



Western Sahara Action Forum
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Open letter to the UN Security Council from international Western Sahara solidarity groups

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Your Excellency

As representatives of human rights organisations, civil society, and solidarity groups from around the world, we are writing to you in your capacity as a member of the UN Security Council, to place on record our strong belief that the status quo in Western Sahara is unacceptable.

We urge the Security Council to live up to its mandate by strongly encouraging both parties to the conflict to accept Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara Horst Köhler's invitations for face-to-face negotiations which will move forward the UN political process toward an acceptable solution that would allow for the Saharawi people to exercise their right to self-determination.

As the UN fails to uphold its stated commitment to hold a self-determination referendum under measures put in place 27 years ago following the agreement between the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, and as evidenced by the existence of MINURSO and its establishment by Security Council resolution 690, the Saharawi people continue to wait for a long-awaited diplomatic solution. The basic principles at stake are simple and fundamental. The right to self-determination is enshrined in the UN Charter and is the foundation on which MINURSO's mission was built. The failure of the Security Council to move the political process forward and pressure Morocco to act in good faith has enabled a political impasse in Western Sahara that tarnishes the reputation and credibility of the United Nations and its peacekeeping missions.

For over forty years now, the people of Western Sahara remain divided between life in unforgiving desert refugee camps or under a brutal Moroccan occupation where they are deprived of basic rights and opportunities. The current situation in Western Sahara is untenable. A new failure of the Security Council to move the parties closer to a political solution will severely jeopardise the peace and stability of the region.

We, the undersigned, call on you to act with due urgency to support the right of the people of Western Sahara to choose their own political future. This will require political will and bravery by members of the Security Council, but it is no less than the Saharawi people have been promised and deserve.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Beccy Allen
Coordinator

Western Sahara Action Forum is an international coalition of over 40 organisations dedicated to the protection of human rights and the implementation of international law in Western Sahara.

Adala UK - Sidi Ahmed Meska, President

Afrika Kontakt - Morten Nielsen, Head of Secretariat

Afrikagrupperna - Louise Lindfors, Secretary General

All Party Group on Western Sahara, UK – Ben Lake, Secretary

Asociación de Amigos del Pueblo Saharaui de las Islas Baleares Catalina - Rosselló Nadal, Presidenta

Asociación de la Comunidad Saharaui en Argon (ACSA) - Boullahi Moh Yehdih, Administrator

Asociación de la Comunidad Saharaui en la Región de Murcia – Mahmud Mohamed Mulud Hosein, Presidente

Association pour un référendum libre et régulier au Sahara Occidental (ARSO) - Emmanuel Martinoli, Responsable

Associazione di solidarietà con il popolo Saharawi (KARAMA) - Patrizia Minella, President

Bureau International pour le Respect des Droits de l'Homme au Sahara Occidental (BIRDHSO) - Christiane Perregaux, Co-présidente

Comité suisse de soutien au peuple sahraoui - Berthier Perregaux, Président

Coordination of Gdeim Izik Peaceful Movement - Mohamed Ali Haddi, Secretary

Emmaus Stockholm Frida Dunger Johnsson, Secretary General,

Foley Hoag, LLP - Gare A. Smith, Partner

Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V. - Tanja Brodtmann, President

International Platform of Jurists for East Timor - Pedro Pinto Leite, Secretary

National Union of Saharawi Women - Fatma Mehdi Hassan, President

New Internationalist - Chris Brazier, Director

Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara - Erik Hagen, Director

Observatoire Des Medias Sahraoui Pour Documenter Les Violations Des Droits De L Homme - Jamal Elmahjoub Mohamed Salem Kraidach, Président

Olive Branch Arts - Becky Finlay Hall, Co-Director

Por Un Sahara Libre - Fito Alvarez Tombo, Director

Red Youth Norway - Tobias Drevland Lund, Leader

Redaktionsbüro - Axel Goldau, Director

Saharawi Advocacy Campaign - Sidahmed Mulay, Coordinator,

Saharawi Campaign Against the Plunder (SCAP) - Jalihenna Mohamed, Coordinator

Saharawi Centre for Media and Communication - Khattari El Baillal, Director

Saharawi Commission of Human Rights (CONASADH) - Abba El Hassan, President

Saharawi Voice – Mohamed Salem Werad, Founding Co-Director

Sandblast Arts - Danielle Smith, Founder

Stave House in the Sahara - Violeta Ruano, Manager

Stichting Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara in the Netherlands - Frank Willems, Spokesperson

Swedish Western Sahara Committee - Jan Strömdahl, President

UNISON - Dave Prentis, General Secretary

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UNITE – Simon Dubbins, Director on International Affairs

US Western Sahara Foundation - Suzanne Scholte, Chair

Western Sahara Action Forum (WSAF) - Beccy Allen, Coordinator

Western Sahara Campaign (WSC UK) - John Gurr, Coordinator

Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW) - Sara Eyckmans, Coordinator

Western Sahara Resource Watch España - Cristina Martínez Benítez de Lugo, Presidente

Western Sahara Solidarity Association Portugal (AAPSO) - Susana Braz, President

Western Sahara Students Union (UESARIO) - Moulay Emhamed Brahim. Secretary General

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