



Security Council

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Letter dated 24 May 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 16 May 2021, you received a letter from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations transmitting a letter, which was full of lies, concerning Moroccan Sahara.

In that regard, the Kingdom of Morocco deeply regrets that South Africa persists in acting as a messenger for an imposter claiming to be accredited as the so-called “ambassador and representative of polisarrio to the United Nations”. The Organization has never recognized him as such. South Africa is therefore called upon to respect the official position of the United Nations, as expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his reports to the Security Council, in particular [S/2020/938](#) (paras. 8 and 13), [S/2018/277](#) (para. 16) and [S/2017/307](#) (para. 22), which refer to this deceiver merely as the “representative of polisarrio in New York”, not as a representative to the United Nations. Perhaps South Africa is confusing “NY” with “UN”.

Whether South Africa likes it or not, it will not find the slightest reference to a so-called representation of this armed group to the United Nations on the official United Nations website, in the Blue Book diplomatic directory or in any United Nations document. The insistence of South Africa on validating this usurpation of status will not mislead the Security Council, nor will it confer any legitimacy on a so-called representation that exists only in the Tindouf camps in Algeria.

South Africa should ask itself why Algeria, which created the “polisarrio”, finances and arms the group and mobilizes all its diplomatic apparatus for it, does not entrust its own Permanent Mission to the United Nations with transmitting the imposter’s deceitful letter to the Security Council, and why Algeria, the main party to this regional dispute, regularly delegates this illegal task to South Africa.

Moreover, the Kingdom of Morocco condemns the endorsement by South Africa of misleading terminology concerning the nature of the regional dispute concerning Moroccan Sahara, as well as the false allegations about the human rights situation in the Saharan provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco. South Africa pretends to be unaware that the Security Council, in successive resolutions, including its resolution [2548 \(2020\)](#) of 30 October 2020, has “welcom[ed], in this regard, steps and initiatives taken by Morocco, and the role played by the National Council on Human Rights Commissions operating in Dakhla and Laayoune, and Morocco’s interaction with Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council”.

South Africa is in no position to set itself up as an advocate for human rights. International human rights organizations regularly condemn the serious human rights



violations being committed in South Africa, in particular violations of the rights of minorities and indigenous populations, as well as extrajudicial and summary killings, etc. It is regrettable that as the international community is preparing to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from brotherly African countries who are in South Africa continue to be victims of racist and xenophobic violence and crime and of hate campaigns against them.

The ideological association of South Africa with “polisario” separatism is not an excuse for its political blindness with regard to the dispute concerning Moroccan Sahara. Similarly, its unconditional support for the armed group cannot justify its complicit silence on the matter of the crimes perpetrated against the populations sequestered in the Tindouf camps, including those committed by the “leader” of this militia, known as brahim ghali, who is facing prosecution in Spain for war crimes, crimes against humanity, terrorist acts and rape.

The denial by South Africa of the Security Council’s position on the question of Moroccan Sahara is an indelible stain on its credibility as a country aspiring to play a role in the maintenance of peace and security on behalf of the African continent. Such a responsibility can only be entrusted to countries that work for the peace and unity of the continent, without taking partisan or ideological positions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Omar **Hilale**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
