

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 22 July 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and the attached letters addressed to the Secretary-General (annex I) and the President of the Security Council (annex II) by Sidi Omar, representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations, as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Julia **Imene-Chanduru**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex I to the letter dated 22 July 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires  
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

New York, 20 July 2019

Upon instructions from my Authorities, I would like to bring to your attention the Frente POLISARIO's strong condemnation of the visit that is being conducted by the head of the Moroccan government to the city of Dajla (Dakhla) in the part of Western Sahara under Morocco's illegal occupation.

The visit of the Moroccan official to the occupied Western Sahara constitutes a violation of international law and a serious breach of the international legal status of the Territory as a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the full responsibility of the United Nations. It is also a demonstration of Morocco's persistence in its policy of escalation, which will seriously increase tension in the Territory and exacerbate the situation on the ground.

As you are aware, the International Court of Justice clearly established, in its advisory opinion on Western Sahara of 1975, that no tie of territorial sovereignty had ever existed between Western Sahara and Morocco or Mauritania. In his legal opinion of 2002, issued at the request of the Security Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs also reaffirmed unequivocally that Morocco does not exercise any sovereignty or administering power over Western Sahara.

Likewise, the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed, in its judgment of 21 December 2016, that Western Sahara has "a separate and distinct status" by virtue of the principle of self-determination, in relation to that of any State, including the Kingdom of Morocco. In accordance with its doctrine of not recognising as legal any territorial acquisition resulting from the use of force, the General Assembly has clearly defined Morocco's presence in Western Sahara as an act of occupation by force (General Assembly resolutions [34/37](#) of 21 November 1979 and [35/19](#) of 11 November 1980).

For the past 28 years, Morocco has not only obstructed the holding of the United Nations-supervised self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, which was accepted by both parties, the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, and approved by the Security Council. It has also engaged in sustained annexationist policies and actions aimed at entrenching its militarily imposed occupation and illegal annexation of parts of Western Sahara.

Morocco's persistence in its expansionism and policy of escalation risk undermining the efforts deployed by the United Nations under your auspices with a view to achieving a just and lasting solution that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, as called for by numerous resolutions of the Security Council.

The United Nations should assume its responsibility and take all necessary measures to stop Morocco's provocative actions, which put the credibility and authority of the United Nations at stake. We urgently call on you in your capacity as Secretary-General to use your authority to compel Morocco to desist from its destabilizing actions that imperil peace and security in the whole region and undermine the prospects for advancing the already fragile United Nations peace process in Western Sahara.

I would be most grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sidi M. Omar  
Representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations

**Annex II to the letter dated 22 July 2019 from the Chargé  
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the  
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

New York, 20 July 2019

It is with alarm that I would like to bring to your attention that Morocco's continued and escalating human rights violations against Sahrawi civilians are aggravating the situation on the ground and increasing tension in the occupied Western Sahara.

On Friday night, hundreds of Sahrawi civilians spontaneously took to the streets in El Aaiún, the capital of the occupied Western Sahara, to peacefully celebrate the victory of Algeria's football team against Senegal in the 2019 African Cup of Nations. Several cities in the occupied Western Sahara, including Smara, Bojador and Dajla, also witnessed similar acts of celebration.

As part of its systematic policy of repression in the occupied Western Sahara, the Moroccan security forces violently attacked the Sahrawi civilians using truncheons, tear gas, water cannons, rubber bullets and stones. Hundreds of Moroccan security agents including policemen in uniform and in plain clothes, gendarmerie and paramilitary and auxiliary forces took part in the brutal attack, resulting in many Sahrawi civilians being seriously wounded: some of them remain in critical condition.

Among the victims was Ms Sabah Osman Hamida, a 24-year old Sahrawi woman, who was run over by a vehicle belonging to the Moroccan auxiliary forces on Smara Street in the occupied city of El Aaiún. She died a few hours later from her wounds. The number of fatalities is likely to increase given that many of the civilians wounded remain in critical condition.

We strongly condemn the atrocious attack carried out by Moroccan security forces against innocent Sahrawi civilians in the occupied Territory of Western Sahara, who remain deprived of their basic human rights, including their right to free expression and peaceful assembly. We urgently call on the Security Council to hold Morocco accountable for the consequences of this dangerous act and for the heinous crimes perpetrated by its security forces against the Sahrawi population.

The Moroccan forces of occupation have also arrested dozens of Sahrawi civilians whose whereabouts remain unknown. At the time of writing, several Sahrawi occupied cities, particularly El Aaiún, are still under tight siege by Moroccan security forces. The Moroccan forces of occupation have brought in massive reinforcements, and there are alarming signs that they are preparing to unleash a new wave of brutal repression.

Regrettably, Morocco's repressive actions against Sahrawi civilians take place in the presence of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in the Territory, which remains under the full responsibility of the United Nations. We urge the Security Council to ensure that MINURSO operates in line with basic standards applicable to all other United Nations peacekeeping operations, including having a capacity to monitor, protect and report on the human rights situation.

We also strongly call on the Security Council to exert pressure on Morocco to end its escalating human rights abuses in the occupied Western Sahara, which seriously risk aggravating the situation on the ground and undermining any prospect of building trust and achieving progress in the United Nations-led peace process.

I would be most grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Sidi M. Omar  
Representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations