



SAHARAWI CIVIL SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

8 December 2023 / 8 January 2024

With its appalling human rights record and as a colonial occupier, Morocco Cannot Preside the UN Human Rights Council, Sahrawi Civil Society Urges

Morocco's appalling human rights record, including its colonial occupation of Western Sahara and its people, should exclude it from presiding the UN Human Rights Council, says Sahrawi civil society: "Allowing Rabat to hold the Council presidency is like putting the wolf in charge of the sheep."

As Morocco vies to hold the one-year presidency of the UN Human Rights Council, which oversees thousands of human rights complaints from all over the world, civil society from Western Sahara is urging the Council to reject Rabat's candidacy, pointing to Morocco's deteriorating human rights record, occupation and colonization of their homeland, failure to cooperate with the UN mechanisms and its targeting and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and others for their cooperation with the UN.

Morocco fundamentally fails to meet and uphold the human rights standard required for members of the [Human Rights Council](#) ([ISHR, 2022](#)). Since becoming a member in 2022, Morocco has stepped up its harassment of journalists and critics and continues to detain and subject journalists, bloggers, and human rights defenders to unfair trials. Freedom of the press is suffering a slow and deliberate death in the country, symbolized by the persecution and imprisonment of journalists and described in Human Rights Watch's "[They'll Get You No Matter What: Morocco's Playbook to Crush Dissent](#)". The Melilla disaster of June 2022 when at least 37 migrants died at the hands of Moroccan police at the border with Spain, also revealed the politization of migrant lives by the Moroccan state and according to [UN experts](#), "the status quo of the European Union's borders, namely racialized exclusion and deadly violence deployed to keep out people of African and Middle Eastern descent, and other non-white populations", a concern echoed by [Amnesty International](#).

The human rights and humanitarian crisis is even worse in the parts of Western Sahara placed under Moroccan occupation since 1975. Until this day, Morocco continues to deny the people of Western Sahara their right to self-determination; the very prerequisite and bedrock that all other human rights rest upon, openly defying UN Security Council resolutions that since the early 1990's called for a referendum for the people of Western Sahara.

Moroccan authorities continue to harass activists supporting Sahrawi self-determination, prevent gatherings and obstruct the work of local human rights nongovernmental organizations ([Human Rights Watch, 2023](#)) with the territory being a practical "news black hole" ([Reporters Without Borders](#)). For the last eight years, [the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights](#) has been prevented access, and compounded by the systematic expulsion of international observers and denial of access for international organizations, the occupation is turning into a military human rights blackhole.

On Western Sahara, [UN experts](#) continue to denounce the systematic and calculated nature of violations committed by the Moroccan State, stating that the violations comprise a concentrated effort to intimidate and to deter human rights defenders in Western Sahara from exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association, and to retaliate against human rights defenders for their peaceful and legitimate activities, including membership in human rights organizations, information sharing, as well as dialogue with the UN. Morocco is also regularly included in the report of the [UN Secretary General on reprisals \(A/HRC/51/47\)](#), citing frequent acts of reprisals against activists who cooperate with the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

"A State attempting to obstruct dialogue with the UN, refusing to implement and follow recommendations from UN bodies and even publicly targeting UN experts, whilst punishing human rights defenders for their participation at the Human Rights Council, cannot be allowed to serve as its president. It will crush the very legitimacy that the Human Rights Council depends on to survive, leaving behind a people that has been placed under its occupation since 1975", Saharawi civil society urges.



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Signatures:

1. 12october Media Center
2. A.A.P. S. Comarcal Campo De Gibraltar "Solidaridad"
3. Aarasd94
4. Acaps Anoia
5. Acaps (Asociación Canaria De Amistad Con El Pueblo Saharaui)
6. Afapredesa
7. Afaspa
8. Agencia Valenciana De Salud
9. Al Servicio De La República
10. Algargarat Media
11. Alimentando Sonrisas
12. Alouda Amigos Del Pueblo Saharaui Del Alto Aragón
13. Alternativa Sindical Obrera Canaria
14. Amigos Por Un Sahara Libre
15. Antonio Gil Diaz
16. Apf (Association Pour La Promotion De La Francophonie)
17. Arab Committee For Solidarity With The Sahrawi Arab People
18. Argentine Committee Of Solidarity With The Palestinian People
19. Asaaurui/Associação De Solidariedade À Luta Péla Autodeterminação Do Povo Sarauí
20. Asin (Asociación Saharaui En Navarra)
21. Asoc Amigos Y Amigas De La Rasd De Alava
22. Asociación Americana De Juristas
23. Asociación Amigos Del Pueblo Saharaui De Las Islas Baleares
24. Asociación Aulad Sahara Murcia
25. Asociación Canaria De Solidaridad Con El Pueblo Saharaui
26. Asociación Civil Las Azucenas Asociación Chilena De Amistad Con La Rasd
27. Asociación Cultural De Inmigrantes Saharauis "Sáhara-Gasteiz"
28. Asociación De Amistad Con El Pueblo Saharaui De Sevilla
29. Asociación De Amigos Del Pueblo Saharaui De Toledo
30. Asociación Ecuatoriana De Amistad Con El Pueblo Saharaui (Aeaps)
31. Asociacion Escritores Por El Sahara Bubisher
32. Asociación Internacional De Juristas Por El Sáhara Occidental (Iajuws) Capítulo Ecuador
33. Asociación Juvenil Colectivo Saharaui Lefrig
34. Asociación Sáhara Libre Argentina
35. Asociación Uruguay De Amistad Con La República Saharaui
36. Asps Lorraine
37. Asps-Association De Solidarité Avec Le Peuple Sahraoui
38. Association De Droit De L'homme Au Sahara Occidental
39. Associação De Amizade Portugal Sahara Ocidental
40. Associacio Catalana D'amics Del Poble Sahrauí De L'anoia
41. Associates International - Translators & Interpreters
42. Asociación Chilena De Amistad Con La Rasd
43. Association Culture Sahara
44. Asociación De Amistad Venezuela - Argelia
45. Association D'amitié Avec Le Sahara Occidental En Midi Pyrénées
46. Association De Droit De L'Homme Au Sahara Occidental
47. Association De La Communauté Sahraouie De Gironde (A.C.S.G.)
48. Association De La Communauté Sahraouie En France
49. Asociación Navarra Amigos Del Sáhara (Anas)
50. Asociación Mexicana De Amistad Con La República Árabe Saharaui Democrática A. C.
51. Asociación Panameña Solidaria Con La Causa Saharaui, Apasocasa
52. Association Des Sahraouis De France
53. Association Des Sahraouis De La Vandée
54. Association Des Sahraouis De Périgueux



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55. Association Des Sahraouis De Toulouse
56. Association For Natural Resources Monitoring And For Environment Protection In Western Sahara (Aren)
57. Association On Ne Peut Pas Applaudir D'une Seule Main
58. Association Pour La Sauvegarde De L'environnement Du Sahara Occidental (Aseso)
59. Association Sahraouie Bjaoui
60. Association Sahraouie Caraso
61. Association Sahraouie Des Victimes De Graves Violations Des Droits De L'homme Commises Par L'état Du Maroc (Asvdh)
62. Association Sahraouie Fils Des Nuages
63. Association Sahraouie La Khayma
64. Asociación Cultural De Inmigrantes Saharais "Sáhara-Gasteiz"
65. Asociación Colectivo Saharai En Guipúzcoa
66. Asociación Diáspora Saharai En Bizkaia Disabi
67. Asociación Sidami Mujtar
68. Asociación Saharais En Arratia Amal
69. Asociacion Riojana De Amigos Y Amigas De La Rasd
70. Association Dar Al Atfal Sidi Bernoussi
71. Association Pour Un Référendum Libre Et Régulier Au Sahara Occidental (Arso)
72. Australia Western Sahara Association
73. Australian Unions For West Sahara
74. Bubisher
75. Ceas Sáhara (Coordinadora Estatal Asociaciones Solidarias)
76. Centre Thomas Sankara Pour La Libération Et L'unité Africaine
77. Centro De Documentación En Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo Sj" (Csmm)
78. Colectivo La Mancha
79. Comisión Nacional Saharai De Derechos Humanos . Conasadh
80. Comité Action Et Réflexion Pour L'avenir Du Sahara Occidental
81. Comité De Amistad Con El Pueblo Saharai
82. Comité De Défense Du Droit À L'autodétermination Du Peuple Du Sahara Occidental (Codapso)
83. Comité Des Mères De 15 - Sahraouis Enlevés Depuis Le 25 Decembre 2005
84. Comité Des Familles Des Portés Disparus Sahraouis (Au Territoire Occupé).
85. Comite Saharai De Empleados Y Trabajadores Expulsadas Arbitrariamente Por El Estado Marroquí
86. Comité Sahraoui Contre La Torture À Dakhla
87. Comité Sahraoui Du Droits De L'homme Et Pour La Protection Des Ressources Naturelles À Boujdour
88. Comité Sahraouie Pour La Défense De Droit De L'homme Smara Sahara Occidental (Csddhsso)
89. Committee To Support The United Nations Settlement Plan And The Protection Of Natural Resources In Western Sahara
90. Comunidade Saharai En Galicia
91. Comunidad Saharai En Aragón (A.C.S.A)
92. Con El Sáhara Siempre
93. Conasadh
94. Cosara
95. Coordinator Of Sahrawi Women In Spain
96. Dabeekah Dance Troup Asociación Civil
97. Drib L9i3an Association
98. El Mahyub
99. En Común
100. Entre Dunas
101. Equipe Media
102. Escritores Insurgentes Y Defensores De Los Bienes Comunes Y Pueblos Originarios
103. Fafesa (Forum Pour L'avenir De La Femme Sahraouie)
104. Fandas, Federación Andaluza De Asociaciones Solidarias Con El Sahara
105. Fecap-Frente De Escritores Y Creadores Arte Y Palabra-Caracas,Venezuela



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106. Federació Acaps (Associacions Catalanes Amigues Del Poble Sahrauí)
107. Federacion Saharawi De Deportes
108. Fédération Sahraouie De Sport
109. Fedesaex- Federación De Asociaciones Amigas Del Pueblo Saharawi De Extremadura
110. Fisahara
111. Francisco Muchut
112. Freedom Socialist Party - Australia And U.S.
113. Freedomsun Defenders
114. Fundación Canaria La Colectiva
115. Fundación Para La Promoción De Los Derechos Humanos Y Justicia De Paz
116. Fundal- Programa Ddhh
117. Fundación Sáhara Libre-Venezuela
118. Generación De La Amistad, Grupo De Escritores Saharawi En El Exilio, (Asoc. Tifisqui)
119. Global Aktion - People And Planet Before Profit
120. Hamadako Izarrak
121. Hijas De Saguia Y El Río De Oro
122. Hijas Del Sáhara
123. Hijos De Las Nubes
124. Iei (Internacional De Escritores Insurgentes)
125. Imigrantes Sahrauis En Valencia
126. International Council Supporting Fair Trial & Human Rights
127. International Platform Of Jurists For East Timor
128. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific
129. Intersindical Solidària
130. Izquierda Unida
131. Jaima Sahrawi
132. Juventud Activa Saharawi
133. Komite Popular
134. L'association Sahraouie Pour La Protection Et La Diffusion De La Culture Et Le Patrimoine Sahroui
135. La Coordinadora De Las Mujeres Saharauis En España
136. La Internacional De Escritores Mexico.
137. La Jaima De Tiris
138. La Ligue Des Étudiants Et Des Jeunesses Sahraouis En France
139. La Ligue Pour La Protection Des Prisonniers Sahraouis Dans Les Prisons Marocaines
- (Lpps)
140. La Luciernsga Comunicació
141. Lejse
142. Liga Canaria De Educación Y Solidaridad
143. Liga Canaria De La Educación Y La Interculturalidad
144. Ligua Femmes Sahraoui
145. Ligue Des Femmes Sahraouies En France
146. Ligue Des Jeunes Et Des Etudiants Sahraouis En France
147. Lpese
148. Maizirat Electronic Media Network
149. Maksra (Asociación De Amigos Del Pueblo Saharawi De Segovia)
150. Más Madrid Cercedilla
151. Maspam
152. Mesa De Cultura Poderes Creadores Del Pueblo
153. Milicia Territorial
154. Monadil
155. Movimiento De Unidad Peronista
156. Mujeres De Negro Contra La Guerra.Ishbilya
157. Mundubat Fundazioa
158. Nomadshrc
159. Nova Western Sahara



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160. Novact
161. Nushatta Foundation
162. Observatoire Saharaoui Pour L'enfant Et La Femme (Osef)
163. Observatorio Mundo Árabe
164. Organisation Saharaoui Dé Bordeaux
165. Organización De Mujeres De La Confederación Intersindical
166. Partido Comunista De La Argentina
167. Periódico Virginia Bolten
168. Plataforma De Feminismo Popular De Venezuela
169. Plataforma Internacional De Mujeres Por El Sáhara Occidental
170. Podemos Argentina
171. Por La Libertad Del Pueblo Saharaui
172. Red Ecosocial Saharaui
173. Red Migrante De Tenerife
174. Representación Estudiantil Relaciones Internacionales Del Itam
175. Resistance Studies Initiative, University Of Massachusetts, Amherst
176. Rete Saharawi
177. Sahara Canarias La Concordia
178. Sahara N'est À Vendre
179. Saharaische Diaspora In Deutschland
180. Saharawi Media Center
181. Saharawi Voice
182. Saharawi Youth Vs Occupation (Syvo)
183. Saharawis Today
184. Sahrawi Committee For The Defense Of Human Rights In Western Sahara
185. Saidi Abdol
186. Sandblast
187. Shifa
188. Solidaridad Con Los Pueblos En Lucha
189. Solidarityrising
190. Stanley Group Home Inc. Llc
191. Stec-Ic
192. Stichting Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara
193. The All African People's Revolutionary Party
194. The Collective Of Human Rights Defenders In Western Sahara (Codesa)
195. The Committee Of Families Of The Gdeim Izik Prisoners
196. The Norwegian Support Committee For Western Sahara
197. The Swedish Western Sahara Committee
198. Uesrio, Students
199. Ugtsario, Trade Union
200. Ujsario
201. Um Draiga
202. Unacc (Unidad De Naciones En Acción Del Consejo De Cambio Climático)
203. Unms, Women
204. Upes, Journalists And Writers
205. We International Inc
206. Western Sahara Campaign Uk
207. Western Sahara Resource Watch
208. Youth Union Of Sakia El Hamra And Wadi El Dahab Students