

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 4 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Sidi Omar, representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations, addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning new developments relating to Western Sahara (see annex).

I should be grateful to have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Neville **Gertze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to report that, on Sunday, 1 December 2019, the Moroccan authorities of occupation in Western Sahara expelled four members of the regional Parliament of the Basque Country in Spain. Eva Juez, Carmelo Barrio, Iñigo Martínez and Josu Estarrona were expelled upon their arrival at the airport of El Aaiún, the capital of the occupied Western Sahara. The group intended to see first-hand the situation of human rights in the Territory and to meet Sahrawi human rights and civil society activists.

I would like to bring to your attention, and that of the members of the Security Council, our strong condemnation of this unlawful action, which is another episode in Morocco's continued attempts to keep the occupied territories of Western Sahara off limits to international observers and foreign journalists. Morocco's repeated expulsions of international observers and media from the occupied Western Sahara share a common objective, which is none other than to hide the heinous crimes perpetrated by the Moroccan occupying forces against Sahrawi civilians. It is unacceptable that the Moroccan authorities of occupation continue to deny access to the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara, which remains under the responsibility of the United Nations pending a definitive solution to the conflict.

What makes the situation even more alarming is that all the repressive and terrorizing practices pursued systematically by the Moroccan occupying forces against Sahrawi civilians take place under the complete media blackout imposed on the occupied Western Sahara. Sahrawi journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders covering human rights violations in the Territory are persecuted and detained unjustly (report of the Secretary-General, [S/2019/787](#), para. 68).

The Secretary-General has repeatedly insisted that impartial, comprehensive and sustained monitoring of the human rights situation is necessary to ensure the protection of all people in Western Sahara. It is therefore imperative that the Security Council exert the necessary pressure on Morocco to ensure that United Nations human rights monitors and international observers gain full, unfettered and continuous access to the occupied Western Sahara and that they can report freely and openly about human rights in the Territory.

The United Nations has a legal and moral responsibility to exert its utmost efforts to ensure the protection of human rights in the occupied Western Sahara pending the accomplishment of the decolonization of the Territory in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.

I should 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