

The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations  
New York



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

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Téléphone: (212) 421-1580

Fax: (212) 980-1512 / (212) 421-7826

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Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération  
Rabat

Destinataire principal: CAB/1

Destinataire pour information : MD/2-SG/4

CONFIDENTIEL

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**Objet :** Visite de Mohamed Abdelaziz (polisario) à New York.

**Réf :** MF/C n° 381/SB du 6 juin 2013.

MF/C n° 382/SB du 7 juin 2013.

MF/C n° 383/SB du 7 juin 2013.

Handwritten notes: ↓, 9/11 apr 2013

Suite à mes envois susmentionnés, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, un document confidentiel, obtenu à travers nos sources au sein du Secrétariat, contenant des éléments de langage sur la thématique des droits de l'Homme, non encore finalisés, préparés à l'attention du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU, pour son entrevue lundi prochain avec Mohamed Abdelaziz.

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Il convient de signaler que M. Simonovic, Sous Secrétaire Général aux droits de l'Homme, a été invité à prendre part à la réunion de lundi.

Enfin, cette Mission a, également, appris que le Représentant Permanent de l'Algérie à New York, organise, lundi prochain, un déjeuner en l'honneur de Mohamed Abdelaziz, avec la participation de plusieurs Représentants Permanents à New York, en particulier de pays africains.



Haute Considération

L. BOUCHAARA  
Lotfi BOUCHAARA  
Représentant Permanent Adjoint

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08 JUN 2013

## Human rights

No independent on-the-ground mechanism for monitoring human rights exists in Western Sahara or the refugee camps near Tindouf. In your 2013 report on the situation concerning Western Sahara, you noted that, "given ongoing reports of human rights violations, the need for independent, impartial, comprehensive and sustained monitoring of the human rights situations in both Western Sahara and the camps becomes ever more pressing".

In April 2013, for the first time, the United States delegation tabled a draft resolution that included an expansion of MINURSO's mandate to encompass human rights, in accordance with the recommendation outlined in your report. Several countries had reservations to any mention of international human rights monitoring, and Morocco expressed strong objections during the brief to the Council on 22 April, calling such monitoring "an attack on Morocco's sovereignty". The US Initiative failed and MINURSO's mandate was renewed without change, causing great discontent among the population in Western Sahara and disappointment among some Member States, including the UK and the Nordics. For the first time, as a sign of protest, the UK, a member of the Group of Friends, refused to co-sponsor the resolution renewing MINURSO's mandate.

In the lead-up to the debate on the inclusion of human rights monitoring in MINURSO's mandate, UNHCHR did not make any official statement but did provide confidential advice to DPA on possible options for human rights monitoring in Western Sahara and their practical implications.

Over the past year, your Personal Envoy met several times with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, to encourage her to play a more active role in promoting human rights in Western Sahara and in the camps in accordance to her mandate. He reiterated the view that a visit of the UNHCHR to Western Sahara and the camps would be an important step in demonstrating the interest of the international community in the observance of universal human rights standards by both Morocco and the Frente Polisario.

Ms. Pillay met with the Secretary-General of the Frente Polisario for the first time on 29 May 2013. During the meeting, Mr. Abdelaziz urged UNHCHR to assume its responsibilities to protect Sahrawi civilians. Ms. Navi Pillay assured him that she is following human rights situation in Western Sahara, including the recent demonstrations, with "deep and profound" interest. She confirmed that the UNHCR expressed concern during the military trial of 25 Sahrawi citizens who were arrested during the dismantling of the Gdim Izik camp by forces of Moroccan army.

**Talking points for Human rights monitoring in Western Sahara:**

- I am concerned about multiple allegations of human rights violations in Western Sahara. As stated in my last report, I believe there is a need for independent, impartial, comprehensive and sustained monitoring of the human rights situations in both Western Sahara and the camps.
- This year, the Security Council decided to renew MINURSO's mandate without including human rights monitoring while encouraging Morocco to make further efforts to promote human rights in Western Sahara. The topic will be addressed again next year. The UN Secretariat stands ready to implement any decision that the Security Council takes in this regard.
- Meanwhile, the relevant UN agencies are working to examine other options for human rights monitoring.
- I support all efforts aimed at promoting respect for international human rights standards and will recommend to Ms. Pillay that UNHCHR in particular remain fully engaged.