



Effects and repercussions of organized crime in the Sahel region on the Algerian national

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Abstract:

The study aims to shed light on the repercussions of organized crime in the African Sahel region on Algerian national security, as it has witnessed in recent years a significant increase in the phenomenon of organized crime, and all of this has made it a crisis region par excellence, which prompts us to raise the following problem: What are the most prominent repercussions imposed by organized crime in the Sahel region on Algerian national security, and what was the Algerian strategy to confront it? The project reached the following results:

It can be said that the crisis in the Sahel was more complex because the region did not know the role of institutions, especially the army, which produced a state of security chaos, the widespread proliferation of weapons, and fragility at the state level, which formed an attractive environment for terrorist groups and organized crime groups and a path for illegal immigration.

This situation constituted and continues to constitute a threat and challenge to Algeria, which prompted Algeria to adopt a comprehensive and multi-track approach to confront these challenges.

Keywords: Organized crime_ African Sahel_ Algerian national security.

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Introduction :

The international arena has witnessed many developments that have led to transformations and changes in the nature of security threats and international issues. As a result of these transformations in contemporary international relations, many issues interact at various levels and effects. The security agenda has expanded to include multiple topics that have become imposed on those interested in and researchers in the field of international relations .

In this context, the Sahara and Sahel region suffers from numerous and overlapping security imbalances, armed opposition movements that challenge the authority of the central state; and growing ethnic conflicts with a severe weakness in the national affiliation of its population and fragile economic structures, in addition to weak political performance and instability, and the succession of coups in most of its countries (Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger). The most serious of these dilemmas is the widespread spread of all forms of crime, as crime in the Sahel has taken a "transnational" dimension, closely linked to parallel criminal activities, with the aim of achieving rapid profit and increasing the financial revenues of groups active in the region, as it has witnessed a great expansion, such as cannabis smuggling, cocaine smuggling, kidnapping with ransom demand, and clandestine migration, in addition to the fact that most trade flows through the Sahel and the Sahara are illegal goods, which often rely on informal arrangements with customs and security services .

First_Research Problem:

This paper seeks to answer a key question that forms the heart of the research problem:

_What are the most prominent repercussions imposed by organized crime in the Sahel region on the Algerian nationalist, and how was the Algerian strategy to confront it?

To simplify this problem, it will be broken down into a set of the following sub-questions:

_01What is meant by organized crime and in the Sahel region ?

_02What are the most prominent effects imposed by organized crime in the Sahel region on the Algerian nationalist?



_03How was the Algerian strategy to confront the effects of organized crime in the Sahel region?

Second_Objectives of the study:

_01Taking a simple idea of organized crime in the Sahel region ?

_02The study aims to focus on the most important security challenges and threats posed by organized crime in the African Sahel region that threaten Algeria's national security.

_03Highlighting the Algerian strategy to confront the effects of organized crime in the Sahel region.

Third: Study Significance

The importance of this study lies in its association with the current situation, as the Sahel and Sahara region is considered the strategic depth of Algerian national security, with the increasing effects of organized crime, as Algerian national security has become more threatening than ever, in addition to foreign ambitions to extend its influence over the region at the expense of the security and stability of neighboring countries. In this sense, security threats in the African Sahel region have become a fertile field for security and academic studies with the aim of monitoring threats and challenges to countries neighboring this region.

Methodology of the study

Descriptive approach: It is based on the study of the phenomenon as it exists in reality and is concerned with its accurate description and expresses it quantitatively and qualitatively. Through research on the subject, we used the descriptive approach to describe the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region and its effects on Algerian national security.

Case study: It is an approach that aims to reach comprehensive information about the studied situation, by paying attention to its various aspects as well as the various factors affecting it. In this regard, we used a case study of the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region and its effects on Algerian national security.

Through this research paper, we will try to answer these problems according to the following plan:

The first axis: Adjusting the concepts of the study



The second axis: The effects of clandestine migration in the Sahel region on Algerian national security

The third axis: The effects of smuggling in the Sahel region on Algerian national security

The fourth axis: The Algerian strategy to confront the various security threats in the Sahel region?

Conclusion:

The first axis: Adjusting the concepts of the study

I. Definition of the Organized Crime:

Interpol defines organized crime as a group of individuals who, by virtue of their structure, continuously commit illegal acts primarily for profit, without regard for national borders. Similarly, the European Union's Drug and Organized Crime Taskforce defines it as a group of more than two people engaged in a criminal enterprise involving the commission of crimes. Serious crimes for a long or indefinite period, and each member has a specific task within the framework of the criminal organization that aims to rob and make profits .

And for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, it is defined as a structured group consisting of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in coordination with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or criminal acts in order to obtain, directly, a financial or other material benefit.

Based on these differentiated tariffs, we can provide a gravitational definition of the crime in terms of its criminal activity, which depends on the planning and management of the trial, as well as on the collective action of a multitude of individual, highly skilled, highly skilled individuals who will be able to navigate through the unscrambled use of the process .

Second_General reading about the African Sahel region:

The African Sahel is defined as the geopolitical space separating two other geopolitical spaces: Northern Africa on the Mediterranean Sea and Black Africa south of the Sahara. This geographical space extends from the far eastern coast of the continent on the Red Sea to the far western coast on the Atlantic Ocean. It is a long strip that includes several countries: Eritrea ,Sudan, Chad, Niger, Algeria,



Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal and Niger. Therefore, the African Sahel region is considered one of the most extensive areas in the world with an area of more than nine million square kilometers .

The term Sahelo-Saharan region dates back to the 1970s to refer to the geographical mass extending from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east .

_01Geopolitical shifts in the Sahel:

One of the most prominent features and common denominators shared by these countries and this region was known as a coast of crises extending over borders exceeding 6,343 kilometers, and this crisis coast is linked to a number of security dilemmas, foremost of which is the crisis of state-building in this region; the growth of ethnic conflicts with a severe weakness in the national belonging of its population and fragile economic structures, in addition to weak political performance and instability, and the succession of coups in most of its countries (Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger), and the most serious of these dilemmas is the widespread spread of all forms of crime and structural violence, and extremist terrorist groups .

The Sahelo-Saharan region is full of many threats, patterns of violence and crimes, as confirmed by United Nations reports, as approximately 30% to 40% of hard drugs pass through this region, and it constitutes the second largest market for light weapons in the African continent. The reports of the Small Arms Survey of the High Institute for International Studies in Geneva indicate that there are about 100 million light weapons in the African continent and that 80% of the existing weapons originate from the hotbeds of conflicts prevailing in the West African region that move to neighboring countries such as Algeria through Mali and Niger .

From the above, it is clear that the Sahel countries have advantages of undeniable importance, which made them in the circle of global ambitions, especially between America, which is trying to dominate the region militarily, France culturally (the Francophone belt) and China economically, in addition to the emergence of Russia on the scene.

_02Strategic Importance of the Sahel Region :

The Sahara Coast region is of great importance, as it is characterized by its important location, linking North and Central Africa, representing a clear strip



from the Red Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and controlling the continent's trade routes, in addition to its immense natural and mineral wealth such as diamonds and copper, as well as uranium and cobalt.

There is a huge stock of gold, iron, zinc and marble, and the reserves of iron ores in Mauritania are estimated at: 100million tons, in addition to the presence of copper. The reserves are estimated at 27.3 million tons of high-quality copper, and the uranium reserves in Niger are estimated at 280 thousand tons. The African Sahel region also enjoys a great water wealth, and it is expected that this region will be the subject of the conflict of the major countries, as the expectations confirm that the coming wars will be linked to the water crisis .

Besides this economic importance, the Sahel region is a strategic transit area for the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline project, which extends over a distance of 4128 km with an annual potential of up to 30 billion cubic meters, starting from Wari in Nigeria and reaching Hassi el Raml in Algeria through Niger, and allows Europe to supply natural gas .

From the above, it can be said that : the energy sources available to the countries of the African Sahel are what made the countries of the European Union and the major countries compete for the implementation of their programs, as they have become of great importance to these countries .

_03The strategic importance of the Sahel region in the Algerian security perception:

Algeria is linked to Mali and Niger by a common border of more than 2,300 km, which represent the weakest link in the African coast, and the most vulnerable to stability, especially after the spread of terrorist groups and organized crimes in the region .

The Sahel region of Africa represents the strategic depth of Algeria, and the challenging security space, fuelled by the growth of asymmetric threats, given the wide borders that bind it to its countries. In addition, its internal security performance is weak .

Algeria considers any security or political unrest in the region to be a threat that can be transmitted to it, so it is working to find solutions to the crises in the region without resorting to a military solution.

Algeria overcomes the support of governments, armies and security services in neighboring countries, and helps them to protect their territories and impose



security, to resort to military intervention as a solution to confront the security problems that afflict the countries of the region .

Security vigilance indicators have become high-flow for the Algerian decision-maker, as a result of the insecurity and ethnic unrest in Mali and Niger in particular, as they lack the organizational and distributional capabilities to confront various forms of threats, such as cross-border crimes, organized crime, illegal migration, and other threats that have become an obsession that threatens the security and stability of the region, and disrupts development processes within its desired political units .

The second axis: The effects of organized crime in the African Sahel on the Algerian nationalist:

What increases the seriousness of this type of organized crime is the tribal and ethnic nature of the countries of the African Sahel, with the separatism witnessed by many countries in the region, such as the Tuareg rebellion in Niger and Mali, the black problem, and instability in Chad and Mauritania.

First: The Effects of Secret Migration on the Algerian Nationalists:

Irregular migration has increasingly become a source of security concerns, as it is often associated with criminal networks and carries the risk of terrorist elements attempting to infiltrate migration flows.

The geographical location of Algeria and its proximity to European countries has made it a transit country for African illegal migrants to reach European countries, so that the number of illegal migrants coming from sub-Saharan Africa in general and from the African coast in particular has increased. Statistics indicate that their number is about 24,000 migrants, the majority of whom are concentrated in the southern states of Algeria, especially in Tamanrasset, which includes 7,722 migrants, then in the west and center, where their numbers are reduced in the east. This is what we will observe in the following effects and repercussions .

_01 Threats that pose a threat to the sovereignty of receiving countries: Secret Migration has become one of the notable indicators of the expanding activities of transnational organized crime. The profits generated from these networks are estimated at around 3.5 billion dollars per year. Criminal groups exploit vulnerable people—often fleeing political, economic, or social hardship—by smuggling them across borders and facilitating their irregular entry into more developed countries. This form of illegal migration challenges the sovereignty of receiving states and exposes migrants to serious risks, including inhumane or degrading treatment.



Algeria faces additional pressure due to the length and complexity of its borders, which stretch 6,343 km over land—shared with Libya (982 km), Tunisia (965 km), Morocco (1,559 km), Western Sahara (42 km), Mauritania (463 km), Mali (1,376 km), and Niger (956 km)—as well as approximately 1,200 km of coastline. The difficult terrain, combined with the limited border-control capacity of neighboring countries, particularly in the Sahel and Libya, has created major challenges for Algeria. As a result, controlling these borders has become increasingly difficult, making them more vulnerable to unauthorized crossings and criminal exploitation .

02_Affecting the demographic structure :

Migration also affects the political, social, and cultural dynamics of several Sahel and coastal African countries, including Chad, Mali, Cameroon, Senegal, Sudan, and others. Large movements of people can place pressure on host or transit states, particularly when those states already struggle to provide adequate healthcare and basic services.

Large migration flows place additional pressure on host and transit countries, especially when these states already struggle to provide sufficient healthcare and basic services. Limited resources can make it harder for authorities to respond effectively to public-health needs or to prevent criminal groups from exploiting migrants through activities such as drug trafficking or document forgery.

At the same time, migrants face serious dangers themselves. Many travel through harsh and poorly monitored routes—such as long stretches of desert—where people can become lost, stranded, or exposed to life-threatening conditions .

03Trafficking in Human Beings :

The issue of human trafficking has become one of the most serious challenges threatening the security and stability of societies. Globally, it is considered the third-largest criminal activity after arms and drug trafficking, generating more than 32 billion dollars annually—with a significant portion linked to various forms of exploitation.

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, trafficking in persons refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of individuals through threats, force, coercion, abduction, deception, or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation. This definition highlights the many methods used by traffickers to gain control over victims and profit from their vulnerability .



Human trafficking has become one of the most dangerous forms of transnational organized crime, posing a serious threat to the security and stability of states. Its impact is deeply harmful, especially on vulnerable groups such as women and children, as it undermines their safety, freedom, and basic rights. Because of the gravity of this crime and its effects on society, the Algerian Constitution grants it special attention by explicitly mandating that the law criminalize and punish all forms of human trafficking .

The seriousness of this crime, given its international dimensions, made the Algerian legislator, within the framework of adapting our legal system to international obligations, enact on May 7 of this year a special law, combining all forms of this crime into one legal text .

_04Threats to Algerian Community Security:

The irregular and unregulated movement of people across borders can create security challenges, particularly when criminal networks exploit migrants' vulnerabilities. Such networks may engage in document forgery, drug trafficking, or human trafficking, and in some cases take advantage of migrants through deception, coercion, or exploitation.

Uncontrolled migration flows can also make it harder for authorities to identify risks such as espionage or violent extremism. At the same time, migrants themselves face serious dangers when targeted by criminal groups or left without proper protection or legal status. In some circumstances, extremist or criminal organizations may attempt to use these vulnerable conditions to carry out activities that threaten security and stability .

On the other hand, it has been found that illegal immigration has a very negative impact on Algerian societal security. Illegal immigrants have become the product of various forms of pests and practices that have nothing to do with Algerian society, as they often bring with them the characteristics of their society and strive to preserve their identity. In light of the influx of a large number of illegal immigrants to Algeria, the Algerian, Arab, Islamic and Amazigh identity is threatened by penetration .

Many Africans in Algeria have also become a threat to the region due to the dangers they pose at all levels. They carry out acts of sorcery, fraud, and arms trafficking, especially since their countries of origin are abundant in weapons. They also bring weapons and drugs to sell in Algeria with stability or cross their price to the other side of the Mediterranean, in addition to attacks with weapons on



Algerian citizens. They can also flee as the most important unknown to the Algerian security forces .

On the other hand, the arrival of numbers of illegal immigrants and the multiple and intractable diseases they carry among some of them, such as AIDS and various sexual diseases, which poses a threat to the health of the population. It is noteworthy that the highest percentage of people infected with this deadly disease at the national level was recorded in the state of Tamanrasset. On the other hand, the deterioration of the health status of the illegal immigrant has increased as a result of social and psychological isolation as a result of his transition from the environment and the society that he is familiar with to another society .

_05 Impact on political relations between Algeria and European countries :

The phenomenon of illegal migration has also posed another challenge in light of the fact that illegal African migrants have made Algeria a transit or residence area. Algeria is also one of the countries exporting migration towards European countries, which has affected the political relations between Algeria and European countries .

The continuous increase of illegal immigrants is also a threat, because it will be linked to gangs specialized in crime of all kinds, which creates a state of insecurity, and facilitates criminal organizations to penetrate, as tribal and religious conflicts occur .

Despite Algeria's great efforts to address the infiltration of illegal migrants, it has not been able to stop them. Security approaches alone have proven to be a failure, and therefore a new integrated approach must be adopted to maintain Algerian societal security .

Map No. (01): The most important routes used by illegal immigrants to reach Europe

Source: National Gendarmerie Command - Cheraga -Algeria

Second_ The repercussions of smuggling on the Algerian national:

_01 Drug Trafficking:

Geographical proximity to drug production and transit areas in sub-Saharan Africa (primarily the Gulf of Guinea, as well as Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon) has contributed. As well as the



weakness of the criminal systems in sub-Saharan Africa and its corruption, and the nature of the structure of wars and conflicts in it, as well as the exposure of Algeria from the south due to the weak security coverage of its southern borders in exacerbating the negative impact of drugs on the security of Algerian society and individuals. Figures for the quantities of cannabis, cocaine, and heroin seized in Algeria each year, estimated in tons, in addition to hundreds of thousands of hallucinogenic pills, indicate the seriousness of the threat posed by drugs and their smuggling and trafficking networks to Algerian security .

The aggravation of the phenomenon and the spread of drug production and smuggling from the Sahel region is noted so that this aggravation can be limited to two reasons. The first is the existence of an increasing actual demand within European societies, whether the demand is commercial or consumer. The second reason is the profits achieved by this type of trade in the absence of job opportunities, especially in the absence of conditions for the recovery of alternative productive activities, as the far north of Morocco suffers from macroeconomic marginalization .

As for the serious repercussions of the drug trade, they can be clarified as follows:

-01The material cost: It needs huge financial resources to acquire it, as well as it requires special devices and centers and logistical support, and a high cost to open units and centers for treatment, and to detect drugs to the competent security authorities that contribute to combating them.

-02Impact on community security: Drugs target the youth group, which represents about 70% of the total population, as well as crime that spreads in society and increases family disintegration rates .

_03From an economic point of view: Drugs play a role in decreasing saving rates, which leads to higher savings rates. It is known that increasing investment in the productive sectors contributes to achieving economic growth, but if a large segment of society spends its money to obtain drugs instead of saving, the savings rates decrease, and thus the investment process stops, which leads to the cessation of the wheel of economic growth in the country. Moreover, drug abuse leads to the weak productivity of the individual, which leads to the weak productivity of society, and therefore to the economic process. Drug users represent idle energy as a whole, so increasing the use of these toxins in Algeria represents an economic challenge because of their negative effects on the economic development process .



The seriousness of this threat lies in the current data of each of the two crises in Mali and Libya for an unknown time due to the unanswered situation, which means that the levels of the threat of the proliferation of weapons will remain relatively high in light of the continued instability in the two countries, which is confirmed by the annual toll of fighting traders with weapons and ammunition of the national army from 2017 to 2021 .

If annual reports show that efforts to combat drug trafficking are increasing, the problem remains complex due to the combined impact of security, economic, political, and social factors. These interconnected influences affect every level of society and the state, making it difficult to fully eliminate the phenomenon. This situation reinforces the idea that we live in a time of uncertainty, where it is increasingly important to understand who acts and who influences security dynamics. Algeria's national security today faces actors whose activities cross borders and whose effects are difficult to track or predict.

As a result, Algeria has not only become a transit route for drugs but has also turned into a consumer market, particularly because drug use has grown among segments of Algerian youth. This creates a serious internal threat to the country's social fabric. According to the National Office for Drug Prevention and Addiction, in 2017, about 13% of individuals within the educational sector were affected by addiction, and approximately 27% of the drugs crossing border regions were intended for local distribution. These figures highlight the severity of the issue and its impact on Algeria's national security.

In reality, organized crime appears in many forms, the most prominent being drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, kidnapping, and other illicit activities. Among these, the drug trade and the circulation of weapons account for the largest share of criminal operations and have become deeply embedded in the region's illicit economy.

Many indicators also show that patterns within the global drug trade have shifted over time. Routes and networks that were once primarily connected to the United States have increasingly expanded toward Europe, particularly the United Kingdom and other parts of Northern Europe, reflecting changes in demand, trafficking methods, and international criminal cooperation.

Given the huge quantities of drugs that are seized in various regions of the Maghreb in general, as well as in some European countries after they have crossed by sea and air, it was necessary to pose this challenge as one of the mother



of the security stakes in Algeria, because of its links to other security challenges such as terrorism, arms trade and organized crime .

_02Arms Smuggling:

Africa is one of the regions most affected by the indiscriminate and uncontrolled spread and illegal trade of this type of transnational organized crime, which is and remains one of the major problems of security in sub-Saharan Africa known for its many conflicts and conflicts. As for the African coast, it ranks second globally on the list of the world's largest markets for this type of non-commercial trade. When weapons are traded in this region of the continent, it exceeds eight million weapons.

As researchers in the field of arms control see it, the latter is not always the main cause of conflicts in the continent, but the real nutrient for them and make them more bloody and expensive. More than fifteen billion dollars each year in Africa are spent on wars, which is an unfair waste of resources compared to the needs of the continent for social assistance and development .

The spread of Libyan weapons after the collapse of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's regime fueled areas of conflict and tension in the African Sahel region. This spread began through civilian traders and then complex networks were formed to smuggle it, including tribes sponsored by armed organizations and groups. These networks and groups are active on Libya's land borders of more than four thousand kilometers, and among these networks are men from the desert who are skilled in desert routes and know their terrain, which facilitated the delivery of Libyan weapons to many points of tension in Mali, Nigeria, Sudan, Central Africa, Tunisia, and others .

Map No.(02): A map showing the smuggling of weapons from Libya to neighboring countries.

Source: <http://www.stadies.aljazeera.net>

The volume of these weapons discovered periodically raises pressing questions about their nature, size, and conditions of existence, especially as they suggest that terrorist groups were in the process of open war on the borders with Algeria or transforming these areas into crossings for the sale of weapons from Libya to groups in West African countries.

Algeria has repeatedly warned of the dangers of the proliferation of Libyan weapons in the border region of the possibility of armed groups benefiting



from it, especially heavy weapons and their use in the face of the Sahel countries, so that retired Colonel "Ramadan Campaigns" is likely to be part of the quantities of weapons discovered are shipments provided by networks selling weapons smuggled from Libya, for the benefit of terrorist groups or Tuareg movements..."In this case, it is believed that these networks "... It is forced to cross through the Algerian desert to deliver these shipments for the benefit of its claimants, " pointing out that "...These networks should not be underestimated as they provide fuel for a war that is destructive of economic capabilities and explosive of security and social stability in the region " .

Based on the aforementioned, it can be said that the weakness of African coastal countries to monitor their wide borders and their inability to protect their citizens led to the spread of weapons among citizens to defend themselves from organized crime and terrorist networks, as statistics indicate that more than 40% of light weapons are used by civilians, which poses a security threat to human rights from another party .

All this makes there more burdens on Algeria and its army under the current circumstances, which prompted it to deploy more units and raise the level of readiness and combat readiness, and also prompted it to increase the percentage of armaments and raise the budget allocated to defense. With the increasing threats and in light of the chaos in the African Sahel region and the fragility of the state in Libya, Algeria's fears have increased as mentioned above, which prompted it to increase military spending in recent years .

The third axis: The Algerian strategy to confront organized crime in the Sahel region of Africa

Algeria has always tried to enshrine the priority of collective action and the primacy of regional institutions such as the African Union in solving the problems of the African Sahel. Algeria fought for the establishment of an African rapid response force to African crises and conflicts, which was evident during the 22nd Summit of the African Union, held in 2014 in Addis Ababa. Algeria also called for the need to establish an African police organization "Afr Yebol" to coordinate the work of African countries in the security field to meet all security challenges, during the African Conference of Directors and Inspectors General of Police, held in Algiers on 10 February 2014 with the participation of 40 countries along with the African Union and Interpol .

If we want to delve into the role played by Algiers in the region to combat organized crime and security threats, then we will certainly address the political



and diplomatic role to resolve these obligations in the region, as the external policy in Africa and in the last years, will distinguish between the political and the diplomatic role to resolve these obligations in the region, and the external policy in Africa and in the last years, and the level of space in the region and the health sector, which is responsible for the impact on it. The most important Algerian strategies in the region can be summarized by:

Neither the Algerian strategy to confront clandestine migration in the Sahel region of Africa:

The association of threats with the geographical dimension of the Algerian state has placed it in a complex security environment. In this regard, Brigadier General "Muhannad Al-Saleh Asriq" says: "The state's policy requires a defense policy or a military doctrine that allows for prevention and preparation of the state to confront threats, dangers, crises and, when necessary, war With a population of more than 39 million and an area of 2,381,741 km², a land border of more than 6,700 km², and a coastline of 1,622 km², Algeria occupies in the heart of the Maghreb a geostrategic position that makes it simultaneously a Maghreb, Arab, Mediterranean and African country " .

The extent of the vastness of the borders in the southern part was realized and exposed to all the threats of the eastern and southern borders of the country, and given the widespread area that distinguishes the fourth and fourth aspects of Islam, and the fact that the Algerian Ministry of Defense has extended the development of the eastern and southern borders of the country. We address the various bilateral agreements concluded by Algeria with other countries in the field of combating clandestine immigration as follows :

In 2002, Algeria signed a partnership agreement with the European Union, one of the provisions of which included the issue of the movement of persons and visas, the issue of legal and illegal migration, and readmission under Articles 83 to 84 of the Association Agreement.

Given that Algeria is an African country and has a deep African reach dating back to the years before independence, African countries have adopted an action plan for cooperation to confront the phenomenon of illegal migration. The most important thing is to draw up an African Union policy towards Africa based on development and the rejection of selective migration of competencies that are the pillar of development in many African countries. This policy requires the European Union countries to commit to achieving an effective partnership towards African countries based on the principle of respect for common interests .



Within the framework of the Barcelona Process, measures to combat illegal migration stressed the need to control this phenomenon, respect the rights of legal migrants and establish intensive cooperation by involving all Mediterranean countries to reduce the intensity of migration flows and pressure on European countries

The problems of borders are a serious and permanent factor of differences, and the borders of African countries on the day of their independence constitute a concrete reality that reminds of the need to resolve by peaceful means, and within the African framework of all differences between African countries and all member states are committed to respecting the borders that exist when they gain independence .

Second: The Algerian Strategy to Counter Smuggling in the African Sahel Region:

Geographical proximity to drug production and transit areas in sub-Saharan Africa (primarily the Gulf of Guinea, as well as Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon) has contributed. As well as the weakness of the criminal systems in sub-Saharan Africa and its corruption, and the nature of the structure of wars and conflicts in it, as well as the exposure of Algeria from the south due to the weak security coverage of its southern borders in exacerbating the negative impact of drugs on the security of Algerian society and individuals. Figures for the quantities of cannabis, cocaine, and heroin seized in Algeria each year, estimated in tons, in addition to hundreds of thousands of hallucinogenic pills, indicate the seriousness of the threat posed by drugs and their smuggling and trafficking networks to Algerian security .

In order to dry up the sources of crime, especially from the southern flank, which extends over a distance of more than 3,000 km, the Ministry of Interior has identified a list of 50 items and commodities that are prohibited from being transported to Libya to prevent them from reaching Salafi-jihadist groups, whose influence has increased in several regions of Libya. This measure comes to prevent the transfer of a group of goods to Libya, as it was agreed upon between Libya's neighboring countries, Tunisia and Algeria. The measure comes to prevent Salafi-jihadi groups that have pledged allegiance to the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) from obtaining any materials or equipment used in hostile acts .

In general, it can be said that despite the increasing African reliance on collective security arrangements in the face of border security threats, there is still a prominent presence of traditional approaches based on regressive protectionist



policies, especially in some African countries located in troubled regions or experiencing strained relations with neighboring countries. Practices such as closing borders and preventing the passage of people and goods continue to exist in multiple African cases, which have found additional justification since the beginning of the spread of the Corona virus on the African continent, which has been used as a pretext to restrict cross-border passage in multiple cases.

There is still more effort to be made by the different parties involved in border security in Africa, to be directed in three tracks, the first of which is to achieve a greater degree of coordination between border security policies, whether between different levels (national, regional and continental) or between actors at each level. The second track is to expand the scope of policies to address border security threats so that they are better able to address the root causes of these threats by promoting engagement with factors of a social, economic and cultural nature. The last track is related to improving the flexibility of border security policies in Africa, which allows it to be more responsive to successive developments in border security threats .

Conclusion:

It can be said that the crisis in the coast was more complex because the region did not know the role of institutions, especially the weak army institution, which reflected negatively on the situation. After 2011, the pace of conflicts between many parties for narrow interests and structural differences increased, which produced a state of security chaos, heavy proliferation of weapons and fragility at the state level, which formed an attractive environment for terrorist groups and organized crime groups and a route for illegal migration.

This situation has posed and continues to pose a threat and challenge to Algeria, which shares with the Sahel countries long and difficult geographical borders and common social structures that have their extensions throughout the Maghreb region, which prompted Algeria to adopt a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach to face these challenges, and based on its previous experience in organized crime, and on the principles it derives from its defense doctrine, Algeria called for the need to adopt the political option to resolve the crisis in the Sahel between the conflicting parties without exception, and to reject all forms of external interference that contribute to destabilizing the region as a whole.

Through these aspects, the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan countries can be understood as a state of overlap between local, regional and international



challenges, which requires coordinated and comprehensive efforts to deal with them.

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