



MIB

280-13

Washington, 17 Juin 2013

A

**Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération  
-Rabat-**

**DESTINATAIRE PRINCIPAL** : CAB1 - DG/7/6  
**DESTINATAIRE CC** : SG  
**TRANSMISSION** : Normale  
**OBJET** : Lettre adressée à Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice et des Libertés

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, une lettre adressée à Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice et des Libertés, Mustapha Ramid, par M. John Benner, avocat américain, concernant « la détention de M. Hussein Bah et 5 autres Sahraouis, incarcérés depuis le 4 Mai 2013 dans la prison de Laayoune ».

Dans cette lettre, M. Benner se dit « inquiet par les méthodes de torture » que subit le nommé Hussein Bah et les cinq autres prisonniers. L'avocat Américain demande au Ministère de la Justice de mener une enquête complète et équitable sur ces allégations.



L'Ambassadeur

Rachad Bouhjal

P.J : 1

# Thomas H. Benner

Attorney at Law

408 South Ninth Street, Suite 207  
Noblesville, IN 46060

June 5, 2013

Mustafa Ramid  
Ministry of Justice and Liberties  
Place El Mamounia—BP 1015  
Rabat, MOROCCO

Your Excellency:

On May 15 a 17-year-old boy named El Hussein Bah was placed in jail in Laayoune, Western Sahara. This happened after the Crown Prosecutor overruled an order by an investigative judge to release him on bail. In addition, five other Sahrawi men were arrested on May 9 in connection with a May 4 protest.

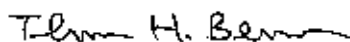
I have received disturbing news about the treatment of these detainees. El Hussein Bah has been beaten, threatened with rape, and suspended by his knees during interrogation. He and the others told the investigative judge about this torture. Bruises and other injuries consistent with torture have been reported.

I am therefore writing to ask you to immediately conduct a full and impartial investigation into these allegations of torture and ill-treatment. The results of your inquiry should be made public, and those found responsible must be brought to justice. Any "confessions" extracted by torture should be inadmissible in any proceedings against these detainees.

Please also take steps to ensure that these detainees are protected from any further ill-treatment, and provide them with access to all necessary medical care. Their family members should also be permitted to visit them. In the case of El Hussein Bah, you should make certain that he is treated in accordance with Article 37(b) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which your nation ratified two decades ago.

Thank you in advance for your prompt and careful attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Benner  
Attorney at Law

copy to:  
Ambassador Rachad Bouhlal ✓  
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco  
1601 21<sup>st</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009

(317) 774-8203 phone  
(317) 774-8208 fax  
tombennerlaw@yahoo.com