



Security Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2020

Original: English

Letter dated 20 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex, a letter from Brahim Ghali, Secretary-General of Frente POLISARIO, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning recent developments relating to Western Sahara (see annex), circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is with great urgency and concern that I write to inform you that the Moroccan military forces have launched a brutal attack on unarmed Sahrawi civilians who have been demonstrating peacefully in Guerguerat in south-western Western Sahara.

The military operation by Moroccan forces against Sahrawi civilians is an act of aggression and a flagrant violation of the ceasefire, which the United Nations and the Security Council should condemn in the strongest possible terms.

Faced with this act of aggression, the military forces of Frente POLISARIO have been forced to engage the Moroccan forces in self-defence and to protect civilians. We hold the Moroccan occupying state fully responsible for the consequences of its military operation, and we call upon the United Nations to intervene urgently to put an end to this aggression against our people and our territory.

The fact that the military action comes on the eve of the engagement between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Frente POLISARIO demonstrates clearly that the operation is a premeditated act of aggression on the part of the occupying state to torpedo efforts to diffuse tensions and de-escalate the situation in Guerguerat.

By launching this military operation today, the Moroccan occupying state has seriously undermined not only the ceasefire and related military agreements, but also any chance of achieving a peaceful and lasting solution to the decolonization question of Western Sahara.

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

(Signed) **Brahim Ghali**
President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
Secretary-General of Frente POLISARIO
