recruitment, in order to ensure that the following goals are reached:
 - A proper understanding of Islam, so that it is well understood apart from all extremism;
 - The establishment of rules governing the spiritual education that forms the person and enables the progress of society;
 - The preservation of the religious unity and the religious tenets of non-Muslims, and the proper treatment of such persons, within the framework of respect for *Sharia* law, which demands respect for others, their opinions, and their feelings, apart from any considerations of nationality or religion;
- Introducing the theme of the prevention of violent extremism into the sermons of the imams, into teaching on the Quran, and into all events involving religious matters in general and mosques in particular;
- Reorganization of the institution of *Fatwa* in scientific councils related to local religious affair, in the mosques, and in the use of media materials. This action is intended to fight the ideas that convey false interpretations of the religious texts and of the Tradition of the Prophet Mohamed (PBUH);

- Training and educating the imams working in Algerian communities established abroad, within the framework of an agreement signed by Algeria and France. This experience is currently being extended to other countries;
- Launching the League of the Ulemas of the Sahel for a moderate, peaceful, and tolerant Islam;
- Mobilizing the Algerian Islamic University in the propagation of a moderate and tolerant Islam and in the higher education of imams, particularly through the inclusion of multiple training cycles and a new doctoral specialty for Degree-Master-Doctorate (LMD) training.

Media and communications systems

Communication systems are potent weapons in the hands of radicalized groups to influence youth and other vulnerable sections of the society. Hence, it is mandatory for a government to build some counter measures to constrain the influence of radicalized groups through media and communications systems. The government of Algeria, under the leadership of the President Bouteflika, has also formulated several measures to counter the extremist rhetoric.

- The Algerian government has been proactively working to develop media content that delegitimizes rhetoric by radical groups. Government sponsored content tries to expose the opposition of the extremist groups to the values and teachings of authentic Islam;
- In the battle against radical forces, it is very much necessary to utilize all the national resources. These resources include intellectuals and personalities with influence in the social sphere; individuals known for their religious erudition (as displayed in religious discussions and in debates broadcast or published by the media); specialists in security issues to decode terrorist acts, their supporters, and their devastating effects, doing so on TV and through radio programs and press articles;
- At the same time government of Algeria has given space to the moderate opinion expressed by Muslim thinkers in national and international meetings on this subject;
- As mentioned earlier, it is necessary to protect youth from the influence of radical thoughts. The Algerian government has started ‘Jil FM’ radio station aimed at youths to propagate and build a counter narrative against radical forces;

- The Algerian government has created several radio stations and TV channels to propagate authentic Islamic values as mentioned in a holy book, Quran;
- The government took a decision to liberalize the audiovisual sector which has led to the emergence of 25 private Algerian television channels. This has positive impact on Algerian youth. Significant numbers of Algerian youth have distanced themselves from extremist rhetoric purveyed by some TV channels. This has led to the marginalization of extremist rhetoric and its influence on young viewers.

National education measures

Since independence, Algeria has been allocating significant portion (25 %) of its annual budget to education. The country's literacy rate (98.4% in 2014) is among the highest in the world. Education and training are the most basic and most effective ways to fight obscurantism, starting with violent extremism. Through its fundamental principles, its educational programs, and its national program to fight violence in the school context, as established by the National Education Law (Law No. 08-04, of January 23, 2008), the Algerian school system plays an important role in de-radicalization and in the fight against violent extremism.

The school system plays an important role in training and building an undeniable national identity which is closely linked with the values of Algerian society. These values are primarily based on authentic Islam and has universal dimension which involves human rights, citizenship, and the preservation of life and of the environment.

Algerian schools are constitutionally founded on the following basic principles:

- A guaranteed right to education;
- Free education;
- Mandatory education up to the age of 16;
- The role of the state in guaranteeing equal opportunity for obtaining an education; and
- The formulation of the rights and obligations of the students, teachers, and administrators of education institutions.

Moreover, two of the articles of the National Education Law protect educational institutions from ideological, political, or partisan influence or manipulation.

The topics taught in primary, middle and secondary education consist of:

- Islamic education, focused on the human and moral values preached by Islam, namely, tolerance, generosity, a sense of justice, work, and honesty;
- Islamic sciences, offered as of the first year of secondary school under the title of “Islamic Sciences”. This program is fuses philosophical and civilization study of the various currents of thought and strives to create an amicable approach to other religions in order to foster collective identity and a sense of belonging, along with the development of tolerance, an acceptance of others, and peaceful co-existence regardless of differences;
- Students are taught not just about internal changes in Algeria but also the external challenges posed by the unavoidable march toward globalization and the transformations generated by information and communications technologies.

Skill based education

In the present day, skilled education is a necessity to enter the job market. The Algerian state has made significant efforts to offer all citizens, particularly young men and women, an opportunity for professional training. This indirectly helps in avoiding a path towards radicalization. The government has opened training establishments across the country. Private sector is also encouraged to establish training centers. This has led to the creation of annual work force of more than 600,000 trainees in more than 1,200 public training centers and 760 private establishments, with a total capacity of 45,000 educational positions. The Algerian state has also initiated a program to open decentralized training facilities in rural areas for young people, particularly young girls. This measure attracted participation and was favorably received by local officials in the communities.

Measures to promote jobs

Employment is also one of the most effective ways to bring young workers into the working world and keep them away from the potential influence of extremist ideas. To achieve this target two major mechanisms have been established, i.e., the professional employment assistance

program (DAIP), and the public programs to support business creation. DAIP is intended primarily to improve the employability of young workers within the framework of a salaried job. It focuses on entry into the production economic sector, which offers more opportunities for permanent employment. The National Employment Agency serves as a broker or middleman in the job market.

DAIP has allowed thousands of young first-time job seekers to be hired, to gain their first business experience, and to improve their employ ability, thereby facilitating their integration into the working world. The other mechanism, public programs to support business creation is designed to develop entrepreneurial spirit in young workers and encourage young promoters to move toward the creation of productive businesses in market niches that have a high potential for innovation.

Under this mechanism, the National Unemployment Insurance Fund is created for unemployed promoters between the ages of 30 and 50, who hold professional qualifications and who want to create a micro-business that provides goods or services.

Besides that The National Employment Support Agency was established which manages support programs for the projects of young workers between 18 and 35 years of age, who hold professional qualifications related to the proposed business. It involves two types of investment, i.e., investments in the creation of goods and services, and investments in their expansion.

Government's efforts to promote jobs paid enormous dividends and resulted in the downward trend in the unemployment rate.

- The unemployment rate fell from nearly 30% early in this century to 9.8% in April of 2014. A survey conducted in September of 2014 indicated a total unemployment rate of 10.6%;
- The unemployment rate for high-school graduates dropped from 21.4% in 2010 to 14.3% in September of 2013 and to 13.0% in April of 2014, then rose to 16.4% in September of 2014;

- The unemployment rate for women is dropping. It fell from 31.4% in 2001 to 19.1% in September of 2010 and 14.2% in April of 2014. However, it rose to 17.1% in September of 2014;
- The Professional Employment Assistance Program (DAIP) has enabled nearly 1,428,334 young workers to enter the workplace, with 179,216 young people being hired under Assisted Work Contracts during the period from 2010 to 2014 alone.

Culture: A tool for integration

Normally, radicalized groups use culture as a potent weapon to divide society, Algeria was not an exception. . Devastation of culture has long term impacts. Hence, this area was directly targeted by the terrorist acts suffered by Algeria in the 1990s. To counter the forces of radicalization, government has tried to intensify cultural activities through a series of measures.

- A gradual increase in the number of publicly funded annual festivals, to a current total of 176 international, national, and local festivals (versus 28 in 1998);
- The organization of several major international events that took place without incident, proving that terrorism has been vanquished (Algiers, Capital of Arab Culture, in 2007; the Algiers Pan-African Cultural Festival, in 2009; Tlemcen, Capital of Islamic Culture, in 2011);
- The creation of libraries, 341 of which were accredited between 2010 and 2014;
- Encouragement of cultural clubs: In 2015, the Ministry of Culture is supporting 507 clubs throughout the country, with a substantial increase in the budget allocated for the support of cultural clubs in recent years;
- Government enacted a law for the protection of cultural heritage;
- The re-launch of the international book fair and of annual regional fairs;
- The signing of various UNESCO conventions (i.e., the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in October 2005, and the Convention for the Safeguard of Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted in 2003, to which Algeria is the first signatory).

The Algerian government encouraged a policy to use cultural and artistic production as a way to combat violent extremism and terrorism in a number of fields, including:

Cinema. Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, the Film Industry Support Fund has enabled the production of several films that have contributed to greater awareness of fundamentalism and obscurantism. These feature films include *El Manara*, by Belkacem Hadjadj; *Rachida* by Yamina Bachir Chouikh; *Douar de Femmes*, by Mohamed Chouikh; *Les Suspects*, by Kamel Dehane ;*Mel Ouatni*, by Fatma Belhadj. These films were very well received by general audience and citizens of Algeria. These films have denounced retrograde ideas and intolerance and, at the same time illustrated resistance of Algerians against terrorism.

Drama/ theater. Several theatrical works were produced after Algeria's bloody years, including *La danse des innocents* at the national theatre of Algiers. *Hatta E! Tam* ("Until the End") describes the mental path and behavior of the fundamentalists. This new production is a good example of consciousness-raising and the fight against retrograde ideas.

Literature. The Algerian state established a permit system for the entry of works into the country in order to prevent the importation of books that encourage extremism and intolerance. In order to encourage dialogue among cultures and to protect Algeria's intangible heritage as a bulwark against fundamentalist messages, the government also instituted a symposium entitled "Culture, Music, and Sufism." This symposium is held regularly. It allows researchers from multiple countries to debate various cultural aspects of the worship rituals and spiritual heritage of Islam and other religions.

International cooperation

Algeria's international standing has improved dramatically during the Bouteflika presidency, because of the declining internal violence and, above all, because of the president's relentless diplomatic efforts. Algeria firmly believes that the country's efforts toward de-radicalization also require greater cooperation at bilateral, regional and international level.

- Algeria supports for, and actively participates in, all initiatives and regional and international conferences that fall within the framework of the Dialogue of Civilizations;

- The Algerian state also participates in regional and international conferences on the fight against violent extremism, such as the Washington summit in February of 2015;
- Government gave encouragement to university conferences in Algeria on the fight against violent extremism and intolerance, particularly under the aegis of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Algerian universities;
- Algeria supported for the creation of the League of the Ulemas of the Sahel and implemented training programs for the imams located in the countries of the Sahel region;
- The Algerian diaspora could also be potential target of the radical forces. Hence, the Algerian government has started a program to train and assign Algerian imams to work in the foreign countries that welcome large Algerian communities within their borders. This program is currently in progress with France under an agreement signed for this purpose by the two countries;
- Algeria cooperates with the United Nations within the context of a program designed to share the Algerian experience in the battle terrorism in order to combat incitement to this phenomenon and to violent extremism. This cooperation includes providing to the UN a consistent quantity of documentary material, manuscripts, and audiovisual archives, as well as the joint production of a short film on a penitent in a format appropriate for de-radicalization and for gaining understanding so as to counter incitements to terrorism.

Conclusion

The Algerian experience in fighting terrorism has become a model that inspires many the world over. African trade unions hailed President Bouteflika as "a man of peace and reconciliation" and reiterated the success of the Algerian model of national reconciliation (Algeria Press Service, 2014). This is motivated by the fact that radicalism as a movement, as an agenda or as an ideology, has been defeated in the country. The amnesty regulations that characterize Algeria's national reconciliation effort form the backbone of Algeria's de-radicalization strategy. The Charter also played a key role in successful de-radicalization of Algeria. One can safely say that the Charter is protecting the country from sedition and instability. It helped Algeria in reducing threat of radical groups and to concentrate its resources in building the nation. The process of

national reconciliation in Algeria signifies that Bouteflika's attempt to combine both 'hard' and 'soft' approaches in countering radicalism and terrorism has emerged as the best approach in the long run. In dealing with terrorism and radicalism, the 'hard' approach is defined as measures that are employed by the state that focus on the function and role of the security apparatus (primarily the Algerian army and elite forces) and their use of force, which includes, among other things, tactical raids, arrests, infiltration and killings. The 'soft' approach, on the other hand, is seen as the function, role and activities of the non-security state apparatus (such as the ministry of education, as well as non-state actors – such as civil society, and zawiyyas), which do not resort to force.

Algerian authorities are themselves aware of the role of the public as one of the primary role-players in its de-radicalization initiative; hence their efforts to support the local 'patriots' and loyalists during the war. Nowadays, the government turns to local schools and civil society institutions to detect radicalism at an early stage, and to spread a non-violent version of Islam. Radicalism is a global phenomenon and the world can learn useful lessons from the Algerian experience to counter it.

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