

Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington

P.O. Box 65063 Washington, DC 20035-5063

<http://www.aaagw.org>

October 27, 2010

His Excellency Ambassador Baali Abdallah
Embassy of Algeria in the United States
2118 Kalorama Road NW
Washington, DC 20008

Your Excellency:

The Board of Directors of the Algerian American Association of Greater Washington (AAAGW) would like to share with you important concerns raised by several members of our community. Many of these concerns revolve around the non-participation of our community in celebrating Algeria's national holidays organized by the Algerian Embassy.

As mandated by the President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, during the creation of the National Council for the Algerian community living abroad, it is the duty and responsibility of every Algerian Embassy to engage and strengthen its ties with the Algerian community which is truly an inseparable part of the Algerian nation. The President has also reiterated the necessity for these institutions to make every effort in building stronger ties with the community abroad by providing a framework that promotes the participation of the Algerian community to the development and improvement of Algeria.

Based on these unequivocal directives of the President, it is disconcerting to exclude once again, the large majority of our community from celebrating with their countrymen one of the most important day in the history of Algeria. Mr. Ambassador, we don't need to remind you that many of these countrymen that you are excluding lost their fathers and mothers during that first day of our memorable revolution. Today Mr. Ambassador you are excluding from your celebration the sons and daughters of these heroes who gave you the reason to celebrate this event in the first place.

The Algerian Embassy as the sole representative of the Algerian Government in the United States must ensure that national holidays are appropriately celebrated and that citizens leaving abroad are invited and encouraged to participate in such events. We do understand that there may be logistical constraints or established protocol among the diplomatic corps, but these constraints should not undermine the participation and involvement of our community in attending these events. In the name of the entire Algerian community, we would like you to reconsider your decision and open the doors to our community to observe and remember those who have given their lives for our freedom.

We regret to inform you that based on the above matter, the Board of Directors of AAAGW decided not to attend the November 1st event.

Respectfully,



Nacer Megherbi, President

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

(Nadira Boumechal, Yassine Belkhodja, Laila Boufraine, Naim Bentahar, Azzedine Stambouli)