

You are in: [World](#): [Middle East](#)[Front Page](#) Sunday, 28 January, 2001, 14:49 GMT[World](#)**Algerian militants kill 25**[Africa](#)[Americas](#)[Asia-Pacific](#)[Europe](#)[Middle East](#)[South Asia](#)[From Our Own Correspondent](#)[Letter From](#)[America](#)[UK](#)[UK Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sci/Tech](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[Entertainment](#)[Talking Point](#)[In Depth](#)[AudioVideo](#)

More than 100,000 have been killed since 1992

Algerian rebels have reportedly killed 25 villagers, including 16 children and four women, in the country's worst massacre this year.

The killings are said to have taken place on Saturday night at El Guetaibia village, in the province of Chlef, 135 miles (220 km) west of Algiers.

"They cut the throats of 25 people from two extended families," a doctor at a hospital in the area told Reuters news agency.

The doctor and other officials at the hospital quoted relatives of the dead as saying the radical Islamic Armed Group (GIA) carried out the attack. He added that a 20-year-old woman had been abducted.

The massacre brought the number of killings in Algeria this month to more than 90.

More than 100,000 people have died since 1992, when the GIA began an armed insurgency following the cancellation of a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Renewed attacks

A BBC correspondent says that after a lull last year, village massacres and attacks against travellers on country roads have returned to terrify the residents of western and central areas of

“
They cut the throats of
25 people from two
extended families
”

Hospital doctor

Search BBC News Online

[Advanced search options](#)[Launch console for latest audio/video](#) [BBC RADIO NEWS](#)[BBC ONE TV NEWS](#)[WORLD NEWS SUMMARY](#)[BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN](#)[PROGRAMMES GUIDE](#)**See also:**[24 Dec 00 | Middle East Analysis: Algeria's discredited peace](#)[21 Dec 00 | Middle East Amnesty condemns Algeria killings](#)[19 Dec 00 | Middle East Algeria massacre kills 22](#)[20 Jul 00 | Country profiles Country profile: Algeria](#)**Internet links:**[Algeria Info](#)[Africa News: Algeria](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Top Middle East stories now:[Barak suspends peace talks](#)[Kuwait Government resigns](#)[Algerian militants kill 25](#)[Syria and Iraq hold water talks](#)[Iran MPs want judges investigated](#)[Neighbours seek to share the Nile](#)[Gulf Air crew foil hijacker](#)[Lebanese PM: no more Palestinian attacks](#)

Algeria.

Much of the violence against civilians is blamed on the GIA, a network of militants which operates out of the mountains in the western provinces.

Hundreds of GIA members surrendered more than a year ago to take advantage of an amnesty offered by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The president had launched what he called a civil concord initiative, which now seems to be in tatters.

In recent weeks, Mr Bouteflika has been facing a fierce campaign of criticism in the press and even by parties in the government coalition. Critics allege that his amnesty has encouraged the armed militants to increase their attacks without fear of punishment.

Atmosphere of crisis

However, observers say the real reason for the criticism is that relations are tense between Mr Bouteflika and the powerful army officers who put him in his position.

The president has been trying to increase his influence by appointing those loyal to him in key positions.

The mounting violence and the rumours of disputes at the top are now creating an atmosphere of crisis, something which Algerians thought they had left behind when Mr Bouteflika came to power.

Links to more Middle East stories

Links to more Middle East stories are at the foot of the page.



[^^ Back to top](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [In Depth](#) | [AudioVideo](#)

[>To BBC Sport](#)