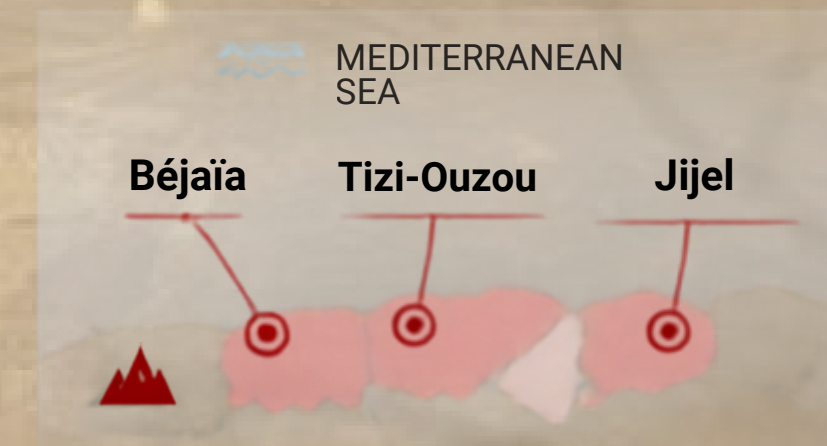


ALGERIAN WILDFIRES CLIMATE CATASTROPHE & THE DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE, TERRITORIAL VULNERABILITY, AND THE RETURN OF THE
DEATH PENALTY DEBATE



SCHEMATIC MAP



ALGERIA

 Main affected zones
referenced in the analysis

 Mountainous terrain, forested areas, and
settlements in contact with highly
flammable zones: a territorial vulnerability
that accelerates fire spread and hampers
emergency response.

STRATEGIC SYNTHESIS

WILDFIRES, STATE
RESPONSE & LEGAL
DEBATE

01

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE & TERRITORIAL VULNERABILITY

August 2026: over 200 wildfire outbreaks across Jijel, Béjaïa, and Tizi-Ouzou wilayas

Extreme conditions: temperatures above 45°C, violent winds, prolonged drought, highly flammable vegetation

Environmental damage: forest destruction, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, water resource degradation, carbon storage loss

Human toll: uncertain death count (official: 12 vs. local estimates: 200+ in Jijel), injuries, displacement, economic losses

02

STATE RESPONSE & GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Rapid mobilization: three days of national mourning, emergency relief, compensation, infrastructure restoration

Recent reforms: 2023 Forestry Law, 2024 Disaster Risk Management Law, modernization of early warning systems

Tension between local operational capacity and centralized governance structures

Increasing role of local actors and communities in crisis management and coordination

03

LEGAL DIMENSION & DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

Article 399 of the Penal Code: death penalty for arson causing death; de facto moratorium in place since 1993

Presidential announcement to amend the Penal Code to allow executions for convicted arsonists responsible for deaths

Legal limits: non-retroactivity, parliamentary competence, constitutional guarantees, international human rights compliance

Strategic question: balance between structural prevention and criminal repression

04

CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES

The 2026 crisis is a major resilience test against both climate and institutional risks

Integrated approach: enhanced prevention, local governance, transparency, and equitable justice

Political risk: prioritizing repression at the expense of durable prevention policies

Strategic recommendations for long-term territorial and institutional resilience

THREE CHALLENGES, ONE INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO PROTECT TERRITORIES AND POPULATIONS

