

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** Sidney Blumenthal <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 19, 2013 7:44 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** H: Algeria latest French intel. Sid

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CONFIDENTIAL

January 19, 2013

For: Hillary  
From: Sid  
Re: French intel in touch with Belmokhtar, etc

1. During the evening of January 19, 2013 Algerian Special Forces troops informed President Abdelaziz Bouteflika that the hostage crisis at In Amenas was concluded and as many as 35 of the hostages had been killed in fighting with terrorist at the gas facility. Speaking on condition of absolute secrecy a source with access to the highest levels of the Algerian Army stated that the Special Forces commanders consider the operation a success, having killed or capture all but a few of the Mokhtar Belmokhtar "Signed in Blood" fighters. This source stated that a small number of the surviving fighters escaped across the border into Southern Libya. Senior advisors to President Bouteflika added that they believe Belmokhtar plans to use this attack to reinvigorate his troops, and may launch additional raids in Mali and Libya, as well as other parts of Algeria in the near future.

2. At the same time, according to this sensitive source officers of the Algerian DGSE are working to meet in secret with Belmokhtar or one of his lieutenants in northern Mauritania in the immediate future. They have been ordered to establish the reason why Belmokhtar violated their two year old secret agreement, and launched attacks inside of Algeria. They believe that this attack is a part of growing effort by AQIM in Northwest Africa (supported by kidnapping), and fear that it may be the first blow in a new phase of the Algerian civil war. These sources noted that Belmokhtar can call on the support of 5,000-10,000 battle

hardened fighters across the region. They add that he views Westerners with disdain, and sees Bouteflika as a puppet of these foreign interests.