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Press release

Economic interests are being put before international law

“Along with the United States and France, the Federal Government is enabling Morocco to continue to undermine international law and to abuse human rights on a massive scale with impunity,” notes Sevim Dagdelen, spokeswoman on international relations for the Left Party parliamentary group and member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag in response to the Federal Government’s answer to a minor interpellation on this subject. Sevim Dagdelen continues:

"The Federal Government is in urgent need of extra lessons in international law! It is hiding behind the efforts of the UN which have been unsuccessful so far due to the key role played by precisely these countries in blocking them. It is interesting to note that the Federal Government ducks the question about an assessment of the annexation of Western Sahara by Morocco, by referring to the supposedly unclarified status of Western Sahara with respect to international law. Along with the importance of the duty of decolonisation and the right of self-determination, the advisory opinion on Western Sahara given already in 1975 by the International Court of Justice in The Hague noted that the Moroccan administration must be deemed to be an ‘occupying power’ under international law with all the associated duties such as the prevention of external settlement.

Evidently, the Federal Government does not want to cast a shadow over the discussions about its own relations with Morocco and those of the EU in view of economic interests and the background of Morocco’s role in the ‘fight’ against irregular migration. Despite all the problems relating to international law as well as policy on refugees and human rights, the Federal Government refuses to cast doubt upon either the ‘advanced status’ of relations between the EU and Morocco nor the proposed readmission agreement between the EU and Morocco. We can hardly speak of the ‘right balance being struck between all aspects of migration’. On the contrary, the zeal demonstrated in clamping down upon refugees is rewarded economically. Such restraint by the Federal Government and the EU is likely to tempt Morocco and other countries to carry out yet more human rights abuses. Thus the Federal Government shares responsibility for every human rights violation.”

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