

ALGERIA: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (12TH DECEMBER 2019) PRE-ELECTION ANALYSIS (SUMMARY)

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The 12th December 2019 presidential elections are one of the most unusual processes in the brief history of multiparty politics in Algeria. They are the third polls called in 2019, after the cancellation of April and July votes, the first not to have a chief of state within the legal limits of the Constitution, after Bouteflika's resignation in April, and the most openly and massively contested elections Algerians have ever seen due to a formidable and ever determined popular movement known as "Algerian Hirak". The Algerian military authorities, whose ostensible visibility is certainly unpleasant, intends to fight corruption through spectacular trials and hold elections before the year ends, refusing neither to engage in any negotiations with Hirak nor to modify the rules of the electoral game. The coming crash is set, with a general strike called by the opposition and the international passivity foreign states are offering the Algerian regime. The only certainty is the extremely low turnout expected on Thursday polls, which some consider may lead to an eventual cancellation of the elections.