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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.8.2020)

The information available to the European External Action Service, the Commission and the EU Delegation in Algiers does not allow the confirmation of the reported incidents. Governance, respect of rule of law and promotion of fundamental rights remain important priorities of the EU-Algeria partnership as provided for under the Association Agreement¹.

Preventive and containment measures to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus have been put in place in the town of Tindouf and in the camps. The Sahrawi camps' authorities imposed an obligatory quarantine to all persons entering the territory of the camps as of 7 March 2020. In cooperation with the Sahrawi camps' authorities, the Algerian authorities have sealed the camps with a sanitary cordon at the level of Tindouf on 18 March 2020. In addition, the Algerian army has installed a military hospital fully appointed with COVID-19 medical equipment and devices. The measures have proven effective, as there have been no cases of COVID-19 reported from within the Sahrawi camps, even if 28 confirmed cases emerged in the city of Tindouf. According to our information, currently people can move freely between the camps and between Tindouf and the camps. The controls are being made at the entry of the town of Tindouf.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/algeria/>