



Security Council

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Letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, I should like to inform you that “polisario” is persisting with its violations and provocations in the Guerguerat buffer strip and east of the defence structure in the Moroccan Sahara.

In that regard, I should like to draw your attention to the following three violations:

- On 6 January 2019, the armed militias of “polisario” organized military manoeuvres and combat exercises, with heavy equipment and live ammunition, in the locality of Mehaires, east of the defence structure in the Moroccan Sahara;
- On 7 January 2019, “polisario” moved to and supposedly “inaugurated” an “administrative and military structure comprising the premises of regional administrations” in Mehaires;
- On 8 January 2019, “polisario” deployed two military vehicles in the Guerguerat buffer strip, as you can clearly see from the attached photos (see annex).

The Kingdom of Morocco strongly condemns these destabilizing acts, which violate military agreement No. 1 and dangerously threaten the ceasefire. They are clearly an affront to the Security Council and a challenge to its authority.

These actions constitute a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#) of 27 April 2018, whereby the Council called for the immediate withdrawal of “polisario” from the Guerguerat buffer strip (see para. 7) and called on it to refrain from destabilizing actions such as the relocation of administrative functions to the area east of the defence structure in the Moroccan Sahara (see para. 8).

More critically, these actions represent a reprehensible reneging on the commitments made by “polisario” not to return to the Guerguerat buffer strip or to transfer any structures to the area east of the defence structure. These commitments were expressed by “polisario” to the Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy Horst Köhler, during his visit to the Tindouf camps on 26 June 2018. They were communicated by the Personal Envoy to the members of the Security Council on 8 August 2018 and reflected in the Secretary-General’s report of 3 October 2018 ([S/2018/889](#), paras. 4, 15 and 77).

Furthermore, these violations contravene Security Council resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#) of 31 October 2018, whereby the Council took note of the assurances provided by the Frente Polisario to the Personal Envoy not to move administrative structures



to the territory as well as its commitment to fulfil its obligations with respect to the buffer strip at Guerguerat, in line with resolution [2414 \(2018\)](#) (preambular para. 14). In particular, the Council called on the Frente Polisario to fully adhere to its commitments to the Personal Envoy with respect to Bir Lahlou, Tifariti and the buffer strip at Guerguerat (para. 7).

At a time when “polisario” is claiming that there is a humanitarian crisis in the Tindouf camps and is calling for an increase in humanitarian assistance, it is spending millions of dollars on military manoeuvres. This duplicity by “polisario” should be a matter of concern to the international community in general, and to donor countries in particular.

It seems clear that, by engaging in escalation and provocations, and by violating its commitments, “polisario” is aiming to sabotage the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to relaunch the political process, following the success of the round table held in Geneva on 5 and 6 December 2018, and on the eve of the second round table, scheduled for the coming weeks.

In that regard, it should be recalled that the Security Council had expressly made the advancement of the political process conditional on the definitive cessation of violations by “polisario” on the ground. Indeed, in preambular paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution [2440 \(2018\)](#), it is clearly stipulated that full adherence by “polisario” to these commitments will help sustain momentum in the political process.

The Kingdom of Morocco cannot tolerate the recurrence of these provocations, which seriously threaten regional peace and security and undermine the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy. Morocco therefore calls on the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to condemn these violations and to demand that “polisario” stop them immediately, fulfil its commitments and comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Council.

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

Annex to the letter dated 10 January 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council



Source: Government of Morocco



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